Effective Active Member Visitation

for

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

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

Gleanings from Elder’s Handbook, page 117-120

1. The importance of ministerial (Every member a minister) visitation
   1. Often gets neglected.
   2. Many members carry secret burdens.
   3. Getting to Know You…leads to Getting to Love you.
   4. The heart of religion is relationships: Vertical/Horizontal God and Man
   5. “The Safety Pin” Symbol
2. At Church Visitation
   1. Arrive Early and Stay Late
   2. Attend to the “outsider” people. Don’t just hang with your own friends.
   3. Be willing to listen - then pray on the spot.
   4. Fellowship Meals: Intentionally Circulate …and Fellowship!
3. In Home Visitation
   1. “A home-going ministry creates church-going people.”
   2. Plan Visitation in Elder’s Meetings
   3. “The Parish Plan” – Organize, then Visit = Elder+Deacon+Deaconess
   4. Two by Two
   5. Booking Appointments is Essential These Day. No Drop Ins.
4. Visitation Basics:
   1. Prepare Your Soul: Ask God to Be Present in Visitation & Love Through You.
   2. Select a Positive and Encouraging Scripture Passage to Share
      1. Psalm 46:1,2 Psalm 103:1-5
      2. Psalm 121 Psalm 133
      3. Matthew 11:28-30
      4. Hebrews 10:19-25
      5. Ephesians 2:19-22
      6. Ephesians 5:25-32
   3. Befriend: Start on the Social Level. FORT - Family, Occupation, Relationships, Testimony. Learn names!
   4. Listen: Ask about their spiritual journey(s). When did they make Jesus #1 in their own hearts and home.
   5. Read: Share Scripture at a natural transition. Pocket Bible…and reading glasses.
   6. Ask: about prayer needs, ways they would like be involved in church…but haven’t been as yet.
   7. Pray: kneel or stand in a prayer circle. Pray for family by name, including the needs you have learned.
   8. Leave: 30 minutes is a good length…and you could do 2-3 visits in an evening.
   9. Write I: Write down the family’s names, needs and any plans for follow ups. What were their concerns? What were your impressions?
   10. Write II: Write a note to the family to mail in a few days, thanking them for their time and for their contributions to making the church a place of grace and meaningful relationships.

**Visitation Report Form (Sample)**

Today’s Date:

Your Name:

Member’s Name(s):

Address:

Date of Visit

Visit Report Paragraph