

Visitation Plan

The flock of God have a right to expect to be visited by their pastor, to be instructed, advised, counseled, in their own homes. . . . The pastor is a shepherd of the sheep, guarding them, feeding them, warning them, reproofing them, or encouraging them, as the case may require. There is visiting to be done, not to have a pleasant chat, but to do the work required of a watchman. There should be earnest conversation and prayer with these souls.

Ellen G. White (*Pastoral Ministry*, p. 223, 224)

Small Group/Unit of Action:

Names of Visiting Team:

01 _____ 02 _____

1st Family to the visited: _____

2nd Family to be Visited: _____

3rd Family to be Visited: _____

4th Family to be Visited: _____

5th Family to be Visited: _____



SEEKING FIRST THE KINGDOM



PURPOSE OF THE VISITATION

- Growth in Christ.
- Meet the needs found.
- Helping to grow in communion, relationship and mission (reaching up, reaching in, reaching out).
- To establish them in faith.

IMPORTANT ITEMS

- Treat all personal information confidentially.
- Avoid spending the time cracking jokes.
- Avoid asking intimate questions. Respect privacy.
- Visit at the appropriate time and place.
- Recognize your limitations. No one has all the answers or is able to meet all the needs.
- Never visit someone of the opposite sex alone.
- Listen very carefully.
- After the visit, leave immediately while the spiritual tone of prayer is still felt.

ATTENTION

- Never use as a sermon illustration what you heard from someone you are visiting
- Avoid speaking ill of other churches or people.
- Allow those who are being visited to speak freely without interruptions.
- Say a fervent prayer at the end of the visit, before leaving the house.

REMEMBER

- Pastoring people shouldn't be a one-time activity. So make a commitment to pray and to regularly visit the families you are pastoring.

PREPARATION

- Pray that God will guide your words to be a blessing in the home visited.
- Schedule your visit.
- Know in advance the address and names of people to visit.
- Be punctual, arrive on time.
- Bring your Bible and a notebook to write down prayer requests.

DURING

- After a cordial greeting and an opening dialogue, mention that the visit has a spiritual purpose.
- Say a prayer before starting the the visitation agenda.
- Be friendly and include each family member in the conversation.
- Start with the following questions:

1. Please tell me about your conversion. How many years ago was it and under what circumstances?
2. What has truly kept you steadfast and faithful in your faith so far?
3. In what aspects of your spiritual life would you like to experience reform or change?
 - Examples: In carrying out family worship or personal devotion, keeping the Sabbath, interest in attending services, faithfulness in tithes and offerings, extending forgiveness to someone, caring for my body, etc.
4. Do you have a special prayer request that you would like us to present to God? Write their prayer request.
You may mention James 5:16; 1 Peter 5:7; Luke 11:9-13.
5. Give them the "Seeking First the Kingdom" card and quickly review each item together, highlighting its importance.
6. Suggest for them to do the "Spiritual Growth Self-assessment" after the visitation team leaves.
 - Say a final prayer before leaving.

