



Visitation

done by church members.

**Seminar | Calvin Billy Maurice | 24 Ogos
2024 | Bukit Lalang**

Visitation Topic

- **Basic Concepts on the Ministry of Visitation**
- **Home Visitation**
- **Visitation**
- **The Fine art of visitation**
- **Visitation Revised**
- **Steps to Effective Visitation**
- **Nine keys to successful Visitation**
- **The Power of Visitation**
- **Nine Blessings of Pastoral Visitation | ED Q2 2014**
- **Hospital Visitation | ED Q4 1999 | Q2 1997**



The Basic Concept on the ministry of visitation.



Introduction

1. "Pure religion ... is this, to visit" (James 1:27).
2. Parable of the Lost Sheep. "Doth he not leave the ninety and nine and goeth into the mountains, and seeketh that which is gone astray?" (Matt. 18:12).
3. "Our Saviour went from house to house, healing the sick, comforting the mourners, soothing the afflicted speaking peace to the disconsolate" (Gospel Workers, p. 188).



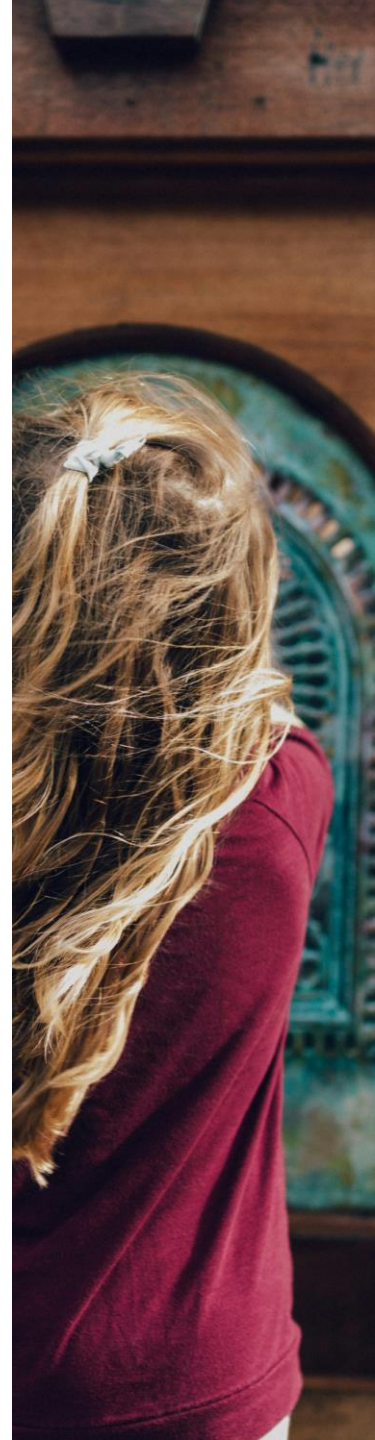
Introduction

4. "I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20, 26, 27).
5. "Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled" (Luke 14:23).



