

Effective Visitation

By Dan Serns danserns.com



ELDERS TRAINING 2026

ENGAGE

Relational Ministry
for Church Leaders



Reasons why we should NOT go
visiting any more.



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Reasons why we should STILL go
visiting.



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“ ‘You know, from the first day that I came to [this district], in what manner I always lived among you, serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me . . . ; how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly *and from house to house*’ ”

Acts 20:18–20



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"Hundreds of men and women now idle could do acceptable service. By carrying the truth into the homes of their neighbors and friends, they could do a great work for the Master. God is no respecter of persons. He will use humble, devoted Christians who have the love of the truth in their hearts. Let such ones engage in service for him by doing house-to-house work. Sitting by the fireside, such men—if humble, discreet, and godly—can do more to meet the real needs of families than could a minister."

Pastoral Ministry, 133



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The purpose of a visit is to connect people with Jesus, His Word, and His final movement.

What if each visit resulted in...

- sharing Jesus with new friends
- starting Family Worship and/or
- starting a Missional Group?



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Pick one of these three Visitation Systems to change the culture at your church.

1. One night per week
2. Church-wide Survey
3. Spiritual Growth Packets



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One night per week

1. Build a visitation team if possible. 8 weeks. Meet. Pray. Give Names. Go 2x2.
2. Prioritize new members and interests.
3. Attenders: Set up visit in advance. Others: Doorstep visits.
4. At door: Intro. Thank you... Simple gift or Two sets of Bible study guides #1 & 2. Brief prayer before we go?
5. If invited in: Ask questions & Listen. Read a Bible promise. Connect them with a group. Pray for their needs. Leave literature. Model Family Worship and Home Groups.
6. If not home: Leave note. Date & Time. Sorry missed. Name & Phone. Bible verse.



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Seventh-day Adventist



Church-wide Survey

1. Three month project. All surveyed.
2. Letter to all members. By this date...
3. Elders/Board Members pick names.
4. Start with those likely to help survey.
5. Meet twice a month. Group grows.
6. Take those out to eat who were missed.
7. Church much more connected, mobilized.



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Church-wide Survey

Adventist Church-family Survey

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Presentations

_____ Church- Wide Church Family Survey—20____
 Date _____ Person Completing Survey _____

Household Information

Family Name _____
 Street Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Mailing Address, If different _____
 Home Telephone _____
 # of permanent Residents _____
 Do you receive our church newsletter? YES / NO (circle one)

Directions from the Church (and Map?) _____
 Distance from the Church _____

Family Information

Names of Family Members	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
1. Getting Better Acquainted- Please tell us about your...					
A. Work and/or School					
B. Birthday / Birth date					
C. Contact information (E-mail Address, Cell Phone #, Work Phone #)					
D. Hobbies/Interests					
E. Religious Background (Baptized? When? Where? Whom?)					
F. Favorite Bible Story, Bible Verse and/or Song if you have one?					

Names, Continued.	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.
2. Spiritual Life and Church Family (We will help you with any of these if you want)					
A. Do you have at least seven (7) good friends in the church? (Who are some of them?)					
B. Do you have regular personal time with God & a Sabbath School class? (Which class?)					
C. Have you found a ministry you enjoy? (Which one?)					
D. On a scale of 1-10 how comfortable are you in talking to					



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Jonathan Banks
1237 Cherry Street Ln
Portland, OR 997230

Spiritual Growth Packets

- **Why** give packets?
 - Help member families strengthen their relationship with the Lord.
 - Connect with all member families whether attending or not. It is an opportunity to contact inactive members in a friendly, encouraging way, listening to their stories and pointing them to Jesus while inviting them to reconnect with other believers.
 - Help connect with guests.
 - The packets are especially helpful when the resources are coordinated with the preaching theme(s).



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Spiritual Growth Packets

- **What to include in the packet?**
 - Missionary book on same theme as sermons that quarter.
 - Letter from pastor/elders including positive updates.
 - Bible Reading Bookmarks (see danserns.wordpress.com/epic).
 - Response Card (to help out-of-towners and inactives connect).
 - Item from church school.
 - Stewardship Commitment Card and Tithe & Offering envelope.



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- **Who** give packets to?
 - Every family on the church membership list regardless of attendance.
 - Guests.



