

Visiting Teaching Conference
Cooper Mt Ward Relief Society
Mike Baird, March 5, 2006

Importance of Visiting Teaching	1
Ward structure	1
Responsibility of the bishop	1
Purposes of Visiting Teaching	1
Responsibilities of Visiting Teacher	1
Why is the ward structure all here?.....	2
Seek and follow the promptings of the Spirit	2
Examples.....	2
How do we seek & follow the promptings of the Spirit?	2
Seek to be Selfless in Service.....	3
"Service is not about me"	3
Selfishness – opposite of Selflessness.....	4
Selflessness	5
Conclusions.....	5

Importance of Visiting Teaching

Ward structure

- Draw on board

Responsibility of the bishop

- 5 areas of responsibility (Church Handbook of Instr. Pgs 11-17)
 - Map to Diagram

Purposes of Visiting Teaching

- Build caring relationships with *each* sister
- Offer support, comfort & friendship

Responsibilities of Visiting Teacher

- Make contact
- Build caring relationships
- Learn of spiritual and temporal needs
 - Provide ***appropriate*** assistance
- Especially important responsibility to minister to new members and lapsed active members
- Report to RS President monthly on temporal & spiritual well being

Why is the ward structure all here?

- Turn the diagram upside down
- What happens when the VT/HT link is ineffective or broken?
 - Needs are not met
 - Leaders are overwhelmed

Testify of importance of Visiting Teaching

Seek and follow the promptings of the Spirit

Examples

- Promptings often are given because someone is pleading
- Mike Baird invite Petersons to go to the temple
- Prompted to ask Jordan "how are things going? – let's talk"
- Rebecca prompted to visit Lylus
- Robin Carr prompted to make a blanket for Jared Riggs
- Sister who didn't visit neighbor – wife died
- Boyd K Packer:
"We must be tuned in, and have the courage and faith to follow the promptings of the Spirit. If we do not listen to the voice of the Spirit, there is not much purpose in the Lord's communicating to us through that channel"
(Teach Ye Diligently, 358)

How do we seek & follow the promptings of the Spirit?

- Live worthily
- Ask for them
- Listen for them
- Act on them

Testify

Seek to be Selfless in Service

"Service is not about me"

- Serving in the church is not about me
 - Bishop
 - YW
 - RS
 - Activities committee
 - Primary
 - Teacher
 - **VT is not about me is about the Sister whom I VT**
- Sister Davida Dalton
 - Share feelings when I visited her when dying
 - Didn't have much in way of honor, praise and things of the world
 - Not know as a scriptural scholar
 - Spirit bore witness to me
 - Rich in what counted
 - Beloved daughter of our Father
 - Beloved of those who know her
 - Legacy of service and family
 - Concluded she had learned how to be "Selfless in Service"
- "How can I help?" vs "What's in it for me?"
- Satan opposed the plan
 - Most Selfish statement ever (Moses 4:1)
 - "What's in it for me?" (selfishness)
- Christ
 - Most Selfless statement (Moses 4:2)
 - I'll do it for others (Selflessness)
 - I don't need recognition from others (Selflessness)
 - Christ was sent to do all that we cannot do for ourselves
- Happiness
 - Requires proper balance between serving and being served - selflessness
 - Refusal of either can be expressions of selfishness

Selfishness – opposite of Selflessness

- Selfishness leaves us spiritually starved and malnourished
- Selfishness is sin
- Is not performing visiting teaching selfish? – YES!
 - Procrastination – "Selfish idleness"
 - "I'll do it later" leads to neglect of righteousness
- Can we "do" visiting teaching and be selfish? – Yes!
- Selfishness may cause us to do the right things for the wrong reasons
 - There is degree's of selfishness
 - Service to others giving grudgingly
 - D&C 33:11
"For behold, if a man being evil giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God"
 - Service giving with an eye of "what's in it for me"
 - President Steven Dalton:
"When I ask a prospective missionary 'why do you want to go on a mission?' and when the answer is 'because I'll be a better person', I cringe mentally and I know I have a lot of work to do" (Conversation in July, 2003)

Selflessness

- Matt 10:39
"He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it."
 - Paradox of life
 - What's in it for me attitude – may gain riches, property and land but in the end will lose it
 - Person who shares talents and gifts generously with others finds happiness
- Examples we have
 - Many in the ward
 - Stake President
 - Prophet
 - Savior
 - Served others
 - Did not seek the praise of the world
 - Do we hear of his mansions and fields and fine clothing?
 - Matt 8:20
"The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head"
 - Was served
 - John 10:3-7
"Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus"
 - Why did the Savior do what he did for us?
 - Because he loves us

Conclusions

- We understand the importance of VT
- Love of others is what gives us desire for service; Love only of self (selfishness) is what leads to "What's in it for me?" attitude.
- Think – "What can I do to help?" then do vs. "What's in it for me?"
- Follow the promptings of the Spirit
- Testimony