

FORETHOUGHT **by Carl McMurray**

Have you ever sat in the back and noticed people going in and out of the services? I ran a camera for a gospel meeting some years ago and was shocked by the number of people going in and out. In a church of about 70 members, during the course of a 40 minute lesson, there were over 25 trips to the water fountain and restrooms. The ushers, deacons, and others serving in the back during worship over the years have informed me that this trend continues. Sounds like it's time for a little forethought.

Forethought would tell us to take young Billy or Susie to the water fountain and restroom before services start, and to remind older ones to travel the same path.

One thing I noticed in my experience that still seems to be true is that often it is the same ones making 3 or 4 trips out. Parents, a child that must use the restroom every 10-15 minutes has a kidney problem. Better get him to a doctor—or realize that getting up and going out can be a habit, more than a need. A child who can go to school and sit through class ought to be able to sit through worship.

For the sake of brethren focused on worship, guests who are being taught, and children needing to learn to stay put and pay attention...consider forethought.