

MEMBERSHIP MANUAL



THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

"The Church with a Vision!"

HEAD OFFICE 012 667 1072/3/4/5

Distributed by ISAAC, Evangelism arm of the FGC

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Dear Prospective Member

I greet you in the wonderful Name of our Lord Jesus Christ and heartily welcome you to our membership class.

Your consideration to become a member of the Full Gospel Church of God is highly appreciated. We believe that your commitment to be part of the Full Gospel Church family will be a mutually beneficial experience. You will have the opportunity to attend worship services in this special congregation and will undoubtedly experience God's blessing. We believe it is the result of our sincere attempt to be a God-honouring church which is meeting the needs of His people.

Please do not think that membership is just "*another ritual*" in the church. We have no intention of you joining the F.G.C. and then fading into inactive anonymity. Our desire is for each member to be active in ministry.

Why do we want you to be an "active" member? Because we believe people bloom when they're serving God! Serving God in the church is a positive and rewarding experience. I have seen a great number of people grow and bloom into the person God intended them to be through service in the congregation. It enhances personal and spiritual growth when we serve each other "as unto the Lord".

It is my desire to serve you too. I pray that as you join hands with the body of Christ at the F.G.C and as you allow the Word of God to speak to your heart, we will be transformed together into the image of Christ Himself. It's great to be your pastor!

Love

Pastor

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

In the year 1860, as a direct result of a call to prayer that was published in the “Kerkbode” of the Dutch Reformed Church of South Africa, the Holy Spirit was poured out in the Dutch Reformed Church in Worcester in the Cape, and later in other congregations as well.

This “revival” was echoed in the Zoutpansberg in Northern Transvaal in the late 1870’s and spread to all sections of the population in that area. It appears that the D.R.C. could not comprehend or adapt to some of the manifestations of that revival and very little was ever heard about it again.

Nevertheless, there were families that received salvation at that time and a generation later, and the end of 1890 and early 1900’s we find born again believers who were experiencing the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.

In the year 1909 George Bowie came to South Africa as a Missionary sent from the Bethel Pentecostal Assembly, under the leadership of Minnie Draper, Newark, New Jersey, USA.

The Pentecostal Mission was started in April 1910, and their mission was to become *The Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa*, a bilingual Church in which the Beetge brothers played a very prominent role.

The initial vision of George Bowie was to evangelise the indigenous inhabitants of South Africa. This vision never faded and the Church extended the preaching of the gospel to many areas in Southern Africa, as far as the former Belgian Congo.

As early as 24 June 1915, WFP Burton and James Slater were empowered and sent by the Executive Council and exposed the Congo to the Gospel. The whole of South Africa, Mozambique, the former South West Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, the former Rhodesia and further north to the equator, heard the Gospel through many under the banner of The Full Gospel Church.

A great work was being done amongst the so-called coloured community. Since 1925 J.F. Rowlands, and later with his brother Alex at his side, initiated and led a mighty evangelistic thrust which has continued to this day in the Indian Community.

For many years the White community had overseen the whole Church and all the Departments were subject to the Executive Council in Irene. In 1986 it changed and all the communities had their own Moderators and Executive Councils, with representation on the General Moderamen. This constituted 4 associations in one Church.

In 1951 a wonderful event took place under the guidance of the Lord, when the Full Gospel Church amalgamated with the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, USA, which is represented in 185 countries of the world by means of a World Missions Programme. The blessings and fellowship of our American brethren has made a wonderful contribution to the Full Gospel Church in Southern Africa. This amalgamation has been extremely beneficial and we thank our brethren of the Church of God for their unfailing loyalty and love.

Negotiations for change were in progress for some 16 years and eventually it was agreed that those communities who so desired could unite to become one integrated association within the Full Gospel Church of God, and in March 1990 the United Assemblies of the Full Gospel Church of God was constituted, consisting of the majority of the Black Community, the Coloured Community, the Indian Community and a small group of the White Community.

The Church then had 2 groups instead of 4, namely the Irene Assemblies and the United Assemblies. More than 7 years later, in October 1997, we had the joyous experience of the whole Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa uniting to become one structural organisation, thus scripturally representing the Body of Jesus Christ, for which we praise the Lord.

