

# INTERACTING WITH FAMILY, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF STUDENTS

## INTRODUCTION

### FIFTY PRACTICAL POINTERS

1. Remember, students require permission to study a course.
2. Remember that you are their servant, and a co-laborer in training the student.
3. Remember that your student may lack experience, training and spiritual maturity.
4. Remember the pastor is responsible for his flock and their spiritual training and growth.
5. Remember that it is difficult for these acquaintances to be objective.
6. Remember that ladies, especially, over – react to real or imagined offenses.
7. Remember that some of these people may be upset as a direct result of their own frustrations.
8. Remember that prevention of problems with acquaintances is better than any cure.
9. Remember, most questions and upsets can be avoided by orientation and loving communication with the student's family and acquaintances.
10. Remember, every permanent solution will probably come as a result of good cooperation between home, church and the training leader in the Province.
11. Remember that for every acquaintance that voices a question or a problem, there are probably others who have the same feelings, but do not want to speak. So meeting that need, helping that one person, often means you are helping many others.
12. Remember that a pastor or relative who calls to your attention an offense/problem, is doing the right thing and is to be commended.
13. Remember that every misunderstanding or problem is a good opportunity to build a deeper relationship with that student's home, with his wife or with his other friends.
14. Remember to discuss problems when they are still small, and not yet critical.
15. Remember to keep your composure, regardless of their anger or their emotions.
16. Remember that the Lord has the key to any problem.
17. Remember the power of prayer, before, during and after a confrontation with people.
18. Remember to use the Word of God to guide, help, comfort, heal and instruct.
19. Remember that some pastors, wives and mothers are especially defensive about a student who is doing poorly.
20. Remember to focus the pastor's attention on the fact that you are a team with him.
21. Remember to assure the acquaintances of your students, of your love for him and for them.
22. Remember to assure or encourage the church leaders and his relatives that God has an answer for this particular problem, even though, right now, nobody knows it.
23. Remember to 'hear the relative out'.
24. Remember to listen actively not passively.
25. Remember to leave some statements and some assertions unchallenged.
26. Remember that you can prove that you are right and still lose that student and his family.
27. Remember that you or your team could have been wrong, failed, or shown poor judgment.
28. Remember to admit your error or shortcomings.

29. Remember to ask the students' acquaintances for their prayer.
30. Remember to end the confrontation lovingly, and in prayer.
31. Remember to leave any situation open for future healing, no matter how ugly it was.
32. Remember to think as the student's acquaintances would.
33. Remember to build confidence in the relatives and friends of the Training ministry.
34. Remember to support any of your team members as much as possible and bring them together to talk if there is question about their actions.
35. Remember to look for the 'root' problem.
36. Remember to come to some conclusions, and end with some course of action that gives hope and purpose.
37. Remember to involve the relatives in some purposeful project to help the group or the training ministry.
38. Remember to re-enforce your love within a week after any problems.
39. Remember to keep confidences confidential.
40. Remember to protect your wife's and your children's attitude towards the relatives of students who may be upset with you.
41. Remember that when you allow wives or close relatives to be negligent in their responsibilities, they may become critical of the training ministry as a guilt reaction.
42. Remember the importance of sharing early in order to prevent attitude or action problems.
43. Remember to use hard copy (paper) for noting serious problems.
44. Remember to help students with transfer problems to other institutes.
45. Remember to try in every way to keep the student through the rest of the lessons.
46. Remember the student should be present only during certain counseling sessions when it is appropriate.
47. Remember to avoid generalizations with pastors.
48. Remember to emphasize to the student in class and also at home, that the training leaders and pastor/elders are agreed and working together.
49. Remember to train pastor/elders to communicate with the course coach, regarding results, problems, etc.
50. Remember to make every student conference or confrontation, a learning experience for yourself.