

OUTREACH TEMPERATURE CARD

Name:

Date:

FRANC: People in my spheres of influence for whom I will pray regularly|

Friends:

Relatives:

Acquaintances:

Neighbors:

Coworkers:

My current outreach temperature:



BLESS	ACTIONS TO RAISE MY OUTREACH TEMPERATURE ONE DEGREE	DEADLINE
<i>Begin with prayer.</i>	•	
<i>Listen with care.</i>	•	
<i>Eat together.</i>	•	
<i>Serve in love.</i>	•	
<i>Share your story.</i>	•	

35 ways to love your neighbors right now

by [Michael Frost](#) | Apr 16, 2020 | [Mission](#) | [7 comments](#)



We're socially isolated. We can't gather in groups. We're working from home. We can't even go to church.

How are Christians meant to express their faith in these strange days of COVID-19?

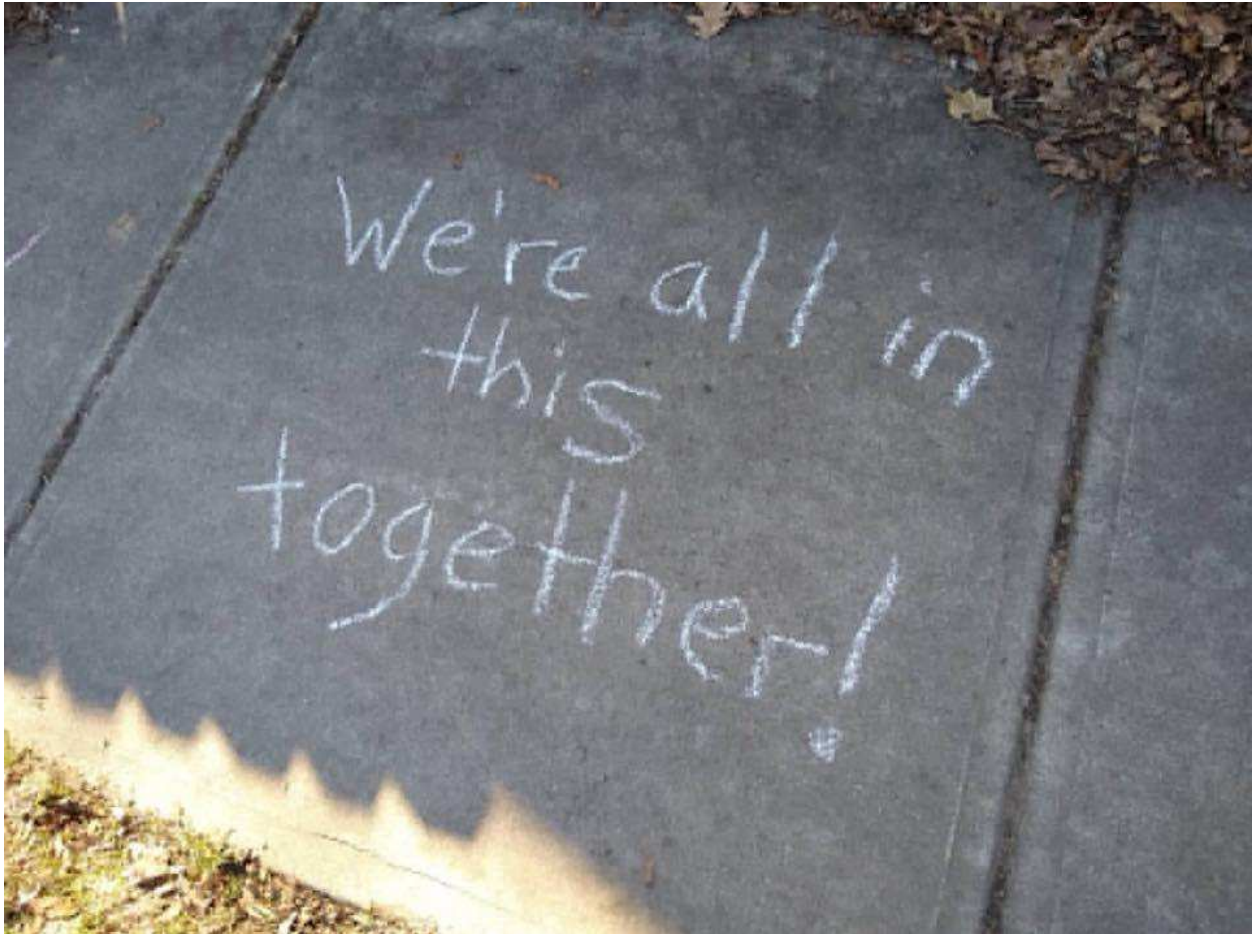
It's tough, I agree, but there are plenty of ways to love your neighbors, even during lockdown. Here's 35 simple ways to love your neighbor as yourself, even at a distance.

