**Preaching Calendars**

**I. The Importance of Planning Ahead**

*Why should you plan your sermon topics and passages months in advance?*

A. Planning avoids having to find a new topic each week.

B. Planning keeps you from repeating yourself too much.

C. Planning enables cohesiveness by preaching in a series.

D. Planning improves relationships with your co-workers (music, worship, choir leaders, others who share the pulpit, etc.).

E. Planning increases the congregation’s confidence in your leadership—they want to follow someone who knows where he’s going.

F. Planning allows time to find appropriate illustrations.

G. Planning provides a balanced spiritual diet for your listeners.

**II. How to Make an Effective Preaching Calendar**

A. Have your quiet time this year on what you plan to preach next year, then take a personal retreat for two days to a remote, quiet location to review your notes.

B. List those books and topics which you feel the congregation needs in the coming year.

C. Block out special event messages (Christmas, Mother’s Day, etc.) on the calendar.

D. Know how many times a week you are expected to preach.

1. Don’t regularly preach more than twice a week in a pastorate (cf. pp. 224-25).

2. The preaching calendar on the following two pages is based upon three

messages weekly, but these need not all be preached by the pastor.

E. Divide each expositional book series and topical series into their proper parts.

F. Put the series onto a chart. Stagger these series so that you:

1. Never begin two books or two series at the same time (too much work!)

2. Balance masculine (concepts) with feminine (heart-related) subjects.

3. Balance doctrinal with relational subjects.

4. Balance OT with NT preaching.

5. Balance inward growth with outward ministry.

6. Cover pertinent topical issues.

7. Never preach all the way through a long book in Scripture. Notice that both Genesis and Mark are broken up into various “mini-series” in the following preaching calendar.

G. Later on you can fill in the appropriate subject-complement statements for each message so as to give those planning the worship service several months to plan ahead to order appropriate choir music, write dramatic sketches, etc.

**Crossroads International Church Preaching Calendar 2013**

See the separate Excel file for the editable version of this chart for translation

