

~ EFFECTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CANVASSING ~

“The wise in heart shall be called prudent . . .” Proverbs 16:21

1. Pray without ceasing (in your home, at the church, upon arrival at area, as you walk, upon departure).
2. Declare the gospel with grace, compassion, and boldness.
3. Stay focused on the mission at hand with your partner ~ avoid being sidetracked.
4. Don't cut across lawns (avoid all appearance of evil).
5. Don't leave literature in mailboxes, or at homes displaying a “No Soliciting” sign.
6. Secure gospel literature from wind and rain as much as possible.
7. On windy or cold days, try to work on streets that are perpendicular to the wind. (Example: If there is a west wind, work streets that are north and south. The house and garage will minimize the wind.)
8. Don't go to the back door.
9. Don't leave literature where there is potential danger (terrain, out of control people or dogs).
10. Be careful about going into a stranger's home ~ especially the elderly.
11. When knocking on a door, only one person should be on the porch. The partner should stand at the bottom of the steps, silently praying.
12. After knocking, back off to the top step on the handle side of the door so that you can be seen from the window. Avoid chatting with your partner while waiting.
13. Consider using the word “include” instead of “invite” when talking to a prospect about church.
14. Do not approach children in the neighborhood.
15. Never argue or be antagonistic when witnessing. Have a “harmless as doves” approach.
16. Be polite and leave the door open for the next person that will visit from the church.
17. If a partner being trained is talking and gets “stumped”, transition to the veteran partner by turning to him and saying “Do you have anything else to add?”
18. If it is obvious no one is home (no inside lighting, no noise or cars in the drive), consider just leaving the literature instead of waiting for someone to answer the door. You will cover much more ground.
19. You may want to bring bottled water with you.
20. Especially if you have children with you, make sure you know where the nearest accessible bathroom is located (restaurant, library, etc.). This comes up more often than you would expect.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

Vans or busses:

- Safety first ~ obey all the traffic regulations.
- Map your drop-offs to make as many right-hand turns as possible.
- Avoid having to back up.
- Drop your teams on the high side of slanted streets to conserve their energy.

Car block work:

- Park (and lock) the car in the center of the block starting with the first block of the street.
- For team of two ~ begin at the car, crossing the street at the stop sign and circling the block back to the car. Proceed to the next block.
- For teams of four ~ if the majority of team members are inexperienced, use the same strategy as above, but teams should leap-frog around one another. This will keep team members close in case assistance is needed in witnessing. If team members are experienced at canvassing, have each team start at the car on the same side of the street, moving in opposite directions to the end of the block and back in a U-shape, until they meet the other team back near the car. Proceed to the next block.