

WHAT TO DO WITH THE CFBC MEMBERSHIP LIST

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Dear CFBC family, each time a believer joins himself in membership with CFBC, we send out an updated membership list directory, list, and document that has the shepherd-elder responsible for every single member at CFBC.

Here are some pastoral suggestions for what you can do with these documents:

1. Pray

Pray for each person (by name) on the membership list. Pray for the family, the children, the grandchildren and perhaps those in the family who may not know Christ yet as Savior and Lord. (This may require some inquiring and follow-up so you can pray specifically for one another.) Pray for the spiritual growth and progressive sanctification of each believer (see Paul's prayers in Colossians 1, Ephesians 1 and 3 and Philippians 1). Pray for protection against sin, a longing for heaven, purity in doctrine and in life, protection against worldliness and contamination, and that Christ would give a great hunger and thirst for righteousness in each member of CFBC.

2. Encourage

Consider how you can encourage one another in the flock specifically, regularly, and intentionally. We have all been on the receiving end of an encouraging phone call, or text, or conversation. And we thank the Lord for these occasions where we are edified in how God is working in and through us and others recognize it and give praise to God in mentioning that to us. Consider making it a point to encourage others in the church family with regularity. Encourage one another in Christlikeness. As you're driving or walking or on a work break, consider calling a CFBC member to encourage them in the faith and share just one thing that you've recently gleaned from His precious Word.

3. Letter

Hand-written letters and emails can build and strengthen the people of God in tremendous ways. Many godly saints of old have left many letters one to another that have built and strengthened the people of God through the years (for instance, the letters of Samuel Rutherford or Joseph Alleine). Consider writing one letter of encouragement, strengthening, or spiritual stimulation per week (or more, or less, depending on your schedule) to a fellow member in the CFBC family. These can encourage and then folks can save them, print them, and re-read them at a later point for encouragement and comfort.

4. Fellowship meet up

You may desire to reach out to a person or a family in the local church for a meeting over coffee or a dessert somewhere. It doesn't need to be fancy or expensive. In fact, it can be very simple. Older saints, consider calling or reaching out to a younger believer (older women with the younger women; and older men with the younger men) and inviting them to meet you for a cup of coffee to study Scripture, to pray together, and talk about the things of Christ. Invest in each other. Seek to encourage one another – like a family spends much, regular time with each other. What if we endeavored to have one lunch or meeting with a fellow member every other week! Consider the relational impact and encouraging fellowship that this may foster in and among us as the body of Christ as we admonish, encourage, and instruct one another in the Word.

5. Invite for hospitality

Let us remember to follow the instructions the Spirit of God gives to us as His blood-bought people to practice hospitality with one another. In fact, Peter calls us to pursue hospitality with one another without complaint. How glorious and receptive our Savior has been with us as His enemies! Let us show hospitality with intentionality by proactively inviting folks over into our homes. Again, it doesn't need to be fancy. It doesn't even need to be a meal. It could be a time of coffee, tea, dessert, or morning fellowship. The key is to initiate and to invite folks over. It is to welcome people in CFBC into your home to show genuine love and receive a blessing as well in this wonderful ministry occasion. Maybe there is someone, or a couple, or a family that you don't know very well. Maybe you don't sit near them on Sundays or chat much with them through the week. Consider going down the membership list and inviting folks into your home to hear each other's testimonies, to read the Word together, and to pray together (perhaps one family; or you might even choose to invite two folks over to engage them together and encourage them to do the same).