

21st Century **PASTORAL** Visitation

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Ministry is personal.

Six Essentials of Ministry



- Preaching
- Teaching
- Training
- Evangelism
- Leadership
- Visitation



Exegesis of Bible and Exegesis of Membership



Ministry is personal.

Luke 19:1-6

Biblical Foundations

- Genesis 3:8
- 1 Samuel 23:16
- Acts 9:26-30
- Acts 11:22-26
- Acts 20:20



A pastor should **mingle freely** with the people for whom he labors, that by becoming acquainted with them he may know how to adapt his teaching to their needs. When a minister has preached a sermon, **his work has but just begun**. There is personal work for him to do.

Acts of the Apostles, p. 363, 364

He should visit the people in their homes, talking and praying with them in **earnestness and humility**. There are families who will never ever be reached by the truths of God's Word unless the stewards of His grace enter their homes and point them to the higher way. But the hearts of those who do this work must throb in unison **with the heart of Christ**.

Visitation
ministry is
not just the
role of the
pastor, but
the whole
membership!



No other single factor makes a greater difference in improving annual membership addition than an immediate visit to the home of first-time worshippers. . . . When lay persons make 15-minute visits to the homes of first-time worship visitors within 36 hours, 85% of them return the following week. Make this home visit within 72 hours, and 60% of them return. Make it seven days later, and 15% will return. The pastor making this call, rather than lay persons, cuts each result in half.

The Challenges of Visitation

- A wise use of time?
- Travel and associated issues?
- People don't appreciate visits in the 21st century
- "Hard to find people"



Preparation for Visitation

- A personal spiritual assessment
- Prayer
 - Yourself (your issues)
 - The recipients of your visit
 - The visit!
 - Opportunities
- Plan: aim, direction, achieve



Priorities for Visitation

- The sick
 - Hospital / Home
 - The terminal
 - Pre-surgery
 - Maternity (new baby)
 - Relatives, friends, in the waiting room



Priorities for Visitation

- Elderly
- New converts
- Church visitors
- Children, Youth,
Young Adults
- Families
- Missing members



Priorities for Visitation

- Children, Youth, Young Adults
- Families
- Missing / Former members
- Leaders
- The critical, obstinate, and difficult
- Clergy of other denominations
- Your friends



Priorities for Visitation

- Opportunistic visits



General Tips for Visitation

- Avoid lone visits
- Prepare a systematic plan
- Consider geography
- Remember the time
- Share something

Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Bible Reading**
 - The Bible teaches
 - The Bible provides direction
 - The Bible provides comfort
 - The Bible provides inspiration

Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Listening**
 - Discover needs (Matt. 9:35-10:15)
 - Illustrates respect
 - Illustrates openness
 - “Fully present”



- Body Language **55%**
- Tone of Voice **38%**
- Words **7%**

Connecting With People

Audio

Visual

Kinesthetic

Numerical



Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Singing**
 - Biblical
 - Matthew 26:30
 - 1 Corinthians 14:26
 - Ephesians 5:18-19
 - Colossians 3:16

Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Prayer**
 - Essential
 - Know the person
 - Don't assume
 - Appropriately touch the person
 - Pray from your heart

Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Share / Inform**
 - The vision dream, plans
 - Opportunities
 - Needs

Important Elements of Pastoral Visitation

- **Spiritual diagnosis**
- **Avoid questions beginning with:
“Why ...?”**

Suggested Diagnostic Questions

- How would you describe your God?
- What do you treasure most in your relationship with God?
- How do you need me to support you in prayer this week?
- What change at church would be most important from your point of view?
- How has knowing God affected you personally?

Suggested Diagnostic Questions

- Have you found any gems in your personal devotion time that you could share with me?
- If you knew you couldn't fail, what would you like to do with your God?
- Would you share with me a life dream you have?
- What have you learned about God that you wish you had known when you were a young person/Christian?
- How did you become an Adventist/Christian?

Suggested Diagnostic Questions

- What gifts do you believe the Lord has given to you?
- Can you point to any areas in your life where you believe you have grown recently?
- Have you found tithing to be a blessing?
- What have discovered about Jesus in the last couple of weeks?

Controversial

Bonus

Point(s)

- **Don't visit at meal-times**
- **Visitation is not grazing or a buffet**
- **“What! Do you not have houses to eat and drink in?” (1Corinthians 11:22, ESV)**

Bonus Material

- **A golden era of evangelism**
- **The Blessing . . . of the
“unexpected” visit**
- **Making your ministry “bullet-proof”**

The personal labor
must be done, even if
there has to be less
preaching done . . .

