



Wheat Street Baptist Church The Ministry of Hospitality

Rev. Ralph Basui Watkins, MFA, DMin, PhD
Interim Pastor

Hebrews 13:1-2

Let mutual love continue. **2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels** without knowing it.

Matthew 25:35

35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, **I was a stranger and you welcomed me,**

Hospitality refers to the *relationship* between a guest and a host, wherein the host receives the guest with goodwill, including the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.

The Ministry of Love via Hospitality at Wheat Street

As we seek to be obedient to the scripture, loving, welcoming, warm and growing church we have to be intentional about how we welcome visitors. We have to make sure that the visitor's experience is rooted in love, attention, care and follow-up. We have to be there to greet them and show them the love of Christ as they come on church property. **The first opportunity for church growth is to make sure we reach out to those persons who have visited us.** They thought of enough of us to come by and look at our church which implies that they might consider joining with us on this journey. **We want make sure we extend to them the invitation to be a part of the Wheat Street Family. The invitation is not just given after the sermon but rather it is extended when people make a connection with us when they come on church grounds. We want them to feel welcomed from the parking lot to the sanctuary.**

Things to Consider

1. Be prepared to greet members and visitors at the door with programs no later than 10:10 a.m..
2. Think about ways to be more efficient with the offering - can the trays be handed out at the back, prior to the offering and the ushers come down front with the trays already in hand
3. When we call for the tithers can the ushers begin to walk down at the same time
4. We need the usher to be prepared to hand the visitors the visitors bags during the time of welcome. Please take ten bags to the back with you every Sunday and be prepared to give them to the visitors at the appropriate time.

5. In an effort to monitor how many visitors we have every month we are asking the ushers to count the number of visitors and report that number to the church office no later than Monday.
6. In effort to monitor the growth of our church we are asking the ushers to give us an accurate count of attendees every Sunday (to include those in the choir and the pulpit). Please report that number to the church office no later than Monday morning.

Psalm 84:10

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.