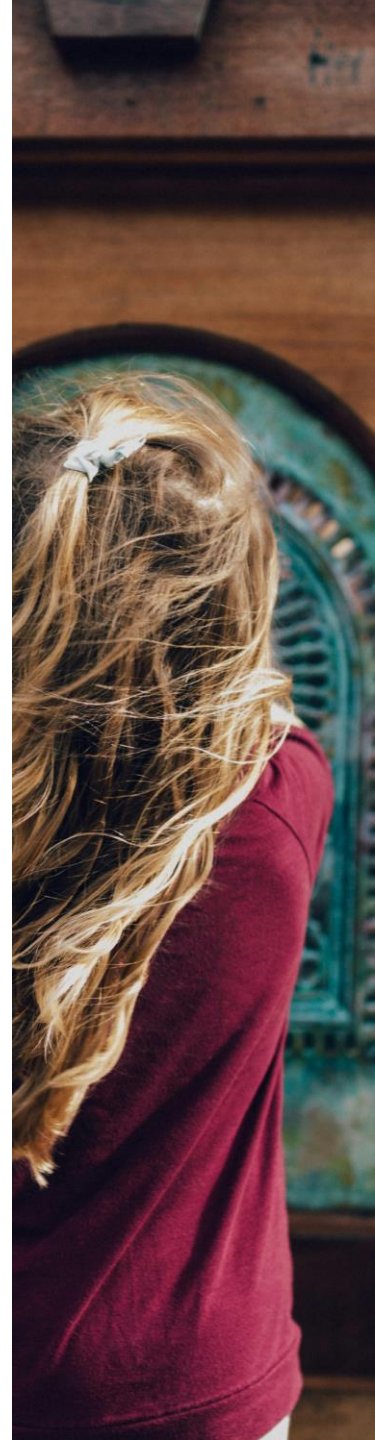
Kind of Visit

- 1. Hospital Visiting**
- 2. Home Visit to the Sick**
- 3. General membership visitation**
- 4. Bible school interests.**
- 5. Visitors at Sabbath school and church.**
- 6. Relatives of Adventists: chances are they have our literature and have probably attended some meetings.**
- 7. New believers. Wean them but not too quickly. Encourage them in some missionary activity.**



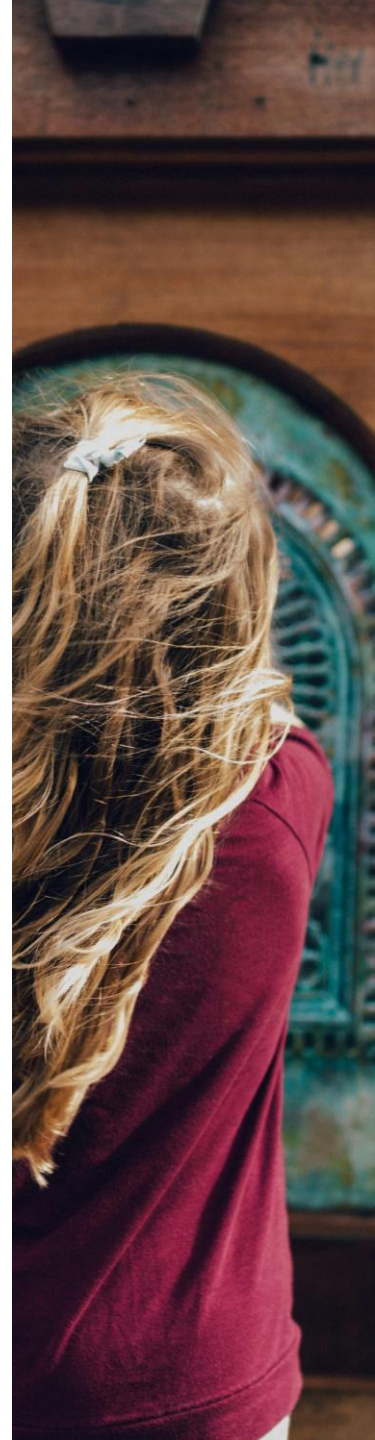
Hospital Visiting

- a. Routine visits, especially before surgery.**
- b. Be brief stay only a few minutes.**
- c. Avoid discussing patient's illness. (Get information desired from family or the doctor.)**
- d. Be cheerful but always serious-minded,**
- e. Speak of pleasant things; inspire courage and hope,**
- f. Pray quietly before leaving. Be specific in prayer and make it brief. (Remember roommate if there is one.)**



Home visits to the Sick

- a. **Shut-ins and aged**
- b. **When the baby comes**
- c. **People with colds, flu, etc., do not expect a pastoral visit unless there are complications.**



