

Guidelines for Caring Visits

- 1. Wrap your visit in prayer.**
Pray before you go: ask God to guide you. Share with God your uncertainties.
- 2. Clearly state the purpose of your visit.**
Arrange the visit in advance and be clear about why you are coming.
- 3. Listen! Listen! Listen!**
Come to listen and hear the person. Do not come to “fix” something. Listen well to the person and communicate love and acceptance.
- 4. Know what you are good at.**
Don't be afraid to say “I don't know” if you don't. Know what upsets you.
- 5. Ensure confidentiality.**
The biggest gift you have to offer is that the person's story is safe with you. Always ask permission to share their story before you do.
- 6. If you problem solve...**
 - a) listen well to the need and clarify,
 - b) define the problem together, and
 - c) together deliberate options to respond to circumstances/difficulties.
- 7. Point beyond yourself to God by:**
 - a) words of encouragement,
 - b) brief words from Scripture, and
 - c) prayer.
- 8. Identify needs for follow-up.**
Identify what needs to be followed up, when this will be done and by whom.