

BASIC VISITING PRINCIPLES

C. A. D.
CONFIDENTIAL

I. PHYSICAL PRINCIPLES

A. Personal Habits

1. Grooming
 - a. hair
 - b. breath
 - c. body odor

2. Clothing

- a. Mature and Conservative
- b. Clean, pressed, and polished

B. Travel and Organization

1. Pray for protection
2. Drive Carefully
 - a. seat belts
 - b. speed limits
 - c. unfamiliar vehicle
 - d. adjust for road conditions
3. Plan your visits -- Don't waste time.
 - a. Maintain and use an office map
 - b. Schedule visits ahead
 - c. Leave in time to keep appointments

C. Bibles and Cases

1. Avoid large Bibles and Cases
2. Use their Bibles or a small pocket Bible

II. ACTUAL VISITING

A. Be friendly and sociable

1. Discuss their interests
 - a. Hobbies and recreations
 - b. Home and family
 - c. How they contacted us
2. Sympathize with their problems
3. Chat socially with unconverted relatives.

B. Be Cautious

1. Even basic doctrines are dangerous
2. All are not called to be church members.
 - a. May only be a Co-worker
 - b. Religious hobbyist
3. Leave them wanting more
 - a. Seldom exceed 2 hours
 - b. Don't begin visits after 8:30 P.M.
 - c. Suggest booklets for additional study

C. Be basic

1. Stick to key issues -- notice and note them.
2. Don't try to solve all problems at once.
3. Don't discuss too many subjects -- be thorough on one or two, leaving no unanswered questions.

VISITING PROGRAMME MEETING - 27th June, 1965
(Special) by Roderick C. Meredith

I. General points on visiting

A. Pray for protection and Wisdom

1. Ask God's favour in dangerous situations.
2. Drive carefully, obey seat-belts-use command.
3. Watch speed--obey the speed limit (HWA) all the time.
4. Be especially careful (alert) for wet, icy or dangerous roads. Don't "tail-gate" another car -- don't be a bumper hugger. Don't pass on hills or curves.

B. Pray that you will not offend. Take time with new people.

1. Don't rile up unconverted mates. Talk to unconverted mates about carnal things - hunting, fishing, etc.

II. Cleanliness is important

A. Take a bath every day - or a shower. Keep clean.

B. Watch grooming - hair, teeth, B.O., dandruff.

C. Wear the right kind of clothes -- suggested we get "Dacron" or "Terylene" suits in very hot climate.

III. Have maps and visiting organization.

A. Have a large map with all members, prospective members, and others all located. Keep a written description of where members live.

B. Plan your visiting route carefully and avoid unnecessary driving.

IV. Remember, you are dealing with God's heritage.

A. Be patient

B. God is not calling all as members, but some are called as Co-Workers.

C. Be alert to their attitudes, problems, hobbies.

1. Make note of these on the visiting card.

D. Sympathize with them and their problems -- even their "little ones".

V. Remember that even basic doctrines are "strong meat".

A. Fully explain the basic doctrines.

B. Leave no questions, answer their objections -- use their own Bibles to explain things.

C. Encourage people to get good Bibles, helps, etc.

D. On your first call, use a small Bible.

VI. Often carry your Envoy along. It is often an excellent opening in the conversation -- especially with prospective members, hall managers, etc.

VII. Don't try and solve all of their problems on the first visit. Give them the "milk" and not the "strong meat".

A. It is usually best only to spend 1 or 2 hours, then wearing them out.

B. Note big problems -- Divorce and Remarriage, etc.

- VIII. Leave them hungry for the next visit.
- A. Recommend booklets and articles.
 - B. Note down about the time you should revisit them.
 - C. Especially for Britain -- may have to cultivate certain visits and visit every 2 weeks or so for those who don't hear.

Keeping an Area Growing

- I. Have special lectures on health, leadership, etc.
- II. Begin a Visiting Programme and cultivate and use all who can be used.
- III. See the big picture.
- IV. Have a warm, friendly approach.
- V. Look to Headquarters -- Pasadena first and secondly to Bricket Wood.
 - A. Report and Cooperate fully, be open for criticism.

Baptism

- I. Follow the outline on how to conduct a visit regarding learning their knowledge of the Bible.
 - A. Be warm and friendly -- Be human.
 - B. Ask them why they want to be Baptized.
- II. When discussing baptism, be sure that they have repented (Acts 2:38)
 - A. Why be baptized?
 - B. Romans 6:1 - Explain that baptism is a burial, a planting -- the old man is crucified.
 - C. Luke 14:25-35 Be sure they have counted the cost.
 - D. Five Basics
 - 1. Do you know that there is a real, Creator-Sustainer God.
(Remember when talking to students or those in a local area, we can talk to them later if they aren't ready.)
 - a. The heart of man is deceitful and desperately wicked.
(Jer. 17:9) Students subconsciously want to belong -- to be on the inside.
 - b.. Mentioned that a number are baptized who haven't repented.
 - 2. Do you know the Bible is God's Word, are you willing to obey it?
 - 3. Do you know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour, the Son of God?
 - 4. Do you believe this is the Church of God? Mr. Meredith says he doesn't "bear down" on this point -- that he didn't understand this when he was baptized. Do they believe in the Gospel?

5. Do they understand what repentance is.
 - a. Before you explain all about baptism ask the person WHY he wants to be baptized and what it means to them personally! Make each person answer this question for himself. DON'T BAPTIZE ANY WHO DON'T FEEL REPENTANT.
 - b. Group baptisms are not good -- not the best. Talk to one or two at a time. Preferably, talk to only one at a time!

Repentance and Baptism

Mr. Meredith mentioned that he only talks to one student at a time. Take the time to fully explain the subject of baptism thoroughly. Talk to them personally and individually.

Finally, ask the person if they have truly and deeply repented!

Don't use baptism counsel to try and convert people. Use it more to find out if they are repentant.

Ask the person if he has broken God's Law in the letter. Then ask them if they have broken the Law in the spirit!

Don't do all of the talking. Get them to express themselves.

Have you repented of your carnal mind, nature, attitude? Have you realized your terrible, horrible, rotten self -- that you are a terrible person -- that you stink?? Your self, vanity, pride, lust, hatred, doubts, fear, etc.

You should normally explain some of the basic points -- 10 Commandments, Sabbath, Unclean Meats, Holy Days, Tithing, etc., but don't think they need to understand all of the technical points.

The baptism candidate must unconditionally surrender -- must yield themselves to God.

(The attitude is the important thing! Ask questions - discreet - to find out the attitude, and to find out if the person is really repentant.)

Avoid extremes -- Don't insist!!