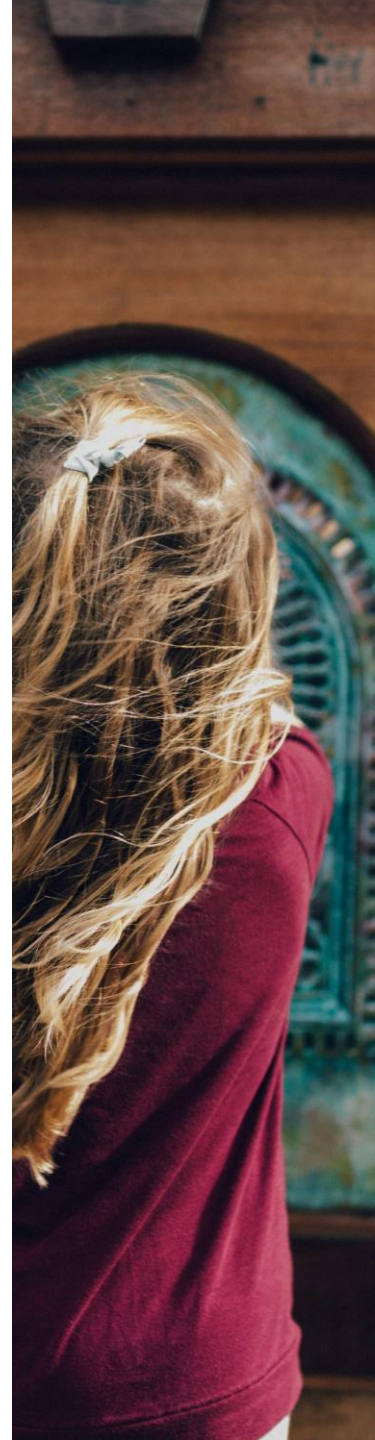
Soul-sick calls.

- a. **Weak members.** (Anyone who does not attend Sabbath school or church services is weak.)
- b. **Backsliders.** After visiting during the week, be sure to make a call on Sabbath for a public commitment to Christ. In every congregation there are souls who are hesitating, almost decided to be wholly for God (Gospel Workers, p. 151).



General membership visitation.

- 1. Avoid close social contacts.**
- 2. Make EVERY call spiritual.**
- 3. Be full of courage and cheerful, but never a jester.**
- 4. Never leave a home without praying with the family.**



How Church Members Can Help With the Visitation Program

- 1. Divide the church list among the elders of the church.**
Type the name and address of each family on a small card. Divide the number geographically or in some other natural way among the elders. Each elder is to be personally responsible for the spiritual watchcare of those families he has been assigned.
- 2. Encourage the deacons and deaconesses to call on each home in the church at least once a year. Make every call spiritual.**



How Church Members Can Help With the Visitation Program

3. Friendship teams.

3. Young people, or older, can go two by two to call on all the neighbors in the city just a warm, friendly visit.
4. Divide territory into sections of approximately 100 homes each and assign one section to each team each year.



Visiting new members.

- 1. First week after baptism or transfer.**
 - 1. Send name to a church elder,**
 - 2. If several names, divide them among the elders.**
- 2. Second week, send the new name(s) to the Sabbath school department. Names can be divided at a Sabbath school council meeting.**

Visiting new members.

- 3. Third week, send the same name(s) to the home missionary department. Encourage new member(s) to engage in some missionary work.**
- 4. Fourth week, send the same name(s) to the deacons and/or deaconesses. This, too, should be a spiritual visit.**
- 5. The form letters for all these visits can be mimeographed to save a lot of time.**

How to do Home Visiting?

Make a group and discuss about preparation that necessary for doing home visitation.



How to do Home Visiting



Approaching the Door

- **Pocket Bible Vs. Larger Bible**
- **Never peek through windows, doors**
- **Doorbell/knock firmly**
- **Smile/be friendly**



Doing Visitation

- **Personal preparation**

"All who are under the training of God need the quiet hour for communion with their own hearts, with nature, and with God. In them is to be revealed a life that is not in harmony with the world, its customs, or its practices; and they need to have a personal experience in obtaining a knowledge of the will of God. . . . This is the effectual preparation for all labor for God" (Ministry of Healing, 58).



Doing Visitation

- **Personal preparation**

Thus, the primary ingredient for an effective visit is personal preparation. **Every good thing starts when we are alone with God.** As the Bible says: "Out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). **We will never take Christ's words to people if we do not take time to be with Him.** Bible study, Sabbath School lessons, Spirit of Prophecy books, morning devotionals, and prayer constitute a basic survival kit. Without these ingredients, there is no spiritual life. **We need to spend quality time with God, talking to Him and listening to His voice.** When we make ourselves available to God's leading, we become Satan's main target. This is why we must reinforce our communion with heaven to obtain power for overcoming evil and strengthening our brethren.



