March 23, 2020

Dear First Baptist Grapevine Family,

*And if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will become like the midday. And the Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones, and you will be like a water garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.*

Isaiah 58:10-11

Every time we gather in our worship center, we are the church GATHERED. When we say “Amen” at the end of the worship service and make our way out of our church building, we are the church SCATTERED. We are still the church when we are scattered. Think of this as one of God’s strategies for how He chooses to make His good news known to the world. It is how each of us can be a “spring of water whose waters do not fail.”

Thank you for taking the time to read this and being ready to respond. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to email or call.

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**LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR**

Picture a google map of our part of the north central DFW area with a red dot at each address for every FBCG member and attender. That is a picture of our church’s reach and where Jesus has sent us on mission during this time. I believe this is where we can have the greatest impact for God’s kingdom both now and after this crisis. I encourage you to be extremely creative and attentive to existing and new relationships. Be available to meet small and large needs that some of your more vulnerable neighbors might have. And always, be ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you.

Here are a few ideas to start with:

1. Write encouraging cards for each home on your street. Tell a little about yourself being honest about your fears and hopes for this difficult time. Give your contact information if they would like to contact you personally. Mail them or simply leave the card at their front door. See what happens!
2. Knock on the door and back up 10 feet. Let the reason for your visit be that you needed to see a friendly face.
3. If you haven’t already, use the “Nextdoor” app or website - <https://nextdoor.com>. This is a great way to keep your thumb on the pulse of your neighborhood including what needs your neighbors might have.
4. Be ready to share your supplies if anyone is short. They will probably share with you too if you are short on something. When you go to the store, contact the neighbors that you know to see if you can pick something up for them.
5. When you encounter a neighbor outside, don’t just wave. Stop them and talk. See how they are doing. If possible, exchange contact info for future communication.
6. Focus on any shut-ins or sick people. These folks may be a little more reluctant to venture out for supplies.

**GRACE GRAPEVINE**

Many of our Grapevine citizens are in the service and hospitality industries and many of them have already lost their job or have seen their hours drastically reduced. GRACE is giving out pre-prepared “Emergency Boxes” to those who need basic groceries. They are asking for financial and grocery donations.

Before you go shopping or clean out your pantry, please check out the links below. The list is very specific. There are drop off instructions on that list as well. *Also, in order to limit traveling around the city, please don’t make a special trip to the grocery store. Pick up items when you are doing your personal shopping. Sign up for the GRACE newsletter to know on going needs.*

List of Needs and Drop off Instructions

<https://gracegrapevine.wordpress.com/2020/03/15/food-pantry-emergency-box-needs/>

Donate Money- <https://www.gracegrapevine.org/donate_now.aspx>

Video from CEO GRACE - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_MFTazC2_As&feature=youtu.be>

**HUMAN COALITION**

4000 Steps, Human Coalition’s education and fundraising event on March 28th has been canceled. However, they rely on the fundraising from this event to be able to continue their important mission. Please read the letter from their President, Brian Fisher. If you would like to donate financially, click on the link below.

Letter from the President of Human Coalition - <https://www.humancoalition.org/2020/03/19/our-fight-continues-and-we-press-on/>

Donate - [https://www.humancoalition.org](https://www.humancoalition.org/)