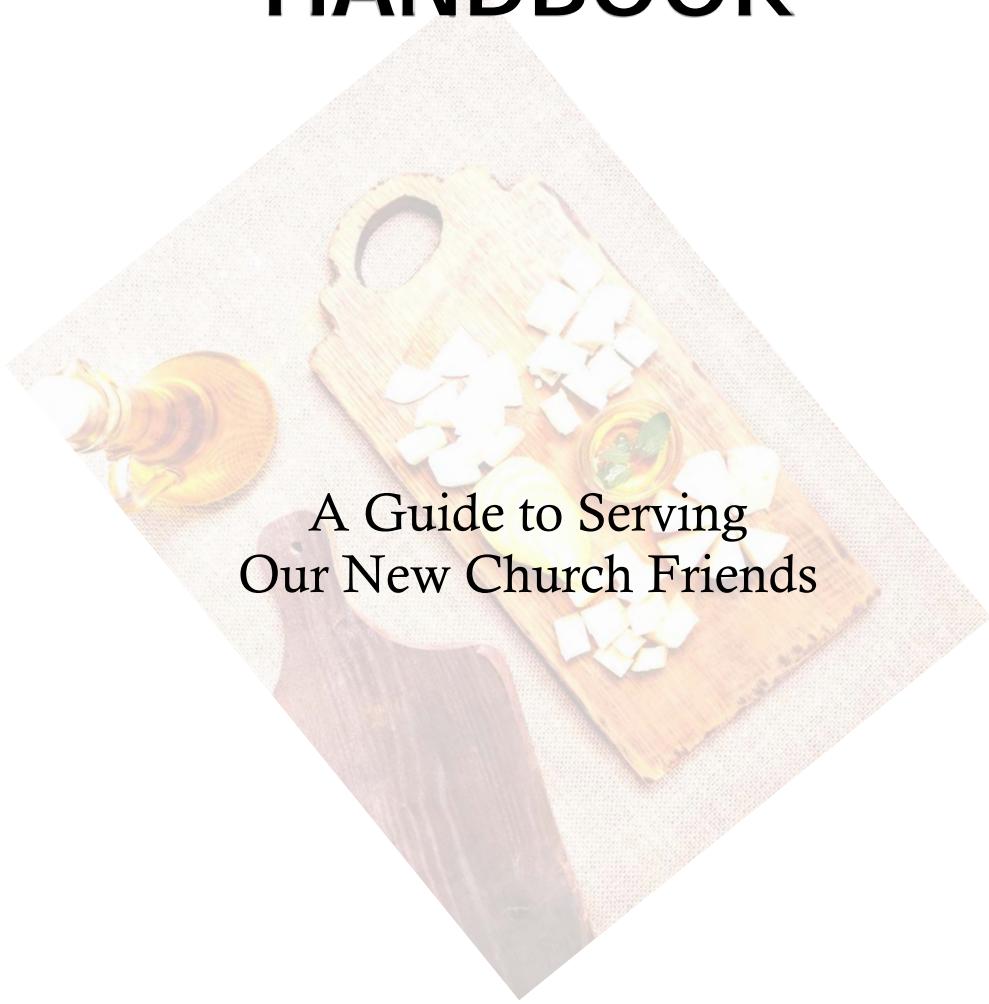


LOVE FEAST PROGRAM HANDBOOK



A Guide to Serving
Our New Church Friends

by:

Gwendolyn and Joseph Coleman

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Revised 2016 by Cynthia Poole, Director

Women's Ministries, Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Permission granted by Gwendolyn Coleman

DEDICATION

Dedicated in memory of our granddaughter

Lesley Nicole Coleman

who awaits Jesus' soon return

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank first and foremost our Heavenly Father for revealing to us the intricate details of the present Love Feast Program.

We are most appreciative to LaVerne Washington and Julettia Williams for their assistance in getting this handbook off and running.

We thank Laura and Terrel Danley for their desktop publishing when we were in dire need of emergency assistance.

Thanks to Anna Buchanan, Laura Danley, and Barbara Jones for their tireless editorial service of LOVE.