Doing Visitation

- **Visit by appointment**

Demonstrate the value you place on time both for yourself and those you visit by establishing an advance schedule. Although some people welcome "drop-in" guests at any moment, most prefer notice. Also, **when people know you will be visiting, the Holy Spirit can prepare their minds for spiritual discussions.**



Doing Visitation

- **Mentally visualize the family you will be visiting.**

Think about their characteristics and reflect upon potential situations that may make them uncomfortable. By doing this, you reduce the probability of making a mistake or provoking an uncomfortable situation. Reflect also on the problems that this family might be facing and think of what you can say to respond to their needs.



Doing Visitation

- **Prepare some Bible texts.**

Choose in advance the text to be read. **During your visit, problems may become evident for which a biblical response would be helpful.** Have several verses in mind for these situations. Give preference to positive verses that emphasize trust in God's love and God's care for His children. Some helpful texts are **2 Chronicles 7:15-16; Psalm 37:3-5; 40:1- 3; 46:1, 2, 10-11; 103:1-5; 121; Hebrews 3:17-18; Matthew 11:28-30; and John 14:1-3; 16:33.**



Doing Visitation

- **Choose appropriate attire.**

Do not overlook this very important detail. Home visitation does not require formal attires, but clothing should be discrete and tasteful. Do not worry about fashion, but also do not make flashy combinations. **Consider the climate and the expectations and living conditions of the family you will be visiting.** To be appropriately dressed is a matter of good sense.



Doing Visitation

- **Ask for the Holy Spirit's presence.**

Before you embark upon your visits, pray that the Holy Spirit will go before you to feed the people and prepare them to receive you as a servant of God. Also pray that He will put the right words in your mouth, making your visit effective.



Doing Visitation

- **Keep it Short**
- **Don't visit alone**
- **"Go with an "apparent agenda."**

Give a **Bible tract**, an encouraging booklet, a copy of the **church bulletin**, or a **study guide** to each person. This establishes that your visit is intentional, not casual, and immediately focuses the conversation on spiritual matters. Elders should begin each visit by presenting the pastor's card and the "apparent agenda" gift. "Our pastor requested that I bring you this tract."



Beginning a conversation

- **FORT**

Family

Occupation

Religion

Testimony



Beginning a conversation

- **SHIRT**

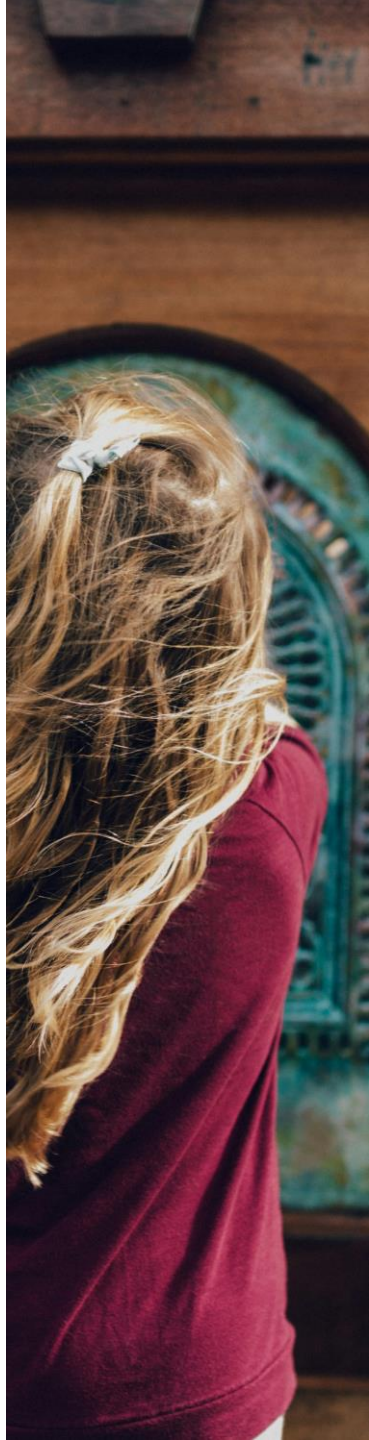
School

Hobbies

Interests

Religion

Testimony



Doing Visitation

- **State your specific purpose.**

After setting a spiritual framework with your "apparent agenda," move directly to your specific reason for coming by asking an **open-ended question which cannot be answered with "yes" or "no."** For example, "How do you feel about your relationship with God at this time in your life?" or "What have you observed in our church that encourages your faith or causes challenges for you?"



