

PASTOR and ELDER HOME VISITS

1. Pastors and elders serving in a pastoral role are encouraged to visit members in their homes especially when members are home- bound, new to COS, or when members ask for such visits.
2. Home visits to families visiting or frequently worshipping at COS may also be useful whenever such visits would be welcomed.
3. Home visits or other visits in a private setting by either pastors or elders to single women (or married women in the absence of their husbands), however, are generally discouraged. When visits to single women are necessary to provide pastoral care, pastors and elders should consider such alternatives as:
 - a. Meeting at the church or another public venue.
 - b. Taking the pastor's or elder's wife along on a home visit.
 - c. Asking a female staff member to accompany the pastor/ elder on a home visit.
4. When an elder feels that a home visit to a single female is necessary and none of the above alternatives is available, he should seek a pastor's advice before offering to make the visit.