

## **Mission at our Doorstep**

some small things that families can do together to make a big change

### **Service Providers**

1. Bus drivers. Put together some type of care package for the bus drivers of your school. Or maybe you use public transportation. And you're consistently on the 7:05 am bus every day. Let them know how much you appreciate the important but many times thankless job they do.

Also, a game changer, is to ask them if they'd mind if you prayed for them. Let them know you will be praying for them as they drive the bus each day.

2. Sanitation workers. Leave cold drinks and a note of thanks to the men and women who pick up your garbage or recyclables. Involve your kids in the delivery of said summer refreshments. By the same token—around Christmas time, hot chocolate or a mule of coffee and some cups as they pull up curbside, which in my neighborhood is like 6 something in the morning.

3. Mail carriers. Leave a bag of homemade goodies for your mail carrier with a note of thanks.

### **Senior Adults**

1. Grocery shopping. Grocery shop for an elderly person who cannot drive to the store.

2. Adopt-a-grandparent. Go to an area nursing home and ask the director what resident would be a good one for your family to adopt. Consider choosing a resident who rarely has visitors. Spend time with this person monthly and remember this person on special days such as birthdays, Christmas, etc. Offer to take them to church on a regular basis or for special services.

3. Tape a program. Audio or videotape a special program for homebound persons in your community and take it to them. The program might be a special service at your church or it might be one your family creates.

4. Family work day. Lead your family to have a work day for an elderly person in your neighborhood who may need help with yard work or other chores. Shovel their walk, mow their lawn. Weed their garden (okay—make sure about the poison ivy first).

5. Bring outdoor beauty. Plant flowers in the yard of an elderly neighbor or build a birdhouse to hang outside their window.

6. Reading club. Start a reading club. Host a Lake Wobegone Ladies group (intergenerational).

7. Write to your parents or grandparents. Send a family picture and write just to tell them that you love them. Adopt a grandparent.

### **Single Parent Families**

1. Parent's night out. Provide childcare to a single parent in your neighborhood. Start a once-a-month parent's night out.

2. Singles ministry. Begin a Bible study on Saturday afternoons for singles in your neighborhood or apartment complex.

### **Victims of tragedy/crisis**

1. Provide comfort and hope. Read the local newspaper to discover people who have had a tragic loss due to fire, flooding, death, etc. Determine with your family ways that you can provide comfort and hope as you minister to these people.
2. Help the homeless. Volunteer one day at a homeless shelter, managing a clothes closet, serving meals, or just offering conversation.
3. Cook for the hungry. Check out the feeding locations in your city or town to see if you can help buy supplies, prepare meals, or do cleanup.
4. Food distribution. Volunteer to assist with Meals on Wheels in your community.
5. Grocery shopping. When you shop for groceries, buy at least one extra nonperishable food item per family member. Then, at the end of the month, take your donations to your church food closet or a local food pantry. Involve your kids!
6. Build houses. We have 3 Habitat for Humanity Houses in our neighborhood.

### **New Neighbors: Out-do Welcome Wagon and then some!**

1. New students. Find out from your school names of all the new students in the area. Make a home visit and offer to meet them on the first day of school. Escort them and show them around, introduce them to teachers and other students.
2. Family cookout. Invite a new family in your neighborhood to a family cookout. Then ask them to come to church with you.
3. International neighbors. Invite a family from another country who lives in your neighborhood to a meal or family outing. See if they need anything to help them get settled in the United States. Invite them to attend church with you.

### **Other**

1. Prayer list. As a family, compile a prayer list of all those people that you are going to be interacting with during the next school year—teachers, coaches, students, etc. Choose a time when the family will gather specifically to pray for them. Begin in August.
2. Sacrifice for missions. Lead your family to give up a certain item (soft drinks, video's, etc.) for Lent or Advent or August or whenever.