

# DEACON & DEACONESS PASTORAL VISITATIONS







**SEVEN STEPS FOR MAKING  
THE VISIT A BLESSING**

# 1. PREPARE.

# Bible References

Psalm 46; Psalm 103:1-5; Psalm 121;  
Matthew 11:28-30; John 14:1-3 &  
Revelation 21:1-7

## 2. BEFRIEND .

3. READ .

4. ASK.

5. PRAY.

# 6. LEAVE.

# 7. WRITE.

**The Seven Specific visitations.**



# The Seven Specific Visitations.



VISITING CHURCH MEMBERS.

VISITING NEW CONVERTS.



VISITING THOSE WHO ARE IN  
THE FAITH .



VISITING SENIOR CITIZENS.

VISITING THE SICK & INFIRM.

VISITING THE SHUT-INS.

The background is a solid teal color. At the top, there are several curved, overlapping lines in shades of grey and black, creating a sense of depth and movement. A bright, horizontal silver highlight is positioned near the top center, just below the curved lines.

**VISITING DURING  
BEREAVEMENT.**

DEACONS & DEACONESSES  
SHOULD BE AWARE OF  
PRINCIPLES PERTAINING TO THE  
7 TYPES OF VISITATIONS  
COMMON IN SDA CHURCHES.

# I. VISITING CHURCH MEMBERS.

## Purpose:

- a. To show that the church cares
- b. To learn about the interests.

## How to conduct the visit:

- ❖ Talk about how important the person is to God & to the church.
- ❖ Read a text from the Bible and comment.
- ❖ Encourage them to attend worship services
  - ❖ Invite family members to pray for the church & its ministry
- ❖ End the visit with a prayer for the family & their contribution to the church.

## Helpful guidelines:

- Visit the family after scheduling the event.
- Make the visit short. The visit needs not be more than 30 minutes
- Before praying , always ask if there are any special requests.
- Keep the conversation from drifting into unproductive or peripheral issues
- In case of a complex situation or issue , it's best to arrange for an elder or pastor to visit.

**Suggested Bible texts to use during  
the visit.**

**Romans 8:38,39; Philippians 3:13,14;  
Colossians 3: 16,17; 2Peter 1:3,4;  
1John 5:4**



## II. VISITING NEW CONVERTS.

## Purpose:

- a. To affirm the interest of the church in their faith & fellowship
- b. To strengthen their growth in Christian experience.
- c. To study with them the riches of the Bible

## How to conduct the visit:

- ❖ Talk about the importance of consistent church attendance
- ❖ Encourage them regarding personal study & family worship
- ❖ Show them how to conduct family worship
- ❖ Instruct them on how to keep the Sabbath
- ❖ Read a text from the Bible & make a short comment.
- ❖ Pray with them. Try to have the entire family

**Suggested Bible texts to use during  
the visit.**

**Psalm 23; 37:3-5; 40:1; 119:105;  
Philippians 4:6,7; 1Thessalonians  
5:17; Hebrews 10:25**





# III. VISITING THOSE WEAK IN THE FAITH

## Purpose:

- a. To revive their faith & spiritual enthusiasm
- b. To encourage them to trust in God no matter what

## How to conduct the visit:

- ❖ Talk about the power of the Bible in our spiritual life
- ❖ Encourage them to read the Bible daily
- ❖ Emphasise the importance of personal devotions
- ❖ Read an encouraging Bible passage and briefly comment
- ❖ Pray with them; if moment is convenient ask if there are any prayer requests.

## Helpful guidelines:

- Avoid judgmental remarks. Religious intimidation never produces positive results.
- Leave behind some appropriate literature.
- Avoid questions like: "Have you committed a serious sin?"
- If the person voluntarily identifies the reason for their spiritual apathy (sin, discouragement, disappointment in God or the church, etc.) try to be helpful and join in their search for spiritual meaning. Never be judgmental.

**Suggested Bible texts to use during  
the visit.**

**Psalm 34:18,19:51:10,12;84:1,2;  
Proverbs 2:1-5; Jeremiah 15:16;  
Matthew 11:28-30; Hebrews 4:  
15,16;10:25; 1 John 2:1**



# IV. VISITING SENIOR CITIZENS.

## Purpose:

- a) To show that the church cares for them, and has interest in their lives.
- b) To offer assistance, they are in such need.
- c) To provide spiritual support, comfort and instill hope in the soon return of Jesus.

## How to conduct the visit

- ❖ Talk about the good things of the past; the older a person is the more he or she may want to share of how God has led them in the past.
  - ❖ If appropriate , sing some hymns of praise during the visit.
    - ❖ Read some Biblical passages
- ❖ Talk about faith and perseverance in the ways of the Lord.
  - ❖ Try to identify any specific needs that can be provided by the church.

