leaders, denominational people, and so forth, you will be following a scriptural pattern and successful plan for bringing God's word to people and bringing people to God.

Co-operating with the church

This point probably goes without saying. Cottage meetings should not compete and interfere with an established church, or worse still become a sort of subversive underground cell, promoting heresy or stealing sheep.

Obviously a "cottage meeting" should mesh with the program of the church proper, and have the blessing (and if necessary the guidance) of the church elders.

Advantages of Cottage Meetings

The advantages of "cottage meetings" are many. For example...

(1) **New converts can be made for Christ.**

A private home is a less formidable place than a church hall to introduce seekers to the gospel and to local Christians.

The meeting can be tailored to suit the special needs of contacts. This is a way of "Making the most of the opportunity" (Col 4:5).

(2) **Members of the church can be edified.**

Cottage meetings can supplement the teaching and feeding of the church, and may concentrate on the needs of individual members. (Eph 4:15-16).

(3) **Teachers can be trained.**

The cottage meeting is a less public circumstance in which people who are training to teach can be given some experience (2Tm 2:2).

(4) **Evangelists and pastors can be given opportunities.**

By arranging a cottage meeting where your evangelists or pastors can speak to a group, you may create useful opportunities for them to fulfill their ministries.

A cottage meeting gave Peter the Apostle an opportunity to convert Cornelius and his family (Acts 10:22).

(5) **Published ministry can be made use of.**

Cottage meetings can be successful using recorded lessons such as on DVD or in books. This enables people to continue to study even when there is an absence of someone to teach in person. (1Tm 3:14-15, 4:13).

(6) **Fellowship and brotherhood is enhanced.**

Cottage meetings are an excellent opportunity for brothers and sisters in Christ to get to know each other and praise God together “from house to house” (Acts 2:46-47).

(7) **Bible reading, prayer, and singing can be encouraged.**

Very effective cottage meetings can consist simply of prayers, Bible readings, and songs (2Tm 3:16-17, Php 4:6, Eph 5:19-20).

"I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house” (Acts 20:20).