

APPENDIX C: LARGE-PRINT LITERATURE

When we first began seriously to visit nursing homes, we knew very little about the availability of large-print literature. As a result, we decided to begin making our own! Even after discovering several sources of large-print material, we decided to continue producing our own materials because we could make them fit certain situations and teach beliefs that we consider important. We have observed that there are three kinds of needs that require special, large-print literature:

1. **Special occasions:** Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Good Friday and Valentine's Day are occasions when people are both eager for and accustomed to receiving special greetings. We have found considerable enthusiasm and appreciation for appropriate greeting and special-occasion cards.
2. **Themes for meditation:** Some of the many themes of the Christian faith and Christian life lend themselves to being treated briefly in a booklet or handout. Such publications could be distributed after a sermon or during a visitation time to encourage meditation. These handouts provide an opportunity for visitors to show that they care about the spiritual needs of those they visit.
3. **Prayer:** We have been convinced of the great contribution the elderly can make to the kingdom of God as they pray. One focal point of prayer is the world mission of the church. To help direct prayers to that end we have produced many large-print prayer reminders on specific countries of the world and the Christian mission efforts operative in these countries.

If the concern of the literature to be distributed is Christian prayer, we are selective, giving the literature only to Christians (and to those who are especially eager to have a copy). Generally, however, we freely distribute the literature hoping that it will open doors of interest on the part of those who receive it. One must always ask permission before distributing literature in a home and give copies to the staff, if they desire them.

Suggestions on the Production of Large-Print Material:

1. Use large, clear printing—it is an absolute necessity.
2. Use familiar images and symbols, for example, the cross or crown of thorns for Good Friday.
3. Keep the message simple and to the point.
4. Leave adequate margins and don't crowd pictures or writing.
5. Be creative. Involve artists in the production.