## Helpful guidelines

- **Speak clearly and distinctly , loud enough for them to hear.**
  - **Highlight the importance of the experience, legacy, and wisdom of senior citizens to the family, to the church, and to society.**
  - **If you have the opportunity to sing a hymn, ask for the person's favourite hymn.**

## Helpful guidelines

- Ask if they would like future visits. According to the interests shown, involve others in the visitation of the elderly.
- Find out if there is any particular way they would like to take part in church life either on Sabbath or during the week.

# Suggested Bible texts to use during a visit

Psalm 27:1;62:5,6; John 14:1-3;

Hebrews 10:35; 2 Peter 3:13;

Revelation 2: 10; 11: 15; 22:20

# V. VISITING THE SICK & INFIRM

## PURPOSE:

- a) To show that the church cares for their well-being
- b) To pray with them and call upon God for healing and strength.
- c) To encourage their continued trust and fellowship in God

## How to conduct the visit(1):

- ❖ Talk about cheerful subjects that awaken hope, faith, and peace.
- ❖ Demonstrate optimism regarding the patient's recovery.
  - ❖ Read a text from Scripture.
  - ❖ Do not make any pessimistic comment about their illness.

## How to conduct the visit(2):

❖ Do not pass judgment on the professional treatment they are receiving.

Try to identify any specific needs that can be aided by the church.

❖ Ask if there are any special prayer requests in addition to the recovery of his or her health and Pray for restoration.

## Helpful guidelines😊1)

For hospital visitation, look up the visiting hours and make sure to plan the visit within the specified schedule.

➤ Check if the patient has any restrictions on visitation. Don't disregard the medical guidelines and rules of the hospital.

Do not stay more than a few minutes. The patient may be waiting for or wishing the visit of other people

## Helpful guidelines(2)

who may be prevented from entering while you are in the room.

- Never give the patient any kind of medical advice.
- Avoid asking detailed questions about the disease or treatment. That is for the doctors to do. Stay focused on the spiritual purpose of the visit.

## Helpful guidelines(3)

- If there are other patients in the same room, offer to pray with them also.
  - Leave some religious literature .
- Ask the patient if they would be interested in receiving visits by others from the church.

**Suggested Bible texts to use during a  
visit.**

**John 14:16; Psalm 23; Romans 8:26-28;  
38,39; Revelation 21:4**

# VI. VISITING SHUT-INS

## PURPOSE:

- a) To show Christian friendship, attention, and interest.
- b) To minister on behalf of the local church

## How to conduct the visit:(1)

- ❖ Talk about how they are important to God and to the church.
  - ❖ Read a Bible text and make a short comment.
- ❖ Encourage attendance at worship service and church activities.

## HOW to conduct the visit:(2)

- ❖ If the church offers sermons on the website or its services on streaming video, show them how it works or make arrangements for them to watch.
- ❖ If they have access to Adventist Radio stations or TV channels, make sure they have a programme schedule and how to access the channels.
  - ❖ Pray with them.

## Helpful guidelines

- Don't give the impression that living alone is something abnormal. There are people who live alone because of special circumstances. Some other simply choose to live that way.
- Avoid any comments about living alone or being single, if that is the case.
- Treat the person the same as you would any member of the church.

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**Suggested Bible texts to use during  
the visit.**

**Psalm 25:16-18; 68:4-6; 133: 1; John  
14:18; Hebrews 13:5,6**



# VII. VISITING DURING BEREAVEMENT

## VII. VISITING DURING BEREAVEMENT

Arrange for this visit a few days after the funeral service. Out-of-town relatives and friends having completed their responsibility for the grieving family may have left for home. The sense of loss of a loved one comes heavy on the family that is often left to be alone. It is at this time the church, particularly deacons and deaconesses, can offer their most effective ministry.

## Purpose:

- a) To offer them sympathy, hope, and consolation in their loss
- b) To encourage them to place their faith and trust in God's hand.

## How to conduct the visit:

- ❖ Talk about God's presence and how the Holy Spirit can give strength to overcome sadness and loneliness.
- ❖ Talk about God's promise that one day we will be freed from the presence of sin and death. For now, we can only believe, accept and trust in the Lord.

## How to conduct the visit

- ❖ Talk about God's presence and how the Holy Spirit can give strength to overcome sadness and loneliness.
- ❖ Talk about God's promise that one day we will be freed from the presence of sin and death. For now, we can only believe, accept and trust in the Lord.
- ❖ Pray , asking God to comfort the entire family

## Helpful guidelines(1)

- Offer to help the family with household chores.
- Offer to be of any needed assistance; if such a need is expressed, speak to the head deaconess, who may be able to arrange for such help.

## Helpful guidelines(2)

- Leave a phone number and /or email address, and let them know they can contact you if they need anything.
- Note special dates in the life of the bereaved, such as a birthday, anniversary, and major holidays that have significance for family. It might do well to contact them leading up to such dates.

# Suggested Bible texts to use during the visit

Isaiah 26:3,4; John 11:25,26; 1Corinthians  
15:51-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation  
21:1-4

# CONCLUSION