

## EFFECTIVE PERSONAL VISITATION WORK

Brethren, we no longer live in a day when the community can be converted by simply having a gospel meeting once or twice a year. We must realize that it is not as it once was. Now there are too many things to take up people's time, too many other places to go instead of attending a gospel meeting or the regular services of the church. In our day, the church that does not have members who do personal visitation work will not grow, but will begin to die in the community where it is located.

The congregation that has members who do personal work will see numerical growth all during the year. Each member of the church needs to realize that he or she is to be a soul-winner for Christ. Members of the Jerusalem church realized this, for the record says, "*they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word.*" (Acts 8:4).

Each member of the church needs to make him a list of prospects to call on. He should list first those he thinks would be the most likely to hear what he has to say, then begin with these first. It is good, most of the time, to make an appointment so the person will be prepared for your visit. Then when you arrive, state your business in the very beginning. Let him know the congregation that you are from, and that you are personally interested in the welfare of his soul. Tell him the time of the services of the church. Then mention some people who attend that he knows; this will make him feel that he will not be with complete strangers when he attends.

Other good prospects are people who attend the services on their own. These people should be visited the same week they attend our services, or else they might lose interest.

Donald Townsley

(Taken from The Grandview Exhorter, August 1966)