

Bonus Tip: Lead by example. Be sure your officers and leaders are living examples of hospitality. Solicit the support of leadership first. Then make sure its shared throughout the ministry.

What Will Happen to Your Guests This Sunday?



Will guests feel welcomed if they get invited this Sunday? I can't help but ask this question. When I think about the conversations I have had with church folks who go quiet when I ask, "have you invited a non-churched friend to visit this year?" The odd look some people give about evangelism or sharing our faith often makes me ponder the question, what would happen if these people did invite someone? As we prepare for the holidays or simply next Sunday, giving thought to preparing our hearts and minds to openly welcome others to share the Good News of Jesus Christ is something we all must pray. It takes so much for a non-churched person to get up the "nerve" to walk in the doors of a sanctuary. Our most earnest prayer is that members will greet each and every person with sincere, Christian love.

*"Make every effort to show your Christian love" is the "**M**" step we share in our **W.A.R.M.** approach to welcoming shared in our Awesome Welcome! seminar. When we invite and bring others to the love of God, our hearts and minds must be open to receiving them and building friendships. As I shared in a recent seminar, friendships are just one way we can continue to share our faith one-on-one and nurture those growing in faith. Showing our Christian love through friendship can strengthen one's faith and demonstrate a welcome that illustrates our love for Jesus. If you are not sure how to "make every effort to show your Christian love",*

start with a prayer for friendships. Take a close look at how you welcome guests this upcoming holiday season. Communicate with members, ushers and greeters how to warmly greet new friends this season. Be sure they know the importance of making every effort to show their love. If you're not sure what to let them know, here are a few ideas from our Awesome Welcome! seminar. Leading up to the holidays:

- *Pray.*
- *Warmly smile.*
- *Speak first.*
- *Always introduce yourself*
- *Take the time for small talk, like the kids' names and ages.*

- *Connect to what you have in common.*