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Spiritual Growth Packets

- **How often** and how to give out packets?
 - At least once a year but preferably quarterly.
 - For 2 weeks – Packets in lobby for people to pick up their own and to take to distribute (usually organized alphabetically).
 - The Following 2 weeks – Organize packets by geography and ask Sabbath School class members to distribute. Mail to out-of-towners.
 - Have extra packets for guests. Ask them to fill out Connect card and exchange it for a spiritual growth packet.
 - Have extra missionary books in stacks of 5 for people to use to start a group.



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Which Visitation System
will you use at your
church this year?



1. One night per week
2. Church-wide Survey
3. Spiritual Growth Packets



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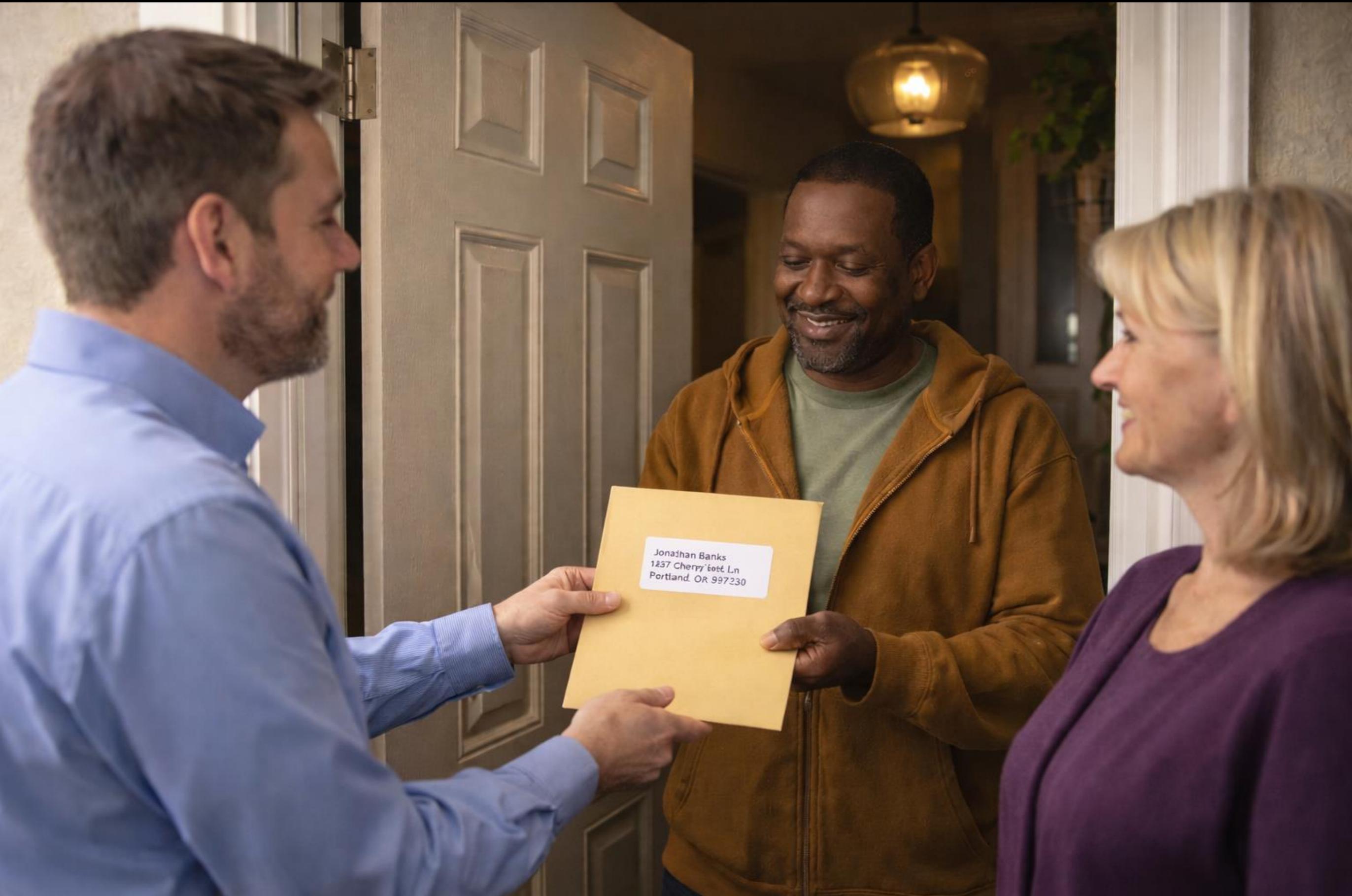
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