

### Introduction:

When Paul was wrapping up his exhortation to the Colossian Christians, his final exhortation was twofold. 1) Pray, and pray especially for God to open doors for the Word. 2) Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, and especially that we might have speech seasoned with grace knowing how to talk to outsiders about the gospel (**Colossians 4:2-6**). This needs to be part of daily praying. It needs to be part of our congregational praying. But let me ask you a question. What if an “outsider,” that is, someone who is not a member of this congregation or of Christ’s church walks into our assemblies or classes? What if an outsider becomes a guest? Do you think this passage should apply here? Absolutely. In fact, very often because we have prayed for God to open doors for His Word, people do show up in our assemblies to hear it preached and witness it obeyed. Whenever a guest walks through our doors, God has said “Yes” to our request for an open door. The question is are we being good stewards of the blessings he is giving us? That is why we have developed our “Guest Evangelism” process. We want to make sure we are stewarding these blessings of God, these opportunities properly.

In the past year, we have made great strides. We are doing much, much better now than we were a year ago at this. For instance, a few months ago, I was able to study with a couple of our guests. The husband informed me that he and his wife decided to be our guests almost on a lark. They said they like to stick with much smaller congregations but had been having trouble finding a fit. So, they dropped in. The husband explained that he told the wife he was certain they would walk in, be ignored, and walk out. However, after being greeted by multiple people and, in fact, sticking around to visit for about 30 minutes after the assembly was over, he was convinced we were a large congregation with the heart of a small congregation. Just a few weeks ago, Cale Andrews brought some friends who had travelled here from not only out of state, but out of country. Cale received a text message from his friend expressing gratitude because when they got home they found several letters and notes from members of the congregation. They were super excited about the group. Think about that. If, per chance, that family were to move here, what congregation might they look into first? I’m sure we could tell even more stories if we had time. We are light years ahead of where we were a year ago. But, we have room for improvement. Even with the good stories, we’ve had those who have slipped through the cracks. We have gaps to fill and we simply need to be reminded in order to keep up with our desire to walk in wisdom toward our guests.

Before we jump in, I need to admit the elephant in the room. Have you ever been in the middle of a group of friends and they start talking about you like you aren’t even there. “Hello, I’m right here.” I know that is kind of what this conversation is. We have guests in this assembly, and we are thankful you are here. We view you as a blessing from God. We continually pray for the opportunity to point new people to God or help new folks in their walk with Christ. Here you are, the affirmative answer to our prayers. We thank you for taking time out of your weekend to worship God with us. And we thank God that He has brought you here. I am aware of how awkward it is to talk about this with you among us. I do not want to talk about this as if you aren’t involved in the conversation. You are. However, my prayer for this lesson is that you will recognize we are talking about this not because we are trying to manipulate you to be a member of our congregation. Rather, we are talking about this because we love you and we love God and we want to make sure you meet Him. If you’ve already met Him, we want to make sure you can grow purposefully in your relationship with Him. We want to be part of that process. So, please don’t see anything we say here as some kind of manipulative plan, but see it as purposeful love for you.

### Discussion:

#### I. Why are we even talking about this?

- A. It’s becoming vogue among disciples to berate the idea of viewing our congregational assemblies as tools for pointing others to God. Well-meaning Christians tout that **Matthew 28:19** and **Mark 16:15** tell the apostles to “Go,” they do not tell the apostles to invite people to “Come.” However, this rebuke is very shallow. Are we seriously to think Jesus’s command means we are to go everywhere but our assemblies and make disciples everywhere but in our assemblies? Or are we allowed to also “go” to our assemblies and develop disciples there? Let me ask you further, could I “go” to work and invite someone to “come” to my home for a Bible study? Would that be fulfilling **Matthew 28:19** or does it violate the command to “go”? Obviously, that fulfills the command. Then if I “go” to school, to work, to the neighbor’s house, to the street corner, to store and I

invite someone to “come” to an assembly, am I not fulfilling the command in similar ways? Finally, consider some of the very first examples of outreach for Christ in **John 1:35-51**. Some of John’s disciples were pointed to Jesus by John. When they came to Jesus they asked where He was staying. He said, “Come and you will see.” Was Jesus allowed to invite them to “come” or was He limited to going somewhere else? Then one of them decided to carry the message to someone else. In **John 1:41-42**, he went to his brother and invited him to “come” check out Jesus. Then on the next day, Jesus called Philip to follow Him and Philip went to Nathanael and in **John 1:46** said, “Come and see.” The fact is the point of our going is to invite people to come to meet Jesus. If we believe folks can meet Jesus here in our assemblies, then a valid means of outreach is inviting folks to our assemblies. It is certainly not the only approach, but it is a valid one and one we need to steward properly because in our current culture, even if we didn’t invite folks, some will show up anyway. But we do invite and as I said earlier, to any of our guests here tonight, we believe you can meet Jesus here and we are so glad you have come.