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We are forever grateful to Denise Malone, who has been like a daughter to us. She has worked untiringly to prepare this handbook with the use of her desktop publishing and editorial expertise.

Without the commitment of the Nurturing, Welcome Wagon, Social, and Executive committees--both present and past members--the program could not and would not have been successful. We are thankful to them all.

To Sarah and Ernest Williams, Dawn Washington, Sinie Evans, and Esther and Edward Mattox, thanks for always being there for us.

Thank you to our church family and the co-workers of the Smithsonian Institution Press who gave monetary love gifts in memory of Lesley. It was these love tokens that helped to make this handbook a reality.

Pastor S. Peter Campbell, thank you for making it a joy to serve in the Lord's vineyard in this capacity.

This handbook has been a labor of LOVE. We hope that it will be of service to all who use it.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Cynthia Poole wishes to thank Gwendolyn and Joseph Coleman for graciously sharing the "Love Feast Program" in the hopes of reviving Love Evangelism.

She also wants to thank Karl Ford for publishing the revised edition of the Love Feast Program Handbook.

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FOREWORD

About 30 years ago, when we were introduced to the Adventist Church, our formative days and months were made pleasant because of the love shown us by Joe's brother John and his wife Sarah. However, there were no dinner invitations, no visits from the church membership, and no calls of concern as we struggled to become accustomed to our new lifestyle.

Thus, the importance of Christian fellowship and spiritual nurturing of new church family members became a real burden for us. We realized that if new members came to church week after week and were virtually ignored , they could eventually disappear from the congregation.

The work of the Holy Spirit, combined with human efforts, leads many souls to becoming members of the family of God, and as the established church body, we have an important part to play in these efforts. Though we realize that the church doctrines are sound and promote a healthful Christian lifestyle, we would like all who read this handbook to remember that Christ drew many souls to Him through His loving concern for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of those who came to hear Him.

Each member must ask the question, "What have I done to make our new friends in Christ really feel welcome and comfortable in their new church home?" It is very difficult to adjust to being a new Adventist Christian and to explain to friends and family why you have chosen a church so uniquely different.

We feel that through our experience, the Lord was preparing us to do a special work for the nurturing needed by the new believers. So, through His Divine plan for His precious new flock, the idea of the Love Feast Program was introduced by us to Dupont Park Church under the leadership of Pastor Harold Lee in 1988. This Program has continued to flourish with the encouragement of Pastor S. Peter Campbell. It has proven to be a labor of love that our friends share with us in the hope of eliminating the proverbial "revolving door" syndrome.

All glory and praise to our Lord for allowing this Program to become a reality and for allowing us to be a part of His marvelous work. It is our prayer that the Program explained in this handbook will in some small way help to encourage all of us to do something.

Gwendolyn and Joseph Coleman

On a recent visit to Dupont Park Church, I took note of the diminished number of members. As a member of Dupont when the "Love Feast Program" was introduced to the congregation, I saw firsthand the impact it had on the spirit of the church. Also noting that the members who came through the original Love Feast Program were still active in the church. I thought we need to revive the program and share it with other congregations.

I approached Gwen about the idea of involving Women's Ministries in the Love Feast concept. Without hesitation she responded "take the book and use it any way you want to."

For their gracious generosity, I thank both Gwendolyn and Joseph Coleman and pray God's blessing on their lives.

Events and ideas generated by the Holy Spirit live on, Love Feast is one of them.

Through the ministry of the Women's Ministries department it is my intent to introduce this program to every church that has a sincere desire to embrace, love and nurture their new members.

Cynthia Poole
AEC Women's Ministries Director, 2016

Chapter I

The Love Feast Program

WHAT IS THE LOVE FEAST PROGRAM?

The Love Feast Program is a vehicle used to help newly baptized and transferred members feel welcome, comfortable, and accepted. It gives the entire church body an opportunity to extend love to these members as they get settled in their new church home.

Special features of the Program are the Love Feast, "Get Acquainted" Sabbath dinners, "Welcome Wagon" dinners, socials, and the Love Feast Program Connection. These activities will be explained in following chapters.

The Love Feast Program is directed by a chairperson who selects assistants and officers as deemed necessary, i.e., secretary, historian, photographer.

