

# When Do We Drop Someone from the Roll?

**1. Change the name of your class list from "Class Roll" to "Class Ministry List."** This is *subtle*, but the idea is that it changes the primary responsibility. "**Roll**" indicates that the people, once enrolled, are committing themselves to attendance. "**Ministry List**", on the other hand, indicates that we, the group, are committing ourselves to ministering to them once they've agreed to be placed on our list.

**2. Now, what does it take to get on the Ministry List?** Just saying yes! Here's my stock phrase when I'm enlisting someone: *"Joining in our class - agreeing to let us put your name on our Ministry List - does not make you a member of the church nor obligate you to become one. It simply gives us the privilege of staying in touch with you so we can pray for you and minister to you."* The obligation is on *us*, not *them*.

**3. Before you remove someone from the Ministry List, ask this question: What's the worst thing that could happen to this person if we remove them?** If the answer is: *"They might join another church, or maybe not ever go to church again, but we're pretty sure that when they die they'll go to heaven"*, then maybe, just MAYBE, you might consider removing their name from your ministry list. **However**, if the answer is, *"We don't know if anyone would ever pray for them again, ever contact them again, ever be available to minister to them again, and when they die, we're not at all sure they would go to heaven,"* then how about leaving them **on** the Ministry List? *What's the harm?* Are we somehow limited in the number of people for whom we can pray? Is GOD limited?

**4. So, when would you drop someone from the Ministry List?** (a) When they have moved too far away from the church for us to minister to them. If we call this a class roll, my answer to this question would be, *"If they moved too far away to attend."* But, remember, it's a **ministry** list! When has someone moved so far away that we can no longer pray for them? (b) If they *demand* to be removed, and we've been unsuccessful in talking them out of it! Principle: Don't take people off the roll unless they demand it and you are unsuccessful in getting them to agree to allow your group to continue to pray for them.



**5. What do you say to someone who asks to be taken off the Ministry List?** Try to communicate that you care for them and would like to be able to remain in touch with them and continue to pray for them *regardless* of whether or not they choose to attend. You'd like to be available to respond to them in the event of a crisis in their family, and staying in touch via prayer will allow you to do so. Most people are only *"testing the water"* when they ask you to take them off the list. They may be checking to see if you really care.

What's the bottom line? It is remembering that when we ask someone to enroll in Sunday School, **we** are ***making a commitment to them*** more than asking them to make a commitment to us.

Who on your ministry list needs to be the recipient of your prayer or care this week?

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