The Full Gospel Church has approximately 2 000 workers. The 308 assemblies of the Irene Association have united with the 650 assemblies of the United Association making a total of 958 assemblies in the United Full Gospel Church of God, excluding Namibia. There is a conservative estimated membership of 350 000.

The Church has 2 Old Age Homes and a number of crèches operating on a local assembly basis. There are also a variety of "Feeding Schemes" operated by local churches and more are on the drawing board. There are several schools that operate the "Accelerated Education Programme". The Church also has various accredited Training Colleges plus an Accredited Correspondence College with approximately 650 students enrolled. There are also a Theological School.

The structural unification of the Church formally took place at the Inaugural Conference on Thursday the 9th of October 1997, on the basis of the agreed "20 principles". This made the Full Gospel Church of God a non-racial and structurally integrated Church.

Through its amalgamation with the Church of God, which is represented in 185 countries, the Full Gospel Church of God in Southern Africa is an international church. Through its outreach programme into Southern and Central Africa it has multiplied tens of thousands of followers in Mozambique, Angola, Zambia, Malawi, the Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Swaziland, Zimbabwe and other territories.

The Head Office of the F.G.C is located in Irene. On the camping grounds is The Full Gospel Church Bible College. The postal address is: P O Box 40, Irene, 0062 and the telephone number is (012) 667 1072/8.

WHAT MAKES THE F.G.C SO SPECIAL?

1. The music, singing, praise and worship.
John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17
2. A history.
1 Cor. 12:12-27
3. and dynamic leadership.
Acts 6:2-4
4. A positive, cordial and sincere
Phil. 2:5
5. Keen people that really
Gal. 6:10
6. The cordial, friendly, spontaneous Holy Spirit
Phil. 4:5; Act 1:8
7. The true preaching of the.....
1 Thess. 2:13
8. The of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
1 Cor. 12:7-11
9. The involvement of members in /
1 Peter 4:10; Romans 12:5; Eph. 4:11-12
10. The intensive of members.
Acts 20:28
11. The opportunity to be to such an assembly.
Matthew 22:37-39
(It also helps you in your relationship with God; Matthew 6:24)
12. To Christian fellowship and unity.
1 Peter 2:5
(No "Lone-Ranger" Christians: We are a winning team for Jesus.)

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and look, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

As a dynamic church proclaiming the Word of God, it is our goal to make Disciples of Christ by:

- * Exalting God (Psalm 95:6-7; Rev. 4:8-11)
- * Encouraging Christians toward spiritual maturity. (Romans 12:1-2; 14-19)
- * Equipping Christians for ministry (Matthew 9:35-38; Eph. 4:11-12)
- * Evangelising the world for Christ (Acts 1:8)

THE VALUE OF A GOAL

1. A stated goal will us.
2. A stated goal will keep our straight.
3. A stated goal will develop our.....
4. A stated goal will help us..... more effectively.
5. A stated goal will help us our progress.

THE PRIORITIES OF OUR GOAL

- * Sunday morning worship and evening service
- * H.O.M.E Groups / Prayer meetings
- * Personal ministry involvement
- * Lifestyle evangelism

OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

1. up your rights. (Matthew 16:24-25)
2. up your ministry. (I Peter 4:10)
3. up for church. (Hebrews 10:23-25)
4. up your brothers. (Romans 12:10-11)
5. up your Pastor. (Hebrews 13:17; I Tim 5:17)
6. up your tithes. (Malachi 3:8-10)
7. to God. (Psalm 119:11-16; Proverbs 4:20)
8. to the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16-17)

How do you measure up?

What are your strengths?

.....

Which areas need improvement?

.....

What is your plan for improvement?

.....

.....