The chairperson works closely with the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, First Elder, and Bible Instructor—keeping them abreast of any needs or special areas of concern that may merit their personal attention. A letter that explains the Love Feast Program is also sent to each Church Board member (*see Sample Letter I-A*).

However, the goal of the Program is to encourage every church member to become actively involved with the nurturing of new members. The following "Epistle" and volunteer form (*see Samples I-B and I-C*) may be helpful in bringing the Program to the attention of your church family. A similar one was distributed at Dupont Park Church.

SAMPLE I-A

Date

Dear Church Board Member:

As we enter into our sixth year, the *Love Feast Program Committee* would like to offer renewed thanks to those Board members who have supported the program and welcome all newly elected Board members. We would like to provide you with an overview of the program and show you the many benefits it brings to all involved.

The Love Feast is an organization formed primarily for new members. Our aim is to welcome them into the Allegheny East Church family warmly and help them to feel accepted early so they will make the church their home, and to give them the love that they need at this delicate transition period. We do this through a series of welcoming activities.

The Love Feast Program activities are held at least once a quarter for all new members accepted into the church during the previous quarter. There are several steps taken to introduce them:

1. First, the Love Feast Program Chairperson or the First Elder invites the new members to a "Get Acquainted" Sabbath dinner held at their homes. The new members are greeted by committee members and enjoy warmth, good food, and fellowship. After dinner, each new member offers testimony and is encouraged to ask questions. This dinner helps promote the family-like environment that The Love Feast Program hopes to engender.
2. The members then receive a formal invitation to their Love Feast, an event held in the church dining hall. The food consists of homemade breads, seasonal fruit, nuts, and fruit juice. The new members have their own reserved table and are presented their baptismal certificates or transfer certificates, and are extended the right hand of fellowship by the church members in attendance. Our Nurturing Committee presents each with "love gifts" which include items such as spiritual books, and sunset calendars. The department also sees that individuals are placed in an area where they may wish to work within the church.

3. Within a short time thereafter, the new members are "enrolled" into the ***Welcome Wagon***. This department consists of a group of host families who extend invitations to the new members for Sabbath dinner and fellowship for 1 year. This is an excellent way to meet church members and to continue to feel like the church is their home.
4. We also hold Love Feast socials and picnics for all members. Food, fun, and games are great ways to participate in Christian entertainment and fellowship.
5. We continue to remember our new members through the Love Feast Program Connection, where our Committee keeps in phone contact.

We encourage all Board members to look for our pictorial poster located in the church lobby window which presents all new members for the quarter. Please seek these people out and greet them warmly.

The Love Feast is hosted by you, the board member, and alternating Sabbath School classes. We ask that your contribution be a food item, listed on a request form that is sent to you by the Love Feast Secretary each quarter.

We are happy to invite you to join us for the Love Feast, but ask that you *please* adhere to the RSVP due to the limited amount of space that we have in the church dining hall.

Please keep us in your prayers as the Lord continues to richly bless our efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Love Feast Chairperson

Love Feast Secretary

Enclosures

SAMPLE I-B

Epistle from the Love Feast Program” To the Congregation

The Lord has richly blessed our church family with many new members, but how many do you know?

The Love Feast Program can aid you in getting acquainted with our new members. This Program consists of a Love Feast, the Welcome Wagon, A Social Committee, and the Love Feast Program Connection. Each newly baptized member and transferred member is extended an invitation to participate.

You can become involved in helping our new members feel comfortable in their new church home and, at the same time, develop new friendships in Christ. If you wish to learn more about the Program, please read the attached sheet and let us know where you think you could best serve. Place a check mark to indicate your area of interest. A Program member will be at each exit of the church at the end of the service to receive your response.

The Love Feast is held once a quarter. Fruits in season, nuts, homemade breads, and juices are served. Volunteers are needed to supply these items and to supply special music for the program.

The Welcome Wagon Member invites the newly baptized and transferred members home for dinner or social gatherings.

The Love Feast Program Connection keeps in phone contact with new members.

The Social Committee plans Christian recreation and fellowship.

