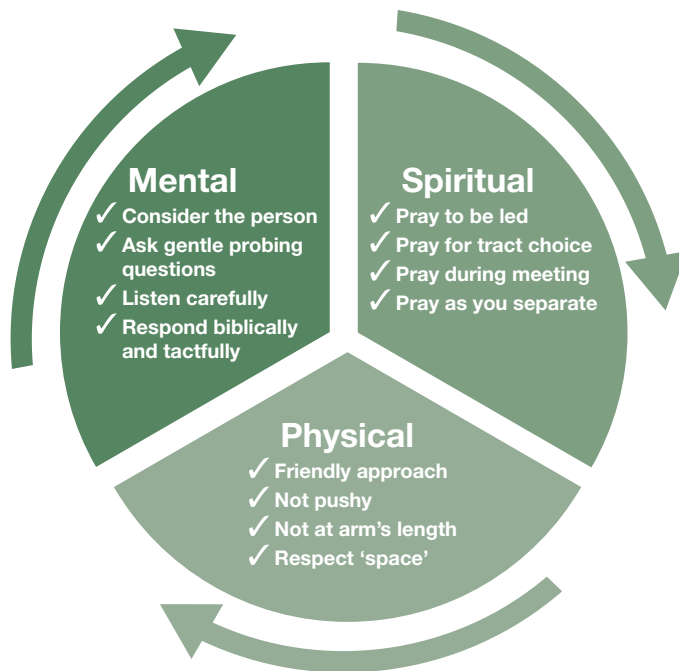




## Tract distribution



### Spiritual

#### 1. Pray to be led

- We know it to be true but perhaps live in denial of it when we witness: we cannot win a single soul to Christ.
- Thus, you must pray to the Lord to be led to those He would have you speak to or offer a tract.

#### 2. Pray for tract choice

The right message for the right person.

#### 3. Pray during the meeting

This is where multi-tasking comes into its own! As you chat to the person be also chatting to your heavenly Father, asking Him how you should respond, asking Him to open the heart of your contact.

#### 4. Pray as you separate

As you leave the person commit him/her to the Lord, asking that the Holy Spirit would prompt them to read the tract and open their heart to the message read or just heard from you.

### Physical

#### 1. Friendly approach

- With the Lord's help your nervousness can be overcome.
- Have an 'open face' and a ready smile.  
A cheery disposition will immediately begin to lower any stranger-danger barriers.



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**NOTES**

**2. Not pushy**

- It is important to ask if someone would like an interesting leaflet to read (do not call it a tract).
- Don't accept an immediate refusal but gently ask again and accept the second refusal.
- It is better to hand out 20 tracts politely rather than foist 200 on people who do not really want one.

**3. Not at arm's length**

- You should not stretch out your arm with a hand clutching a tract and proffer it to a passer-by. This is the impersonal approach of marketers and is disrespectful.

**4. Respect 'space'**

- Do not get too close to the person with whom you are speaking. If you do, this can feel threatening or intimidating.
- Try not to stand at an angle to the other person; this does not communicate genuine interest and engagement.
- Use your eyes: look into the eyes of your interlocutor (contact) to show that you are interested in what they have to say.

**Mental**

**1. Consider the person**

- Use your eyes and mind to take in what sort of person it is before you. In so far as physical appearance goes, try to assess what sort of person they are. But remember the saying, 'Do not judge a book by its cover.'

**2. Ask gently probing questions**

- The emphasis is on 'gently': if there is the slightest hint you are getting too personal too soon, you will lose the opportunity.
- Ask questions that lead from the general to the specific. For example: 'What kind of spiritual faith do you have?' to 'If you died tonight where would you go?'
- Do not ask closed questions; that is, questions that only yield a 'yes' or a 'no' answer. It's always a good idea to use questions that start with the 'W's': Who, What, Why, When, How – as these require more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer.

