**GUIDELINES FOR EFFECTIVE MEMBERSHIP VISITATION**

by

Pastor Owen E. Jack

1. Set aside a specific day for visitation.
2. Prioritize your visits:
3. Those who request a visit.
4. Those you know who need a visit. For example, the sick, bereaved families, those who have personal and family problems, those with spiritual problems.
5. Visit by Appointments:

Most persons prefer to be given notice; even they would prefer a drop-in visit. Visits by appointments would save you from wasting time and may save the member embarrassment.

1. Keep your visits short except there is a need to stay longer. If you keep your visit short they would be glad to have you over again.
2. Don’t visit alone especially when visiting a person of the opposite sex. Two by two was Jesus’ plan. If you visit alone you will prevent any risk to the damage of your reputation.
3. Have a specific purpose for visiting:-
4. To find out how the person feels about their relationship with God.
5. To find out what the church can do to more adequately meet their needs.
6. What service for Christ would interest them if they receive training to accomplish the task.
7. To find out if they are witnessing to their family members, friends and neighbours and to suggest ways to do so.
8. Talk to them about their faithfulness in returning tithes and offerings, if they have a problem in doing so.
9. Find out how poor and needy persons are making out and to suggest ways to “fish”.
10. Thank them for their contribution to the work of God.
11. Do more listening than talking.
12. Be confidential:
* Never repeat what a person told you in confidence; except they are planning to kill themselves, someone else or they are sexually abusing children and teens.
1. At the end of your discussion ask them what personal or family needs they would like you to talk to God about.
2. Find Assistance:-
* You cannot and should not do all the visitation yourself. You are just one person. Take out your elders and other officers and train them to do visitations so that they can train others.