SAMPLE I-C

The Love Feast Program Volunteer Form

I am interested in working in the following capacity/capacities:

- Love Feast
- Welcome Wagon
- Love Feast Program Connection
- Social Committee



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Home Phone: _____

Chapter II

Getting Acquainted

GUIDELINES FOR LOVE FEAST PROGRAM CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson coordinates the following series of activities for the newly baptized and recently transferred members. They are welcomed into the church family, extended love, and hopefully made to feel accepted early during this delicate transition period:

1. Periodically, the *Love Feast Program* Chairperson (or a designated assistant) visits the Baptismal Class for the purpose of becoming acquainted with the new believers. During this visit, each member is given a Friendship Sheet to complete (*See sample sheets II-A and II-B at the end of chapter*).
2. Once baptized, the Chairperson and/or First Elder invite the new members to their homes for a *Get Acquainted Sabbath Dinner*. They are greeted by Love Feast Program members and enjoy good food and fellowship. After dinner, each member is asked to offer a personal testimony. This dinner helps to instill the family-like environment that the Program hopes to engender.
3. The members receive a formal invitation to their very own Love Feast which is usually held in the quarter immediately following their baptism (See sample II-C). This event is held in the church dining hall, where wholesome foods are served. The meal consists of homemade breads, seasonal fruits, nuts, and fruit juices. Each new member has a reserved table that is shared with family and friends. Baptismal certificates and/or transfer certificates are presented, and the right-hand of fellowship is extended by the pastor and other church members in attendance. The *Nurturing Committee* presents each with "love gifts".
4. Thereafter, the *Welcome Wagon Committee*, a group of host families, invites new members for Sabbath dinner and fellowship (*See Chapter III*). Each host family is asked to serve for 1 year.
5. Love Feast social activities (for example, food, fun and games or a picnic) are held by the *Social Committee* (*See Chapter IV*) at least two times during the year.
6. The *Love Feast Program Connection* (*See chapter IV*) keeps in phone contact with new members.

HISTORIAN

The historian for the Love Feast Program collects the data presented on the Friendship Sheets (*See Samples II-A and II-B*) and combines these data with the photos taken during the Program. This information is creatively placed into an album to be shared with the church family. At a glance you know the person's favorite song, scripture, hobbies, etc.

A photo is also taken of each new and transferred member and placed in such a spot as the lobby of the church for 4 to 6 weeks in order that the church family may become acquainted with names and faces.

THE LOVE FEAST

The Love Feast is one of the highlights of the Program and is meant to make new members feel very special. Newly baptized and/or recently transferred members, their families, and friends are invited to a special feast in their honor. Senior citizens and visitors may also be invited. The feast takes place after the Divine Worship Hour (*See sample invitation II-C at the end of the chapter*).

To involve as many members of the church family as possible, the Church Board and the Sabbath School classes are asked to supply the food served at the Love Feast. They are also invited to attend the Love Feast so that they can become acquainted with the new members.

Food Served

The Love Feast is served with wholesome simplicity in mind. A typical meal may consist of the following:

- a. Fruits--all kinds (including fruit juices)
- b. Grains--homemade breads (including whole wheat rolls, corn bread, banana nut bread, raisin bread)
- c. Nuts--pecans, walnuts, peanuts
- d. Spreads--peanut butter, margarine, cream cheese

The food--arranged on the main serving table for buffet style--gives an attractive and inviting appearance. It has been found that having youth hostesses and hosts serve fruit juice to the guests individually adds a nice personal effect.

Two weeks before the *Love Feast*, a designated assistant to the Chairperson visits the appointed Sabbath School class (more than one class may be used, depending upon the size, to accommodate the number of expected guests) and alerts them that their class has been selected to supply the provisions (*See Sample II-D*). The Church Board members are also reminded in writing by the Secretary, 2 weeks before the Love Feast (*See sample note II-E at the end of the chapter*).

One week before the Love Feast, the Sabbath School class is revisited, and each member is assigned, in writing, a particular food and instructions for depositing--time and place (*See "Dear Sabbath School Class Member" sample II-F at the end of the chapter*). In order to be ready to greet guests immediately after the Worship Service,

enough time must be allowed between the receipt of the food, its preparation, and for setting tables.

