

3 April 2020

How do we love our neighbours in a time like this?

"If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well." (James 2:8)

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Gal. 6:10)

In a time of uncertainty, it can be hard to look beyond our needs to those of others. Harder still can be knowing how best to help others. We have a very present opportunity to be the people of God and to be a blessing to those around us in need. To assist you in thinking about what this could look like, we have put down some initial ideas:

Local

How to Pray

- ▶ Ask God how He would have you care for those in your immediate neighbourhood and church community.
- ▶ Ask God to give you a confident trust in His care for you, that you might care for others.
- ▶ Ask God to strengthen, bless, protect and comfort those in frontline roles (particularly healthcare workers).
- ▶ Ask God to give our Elders and Deacons wisdom in how to encourage and support our church at this time.

What to Do

- ▶ Always heed the directions of authorities - (washing hands, social distancing etc). See [health.gov.au/](https://www.health.gov.au/)
- ▶ Reach out - Write a note that includes your contact details and asks if you can help or pray for anything for your neighbours. Drop these in letter boxes while keeping to appropriate social distances. Examples are available [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).
- ▶ Contact people you know who may be feeling anxious, isolated or experiencing significant need.
- ▶ Participate in a [Church Community Group](#) for the sake of others – Listen as others share how they are. Ask how people are. Pray for each other. Check if there are needs among the group you can help with.

- ▶ Spend money creatively as a way of loving others. Purchase dinner for yourself or someone you know from a local small business. Offer to pray for them.
- ▶ Give blood if you are healthy and able. It is still needed and many regular donors are no longer able to give.
- ▶ Use [this form](#) if you need help, or you need assistance in helping someone else.
- ▶ Use [this form](#) to let the Deacons know if you can help with any of the following: (financial aid, grocery gift cards, delivery of groceries, transport, yardwork, other assistance / donations, temporary accommodation).

Global

How to Pray

- ▶ Ask God to stop the spread of this disease.
- ▶ Pray for God's peace to rest on those who have lost loved ones.
- ▶ Pray that the body of Christ in each place would bring peace, rest, and joy in the midst of uncertainty and change.
- ▶ Pray that many would trust in God and His name would be glorified in places where it is not.
- ▶ Pray for missionaries who have gone abroad for the sake of the Gospel – that God would supply their needs (financial, emotional, spiritual) and that He would use them to powerfully minister His Gospel at this time. Pray for specific needs they share via their updates.

What to Do

- ▶ Write a note of encouragement to one (or more) of our missionaries. Contact the [Global Mission Team](#) if you need details or would like to send your note via them.
- ▶ Continue to financially support our missionaries – consider increasing your giving to enable their ministry at this time. Again contact the [Global Mission Team](#) if you would like details on how to give.
- ▶ Ask to be included on newsletters and updates from our missionaries.

"For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Eph 2:10)

"But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." (Mark 6:50)