


WATCHTOWER
Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc.

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TO ALL HOSPITAL LIAISON COMMITTEES

Re: PVG meetings conducted by HLCs

Dear Brothers:

Since the annual letters to Hospital Liaison Committees (HLCs) and Patient Visitation Groups (PVGs) have been discontinued, we are providing you with updated information concerning the material that may be covered at your annual meetings with all PVG members.

Seminar III contains information that may be used for the meeting. For example, the *Sample PVG Meeting Outline (hlc-15)* should be used as the basis for your meeting. You may include additional points from *Organizing and Supervising the Patient Visitation Group (PVG) (hlc-tk-4)* when discussing the heading “Work Assignments,” and from *Rendering Sacred Service With a Clean Conscience (hlc-tk-2)* under the heading “Allowing Each One to Carry His Own Load,” especially the portion dealing with examples of expressions to avoid.

Additionally, we have attached the outline for a demonstration that will show how PVG visits benefit Witness patients. Each HLC may need to adjust some of this material to fit local circumstances.

As previously stated, such meetings are for the sole benefit of appointed HLC and PVG members. Therefore, it would be inappropriate to invite sisters or outside speakers, such as lawyers or doctors (even doctors who are Witnesses), to attend these meetings. An exception may be made to invite elders who are potential PVG members.

Please be assured of our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,


OF NEW YORK, INC.

Attachment

DEMONSTRATION – PVG VISIT

Setting: After receiving the names of Witness patients from the hospital Pastoral Care Office (or hospital Admitting), two PVG members begin their first visit with a Witness patient from out of town.

Note: Three chairs will be needed for PVG members and patient.

Timing: 6 min.

PVG Elder 1: [*Two PVG elders come to the door of a patient's room and introduce themselves in a warm, friendly tone*] Good evening Brother _____! My name is Brother _____ and this is Brother _____. We are members of the _____ Patient Visitation Group. Is this a good time to visit for just a few minutes?

Patient: [*In a weak voice*] Yes, come on in brothers; please have a seat.

PVG Elder 2: It is nice to meet you Brother _____, although we are sorry it is under these circumstances. Brother _____ is with the North Congregation and I am with the South Congregation right here in town. What congregation do you attend?

Patient: My wife and I live in Smithtown and attend the Smithtown Spanish Congregation, about a three-hour drive from here. She just went to get a cup of coffee in the hospital cafeteria. We were driving back home from a vacation last night when I became ill. So we came to the emergency room and I was admitted.

PVG Elder 1: [*Without invading the patient's privacy*] How does the doctor think you are doing?

Patient: The doctor explained that I will need to undergo an endoscopic procedure tomorrow. He says that I have some slight bleeding in my stomach and they can't seem to locate the source. I am a little concerned because he did say that he's never had a Witness patient before.

PVG Elder 1: We can understand your concern. Were you able to explain your position to the doctor and ask to include a copy of your Advance Medical Directive/Durable Power of Attorney form [*use whatever term is appropriate in your country*] with your medical chart?

Patient: Well, actually at admission I was able to present my DPA (or AMD) and they placed it in my file. I also spoke to the doctor explaining my position and he said my DPA (or AMD) was with the chart.

PVG Elder 2: That will be helpful. The local Hospital Liaison Committee may be able to provide some assistance to you and may even know of cooperative doctors who have experience treating Witness patients in this hospital. Would you like us to contact these brothers for you to consult together with them?

Patient: Yes, I would appreciate that, thank you.

PVG Elder 2: All right, excuse me while I make a call to one of the HLC members. [*Steps out of the room to a private location to call an HLC member*]

Moderator: After a few minutes PVG Elder 2 returns to join conversation.

PVG Elder 2: Brother _____, I just spoke with Brother _____, a member of the local HLC, and briefly explained your situation. He said he is on his way. He lives only about 15 minutes from the hospital. He knows the hospital staff very well. I gave him your name, the name of your congregation, and your room number.

Patient: Thank you brothers so much.

PVG Elder 2: Also, I have written down his contact information for you as well as ours.

Patient: I really appreciate your help.

PVG Elder 1: We are happy to help. At times like these when facing health concerns, Brother _____, it's encouraging to think of Jesus' words recorded in Matthew 25:36. [*Other scriptures, such as Psalm 41:3, could be shared according to the circumstances*]

Patient: Thank you. I'll be sure to share them with my wife too.

PVG Elder 2: We also have the latest magazines for you. Brother _____, would it be all right if we offered a prayer on your behalf? [*Prayer not demonstrated*]

Patient: Yes, thank you.

PVG Elder 1: We appreciate being able to meet and speak with you. We have a few more visits to make in the hospital. If it's all right, after our last visit we would like to stop by to meet your wife. We may be able to make some arrangements to care for her needs too. We have a couple of families who live nearby who would be happy to share a meal or help in other ways.

Patient: Thank you for your kindness.

PVG Elders: We will see you in a few minutes. Try to get some rest.