PRAY

1. Do a regular prayer walk in your neighborhood, praying for each household.
2. Pray in general for those infected, those at risk, and for decision makers.
3. Offer to pray for your neighbors.
4. Host a front yard prayer meeting (appropriately distanced, of course).

ENCOURAGE PEOPLE

5. Chalk messages on the sidewalk at night so it surprises people in the morning.



6. Set up a chalkboard in front of your house and write messages for passersby.
7. Talk to your neighbors as you walk (keeping your required distance, of course).
8. Join or launch a front window bear hunt for the local kids.
9. Begin podcasting or blogging to share your thoughts and encourage others.
10. Leave a note for your local postman.



GIVE TO OTHERS

11. Launch a street Facebook or WhatsApp page to share needs, ideas, and encouragement.

12. Deliver gifts (hampers, toilet paper bouquets, cookies) to your neighbors' doorsteps.



13. Rally people at your local supermarket to buy extra groceries for hampers for those in need.

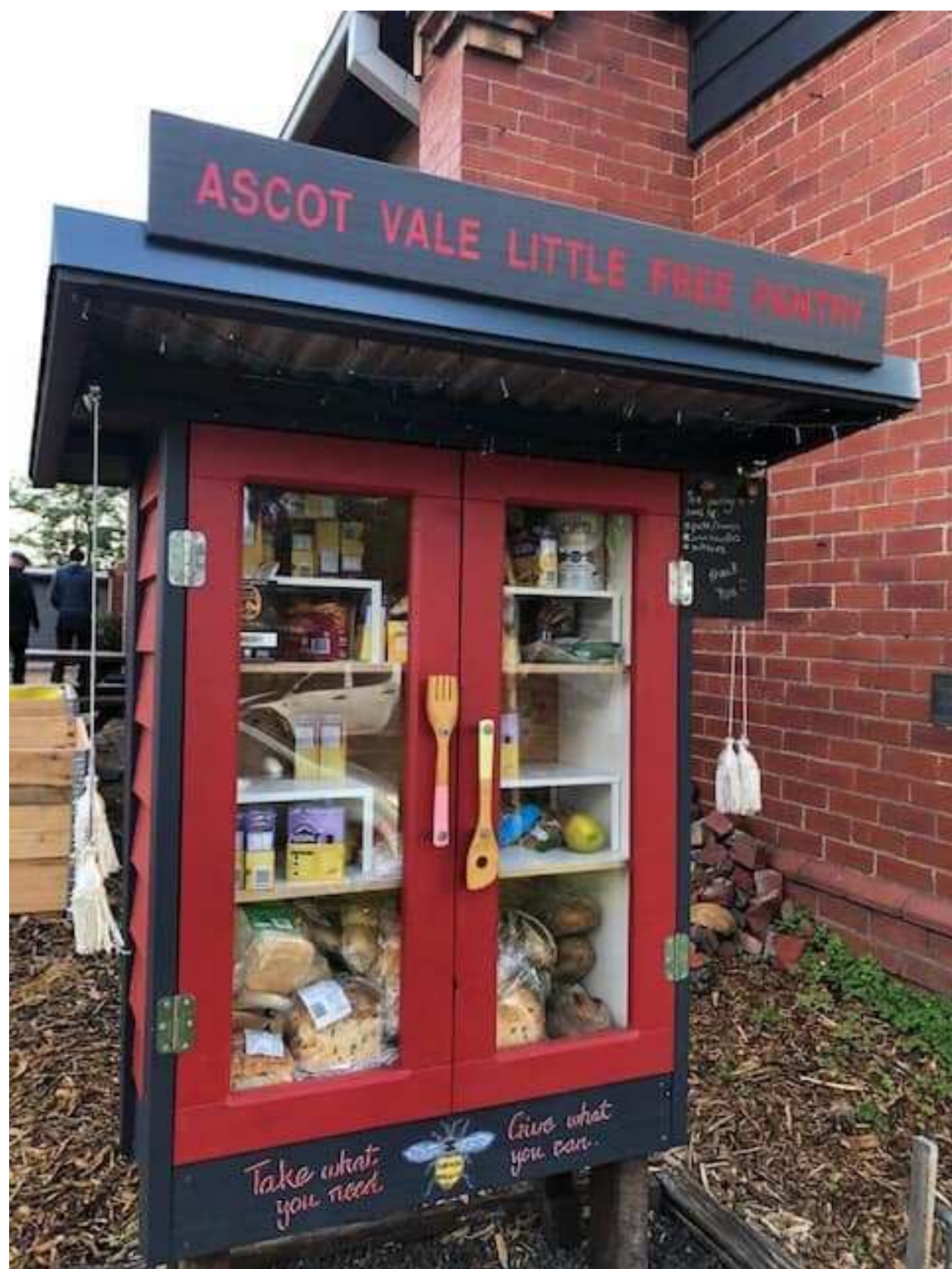
14. Offer one of your spare rooms to a backpacker or asylum seeker for free or cheap board.

15. Ask people to donate laptops and tablets for families who are homeschooling and don't have access to technology.

16. If you live in an apartment, lower a basket by rope filled with comfort items for the homeless



17. Raise funds for a cause using an online donations platform
18. Try to form a coalition of pastors, business leaders, community leaders, and others to help meet the needs of families and those in financial difficulty
19. Set up a little pantry outside your home and fill it with toilet paper and non-perishables