- B. Further, remember **I Corinthians 14:23-25**. At that time, Paul needed to govern the use of the miraculous gifts that the Holy Spirit was using during that first century, a time when God’s will was being revealed and needed confirmation. But notice the principle in this passage that applies even today when the Holy Spirit is no longer administering those miraculous gifts. When the church assembles, unbelievers and outsiders come into our fellowship meeting and witness what we do here. And what better opportunity for them to meet God than in the assembly of those whose lives are dedicated to Him? As we are together, we want to make sure we conduct ourselves in a way that proves we aren’t crazy, but instead God is among us.
- C. We want guests, and we have guests. God is blessing our request for open doors by bringing guests into our midst. We must be good stewards of these blessed opportunities to introduce folks to Jesus and His church. We simply cannot leave this to chance or assume someone else will take care of it. We have to point our guest to God on purpose. That is what our Guest Evangelism process is all about. That is why we need to talk about this today.

## II. Guest friendly assembly.

- A. In **I Corinthians 14:23-25**, Paul had to govern the use of certain miraculous gifts in the congregational assemblies for the sake of being guest friendly. We do not have to worry that someone will think we are out of our minds (Paul’s language, not mine), because of people speaking in foreign tongues in the middle of our assembly. But we do have to worry that people will think we are absolute self-centered jerks because we only think of ourselves when we gather together and give no thought to the guests who are among us.
- B. With that in mind, we need to focus on having guest conscious and guest friendly assemblies. We need to focus on being hospitable to our guests. Just imagine for a moment that you were invited into my home for dinner sometime. I didn’t give you really good instructions on how to get to my house or how to get through the neighborhood gate if it is closed. So, you are already a little flustered. There is no number on the house, so you aren’t incredibly sure if you are even at the right place. You tentatively ring the doorbell. One of my kids opens the door, but doesn’t talk to you. They just flit back to watch television or talk on the phone with someone else or just go back to whatever they were doing in their room. I’m not even at the house and Marita is busy cooking. You walk into the kitchen, she glances up, but says nothing. So you stand there. She still says nothing. So you stand there some more. Finally, I walk through the door, kind of nod, but then walk back to my bedroom without saying anything. After a few moments, I come back into the room, walk past you, and sit in my chair to read. You may nervously follow me into the room and sit down. After a few moments, Marita hollers out, “Dinner’s ready.” And the kids and I rush to the table. You sit down, but Ethan says, “You’re in my spot.” So you move. The dinner is delicious (I obviously can’t tell a story that includes Marita’s cooking without revealing that). But throughout the whole dinner my family and I talk to one another, almost completely ignoring you. We talk about people you don’t know. We mention events you don’t know anything about. We tell inside jokes. We even use some strange words and terms that you just have no clue what they mean. I say very little to you except to make fun of you for the way you use your napkin or how you hold your fork because it isn’t exactly how I’ve taught my family to do it. After the dinner is over, we put our dishes in the sink, walk into the living room and start watching a movie without saying anything to you about it. At this point, you’ve probably felt uncomfortable enough, so you excuse yourself and your family saying it is time for you to leave. I look up and say, “Had a great time, hope you can come back some time.” What plans at that point do you have for ever coming back to my home? Probably nil. Sadly, this is how too many churches treat their guests. They may offer a delicious spiritual meal, but everything else around the assembly screams that they don’t care about the guests. We cannot let that happen here. And to our guests let me say, if you feel this

way, please let us know. We know we are not perfect at it and we will happily receive any help from you to know how we can improve in showing you that God is here and we love you.

