**Developing Committed Class Members**

**Handouts:** *Weekly Snapshot, Response Card, Interoffice Communication, Outreach Magazine Article*

**Matthew 28:19-20**
19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

1. **The Meeting of Committed Class Members**

**1 Corinthians 14:40**
40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

*“Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.”—*Albert Einstein

* 1. **Greeted**
* Welcome them with a smile

Volunteers want direction; give it to them!

A sign in McDonald’s…

“We expect all of our employees to smile at you. If you are not smiled at while your order is being taken, you get a free order of French fries or a free small drink.”

Why would McDonald’s do that? Because they understand the undeniable power of a smile.

According to Paul Ekman, Professor Emeritus of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco, “We can pick up a smile from 100 feet away. A smile lets us know that we are going to get a positive reception and it’s hard not to reciprocate.”

* Welcome them with excellence

Everything speaks to first-time guests—everything!

Make a great first impression!

* 1. **Directed**

The second step in successful pre-class contact is to make sure your guests are quickly, simply, and politely shown where they need to go.

* Introduce them to your class secretary (first-time guest registrar)
	1. **Treated**

What do first-time guests want to feel? Respected and welcomed. Guests want to know that you are happy they’re there and that you are serious about making sure they have a good experience.

* Train your class
* Provide great refreshments

Some coffee and food.

* 1. **Seated**

While it would be easy to let your guests fend for themselves to find a seat, it’s a terrible idea.

* Train your ushers to help with this
* Seat guests close to the front
1. **The Making of Committed Class Members**

How to produced bonded (connected) class members in our classes…

* 1. See their potential

See them as Christ sees them. We cannot wait for the ready made class member!

* 1. Minister to them

Assess their needs and help them. Assist them in developing a sure foundation.

**2 Timothy 4:1-3**
1 I charge *thee* therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;
2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

* 1. Involve them

Take them soulwinning. **Have them over.** Ask them to help you do something for the church. A job in the class.

* 1. Connect them to others

Care group leader, discipler, soulwinning partner, etc.

1. **The Maintaining of Committed Class Members**

How to keep them bonded and growing while reaching other new people.

* 1. Pray for them

It is simply the most important thing you can do for them!

**2 Timothy 1:3**
3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;

* 1. Notice when they are absent

Stay tenacious about this. Even your “regulars.” Be *attendance conscious* every time you meet. Follow up when they miss.

* 1. Spend time with them

Keeping doing this! They need it. With you personally and with newer people.

* 1. Encourage them to minister to others

Be specific and intentional about this. This will help them. You are helping them living with eternity in mind.

1. **The Merit of Committed Class Members**

What is the product of bonded class members?

* 1. They are loving

They love God, the church, the class, others, and you.

* 1. They are faithful

They are always here and they let you know when they will be absent.

**Statistic:** Of those who join the church and attend worship only, 15% are active after 5 years. Of those who join the church and attend Sunday School and worship, 87% are active after 5 years.

* 1. They are accountable

They don’t mind you following up on them, their family, or their responsibilities and most often they volunteer this before you ask.

* 1. They are producing

They are the ones helping to grow the class both numerically and spiritually.