20. Set up a community street pantry that everyone can donate to.



SERVE OTHERS

21. Drop notes in your neighbors' letterboxes offering practical help.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

☐ Picking up shopping ☐ Posting mail

☐ A friendly phone call ☐ Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness

22. Offer to do the shopping (including the pharmacy) for your elderly neighbors.

23. Add a 'love your neighbor' page on your church website where neighbors can offer help and seek help

24. Intentionally support small local businesses.

25. Volunteer at a local non-profit or charity.

26. Clean up trash from the streets and parks.

27. Write letters to politicians to release asylum seekers who are now at higher risk of getting sick.

SOCIALIZE

28. Make a list of all the people you've wanted to catch up with and haven't, and then call or message them to check in on how they're doing.

29. If you're musical, hold a balcony concert, or a sidewalk or driveway concert.



30. Hold a “Dinner on the Driveway” night for everyone in your street.
31. Host a virtual dinner party using Zoom.
32. Project a film onto the side of a building for your neighbors to watch from their front yards.



33. For apartment dwellers, launch a balcony choir or exercise class.

34. Host an online trivia quiz.

35. Most of all, wash your hands regularly and thoroughly, practice social distancing, and if you have symptoms of fever or infection stay home and seek medical advice.

This is Probably the Most Spiritually Receptive Period in Our Lifetime—Will You Share?

We are in a season to share Christ like few we will ever experience.

