



Host An ABF Open House– May 03

A few years ago while serving at Medinah Baptist Church in the Chicago area, I was thinking of a new and different way to promote our ABFs to our congregation in the fall, when people were settling back into their routines. I started thinking about all the open houses my wife and I had to go to for our three children as school was starting back up after the summer break. Then it hit me! Why not an open house for our ABFs?

We picked a Sunday in early October to host our “ABF Open House”. We shared with the congregation through announcements, flyers and posters that this was a Sunday that EVERYBODY attended an ABF. We also sent out an all church mailing with a letter from me (Pastor of Adult Ministries) and a copy of our ABF brochure (with an insert of current topics being taught). The Sunday before the open house a married couple in one of our ABFs shared a testimony of what their ABF meant to them. It was really powerful to hear this couple share of the friendships they had built, the teaching and activities they did together. It was obvious that they loved their ABF!

On the big day each of our ABFs made their own special preparations. Some prepared special “treats,” while others had some promo materials updated to hand out about the group and upcoming activities. Our goal was to create an opportunity for adults who were attending our church, but not plugged into an ABF, to give one a try.

Now if you are thinking that every adult attended an ABF that day I’m sorry to say it didn’t happen. But what did happen was a lot of people visited our ABFs. Also, it was great publicity for our ABFs! For three weeks we gave our ABF ministry lots of toots, blurbs, pushes, etc.

Submitted by Pastor Steve Lizzio, Director of ABF Resources and Pastor of Adult Ministries at Hope Church in Mason, OH.

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