

Murry Ray is the pastor of Trumann United Pentecostal in Trumann, Arkansas. He and his church conducted "Seven Sundays of Celebration" from Easter to Pentecost in 2009. Here is a description of what he did and what happened:

Easter Sunday

Friend Day "Celebrating Strength." They invited friends to church. Murry Ray preached a simple message about the joys and privileges of friendships, especially that of Christ's friendship toward us. They had 21 visitors.

Family Day "Celebrating Family!" They conducted a 1:00 PM service with focus on family relationships. They spent the rest of the day at a local state park where they hosted a cookout with softball and various other games and activities. They had 17 visitors that morning, but there were double that many visitors at the park. Some did not come to service but joined them later.

Community Baby Dedication "Celebrating Life!" They invited families who did not belong to a church but who wanted to dedicate their children. They dedicated six children represented by six families. A few other families had to cancel due to sickness. They had 18 visitors.

Mother's Day "Celebrating Heritage!" They had 21 visitors.

Back the Blue "Celebrating Service!" The week of May 11-15 is National Police Week in the U.S. It is a time every year set aside to remember officers fallen in the line of duty. On this Sunday of celebration they were privileged to have the mayor and chief of police in service as well as other officers and their families. During a recent ice storm the former chief of police was killed by a falling tree branch while trying to clear the roadways of debris. He had connections to the church and was a personal friend of the pastor. They paid honor to his memory and service to the community and also presented his wife with a check to help fund her trip to Washington D.C. in 2010 to commemorate her husband's memory during the services held there each year in honor of fallen police officers. The local news station requested permission to cover the events of the day and sent a crew out to report the story. The story aired on three different newscasts over the next two days and gave them a tremendous amount of advertisement. The church has continued to hear kind comments and reports from all around our community because of this. There were 35 visitors in that service.

Memorial Day "Celebrating Sacrifice!" This Sunday was their lowest attendance due to holiday weekend, but was rewarding. They paid honor to soldiers who have given their lives in service to their country. Next year they plan to focus more on this day and do more creative things with it. They had 10 visitors

Pentecost Sunday "Celebrating Joy!" Focus was on the Holy Ghost outpouring! They had 15 visitors.

Counting Easter, their total number of first-time visitors for the eight weeks of celebrating was 145. Also, there were many who came that had not been in service with them for a long time. By some estimates their total visitor attendance for these two months was over 200!

While they did not see as many receive the Holy Ghost during these events as hoped, (their focus was simply to get them in the door), They are now seeing a tremendous outpouring as a result of the seed that was planted months ago. Results are not always immediate, but they should always be expected.