ED STETZER



Image: Photo by Joshua Rawson Harris on Unsplash

In the early days of the crisis of the Revolutionary War, Thomas Paine wrote a series of pamphlets entitled *The American Crisis*. He opened the series with these now-famous words: “These are the times that try men’s souls.” War has a way of doing that.

And, so do pandemics.

The global crisis we currently face has disrupted lives in dramatic and often horrific ways. [Over ten million Americans applied for unemployment in March](#). We see the strain on healthcare workers. Every cough makes us worry about the virus; many of us now know someone who has been touched by it. Wealthy and poor, politician and shift worker, famous actor and homeless person, the virus is relentless in its spread.

Disasters do something more than disrupt the normal flow of life, however. They actually have a way of making people more receptive to change or innovation. Pastors are suddenly far more receptive to online streaming of their services. Small groups are receptive to video chat meetings. Parents are more receptive to some version of home schooling.

An Urgency to Gospel Sharing This Week

Times like these do try our souls. They also call believers to share Christ with urgency. One of the effects of this moment is that unchurched people are more receptive to the gospel. Let me give you some

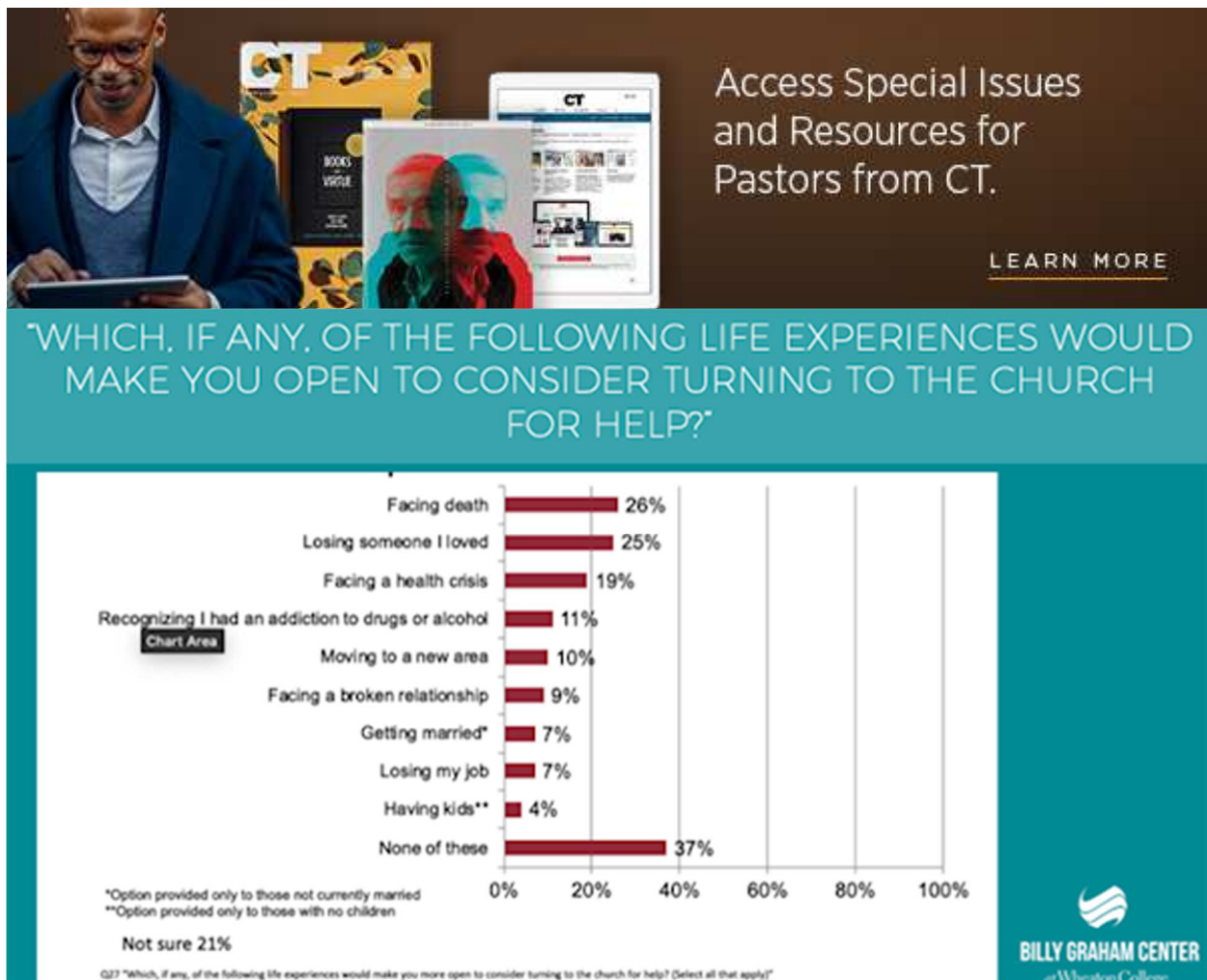
research on this and then offer some practical helps for this critical time for our witness. (I shared these on a [Facebook live yesterday](#) as well.)