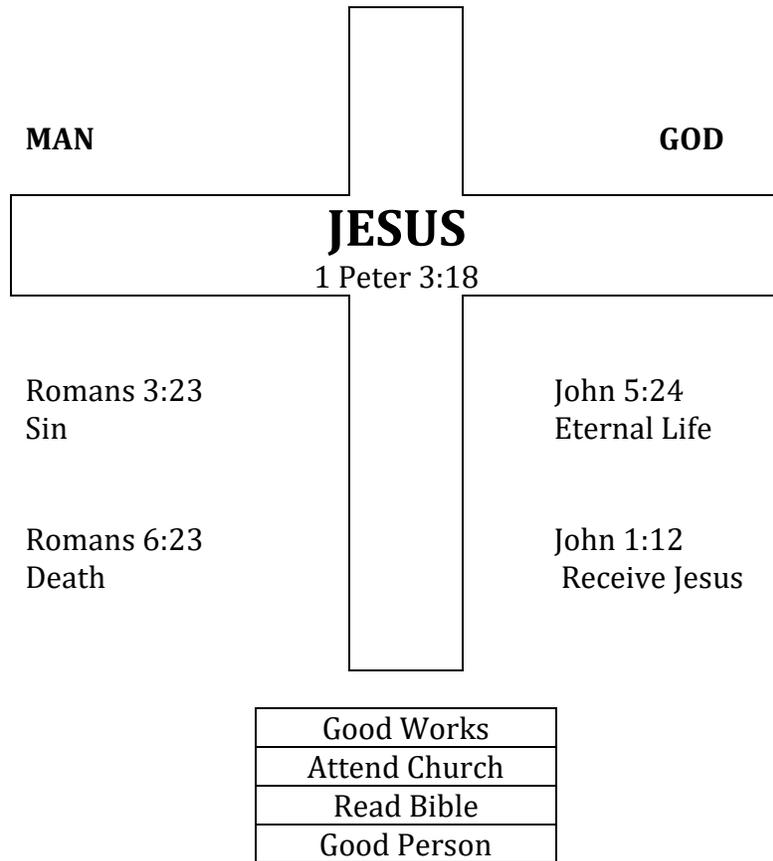
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THE "BRIDGE TO LIFE" ILLUSTRATION

Introduction

The prerequisite towards belonging to the Body of Christ lies primarily not in membership, but in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The "Bridge to Life" illustration helps us to understand man's dilemma and God's wonderful plan to redeem us.



QUESTIONS:

1. Which side are you on?
2. If you are not on God's side, is there any good reason why you cannot receive Jesus Christ right now?

HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST:

1. Admit your need ("I am a sinner") and turn from your sins (repent). (Acts 3:19)
2. Believe that Jesus Christ died for you on the cross and rose from the grave. (John 3:36)
3. Confess your sins. (1 John 1:9)
4. Through prayer, invite Jesus Christ to come into your life and control it through the Holy Spirit (receive Him as Saviour and Lord). (John 1:12)

MY PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Name: _____

Date: _____

My life **BEFORE** I found Christ:

HOW and **WHEN** I found Jesus as my Saviour:

What my life is like **NOW**:

**PLEASE BRING THIS TESTIMONY SHEET WITH YOU
TO YOUR INTERVIEW SESSION**

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN (I) “AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD”

E.M. Bounds once wrote: “The ones who have most fully illustrated Christ in their character, and have most powerfully affected the world for Him have been those who spend so much time with God as to make it a notable feature in their lives. To be little with God is to be little for God.”

I. WHAT IS A T.A.W.G.?

(T A W G)

1. A time of personal with God. (Luke 6:12)
* Key element is desire. (Psalm 42:1-2)
2. A time when God to you about your life.
(Psalm 139:23-24)
3. A time for personal and
(Psalm 100)

II. WHY HAVE A T.A.W.G.?

1. God desires our
2. God deserves our
3. God delights in our

III. HOW TO HAVE A T.A.W.G.

1. Choose the best
2. Choose the best
3. Choose the best

HERE’S A GOOD PLAN FOR BEGINNERS ... “10 minutes with God”

- 1 minute - Pray for guidance, praise God, be still.
- 4 minutes - Read Scripture; ask God for special insight.
- 5 minutes - Prayer plan

PRAYER PLAN

A

B

C

D

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN (II) “IN GOD WE TRUST”

