

## Preparing the hearts of the congregation for the project

Here is a list of possible steps to take in encouraging the congregation to be spiritually involved in the project. The Project Co-ordinator may wish to copy this sheet and pass it on to the church leader.

1. In the lead-up to announcing the project, preach on God's heart for the lost (eg Luke 15).
2. Preach on the role of prayer in reclaiming a community for Christ (e.g. Ephesians 6:10-20).
3. Dedicate a church prayer meeting to praying for the local community.
4. With the project Prayer Co-ordinator, organise a prayer-walk involving as many as possible from the congregation, covering as much of the community as possible.
5. Write an article for the church newsletter/magazine.
6. Preach on the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and on personal witness on the Sunday that the project is announced for the first time.
7. On the Sunday of the Project Orientation, dedicate the whole service to the project (see the suggestions in the Project Handbook, Stage 4 page 10).
8. Continue to emphasise the importance of prayer and reliance on the Holy Spirit if any of the efforts going into the project are to be of value.
9. Encourage those leading prayers in church and those leading small groups to make prayer for the project a priority.
10. In Sunday services, include an interview with a relatively new Christian who came to faith, in part, through the initiative taken by another believer to talk to them about Jesus.
11. Around the time of the visiting itself, preach on the believer's security in God (Romans 8) and allowing him to have our fears and disappointments.
12. On the Sunday after the DVD offer is made, ensure that the church is informed of the response from the households contacted and that appropriate prayers and praise are included in the service.
13. Plan a praise Sunday or church meeting after the project visiting to thank God for what he has done through the project so far.
14. Continue to encourage the congregation to speak up about Jesus in their day-to-day lives.