A LifeWay Research study discovered that the top four circumstances (drawn from a larger list) when people are more open to spiritual conversations.

- After a natural disaster – 34 percent
- After a major national crisis – 38 percent
- During Easter season – 38 percent
- During Christmas season – 47 percent

As you can see, at this moment we are experiencing three of the top four reasons THIS VERY WEEK. And, this probably will be the most spiritually open time you will see in your lifetime.

Also, in my colleague Rick Richardson's book *You Found Me*, research indicates the top three reasons given by unchurched people to turn to the church for help are where we are just now: Facing death, losing someone I love, or facing a health crisis:



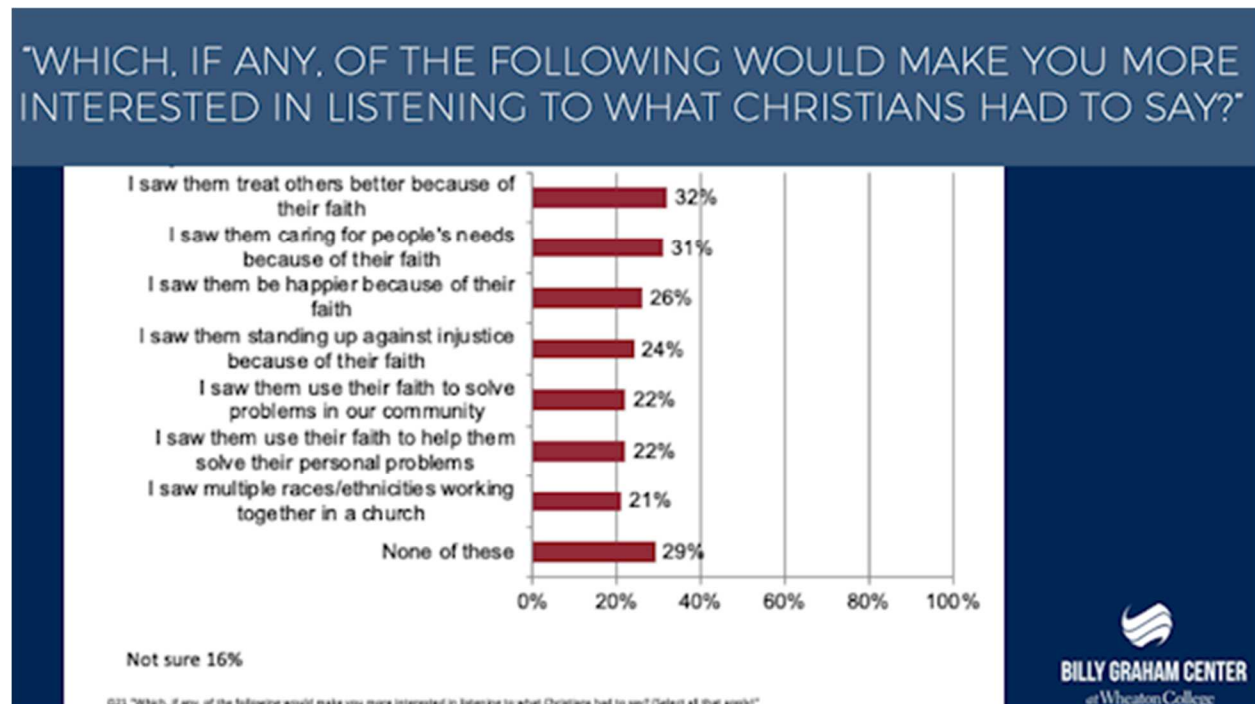
We literally face an unprecedented moment in our lifetime to lovingly and graciously share Christ verbally with others. This research also shows the importance of showing the implications of the gospel as we share it.