- C. So, let's think of a few things we can do to show hospitality to our guests.
1. *Honor God fervently:* Of course, one of the best ways to be guest friendly and guest conscious is to do what we came to do and to do it fervently. Remember why we are here. We are here to worship and honor God. That is what disciples do (cf. **John 4:24**). We're not here to check attendance off our list. We're not here to check list some "acts of worship." We're here to honor God because we believe God is here. Unlike **I Corinthians 14:23-25**, the Holy Spirit is not giving us miraculous gifts of prophecy to disclose what is in the heart of our guests. Rather, they will know God is among us by seeing that we believe He is here. By seeing us fervently pray as if God is really listening, by raising shouts of praise to God in song as if God really is worthy of it, by attending to the sermons as if it really is God's Word being spoken, by being moved in the Lord's Supper as if we really are touched by the memory of Jesus's sacrifice for us, by giving cheerfully as if we really want to be a material part of God's work. Let our guests know we really believe God is among us and they'll sense that God really is among us.
  2. *Guests, not visitors:* Let's start with a mindset of how we view folks who come into our assemblies. Hotels and restaurants have guests. Museums have visitors. The former see those who come in as folks to be served and they want them to return. The latter see those who come in as folks who are coming in to see something and then leaving, probably never to return. I obviously know that as far as definitions go, these words are pretty similar. But there is a connotation that goes with "guest" that helps us have better attitudes. I know I've used this illustration before, but it is the best I know. Could you imagine in "Beauty and the Beast" if Lumiere had sung, "Be our visitor, be our visitor" instead of "be our guest"? Refer to our guests as guests and treat them as guests.
  3. *Anticipate our guests' needs and questions:* We know where everything is. We know where the restrooms are. We know where the class rooms are. We know where the children's training room is and where the nursery is. We know how we conduct business. We know the order of our assembly and what each part means. Our guests do not. So, we need to make it exceedingly obvious where all of those things are. With that in mind, over the next few weeks and months, we are going to be improving our internal and external signage. We need to recognize that our guests, especially those guests who have never really been part of any church, are a little nervous. We need to do everything we can to make them feel more comfortable and not be completely shocked by what we are doing. With this in mind, we have changed our News and Notes, added a weekly Program, and put in a Guest Center. Finally, as part of this, we encourage everyone who takes a leadership role in our assemblies to be more explanatory. For us as members this will seem unnecessary. But this is all part of being guest friendly. If we are not careful, we can conduct our singing, praying, Lord's Supper, collection, even offer the invitation to be saved with the mistaken assumption our guests know what is going on and leave them completely confused. We need to anticipate our guests' needs and questions by being more clear and explanatory about what is going on.
  4. *Greet our guests:* Do you want to be involved in pointing others to God, but you think you don't know enough to lead others to Jesus? Let me tell you what you can do. Greet one of our guests. Smile at them, shake their hand, ask them how they are doing that day, let them know you are thankful they are here. Find out if it's their first time to attend with us. Ask them how they found out about us. Talk to them about what their favorite part of the assembly was. Share with them the part of the sermon you thought was best or the song you most liked that we sang and what it means to you. Introduce them to your family or another member of the congregation. I know what you are afraid of. You are afraid you are going to introduce yourself to someone and find out they've been a member of this congregation for six months, or worse, six years. Oh, that would just be so embarrassing. Really? Is it embarrassing that God has granted this congregation so much victory that so many have come to the Lord that we can't meet them all? We'd rather be part of a congregation that only has 75 people so our consciences can be salved because we know everyone around us? The Jerusalem church started with about 3000 members (cf. **Acts 2:41**). Do you think everyone knew each other by the next Sunday? What about over the next year? Do you realize that in the very first church there were probably Christians who never even knew each other and yet they were attending the temple together daily? So, if you introduce yourself to someone and find out they are a member here, don't get all embarrassed. Just say, "Praise the Lord! Isn't it great God has blessed us with so many brothers and sisters that it took us this long to get to meet each other." And if someone introduces themselves to you don't be affronted and offended. Just say, "Praise the Lord! I'm so glad to meet another brother/sister." Let's remove this fear and make sure we talk to folks we don't know. In

