

CHAPEL/DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER GUIDELINES

Your ministry of serving as a Chapel or devotional speaker at Miracle Hill Ministries is both a tremendous opportunity and an awesome responsibility. The homeless and/or addicted population of guests is a fertile field that desperately needs the seeds of the Gospel and the principles of Biblical life change. You are one of God's special tools in helping that to happen. You are our partners and we need your cooperation to maximize our ministry opportunities and minimize frustrations. The guidelines below will help multiply your effectiveness as you minister and assist the Ministry in its task to spiritually assist each guest.

- **LENGTH OF THE SERVICE** - Morning devotion/chapel services should last no longer than 20 minutes. The evening chapel service should be no longer than 30 minutes with the sermon lasting no more than 20 minutes. Since chapel is not optional, chapels are most effective if you keep the service varied and within the 30 minutes. You and the members of your group are asked to be available before and after the service to take advantage of opportunities to interact with the guests.
- **PARTICIPANTS** - Chapel service participants should be mature, right-living, non-judgmental, mercy-spirited, Bible-committed believers. Our preference is for experienced pastors to be the primary speakers. All chapel speakers must be approved by the facility director or the director's designee in advance of the speaking date. A regular chapel speaker may find an emergency replacement on his/her own on a one-time basis, but should never give up his slot on a regular basis to others. Should you have difficulties in filling your obligation, our staff is more than willing to assist by finding a replacement on a temporary or permanent basis.



- **PREFERRED SUBJECTS** - Chapel speakers are encouraged to speak on the following: (1) Salvation, (2) Christian growth and discipleship, (3) Christian character, (4) addictive behavior and its remedies, (5) and healthy relationships. There is a wealth of material from God's word on these topics. We would love for chapel services to be primarily teaching, and even interactive. A real need is for Bible teaching on relationships. Surveys have shown that most or all of our guests struggle with building, re-building, and/or maintaining Christ-honoring and healthy relationships. This would also include teaching about healthy ways of leaving behind unhealthy and dysfunctional relationships. Because MHM is non-denominational, not a church, and has a specific focus - the following subjects are NOT appropriate for chapel consideration: (1) Bible translations, (2) details of eschatology, (3) denominational differences, (4) charismatic gifts, (5) theological differences, (6) controversial issues of separation (music, TV, music styles), etc., and (7) political or racial issues. The Bible versions available in our facilities are the ESV, NASB, NIV (1984), and NKJV. Many would have their own copies of the NIV, or ESV.
- **AUDIO EQUIPMENT** - A pulpit microphone is generally provided for use in each of the facilities. Some facilities have additional equipment for sermon notes and videos. In order to take advantage of these amenities please ask the staff to assist you in operating the equipment in advance of the event. The speaker may choose to bring their own audio equipment but should inform the staff in advance.
- **FOLLOW-UP** - Life-changing decisions (e.g. salvation, surrender, etc.) need to be recorded on decision forms for MHM counselors to follow-up. This helps us work better in partnership with you. These decision forms are generally behind the pulpit and may be left when completed on the pulpit or turned in to staff or at the guest information desk when you leave. Our staff will gladly follow up with them, but we need the information from you.



- **CHURCH ATTENDANCE** - While it is probably not a good idea to make blanket invitations for MHM guests to attend your church, there may be times when your church will be a good fit for some of our guests. Program guests will have some restrictions about attending an outside church. You should check with the staff before inviting them. In most cases, you would need to provide transportation and probably lunch since the lunch service time may end before the guest returns. You should keep in mind that in some cases our guests may be required to be in chapel here at times that might conflict with our local church services.
- **GENERAL DO'S AND DON'TS**
 - Don't give guests money for any reason. Don't do personal favors for them.
 - Don't give out your phone number or address to guests.
 - Don't get involved in guest disputes with one another or the MHM staff or rules.
 - Do respect guest privacy. Don't take pictures of MHM guests.
 - Don't "talk down" to the guests. "Drunk," "bum," etc. are always inappropriate terms to use. Demeaning terms or sermons are always out of place. Screaming at or berating guests will never be tolerated. You forfeit your chapel slot should such occur.
 - Do remember that many of our guests "Don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." Visiting and encouraging them before and after the service works well.
 - Don't ask guests to provide any special music and/or testimonies in chapel. They are here to learn from our chapel speakers.
 - Do pray for guest needs you become aware of, but don't give out legal or counseling advice.
 - Do please enter and exit the building through the main entrance and make sure that you sign in the volunteer log before going down to the chapel. If you have a mixed-gender group, please ensure their safety by staying together as a group. Some dorms have windows. Our guests are not always modest.
 - Do please notify a staff member or leave a note at the desk of any problems you may encounter. Our guests are aware that they may not leave chapel (except in case of an emergency and as noted above), they may not disrupt chapel, and that they are to show respect to chapel volunteers.



• GENERAL DO'S AND DON'TS - CONTINUED

- Do contact the facility during the day for scheduling issues, especially if something happens and you cannot come.
- Do be aware that occasionally facilities may schedule a special event (film or concert) which may last longer than the regular chapel time slot.

SAMPLE SERMON TOPICS AT MHM, IN ADDITION TO THE GOSPEL MESSAGE PRESENTATION

ANGER

CHOICES, CONSEQUENCES

DEDICATED LIFE

FEAR, WORRY

FRIENDSHIPS

GUILT, SHAME

LONELINESS

PRAYER

SELF-CONTROL

THOUGHT LIFE

TRUST, FAITH

BITTERNESS

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

DEPRESSION

FINANCES

GOD'S WILL

HEAVEN

OVERCOMING

PRIORITIES

SHARING YOUR FAITH

TIME MANAGEMENT

VOCATION

BLAME SHIFTING

DECISION MAKING

DEVOTIONAL LIFE

FORGIVENESS

GRIEF, LOSS

HOPE

PATIENCE

RELATIONSHIPS

TEMPTATION

TRIALS, SUFFERING

WORK, ETHICS