New members and their guests are escorted by hosts and hostesses to a table that has been especially reserved for them. The blessing is given shortly after the guests arrive. They are escorted to the serving table while their favorite hymns are being played (*their favorite hymns are taken from the youth and adult Friendship Sheets*).

Program

As the meal is being enjoyed, the program begins. During the program, each new member receives a baptismal certificate or a transfer certificate, is extended the right-hand of fellowship by the Pastor and other church members, and is provided special music for their listening pleasure. New members are asked to give a short personal testimony of how they were introduced to Adventism. Afterwards, the *Nurturing Committee* presents "love gifts" to each (*See Chapter IV, Nurturing*).

Throughout the entire activity, photographs are being taken and will be included in an album prepared by the Historian as a pictorial history and for future enjoyment. These pictures are also posted in a place where the entire church body can see them and begin to associate names and faces.

Prayer and singing, in a large circle, ends the activities for the day (*See sample program II-G at the end of the chapter*).

LOVE FEAST YOUTH HOSTESS/HOST GUIDELINES

The Hostess/Host Coordinator is responsible for contacting the hostesses/hosts and their parents to inform them of the upcoming *Love Feast* at least 2 weeks in advance and again the night before. The coordinator is also responsible for replacing and finding substitutes when necessary. Youth hostesses/hosts assist in table setting, serving senior guests, and assisting parents with small children.

All tables have a centerpiece (1 basket of fresh fruit) and cups filled with nuts/raisins and a spoon in each (*See sample II-H for place setting example*).

One serving table is prepared for senior citizens. The Seniors' table is a self-serve table with food already on it, so that guests are not required to get up, unless they choose to. This table will have trays of bread, nuts, spreads, etc. Hostesses/hosts are to be stationed at this table to assist as needed.

During the Love Feast program, the hostesses/hosts are to be stationed in various areas of the dining hall to serve our guests as needed. Once everyone has been served, they can refill drinks and ice, second helpings, etc.

Once closing prayer has been offered youth hostesses/hosts may distribute bags on each table so that guests may help themselves to any leftover food.

After the majority of guests have left the dining hall, the youth hostesses/hosts will help with the cleanup.

SAMPLE II-A

ALLEGHENY EAST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

LOVE FEAST

FRIENDSHIP SHEET (Adult)

Newly Baptized _____ Date _____

Transfer _____

Male _____ Female _____

Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____

Date of Baptism _____ Date of Transfer _____

Introduced to the church by _____

Marital status _____ Number of children: Girls _____ Boys _____

Hobbies

Favorite hymn or gospel song

Favorite Bible text

Would you like to have a spiritual partner assigned to you? Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in working in the church? Yes _____ No _____ Perhaps in the future _____

If yes, list your areas of interest:

1.

2.

Suggestions/Comments

SAMPLE II-B

ALLEGHENY EAST SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

LOVE FEAST

FRIENDSHIP SHEET (Youth)

Newly Baptized _____ Date _____

Transfer _____

Male _____ Female _____

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

Cell Phone:

Date of Birth

Date of Baptism

Date of Transfer

Introduced to the church by

Hobbies

Favorite hymn or gospel song

Favorite Bible text/Bible story

Which school do you attend?

What grade are you?

Do you attend Sabbath School?

Name of your S.S. teacher

Would you like to work in the church? Yes No Perhaps in the future

If yes, in what area?

1. Youth Choir?

2. Usher Board?

3. Other

How can the church help you?

Would you like to have a spiritual partner assigned to you? Yes No

SAMPLE II-C

*The Love Feast Committee Members
Cordially invite you to be their guest at
A Love Feast
Held in honor of
All recently baptized and transferred members
on _____
at (name of church)
(address of church)
immediately following the
Divine worship service
in the dining hall*

(pastor's name)

(first elder's name)

R.S.V.P.

(name and phone number of program chairperson)

SAMPLE II-D

The Love Feast Program

Dear Sabbath School Member:

Following each quarterly baptism, a Love Feast is held to formally welcome our new members into the church family.