fact, let's remember our rule. We call it the 10-minute rule. Once this assembly is over, don't talk to anyone you already know for 10 minutes. Find someone you don't know and talk to them. This is an especially good idea with our college students. Sadly, I think sometimes, we local members are a bit afraid to talk to the college students or feel like maybe it is unnecessary because they have all their fellow college students looking out for them. However, last year there was a Wednesday evening when I looked up and realized there were two young men standing at the back of the auditorium just watching what everyone was doing. Members of the congregation walked back and forth in front of them and barely spared them a glance. I didn't know them, so I went up to them. They actually weren't college students. They were post-college young men moving in to the area, and they were being ignored. Please be aware that was the only time they attended with us. I know what you are afraid of. You are afraid of introducing yourself to a college student for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, even 5<sup>th</sup> time and hearing them say, "We met last week, remember?" I get it. That is my fear. I do it all the time. In fact, last year, I met Cody Slamans, who is leading our singing tonight, and his sister Keeley. I met them here, then saw them at the airport where we visited for about an hour and then rode the same plane to Chicago. They were going home to attend a wedding, I think, and I was going to preach in a gospel meeting in Illinois. I spent all that time. And then the Sunday I got back, I was trying to introduce myself to some of the students, walked right up to Keeley and said something like, "We are so glad you're here, I'm Edwin, what's your name?" Her response was something like, "I'm Keeley. We rode the airplane to Chicago together. You talked with me and my brother for about an hour. Remember?" "Oh yeah." So, students, I just need to ask you to be patient with us old people. If we introduce ourselves to you 25 times, please just see it as how glad we are you're here even though infirmity doesn't allow us to remember you. But further, students, whether from FC or another nearby college, please don't think this is just for "local" members. We need you to follow the 10-minute rule as well. This will help you get to know the "local" members better and it will also help you greet our guests. I know it is easy to think you are not a real part of the congregation. To think you are only going to be here for a couple of years so there is no need to get very involved. But we need you. We need your energy. We need your enthusiasm. And we need our guests to see all of that. Please, don't just sit in your "college age section" then talk to one another afterwards and leave out the side doors. Please, follow the 10-minute rule along with the rest of us, and greet our guests. Finally, I'd like to ask all our young people, especially if you are already a Christian, don't hang out in your teen section. Follow the 10-minute rule and meet people you don't know. Guests, again, this is not a means for us to manipulate you or trick you. Rather, we want to do this to show you that we care.

5. *Be gracious to our guests:* Some of our guests have never been part of a church. Others have been part of churches that do and teach things differently. You simply can't expect a guest to know all of our insider language or even believe everything exactly like we do. Of course, as time goes by, we want to teach anyone and everyone about those issues that are truly of scriptural significance, but a guest doesn't need to be brow-beaten into submission to every doctrinal or practical nuance of what we do here, especially on their first Sunday. Rather, be gracious to our guests. So let's say you walk in one Sunday and someone you've never seen before is sitting in the spot you normally sit in. Don't ask them to move. Don't stand next to them staring questioningly or with reproof until in shame they move. Be gracious. Let them have that seat. (Notice I didn't say, "your seat." It isn't yours.) Or maybe in conversation they demonstrate they believe something we don't believe the Bible teaches. They don't need you to jump on them right there. I once heard a story from a friend of mine who is a first generation Christian. She had been working to study with her parents ever since she became a Christian. Finally, they were starting to open up to the idea of studying with her and even decided to attend a congregational assembly with her when she was back visiting them in her home town. As my friend was finding out where her son would go to Bible class, she overheard a man greeting her parents. My friend's mom said something like, "Are you the pastor here?" Or "Who is the pastor here?" Now, let me back up and explain something to our guests. I am not actually a pastor. The church here does not refer to me as a pastor. That is not merely a means of insider language, there is actually a scriptural reason for this, and I would be happy to explain it to you sometime if you are interested in knowing who the New Testament calls pastors and what the New Testament calls my role in this congregation. Sadly, the man who was greeting these guests to that other congregation didn't simply let that slide and speak to them with understanding and grace. He didn't even patiently and lovingly explain what the Bible says and what the practice of that church was regarding that term. Instead, he said something like this: "Listen. Our preacher is not a pastor. If you're going to start attending with us, you have to learn what a pastor is and what a preacher is." Does it surprise anyone to learn that

my friend's parents refused to study with her after that? I am very happy to point out that their hearts softened again and about six months later they did finally agree to study with her and eventually died with Christ in baptism. Certainly, we want to teach guests how to be disciples and to do all that the Lord has commanded, but we can't be shocked that someone who is not a disciple doesn't know all the correct terminology and doctrines and practices. Let's greet them with grace, showing patience, love and kindness.

