

## **Working with Member Families Who are Absent from Church with the Exception of Christmas and Easter**

**Convener:** Rev. Daniel Ramsey, Zion/Chanute, 620-431-3317

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### **Group Participants:**

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Rick Schaaf	Immanuel, Hepler	620-756-4480
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Leroy and Jan Heisterberg	Hope, Shawnee	913-631-3402
Lola Schmidt	Trinity, Atchison	913-367-3749

### **Why is This Important to Us?**

People loved by God; but they have no relationship with God. Where will they spend eternity? Eternal souls are at risk: their relationship with Christ.

### **Assets on Which to Build**

- ◆ Hooks in kids through activities involving parents – pizza parties, trips.
- ◆ Form relationships with absent families.
- ◆ Train lay people to be more involved.
- ◆ Outgoing individuals to be involved with absent families.
- ◆ Use time/talent sheets.
- ◆ Try to plug into church activities.
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Elders
- ◆ Activities or programs
- ◆ Logos program
- ◆ Encourage one another

**Other Discussion of Significance**

- ◆ Need physical contact with absent members (visits, letters, calls).
- ◆ Energize – think outside the box.

**Recommendations**

- ◆ Find out why members aren't coming. Perhaps pastor or elder (confidentiality).
- ◆ Lay members can contact to just say the individual is missed, and ask if everything is alright with the member and family.
- ◆ Build a relationship one-on-one.
- ◆ Find out interests and skills to get them back and involved (ownership).
- ◆ How do you convey importance of church membership?
- ◆ Involve in small group activities – bible study, fellowship.
- ◆ Tables of eight – three couples (salad, entrée, dessert) fourth couple absent members (absent member, invited by host family).