

Hospitality Team Policy (07/14/2021)

In response to various concerns, confusion and questions that have arisen, we are enacting the following hospitality policy in reference to offering assistance of meals, celebrations of marriage and birth(s), visitation to the sick, and those experiencing the death of a loved one. This policy is based on a principle found in Romans 12:13 which states “Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (NIV)

The primary purpose of the hospitality team ministry is to meet the needs of our church Body. *To the extent we have the opportunity to demonstrate compassion and reach out to those outside of our local body, we should do so through the love of Christ- but only so long as it does not limit or interfere with our primary purpose of providing for our own Body (Perth Bible Church members).

At this time, primary responsibility for carrying out our hospitality ministry is that of deacons (Acts 6). Each deacon, upon becoming aware of a need of someone within their care circle, is expected to contact said individual/ family as soon as possible to express concern, offer prayer, and determine if other needs are needed. As stewards of limited resources, dedicated to a balance between meeting these needs and respecting the time, energy and finances of our servant-helpers, no specific commitments (other than prayer and love) are to be made until the level of need has been compassionately discerned and taken into consideration.

Once the need(s) have been determined the deacon will make these Known to the chairperson of the hospitality committee who will at that time put into action the following procedures with the help of the church Body.

- I. Meals Ministry
 - A. Assistance to those who are sick, hospitalized, recently given birth, experienced the death of a loved one, or otherwise in such need.
 - B. The degree to which the one in need has family available will be the primary factor in determining if or how many meals we should offer to schedule for them. In some cases a meal that first night while family is regrouping/ arriving would be sufficient.
 - C. When meals are clearly needed, we will as a general rule only promise meals lasting for one week unless otherwise specified. These may be scheduled as the person in need requests (ie: every other day)

- II. *Celebrations of Marriage and Birth Ministry*
- A. Acknowledgement of church member's marriage and birth(s) will be announced in the church bulletin.
 - B. Wedding Showers- A Celebration of a church members' first wedding will be offered with an announcement in the church bulletin. The church will provide the facility, tables, chairs, coffee/tea, and available paper products. All else will be provided by the church Body and family of the marriage party.
 - C. Baby Showers- A Celebration of birth to church members will be offered for their first child with an announcement in the church bulletin. See Wedding Showers for church role. A card and modest floral piece will be sent to the new parents.
 - D. Second Baby and Beyond- A card and modest floral piece will be sent to the family.
 - E. At the present time, a member of the church Body sends a birthday card to each member of Perth Bible Church. This can be expanded to each church member's wedding anniversary as well.

- III. *Loss of a Loved One Ministry*
- A. Prayers and condolences to members of the church Body will be offered upon learning of the death of a loved one (member or immediate family of a member) with a phone call and card.
 - B. Perth Bible Church will send a floral arrangement to the location of the deceased's funeral services (either funeral home or church).
 - C. Perth Bible Church will offer to the family of the deceased a reception following the funeral service. See Wedding Shower for church role. The church Body will offer to provide food for the reception.
 - D. If the funeral service is at Perth Bible Church, childcare will be offered although not expected.

*Hospitality to non-members needs to be addressed separate from this hospitality policy.