Doing Visitation

- **Ask questions about specific needs.**

To an inactive or non-attending member: "How can your church better serve your needs?" To those who should be involved in church activities: "What areas of service for Christ would interest you if you received training to accomplish the task?" To those who have influence in the community: "Who could you introduce to me so that I might invite them to our church services?" To those who know a lot of people: "What special events, to which you would invite your friends, would you help us plan and implement?"



Doing Visitation

- **Meet special needs.**

For those who are grieving: "Please tell me the story of your loved one's impact on your own life." To those who are sick, "How can I pray for you to assure you of God's love, forgiveness, and promises?" To the elderly: "Tell me how God has led you and what provides you assurance of His value for you personally?" To parents: "What would you like me to pray for concerning your children?" To volunteers or leaders: "I want to praise God in appreciation for the contribution you make to His cause."



Doing Visitation

- **Fellowship and loveliness**

"The loveliness of the character of Christ will be seen in His followers" (Steps to Christ, 59). **When you arrive at the home, express love and kindness.** Greet everyone present and take time for informal, friendly conversation. **Listen attentively when people speak,** especially if they are sharing difficulties that they are facing. **Show empathy** for their problems. **Avoid subjects that may generate division such as politics, debatable theology,** etc. If someone raises one of these subjects, listen with kindness and try to lead the conversation to another subject. When people are **timid,** talk about subjects of general interest (family, work, hobbies, God's blessings in their lives, etc.). Honestly compliment their children, house or garden. If your host seems **uneasy,** request a glass of water. Providing something for a guest will set the host at ease.



Doing Visitation

- **Bible reading**

"Prayer and Bible readings are needed in the homes of the people" (Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, 540). After spending 5-10 minutes in conversation and when everyone feels comfortable, **transition to more spiritual topics**, saying "I've come to share some words of Scripture with you and to pray a blessing upon your home." Even though you are moving deliberately to your spiritual agenda, try not to appear worried about the time or act as though you are working through a checklist. **Read one of the Bible verses** previously selected and **make a brief comment**, preparing the spirit for prayer.



Doing Visitation

- **Prayer requests**

"They also met together to present their requests to the Father **in the name of Jesus**" (Acts of the Apostles, 35). Before praying, ask each person present if he or she has a special prayer request. If so, write down these requests and tell the family that you will be remembering them in your personal prayers.



Doing Visitation

- **Prayer**

"We should pray in the family circle . . ." (5feps to Christ, 98). If appropriate, invite those who are present if they would like to pray or if they prefer you to pray on their behalf. **Never make people uncomfortable by expecting them to pray aloud.** In the home, it is appropriate to kneel or to pray while sitting or standing. The prayer should be **brief and objective.** Pray for each request and try to mention the names of everyone present, asking individual blessings upon their lives and needs. Also ask for blessings upon the home and the family. Remember to pray for family members who are not present.



Doing Visitation

- **Farewell**

The visit should be short. **Ten or fifteen minutes is usually enough**, but if you sense the need for more indepth conversation, **make another appointment and return at a later time.** After prayer, thank your hosts for their hospitality and the enjoyable moments you have spent together.



Doing Visitation

- **Respect confidentiality.**

Never gossip about information you receive. However, never promise confidentiality to those who victimize others with physical, emotional, or sexual violence and abuse. In fact, in most jurisdictions, clergy and laity leaders are legally required to report any knowledge or suspicion of sexual violation of children or teens. Never fail to follow your professional, ethical, moral, and legal responsibility to protect the innocent from predators.



The Power of Visiting?

Make a group and discuss about the important and how powerfull are the visitation ministry.



Conclusion