Two weeks prior to the scheduled Love Feast, a representative from the Love Feast Program will visit your Sabbath School class and distribute food item requests. We ask that you bring your item to the kitchen on the specified day before Sabbath School.

The Love Feast Program cannot function without your heart and your hands. Your participation will help make the Love Feast a successful endeavor for the entire church family.

Thank you again for your loving participation.

Yours in Christian service,

The Love Feast Program

SAMPLE II-E

Dear Board Member:

Please bring the following item(s) to the church dining hall before or immediately following Sabbath School on _____, _____, 20____.

Item(s):

Thank you,

The Love Feast Program

SAMPLE II-F

Dear Sabbath School Class Member:

Please bring the item checked below to the church kitchen before the Sabbath School lesson study period on _____.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 lbs. red grapes | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 lbs. green grapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 lbs. purple grapes | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 golden delicious apples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 red delicious apples | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 kiwi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 honeydew melons | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cantaloupes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 bags mixed dried fruit (8 oz.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 peaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 oranges | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 nectarines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 plums | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 large watermelon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pints strawberries | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 doz. Bananas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cream cheese (8 oz.) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 lb. margarine |
| <input type="checkbox"/> #10 can tropical fruit | <input type="checkbox"/> #10 can fruit cocktail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 loaves bread or 2 doz. homemade rolls | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 lb. nuts (almonds, pecans, walnuts, peanuts) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 peeled & cored pineapple (or 3 cans pineapple chunks) | |

Thank you,

The Love Feast Program

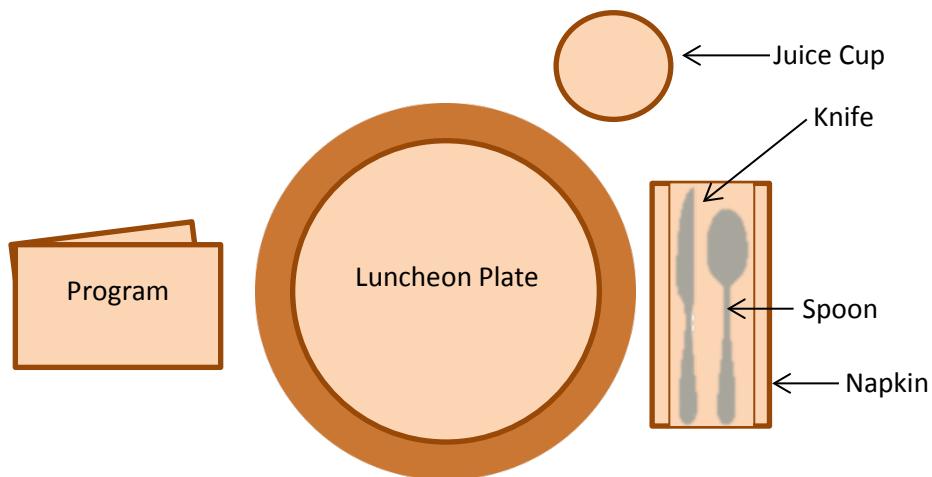
SAMPLE II-G

Love Feast

SIDE BY SIDE	PROGRAM
<p><i>1st verse</i></p> <p>Side by side we stand; awaiting God's command, Worshipping the saving King. Living by His grace and moving out in faith, Jesus Himself will see us through.</p> <p><i>Chorus</i></p> <p>Meet me in heaven we'll join hands together. Meet me at the Savior's side. Meet me in heaven we'll sing songs together. Brothers and sisters I'll be there.</p>	<p>Opening Prayer and Blessing</p> <p>Musical Interlude</p> <p>"Love Feast"</p> <p>Introduction of New Members</p>
<p><i>2nd verse</i></p> <p>Soldiers all are we to go where Jesus leads. To fight the foe and we shall overcome. Heaven is our goal to save every soul. Pray that we all will be there. I will...</p> <p><i>Chorus</i></p> <p>Meet you in heaven we'll join hands together. Meet you at the Savior's side. Meet you in heaven we'll sing songs together. Brothers and sisters I'll be there.</p>	<p>Presentation of Certificates (photo session)</p> <p>Right Hand of Fellowship</p> <p>Musical Selection</p> <p>Pastoral Remarks</p> <p>Musical Selection</p> <p>Closing Prayer</p>
<p>...Pray that we all will be there.</p>	<p>Theme Song "Side by Side"</p>