6. *Personal sacrifice*: One aspect of this that is often overlooked is personal sacrifice. I've talked about some things already that simply aren't the norm or natural. Let's face it, the 10-minute rule is a sacrifice. I want to talk to my friends, not wait and talk to others first. Sit in a different spot because someone is in my seat? That is personal sacrifice. Let me ask you what you think a soul is worth? If greeting a guest with friendliness following an assembly is the key that gets them to return and be willing to study the gospel with someone, is that worth a 5 to 10-minute wait before you catch up with your friends who you could call on the phone if you had to? Let me share with you some of the things Paul sacrificed in order to share the gospel and steward opportunities to reach out. Read **II Corinthians 11:23-27**. Beatings, stonings, shipwreck, dangers, sleepless nights, foodless days, cold, and exposure. Kind of puts the request to sacrifice 10 minutes right after the assembly and a particular spot in the auditorium in perspective, doesn't it. With that in mind, I've got another request for you. Do you see these 4 rows up front that are always empty? As our back sections fill up, we squeeze together leaving no room for a guest who arrives at the last minute or late, we leave this section open specially prepared to embarrass a guest who now has to walk all the way down the aisle in front of everyone to sit on one of these front rows. Do you think that guest will come back? Not likely. We members need to move into these spots and leave the middle sections about a third of the way in open for guests. I know these pews aren't the most convenient and you have to crawl over people sometimes. Wow! Can you imagine Paul including that in his list in **II Corinthians 11**? "Guys, not only did I get beaten, in one church I had to crawl over some folks in a pew." And please, before you say that if some guest's heart was completely right, they wouldn't care about being marched down to the front aisle, keep in mind we are dealing with folks who aren't Christians. They are just being introduced to Christ. Of course their hearts aren't right. But yours are, so it shouldn't matter if you are the one who makes the sacrifice. Again, I'll ask, what is another soul bought by the blood of Christ worth to you?

### III. The processes and roles of Guest Evangelism

#### A. Host/Hostess

1. This is the backbone of our Guest Evangelism process. These are people who are in and around our doors to welcome everyone to our classes and assemblies. We call them hosts/hostesses not because we are trying to come up with some fancy new name, but because 1) we don't want to call them greeters. Why? Because every member is a greeter. And 2) to highlight the hospitality we want to extend to our guests.
2. The reason our hosts/hostesses are important is twofold. 1) Hopefully by having folks who are specifically given this role, we make sure everyone, members and guests alike, does get welcomed and greeted. 2) Because the main process of our Guest Evangelism is something we are going to call our Connection Card. The Connection Card will accomplish a couple of goals for us.
  - a) The Connection Card will allow us to get the proper information so our guests can connect with us and we can connect with them. As our guests, we want to make sure that whatever question you have can be appropriately answered by the right people. The Connection Card will allow our guests to communicate their needs and next step desires to us. If you are interested in learning about church membership or meeting with one of our shepherds or wondering about baptism, you'll be able to communicate that on our Connection Card. And of course we will ask you to fill it out so we can properly let you know how much we appreciate your presence with us in writing.
  - b) The Connection Card also has a component that is beneficial to our members. It will allow you to connect and communicate with me, our deacons, and our shepherds. If you need to update your contact info and are scared of getting on the internet to do it yourself, you can update it on the Connection Card, check the updated member info box, drop it in the collection plate, and that info will be passed on to the right person. If you want to offer some feedback or meet with the Shepherds, you can check the appropriate box and that will be forwarded along to the shepherds (or the appropriate person for your feedback). If you have a prayer request that you want the shepherds praying for, you can mark that on the card and it will get passed on to them.