*Tithing is a matter of the heart, not the wallet.
Matthew 6:21*

TEN BENEFITS OF TITHING

1. God is by your (Mal. 3:10)
2. God is by your (Prov. 3:9)
3. It helps keep your straight. (Matthew 6:21)
4. You are for a blessing. (Mal 3:10)
5. Guards Christians from (Acts 20:35)
6. God loves a giver. (II Cor. 9:6-12)
7. Support of the (Matthew 28:19-20)
8. Ensures your will be met. (Matthew 6:33)
9. It helps meet the of God’s people. (I Cor. 16:1-2)
10. It reminds us that is the true
and of all that we have. (I Tim. 6:17-18)

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TITHE AND AN OFFERING?

Tithe:

Offering:

WHY “STOREHOUSE” TITHING?

1. Multiplies your tithe’s effectiveness.
2. Focuses your tithe’s direction.
3. Supports your local church.

HOW ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU TRUSTING GOD?

TRUST AND OBEDIENCE TEST

TITHING ISN'T A MATTER OF MONEY BUT TRUST. God knows that one of the most difficult areas to surrender to Him is our finances. Therefore He is saying to us:

*“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,
that there may be meat in mine house, and
prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of
hosts, it I will not open you the windows of
heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that
there shall not be room enough to receive it.”
Malachi 3:10*

God is saying it ... Can I trust Him to fulfil His promise? More important, can God trust me to obey Him?

MY ANSWER

I realise that trust is the most important factor in any relationship and that God is saying: *“And prove me now herewith.”* I take the step of trust and promise to give 10% of my income to the Lord through the Full Gospel Church of God (the storehouse).

I will start tithing

I already tithes

NAME:

TEL: (H) (.....) (W) (.....)

ADDRESS:

.....

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN CHILD OF GOD (III)
“HABITS, HEARTBEAT, LIFESTYLE”

YOUR DAILY LIFESTYLE IS IMPORTANT TO GOD
BECAUSE HE CARES FOR YOU!

1. **HABITS: YOUR AS A CHRISTIAN. (ROM. 14:20)**
 - (a) Do nothing that can damage your
 - (b) Keep yourself pure from any to drugs, bad habits and foul language etc.
 - (c) a holy life.

2. **HEARTBEAT: YOUR AS A CHRISTIAN. (PHIL. 2:1-5)**
 - (a) Don't be a, be content in everything.
 - (b) from slander, backbiting and destructive criticism.
 - (c) friends, lift them up, inspire them and pray for them.

3. **LIFESTYLE: YOUR AS A CHRISTIAN. (MATT. 22:37-39)**
 - (a) Priority 1
 - (b) Priority 2
 - (c) Priority 3
 - (d) Priority 4

GOALS OF THE F.G.C. MEMBER

1. To live a life. (1 Pet. 1:14-16; Heb. 12:14)
2. To reveal the of Christ. (Col. 3:12-14)
3. To be humble and to God. (James 4:10)
4. To be (1 Peter 4:10)
5. To be and (Rev. 2:10; Heb. 10:25)

HOME CHURCH

GOOD REASONS WHY SMALL GROUPS WILL MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE:

1. There is spiritual for the entire family. "Koinonia"
2. You will discover friends who really
3. You can rely on personal assistance in the group.
4. You will learn how to biblical truths.
5. You will experience a spiritual and personal
6. You will your Christian witness and life.
7. The gathering is informal and
8. You will sense that you are welcome and that you
9. You will have the opportunity to in prayer, praise, worship and bible study.
10. You will walk in with God and your brothers and sisters.



My home church leader is:

Address:

..... Tel. (.....)

Place of gathering:

Tel. (.....) Day:

Time:

WELCOME TO THE MINISTRY TEAM

In the F.G.C involvement in ministry is very important. Involvement in ministry will promote your spiritual growth. We want you to discover and develop your ministry. There will be a quarterly course in ministry for you to attend. Are you already enrolled for the next one?

