

Visitation Blessings

Jerry Olson

I have always enjoyed people of all ages, but for some reason, the Lord has granted me a heart for those who are along in years. They are very special in the sense that so many of them possess a wealth of knowledge and wisdom, which has been obtained over the course of a life time. This knowledge and wisdom is especially true of some believers who have walked in fellowship with the Lord for literally decades.

Last spring, Dee had mentioned to me visitation opportunities among our church members. I told her I would be interested. In July, I was able to attend a visitation training session presented by our First Free Parish Nurses, Dee Huanca and Maureen Juarez. This ministry is open to anyone who is interested. Since that meeting, I and others have visited many of our elderly and shut-ins. We have gone in small teams and as individuals.

The people we visit have been so appreciative that our church cares about them. We have had some great fellowship with these folks by listening to them share whatever is on their hearts. We encourage them with scripture and have a brief word of prayer. Many times the visit yields a blessing to me. A case in point was during my visit with Sheryl Erickson's dad, Arnold. This dear man of God recently celebrated his 91st birthday. He is a retired pastor with many years of service in several churches. In our conversation, one day, we touched on doubt, and how easy it is to question God. Arnold said, "We tend to place a question mark where God has placed a period." That really spoke to my heart. We need to just take God at His word.

After praying with Arnold, he concludes with a beautiful prayer that comes from the depths of a heart and soul which have been committed to God over a life time. It brings this verse to my mind. "Those that he planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age." Psalm 92:13-14

I encourage anyone interested to prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry.



Many times the visit yields an unexpected blessing...

His prayers come from a depth of a heart and soul which have been committed to God for a lifetime.

Visitation

Recently, visitation classes were held at First Free church for those interested in visiting members who were unable to attend our church due to physical conditions or limitations. For more information about visiting these people, please email Dee Huanca and Maureen Juarez at parishnurses@firstfreechurch.org.



Things touched upon during the meeting will be 1. Spiritual preparation 2. Praying with members 3. Resources of hymns and verses 4. Awareness of a member's disabilities and sensitivity to his or her needs during the visit 5. A social visit vs. spiritual encouragement.

Connect & Give Back

Ushers & Greeters

A great way to meet people and help out during the service is being an usher. Currently we have three teams greeting people, handing out bulletins, and participating during offering as well as assisting those who need a seat. Ushers are expected to come before the service begins so that they can greet people and hand out bulletins. Ushers also pray for the people and the service before it begins.

As we approach Easter, we will need more ushers for the two services. There are people also serving as substitutes for ushers who cannot make it to church on a given Sunday. If you are interested in helping out during the service as an usher, contact Norbert Jensen or Ralph Roberts.



Seeking Volunteers

WORSHIP - Eric Twietmeyer (Music Ministries) 612-910-1763

Ushers	Pass out bulletins, assist elderly with seating, pass the offering plate
Sound & Video	Work the powerpoint or sound equipment for worship team / band team
Worship Team	Sing on worship team, volunteer to play an instrument, or join choir
Tapes	Help copy cassette tapes of our Sunday morning worship services

CARING - Gen Erickson (Greeter) 612-866-3757 Deloris / Maureen (Visitation) parishnurses@firstfreechurch.org

Curbside Greeters	Assist the people at the drop off zone each Sunday morning
Sunday Greeters	Welcome members and visitors as they enter church on Sunday
Visitation	Visit and encourage people in the hospital and in nursing homes

OUTREACH - Contact Glenn Hultstrand 952-736-2686 Audrey Sollie (Seekers) 651-686-6508

Missionary Corresponders	Correspond and pray for one of our missionaries
Bulletin Boards	Prepare bulletin displays of local / international events for the church
Seekers Partner	Have seekers over for dinner, or be an English speaking partner or lead Bible study, or attend the Seekers potluck ready to serve

NURTURE - Beth Brown 612-724-1918

Youth Staff	Spend Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings with youth
Nursery	Assist with child-care in our nursery or pre-school classrooms
Teachers	Substitute teach or teach a children's class during the summer Help teach the Junior church during worship service

FINANCE & PROPERTY - Scott Beckett scott.beckett@firstfreechurch.org & Steve Rose 612-827-4402

Maintenance Assistants	Volunteer to paint, landscape, dust, fix, and clean around our church
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