SAMPLE II-H

SAMPLE PLACE SETTING:



Items provided for Hostesses/Hosts use:

Ice bucket

Pitchers for drink

Brown paper bags

Other _____

Chapter III

The Welcome Wagon

GUIDELINES FOR WELCOME WAGON COORDINATOR

The position of Welcome Wagon Coordinator is very important. The coordinator oversees the dinner invitations and coordinates a group meeting for the host families.

Some new members may elect not to accept a position in the church immediately, but they will, for the most part, accept a dinner invitation. Dinner invitations extended to new members let them know that they are welcomed and that LOVE does abide in their church home.

The purpose of the invitation is to make new or transferred persons feel that someone does care and to make sure that Sabbath is not a lonely day for new members, but one that is filled with fellowship.

The purpose of the group meeting is to discuss problems, to share testimonies, and to get committee members to commit to a particular date so that a schedule will be available. The commitment also helps to ensure that each new member receives at least one invitation.

A report must be presented at the Love Feast Program Meeting, which is usually held once a quarter, depending upon baptisms.

Hospitality is a blessed talent, and your services are very much appreciated. The Lord is happy that you are ministering in this manner.

SABBATH DINNERS

Members of the Welcome Wagon are requested to periodically invite new members to dine with them on Sabbath. A roster is maintained by the Welcome Wagon Chairperson to ensure that each new member has been invited to dinner and to provide the proper rotation of host homes (*see Welcome Wagon Samples III-A, III-B, and III-C*).

SABBATH DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

The Pastor has a busy schedule which does not always allow him to get to know each new member on an individual basis. Therefore, one host family is selected to invite new members, chosen by the chairperson, to get acquainted with the Pastor and his wife. This is a time when those very special questions can be asked in an informal, yet

controlled setting. Because of the nature of this dinner, a home without small children (where interruptions might occur) is preferred.

REMEMBER HEBREWS 13:2

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained ANGELS unawares."

PROCEDURES FOR THE WELCOME WAGON COMMITTEE

Following are the procedures and methods of the Committee:

- ~ Committee will meet as necessary.
- ~ List of new members will be provided quarterly to committee members.
- ~ Methods of hosting will be left to individual members of the committee.
- ~ Names of persons who are hosted are to be given to the Welcome Wagon Committee Chairperson.
- ~ Time span of 6 months will be used to complete the circulation of each current list of new members.
- ~ Courtesies are to be extended to the nonmember spouse. For example, when calling to extend an invitation, identify yourself and your mission.

SAMPLE III-A

LOVE FEAST/WELCOME WAGON

The following Persons have been Welcomed into the Church by – Welcome Wagon # _____

New Members	Dinner with Family/Date	Birth Date	Baptismal Date	Number to Expect	Introduced to Church by* Transportation Needed
				Adults _____ Girls _____ Boys _____	* _____ Transportation Yes _____ No _____
				Adults _____ Girls _____ Boys _____	* _____ Transportation Yes _____ No _____
				Adults _____ Girls _____ Boys _____	* _____ Transportation Yes _____ No _____
				Adults _____ Girls _____ Boys _____	* _____ Transportation Yes _____ No _____

SAMPLE III-B

Date _____

Maximum number of invitations extended 8

Minimum number of invitations extended

Transfer members invited 1

Welcome Wagon Friends

Guests

Coordinator	Ann and John James Barbara Robb John Jones
Susan and Robert Black	Mary and Joseph Adams John Jones Shirley Smith Ann and John James Cathy and William Brown
Amy and James Greene	Katherine Brown
Mary and Marvin Jones	Robert Thomas
Dorothy and Harry Smith	George Bell Invited but unable to come Cathy and William Brown Card sent to Addie Carter

SAMPLE III-C

COORDINATOR/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WELCOME WAGON FRIENDS