PRINCIPLES OF SPRITUAL MINISTRIES

1. We are in ministry and not
2. Ministry is a God given and it is not a
3. Ministry will promote spiritual
4. Ministry is well pleasing unto God.
5. Ministry the power of the Holy Spirit.
6. Ministry will multiply the of the assembly.
7. Ministry will bring the body into
8. Ministry chapters in the Bible: I Cor. 12:12-31; Rom. 12:5-8; Eph. 4:11-16.
9. More Scripture references: Rom. 6:13, 16-22; I Peter 4:10-11.
10. Please complete the form on Ministry and hand it in.

DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE ON THE TEAM

1. What is your
2. What is your “” of gifts?
3. What is your

MINISTRY

I hereby make myself available through the grace of the Lord to the following ministries in the congregation:

Elder	Song leader
Deacon	Soloist
Financial Committee	Choir
Sisters Union	Bookshop Assistant
Welfare	Baby care (during services)
Sunday School / Teacher / Helper	Gardener
Teenagers (13-19)	Transport ministry
Youth Council (20-35)	Sound control, CD's, etc.
Kingpins (36-59)	Parish Clerk
Senior citizens (60+)	Parking lot ministry
Ushers	Security guard
Altar counsellors	Men's fellowship
Evangelism action	Dunamis co-ordinator
Missions	Census survey
New members (Welcoming)	Crisis control
Home cell leader	Maintenance Committee
Home cell member	Care of the sick
Counselling	Death accompaniment
Instrumental	Prayer warrior intercessor

Name:

Address:

.....

Tel: (H) (.....) (W) (.....)

Signature:

Where necessary training will be given.

MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW

Name: Age group: Teen Young adult
 Tel: (H) (.....) (W) (.....)
 Address:
 Spouse:
 Names and birthdays of children living at home:

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. Where were you born and raised?
2. Religious background?
3. What (who) brought you to Church?
4. What do you do for a living?

II. SPIRITUAL MATURITY

1. When did you receive Christ as Saviour?
2. Have you been baptised? Yes No, scheduled for
3. How consistent is your devotional life?
4. Habits that would hinder your witness?

III. PARISH SURVEY

1. How long have you attended Services?
2. What do you like best about our congregation?
3. What one thing would you change?
4. How can the congregation best meet your needs?

IV. PERSONAL COMMITMENT

1. Do you desire to join this church? Yes No Wait
2. Are you in a Sunday school class? Yes No Interested
 (Class name)
3. Are you in an H.O.M.E. Group? Yes No Interested
4. Are you faithful in your tithe? Yes No Need giving nr.
5. Spiritual gifts:
- 6a In what ministry are you involved?
- 6b In what ministry would you like to be involved?

V. PROCEDURE OF MEMBERSHIP

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Profession of faith
<input type="checkbox"/> From another denomination | <input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of membership
<input type="checkbox"/> From another Full Gospel Church |
|--|--|

Date of reception:

FULL GOSPEL CHURCH Membership Manual Key

WHAT MAKES F.G.C. SPECIAL?

Page 5

1. spontaneous
2. sound
3. Anointed
4. attitude
5. care
6. atmosphere
7. Word
8. working
9. Service/ministry
10. care
11. linked
12. build

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN (Part II)

Page 11

1. pleased, obedience
2. honoured, faithfulness
3. priorities
4. eligible
5. selfishness
6. cheerful
7. great commission
8. needs
9. needs
- 10, God, owner, giver

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Page 6

1. motivate
2. priorities
3. potential
4. to minister
5. evaluate

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN (Part III)

Page 13

1. example a) testimony b) addiction c) Live
2. attitude a) grumbler b) Refrain c) Make
3. Priorities: a) God
b) Family
c) Work
d) Ministry

OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENTS

Page 7

1. Give
2. Pick
3. Show
4. Cheer
5. Back
6. Offer
7. Listen
8. Open

GOALS FOR THE F.C.G. MEMBER

1. holy
2. love
3. submissive
4. involved in ministry
5. devoted, faithful

LIFESTYLES OF THE BORN AGAIN (Part I)

Page 10

- I, Time, Alone, With, God
 1. fellowship
 - 2, attention
 3. praise and worship
- II.
 1. fellowship
 2. attention
 3. spiritual growth
- III.
 1. time
 2. place
 3. plan

H.O.M.E. GROUPS

Page 14

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. nurturing | 6. develop |
| 2. care | 7. relaxed |
| 3. prayer | 8. belong |
| 4. apply | 9. participate |
| 5. enrichment | 10. relationship |

WELCOME TO THE T.E.A.M.!

