

Maintaining a Personal Visit to the Homebound

1. Make regular visits daily, weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. If you tell them you will be there, be there.
2. Before visiting, know as much as possible about the person.
3. Introduce yourself clearly and distinctly.
4. Re-introduce yourself on each visit.
5. Show consideration for the person in his or her own room in the nursing home.
6. At a nursing home, inquire of the nurse if she has seen signs of isolation or no visitors, etc.
7. Upon entering, take a position in person's the line of vision. Avoid having the person face glaring light in order to see you.
8. When the person is in bed, be careful not to jar the bed or any equipment around the bed.
9. Let the person take the lead in shaking hands.
10. Do not visit when you are sick.
11. Be sensitive to excuse yourself when a person's meal is ready or when a doctor or nurse indicates a need.
12. Give full attention to the person.
13. Be sensitive to needs (spiritual, social, economic, physical, legal, residential)
14. Seek to discover specific needs of the individual.
15. Take time to listen to what the person is saying.
16. Share information of the church and friends.
17. Call before going to private homes.
18. Cooperate with nursing home personnel.
19. Christ never tried to manipulate individuals by forcing institutional relationships on them. He also gave people the right to say no to Him. Encourage the patient to verbalize the relationship experience he has had or is having, regardless of whether or not you agree with him theologically. For example, "you say prayer has had meaning in your life?" or "What has been your experience with God?"
20. Let your Scripture reading enhance the truth you have uncovered together.
21. Avoid saying things like "I have to go now", "I've got a lot of other patients to see", "I've been here longer than I thought". They are worthy of your time.
22. Listen for clues to inner feelings and attitudes; loneliness, fear, doubt, hostility, resentment, joy, gratitude, courage and hope.
23. Report and refer needs to appropriate persons – pastor, nurse or family.