Effective Non-Attending Member Visitation

for

Pastor/Elder/Deacon/Deaconess serving as “Visitation Ministers”

Elder O. Kris Widmer, Seventh-day Adventist Church Ordained Minister

1. Examine Yourself:
   1. Do I have a genuine love for people?
   2. Do I believe people are more important to God than policies/procedures?
   3. Can I listen without being defensive?
   4. Can I handle the stories of pain caused by myself and other well-intentioned churchy people?
2. Identify the names of non-attending members on the church list.
3. Divide the names among the elders or other trained visitors.
4. Making Contact
   1. Text, Email, Write a brief letter asking when and where it would be possible to make contact. Starbucks? Denny’s? AT&T Park.?
   2. “I’m contacting people with Adventist roots or membership for a friendship contact and seeking to get acquainted.” (You are NOT there to inquire why they haven’t been to church in 2,4,5,10 years.)
   3. Be clear about “WHY” you are making contact.
      1. Prayer
      2. Friendship
      3. Minister to Needs
   4. Bring “something” along. Carefully Selected Literature. A reason for being there.
5. The Visit
   1. Get Acquainted: F.O.R.T. Model Family, Occupation, Religion, Testimony. (But don’t be an interrogator.)
   2. Ask what you can pray about for them.
   3. Ask about how their church can best help them.
   4. Keep it to the length of the meal/drink. 20-30 minutes.
6. Responses…For Example
   1. “I can’t attend church because I like to drink coffee.”
   2. “I left church because that deaconess criticized my daughter’s pierced ears.”
   3. “I left church because of their position on women’s ordination.”
   4. “I’ll never go back because they put Ellen White above the Bible.”
   5. “I found I just couldn’t measure up to all the expectations.”
7. Follow-up visits –
   1. Ask about their relationship with God.
   2. Be prepared to give a Simple Gospel Presentation
      1. Our Problem – Romans 3:23, 6:23 - All Have Sinned.
      2. Our Savior – Jesus – No Condemnation - John 3:16, 17.
      3. Our Invitation – To as many as received him…to them gave him power to become the sons of God. John 1:12
   3. People are wooed back to the Redeemer through redemptive relationships, not by reinforcing religious regulations. (Brought to you by the letter “R”)

**Visitation Report Form (Sample)**

Today’s Date:

Your Name:

Member’s Name(s):

Address:

Date of Visit

Visit Report Paragraph