We Need to SHOW and Share

I've written much in the last few weeks about Christians serving others in the crisis. In my [USAToday article from last week](#), I explained:

The Christian church is called to sacrificially care for the vulnerable because, as scripture reminds us, Christ first loved us and died for us that we might be forgiven and reconciled to God. We love others because we understand just how much God has done for us and how he then calls us to live in light of that love. That is what Christians were known for centuries ago — caring for others. That's not always been the case, but it has often been. Yet, today, my evangelical brothers and sisters and I have been known for being more about ourselves than our neighbors.

Notice the next chart which shows a strong correlation between how we live our faith and the receptivity of the unchurched to our witness:



You can see what the research shows. We are in a season to share Christ like few we will ever experience.

This is the time where our focus should be on sharing Christ boldly and winsomely.

This is probably the most receptive moment in your lifetime. Will you take the time to share Christ during this time?

What We Can Do Right Now

Here are ten ideas for you to share the gospel boldly and clearly.

1. Pray over your neighborhood, take walks, and seek to share Christ specifically with a neighbor this week (socially distanced, of course).
2. Do a Facebook Live or Instagram video, sharing how what Christ did for us transcends the pandemic we currently face.
3. Type up your testimony (using this [form](#) if you need it). Post it on your social media feeds.
4. Send an email to everyone in your address book with your testimony.
5. Call your neighbors, family members, friends, or anyone else you know who aren't believers and ask them how you can pray for them. If the opportunity presents itself, share Christ.
6. Post gospel-rich Scriptures everywhere on Good Friday. Canvass your influence with verses like Romans 5:6-8; 10:9-13; John 14:6.
7. If you are a pastor, preach the gospel. That should go without saying but I won't assume anything these days. Preach the cross, call sinners to repent, compel people to respond to the grace of God. And, give a clear call to respond to the gospel.
8. Look for opportunities to show compassion to anyone you encounter whether in person, by phone, or via the Internet. Remember, people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care.
9. Pray this simple prayer each day this season: "God, give me the boldness to proclaim the gospel like I've never had before. Give me an opportunity to share Christ with someone."
10. Reach out to any senior adults you know. Ask them how they are doing spiritually and offer to pray for them. Share your testimony with them.

Of course, build relationships for future gospel opportunities. However, be sure to invite people for online services as well.

Ongoing Witness

You may get to know neighbors or others that you didn't know before the pandemic. This may open up times to share Christ in the days after this crisis ends. As always, display a humble, genuine confidence in the Lord. Don't be holier-than-thou, admit your anxieties, but be quick to testify that God is greater than our current crisis.

We, as a nation have lost much, in these days. The world may not understand it, and may even try to caricature us for sharing our faith in a difficult time.

However, our deeds of service, combined with our words of witness, during a time of great openness can impact many lives this week— and in the weeks to come.

May we as the church bear witness to the One who came to seek and save that which was lost.

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