- c) The Connection Card also has a “next step” component to it. Whether you are a member or a guest, you want to grow. Our Connection Card gives you the opportunity to let someone know what next steps you plan on taking. We obviously aren’t going to require everyone to fill this out. But if you’re like me, simply letting someone know your next step commitment is a big help in actually doing it. This card will give you the opportunity to share your commitment, even if your next step is simply attending at our next assembly time.
  3. The reason hosts/hostesses are the backbone is because your job, in addition to welcoming members and guests, is to get the Connection Card to everyone who walks through our doors. Right now, we do that by including it in our weekly program. The hosts/hostesses job is to get that program and Connection Card to everyone who walks through those doors.
  4. Please listen carefully, this is where we are making a bit of a change. When we started this program we simply asked for 60 to 70 volunteers who might be willing to help out with this sometime in the year. We’ve been at this for close to a year now and we’ve seen where it works and where the pitfalls are. It is now time for us to step up the commitment of those involved. We are no longer looking for 60 to 70 volunteers who are willing to perform this task sometimes. We are looking for 25 to 30 who are willing to form a team of hosts and hostesses that can say, “This is my job in the Livingston congregation.” This doesn’t mean you will be performing the job every assembly or class. There will be rotation and time for you to fill other obligations, for instance teaching, A/V, etc. There will be time for you to go on vacation, etc. But we need more than just a “Sure, sometime, I’d be okay with doing that job.” We need a “One of my roles in the Livingston church is host/hostess. I’m excited to do it.” You will be working under Peter Murphy’s direction to get this job fulfilled.
  5. Your responsibility would include arriving 20 minutes before classes and assemblies. You will stay at your posts for 5 to 10 minutes after classes and assemblies start.
- B. Guest Center Attendant
1. In the last year, we have added a Guest Center to our foyer. This is a centralized, easily accessible, highly visible place for our guests to go to get questions answered and get more information about the congregation. The very important part of this center is it is manned at all times. We want to make sure any of our guests who need more info can make a personal connection and not just go to some impersonal tract rack. We are going to need at least three team members manning that center at every meeting we have.
  2. Your role will be to give our guests any of the particular information they are seeking. Answer their questions or point them to those who can answer their questions. If they would like to take a tour of the facility, you would do that. If they need to know where something is on our campus, you will let them know. It is also the location where I camp out following the assemblies along with one of the shepherds. That way we can help answer any questions our guests have as well.
  3. Your responsibility would include arriving 20 minutes before classes and assemblies. You would stay at the guest center for 5 to 10 minutes after classes or assemblies start. Additionally, at the close of the assembly, you would go to the guest center and be prepared to help any of our guests. At any given assembly or class, we do have one person remain at the center to help guests who arrive late, leave early, or need assistance during the assembly or class.
  4. As I said with the hosts/hostesses. We are no longer looking for folks who are willing to volunteer to assist on occasion. We need a team commitment. We aren’t looking for 20 to 30 volunteers. We are looking for 10 to 12 team members who are willing to say, “This is my role.” This team is also working under Peter Murphy’s direction.
- C. Connection Card Sorter
1. As the process works now, on Sunday morning, everyone receives Connection Cards in their program. Further, everyone is asked to place their Connection Card in the collection baskets. Even if you didn’t fill it out, we ask you to place it in there so we can recycle the unused ones.
  2. That means we need someone to sort through the cards following our assembly. It will be your job to see if a card needs to go to an elder, a deacon, to me, or to guest follow up. Your responsibility will very simply be to get the cards following each Sunday morning assembly, sort them, and get the different sets of cards to the appropriate people. On Sunday evenings, we do attempt to get cards to our guests and ask them to drop them off at the Guest Center. Your role will include picking those up at those times, copying them, and sorting them out to the appropriate places at those times.

3. Your responsibility is to work on this immediately following the assemblies and classes. Of course, that means those times when you want to simply visit with friends, you'll have a job to do. But if we do not get this job done properly, we cannot follow up with our guests.
  4. Again, we aren't looking for folks who will volunteer from time to time. Rather, we are looking for team members. We need a team member commitment. This will be a small team. But you will be working on Adam Lester's direction to get this job done every meeting time.
- D. Note Writer
1. The reason we want to get information from our guests is very simply so we can let them know how much we appreciate them attending with us. And the best way to say thank you is with a note, card, or letter. Therefore, the main way we will offer follow-up to our guests is with written notes and cards.
  2. These notes must be written and mailed within 24 hours of the guest attending with us. Please note what I just said. These notes must be written within 24 hours of the guest attending with us. If they attend on Wednesday, and we get their card, we want the note to go out Thursday so they will receive it before the coming Sunday.
  3. If you would be willing and disciplined to write notes or send cards to our guests to let them know how much we appreciated them being with us, then this is the job for you. The great thing about this role is it can be filled in your own home. Many who can't get out or travel well can write a note. The commitment is not to sometime surrounding or during our assemblies and classes. But it is a commitment of time on Mondays and Thursdays.
  4. And again, we are no longer looking for a large group of volunteers who are willing to do this some time each year. We are looking for team members. You will be under the direction of Brian Dennis, receiving your assignments from him and reporting back to him when you have fulfilled your responsibility. I can't tell you how important this is. We are looking for folks who are willing to say, "This is my role at the Livingston congregation."

Conclusion:

As I've said all along, if you're our guest, we are talking about these things because we care about you and your soul. We have prayed for you to be here today and we want to be a great steward of the blessing God has given us by bringing you to us today. We hope you won't hold against us this kind of internal meeting you've been privileged to witness today, but instead will appreciate our care for you. To our members, this is not a normal invitation. Certainly, if you need prayers from the congregation, let us know. But what I really want to invite you to is this opportunity to help this congregation point others to God. Please, let us know what you will be willing to do.