**3. Listen carefully**

- Although you need to be actively thinking about how you might best communicate something relevant from God's Word, you must make sure you do not miss what is being said to you.
- Listen, absorb, and file in your mind the information you are given. Effective listening is proactive not passive.



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### 4. Respond biblically and tactfully

- Applying biblical principles into a conversation requires a certain amount of preparation and practice.
- Never quote chapter and verse, but always be ready to turn to the text if necessary. Most people know little or nothing of the Bible.
- If you are in a very positive conversation it is useful to have the other person read the verses and then you ask what they understood from what was read. Be aware, some people can't read or find it difficult to do so.
- Always be polite and respectful in your answers but never compromise the truth of God's Word.



## Community Outreach



# Planning and literature

## 1. Planning

Visitation is a spiritual work but if it ends in chaos, we will lose our credibility. Therefore, it is essential from the outset that we 'plan our work and work our plan.'

We should:

- 1. Adopt a long-term view.** Visiting 20 people is far better than spreading ourselves too thinly.
- 2. Proceed slowly,** avoiding the quick 'one-off' approach. The 'one-off' approach has become less and less effective and the reason for it appears to be the growing secularisation of our society.
- 3. Be flexible.** Varying the day and time of our visits is necessary if we are going to meet the different groups of people living in our communities. Sunday mornings is a good time to visit in the winter months as most are at home between the hours of eleven and one!

## 2. Literature

There was a time when we could have assumed that non-Christians had a basic understanding of the Bible and our job as evangelists/ church visitors was to build on this platform of knowledge. But this is no longer the case and it is the contention of Outreach UK that we must begin from the presupposition that the people we are now meeting know virtually nothing about Jesus, the Bible, or the Gospel.

As a result of this diminishing awareness of God it is essential that we should be equipped with literature, DVDs, etc, that are appropriate to the ages and the social circumstances of the people we meet. Further, material written or presented *in a language that they can understand!*

Different kinds of literature appeal to different kinds of people and we should always carry an assortment, giving the one which best suits the needs of the people we meet. For this reason it is important that we are *familiar* with our literature before we distribute it.

A wide range is available today. But it is advisable to use literature that has been approved by the leaders of the local church on whose behalf we are visiting.

## Resources

Different kinds of literature and DVDs appeal to different kinds of people and we should always carry an assortment, giving the one which best suits the needs of the people we meet. For this reason it is important that we are familiar with them before we distribute them on a 'one-to-one basis.'

Below is a list of carefully selected materials, which we would encourage you to draw on, read, watch, and use!

## Resources

### Books and booklets

**Love is the bridge**  
– John's Gospel

**The key to life – Mark's Gospel**  
www.bridgebuilders.net  
email: admin@bridge-builders.net  
0151 609 609 0144

### Two ways to live

**If you could ask God**  
**one question**  
www.thegoodbook.co.uk  
0333 123 0880

**Bridge to life**  
www.eden.co.uk  
0800 612 2186

**TELit**  
www.telitquick.org  
info@telitquick.org  
01505 228208

**The missing peace**  
www.themissingpeace.org  
07519 743 419

**Knowing God personally**  
www.clcbookshops.com  
email: orders@clcbookshops.com  
020 724 82356

### Christian Newspapers

**Good News**  
www.goodnews-paper.org.uk  
0115 923 3424

### DVDs

**The Jesus film**  
www.jesusfilm.org

**What to do with the rest of**  
**your life?**  
www.thegoodbook.co.uk  
0333 123 0880

### Faith like potatoes

**Gangland to God**  
**Reflections on Psalm 23 for**  
**cancer sufferers**

**So who is this Jesus?**  
www.veritecm.com  
01903 241 975

**How great is our God**  
– by Louie Giglio

**Indescribable** – by Louie Giglio

Both DVDs take a look at God's  
creation  
www.eden.co.uk

Don't be afraid to use good  
modern Bible translations.  
Because the English language is  
changing, we should aim to use a  
version that suits the needs of the  
people we meet!



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