



TED Elders Training Curriculum

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Ministerial Association | General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists | Trans-European Division





Nurture

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Shepherding

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N 1.1

The Elder and Church Nurture (Ch 7)

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Church nurture – Key ingredients



A. Love - The good news of the gospel is that God is love.

- 1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.*
- John 13:35 *By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

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Church nurture – Key ingredients



B. Unity – Empowers the church

Acts 2:1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.



Church nurture – Key ingredients



B. Unity – Empowers the church

When there is harmonious action among the individual members of the church, when there is love and confidence manifested brother to brother, there will be proportionate force and power in our work for the salvation of men.

Testimonies to Ministers, p.188



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Church nurture – Key ingredients



Love and unity are not accidental; such behaviour must be nurtured in the church.

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Church nurture – Key ingredients



1. Prayer ministry
2. Visitation
3. Small groups
4. Counselling

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Church nurture - Prayer ministry



- Jesus prioritised prayer Luke 5:16; Matt 14:23
- The apostles prioritised prayer Acts 6:3-4
- Paul's prayer ministry Romans 1:9; Col 1:3



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



- How many people attend your church prayer meeting?
- Why is the attendance at this level?
- What can be done to strengthen the prayer meeting?



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



Four basic ingredients for a successful prayer meeting:

1. Plan
2. Study
3. Share
4. Pray



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



1. Plan

Wisdom should be sought of God, and plans should be laid to conduct the meetings so that they will be interesting and attractive. The people hunger for the bread of life. If they find it at the prayer meeting they will go there to receive it. Testimonies vol.4, p.70



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Church nurture - Prayer ministry



2. Study

- Teaching rather than preaching
- Keep to under 20 mins
- E.g. SDA beliefs, book from the Bible



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



3. Share

- Personal testimonies
- Reflections
- Answers to prayer

Caution: keep testimonies short and current, avoid allowing one or two people to dominate



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



4. Pray

- Requests
- Entire group or smaller groups
- Conversational prayer
- Prayers following a pattern e.g. ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication)



Church nurture - Prayer ministry



4. Pray

Our prayers should be short and right to the point. Let the long, tiresome petitions be left for the closet, if any have such to offer. Let the Spirit of God into your hearts, and it will sweep away all dry formality. Testimonies vol.4, p.71



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Church nurture – Visitation



See **N 1.3** – Principles of visitation

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Church nurture – Small groups



See **N 2.2** – Small group ministries

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Church nurture – Counselling



Elders Handbook, p.130

Effective counseling requires good judgment and perception, and the ability to discern the difference between spiritual and pathological needs. Elders should not address issues that require professional counseling, as this may make the situation worse and may result in cause for liability for being involved in a clinical situation that required the attention of a trained or licensed professional.

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Church nurture – Counselling



1. Learn to listen
 - Shows care
 - Helps to rationally address problems
 - Active listening skills
 - Listen to both sides of relational problems
 - Avoid giving advice
 - Confidentiality



Church nurture – Counselling



2. Concentrate on a resolution
 - Not just revisiting problems and placing blame
 - Move towards forgiveness and solutions
 - When reconciliation not possible help people work towards Christlike ways of dealing with broken relationships

