

# The Benefits of Home Visits

The benefit of home visits has been challenged for a number of reasons. Yet rather than spending time on stating and evaluating such objections, there is more advantage in articulating the benefits of home visits. In his book, *Taking Heed to the Flock*, P.Y. De Jong aptly states the spiritual value of home visits for both office-bearers and the congregation.

The elders benefit from home visits because:

- this practice will enable them to know the spiritual condition of the flock over which the Lord has placed them
- they will know whether or not the believers over whom they have been placed make spiritual progress by using the means of grace
- they are given a much-needed opportunity for engaging in preventive work, with the result that instances of glaring defection from the rule of gospel become more infrequent among the people of God
- such visits stimulate the spiritual unity of believers
- it enables them to demonstrate in a practical way the spirit of Christian love and helpfulness.

The congregation benefits from home visits because:

- as members of the living church they will see more clearly the value of discussing matters pertaining to spiritual life. The more often a believer gives account of the hope that is in him, the easier it will be to witness of the power of God's grace in his life from day to day
- it will build up confidence in the leadership of the church. If the members see the elders in their official capacity only at the time of public worship, the distance between the two parties will likely breed distrust and misunderstanding the preventive work in which the elders engage at the time of home visits will help the believers live more consistent Christian lives
- this work always presents a good opportunity for learning more about the Christian way of life

- the elders can effectively point out the high ideal of living together as a Christian family from day to day. Our God is the God of the covenant, whose gracious promises to our children place parents under solemn obligation to nurture them in the fear and admonition of the Lord.