Name	Phone Number	Comments
Susan and Robert Black	301-555-1212	
Jane and John Brown	301-555-1213	
Amy and James Greene	202-555-0000	
Mary and Marvin Jones	202-555-1216	
Dorothy and Harry Smith	202-555-0101	

Chapter IV

Nurturing

THE NURTURING COMMITTEE

The Nurturing Committee is a very special part of the Love Feast Program. Its members have the closest, most frequent contact with the new members. The Committee prepares a love package that is presented at the Love Feast. This package may consist of the following:

- Welcome Letter
- Church Directory
- Church Support Team List
- Books:
 - *The Saturday-Sunday Shuffle*
 - *Bible Answers*
 - *Steps to Christ*
 - *Let's Get Acquainted -- Your Friends the Adventists*
 - *Wild and Tame Animals of Bible Times (children only)*
- Sunset Calendar
- Church Manual (can be given later)
- Pathfinder Brochure
- Any other publications felt to be helpful

REMEMBERING SPECIAL DAYS

To make the new person feel remembered and special during his/her first year in the congregations, the Nurturing Committee sends a birthday card from the Love Feast Program.

WORKING IN THE CHURCH

Upon entering a new church, it is important that members--transferred or newly baptized--be placed in areas in which they feel comfortable when ready to work (*see Friendship Sheet(s) II-A and II-B, which lists talents and areas of interests*). Accepting responsibility in the church helps them to feel a part of the family.

TOURS OF CHURCH/SCHOOL FACILITIES.

Tours are available to all new members. Knowing where various facilities in the church and school are located makes for a comfortable transition.

Places to tour include:

- Pastor's Study
- Church Secretary's Office
- Sabbath School Rooms
- Mothers' Room
- Dining Area
- Restroom Facilities
- School Buildings and Facilities

SOCIAL GATHERINGS

The Love Feast Program has a Social Committee which holds social gatherings during the year. The Committee plans Christian recreation and fellowship. It is suggested that this Committee include at least two newly baptized members, as their input has proven to be most helpful in the Committee's planning. It is also suggested that the Pastor, Assistant Pastor, First Elder, Minister of Biblical Instruction, and their families be invited to the socials to give the new believers an opportunity to interact with the Pastoral staff in a relaxed setting.

LOVE FEAST PROGRAM CONNECTION

The Love Feast Program Connection keeps in phone contact with new members. These calls are intended to provide fellowship--and are not intended for biblical instruction--which should be left to the Bible instructor or pastor.

SAMPLE IV-A

***YOU ARE INVITED
TO
THE LOVE FEAST
SOCIAL COMMITTEE'S***

***Second Annual Spring
Potluck Social***



***ON:
Saturday, April 10, 1993
8:00 – 11:00 pm***

***AT:
<name of your church>***

***Please bring: _____
For 10-15 people. Please call <contact person 1> at 123-456-7890
or <contact person 2> at 123-456-7890 if you cannot attend.***

***THE COLORS ARE GREEN & WHITE!
FUN! CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP! Y'ALL COME!***

SAMPLE IV-B

TO: THE LOVE FEAST SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dottie Alonzo

Michelle Gwen

Joseph Karen

Carey Patrina

Sharon Carl

Bonita

FROM: <name of social committee leader's name>

SUBJECT: Social Committee Report

From all accounts, our Spring Social was well received. Due to the rainy weather (and possibly Oakwood Alumni Weekend), the number of attendees was less than we expected. However, we had more than enough food and the group seemed to enjoy themselves. The social was held on Saturday evening, April 10th, in the church dining hall from 8:00 pm to approximately 10:00 pm.

The colors for the social were green and white. The menu was vegetarian chili dogs, potato salad, fruit salad, cookies, chips, and drink.

The committee member assignments were as follows:

Committee Member's Name	Assignment
	Fruit Cocktail
	Vegetarian Sloppy Joe
	Potato chips & Peanuts
	Potato Salad
	Cookies
	Punch/Ginger ale
	Hamburger buns and Pickle Chips

Carol Dennis led out in the games. We played *Dictionary*, *Uno*, and other fun games.

Our fall social is usually scheduled for October. If so, there will be a meeting before the end of August or the first of September to plan for that social.

Thank you for your help, comments, and suggestions.