Page 15

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. partners, pew warmers | 5. unleashes |
| 2. privilege, problem | 6. potential |
| 3. growth | 7. motion |
| 4. - | |

PRAYER PLAN

- A. Adoration
- B. Confession
- C. Thanksgiving
- D. Supplication

DISCOVERING YOUR PLACE ON THE T.E.A.M.

1. passion
2. package
3. personality

THE MEMBERSHIP INTERVIEW

The membership interview is an essential element in the commitment process. This one-hour appointment with each individual (or couple) secures a “face to face” accountability that is powerful and lasting.

The tone or atmosphere of the interview is not in any way harsh. You are not “drilling” them nor making them sign anything. They sign with their heart because they want to, not because they are forced. This is a very upbeat, positive, ministry-orientated session in which the people are excited about your church, and frankly may never feel better about you or your ministry.

The interview form outlines several areas with a number of questions in each section. But there are four primary goals in the interview:

1. Develop fellowship
2. Encourage their faith
3. Improve your ministry
4. Secure commitment to the church

Developing fellowship is simply getting to know them. Ask questions about who they are, where they’ve been, and where they believe God wants them to go on their spiritual journey. Your sincere interest in their story is very affirming. Be sure not to fall into the tempting trap of telling your story. This is not your time. If you listen well, you can gain many insights into potential ministry possibilities that you can discuss later in the interview.

Just listening to their testimony is an encouragement to their faith. It affirms the most important decision they’ve ever made. This also gives you the opportunity to discover if they have really received Christ as their Saviour. A good practical way to confirm this is to ask them when (date) they were saved. Of course this has no bearing on the condition of maturity of their walk with Christ, but it’s a great door opener.

The majority of Christians struggle with consistency in their devotional life. Use this as an opportunity to encourage their faithfulness. Have several devotional tools, ideas, methods and materials ready to show them. Remember, they are probably discouraged in this area, so encourage them by helping them.

In dealing with their habits, this is your opportunity to deal with deeper issues if they exist. Don’t be afraid to ask. Remember, the new members are there because they want to be, and usually they desire help in areas of personal struggle.

You can improve your church’s ministry greatly by giving the new members a chance to tell you what they would change. It’s amazing what you hear! Watch for patterns or things that are repeated by many people. It may be something you need to consider changing, or improving.

The last primary area is commitment. Don't be bashful. This is what separates most unproductive sessions from sessions that have lasting results in God's Kingdom. Ask them if they tithe and don't be shy. It's God's Word, not yours! Now don't ask them how much, that's also God's business and not yours. If tithing is new to them, teach them, coach them, and give them a practical plan on how to get started. If they come as non-givers and you let them go out of the interview that way, statistics prove that they are not likely to ever tithe.

The commitment to ministry is the #1 goal of the interview. Make this an exciting time of discovering what God wants them to do. (Not as an assignment to something they are neither gifted for nor interested in.) Go over their spiritual gifts and the ministry options of the church. Come to a mutual agreement about the ministry suited for them.

It's very rare that a person who attends the membership class and an interview doesn't join the church. And even more rare that they don't join because they aren't accepted, or don't "make the grade" (Perhaps 1 in 1000), but there are a few situations where you must postpone their membership. There is no reason to deny anyone membership. Put the responsibility back in their hands by recommending a postponement until they are more comfortable with the commitments of church membership. For example: If someone were to say, *"Well, I just don't have time for ministry right now"*, your response could be, *"That's OK, we'll just postpone your membership until you're ready. No problem!"* This approach works well because you can maintain the integrity of your convictions without offending the person.

An important part of the whole membership process is the way in which you receive the new members in your church. Recognising them in a Sunday morning service is essential; it clearly communicates the importance of membership to the entire congregation. It also encourages the new members as they stand to make their public commitments and when they see their names and ministry printed in the bulletin.

Blessed Interviews!