



“I shall always be ready to remind you of these things...”
2 Peter 1:21



CABOT WESTSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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When We Meet

Sunday

Bible Classes – 9:00 am
Worship – 10:00 am, 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes – 7:00 pm

Our Elders

R.D. Hopper
Norman Kemper

Our Deacons

Troy Hunter
Kelly Kendall
Tony Ramick

Our Preacher

Alex Hale

The Gospel Meeting Preacher

by Alex Hale

Our gospel meeting is scheduled to begin in just **two weeks**. The elders have invited L.A. Stauffer to be with our church family September 22-27. He will be teaching during the Bible class period on Sunday, preaching both Sunday sermons, and delivering a lesson each weeknight. He will also be conducting a study for area preachers, elders, and other interested men on Friday, September 27 at 9:30 here at the church building.

In last week's bulletin, we discussed the importance of our attitude and attendance as we prepare for a successful meeting. In today's article I want to consider with you another important piece of a gospel meeting – the preacher.

Some brethren have the idea that we can just get anybody to hold a gospel meeting. Some churches select a preacher for a meeting almost as an afterthought. Let me be clear: **we don't just get "anybody" to preach!** Donnie Rader writes, "Just as it is important for a local church to know something about the one it is going to accept into fellowship (Acts 9:26), it is important to know something about the man it invites to hold a meeting." L.A. Stauffer is widely respected for his work in the kingdom. He has preached the gospel for over fifty years, including forty years with the same congregation. His writing has helped brethren for years. He served as the first editor of *Biblical Insights*, and his workbooks on the church and family have been widely used. In addition, he is the author of the *Truth Commentary* on Mark. Brother Stauffer currently serves as a preacher and one of the shepherds of the Kirkwood (Mo.) church, and for over twenty years conducted a preacher training program which has sent several laborers into the field. We have every confidence that he will bring Bible-based lessons which will teach us and edify us.

How can we help him, so that he can best help us while he is here? Allow me to share a few suggestions.

Encourage him. This does not have to wait until he gets here. Send him a quick card or email message which lets him know that you are eagerly awaiting his arrival and looking forward to his messages. While he is here, be attentive and supportive.

Pray for him. Again, this can be done now! Appeal to the God of heaven for our brother's safe travel. Pray that he would have a good remembrance of the things he has studied and that he would be able to deliver those messages in a helpful way. Above all, pray that he would stay faithful to the text of scripture. If you mentioned him in your prayers before each meal from now until his arrival, you will have said well over thirty prayers for him by the time the gospel meeting starts.

Show hospitality to him. God's word is clear: preachers should be taken care of by the people to whom they are ministering (Galatians 6:6). The Shunnamite woman was full of hospitality when the prophet Elisha passed through (2 Kings 4:8-13). Elisha notes her kindness, sending back a message saying, "Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care." When Jesus sent His disciples out on what is commonly called the "limited commission," He declared that their physical needs be supplied by the people who accepted their teaching (Matthew 10:9-10; Luke 10:4-8). Saints like Lydia were willing to have preachers in their homes and in other ways supplied the needs of such teachers (Acts 16:15). Hospitality is not about being fancy; it *is* about showing brotherly love (1 Peter 4:9).