

## Ministry in Service

### Advent Open Door Ministries

### The Ministry of Visitation (MV)

Pastor Roscoe Benjamin

*“Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.” [\(MV - 1\) James 1:27](#)*

**General ideas on visitation:** Visitation is important, paramount in a Christian’s life. This is reflected in the questioning words of the righteous in answer to the statement by the Son of Man in [\(MV - 2\) Matthew 25:39, 40](#) *“And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”*

**Who is called to the ministry of visitation:** Loneliness is a disease and visitation is an antidote for this disease. It is open to everyone, not just for the pastors. Everyone who is called to follow Jesus Christ is called to the ministry of visitation. The desire to visit is prompted by the Holy Spirit. Pray for the Spirit’s leading you to the right person and situation.

**Two guidelines on visitation:** The first is that you represent yourself fully as a disciple of Jesus Christ and be committed to represent Him.

Secondly, you need to have some form of identification such as a name badge that discloses the ministry you are representing.

**What is visitation:** Visitation is establishing a contact between two parties. It consists of you being there for the other person, listening carefully without interruption when the other person is talking.

**Whom to visit:** Jesus calls us to visit the sick, the homeless, the widows and the destitute. We are encouraged to visit strangers! *“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” [\(MV - 3\) Hebrews 13:2](#)*

There is no limit on whom to visit. Jesus commands us to *“Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” [\(MV - 4\) Mark 16:15](#)*. It is obvious that we cannot “go” if we are sitting at home.

**Conclusion:** As a representative of Jesus Christ, you are carrying your Scriptures in your mind, not in your hands initially. Commit portions of Scriptures to your memory and let it transform you to love like Christ. Give the love of Jesus freely. We must first be saturated by the Scriptures in our minds and hearts. You may carry a Bible in your hands after you have established contact.

When you visit someone they should feel you are sent by Jesus Christ. Our community is waiting for Jesus’ visit through us.

Jesus will accompany you; He promises *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.” [\(MV - 5\) Hebrews 13:5](#)*.