



## Ideas to “Live Love” during the Spring of 2014



*The world needs good people, kind people who make life less difficult for each other. Husbands and wives need mates who encourage, overlook faults, and who habitually give small acts of kindness. Strangers, the destitute, the wounded, the lonely – all need loving kindness. Children thrive on love. How can we grow in showing God’s love? Just do it! With each small act your love will grow. May God help us, through our trust in Jesus, to grow in receiving His love and sharing it with others!*

**These suggestions can be carried out by an individual, family or a small group. Print some in your church bulletin or post on a bulletin board or your Facebook page.**

**March 13 is Popcorn Lovers Day:** A day to enjoy popcorn and share it with others!

- Fill a basket to share at work. Add a flavor: cheddar, parmesan garlic, or hot pepper.
- Wrap a microwave package with a note “*Popcorn is a little kernel that magnified its calling. Popcorn reminds me of the great work you do in our community (church).*” Deliver to a fire or police station, library, your pastor, church secretary or SS teacher.
- Have a popcorn party for kids at your house or a community hall. Provide extras to add to the popcorn: M & M’s, pretzels, chex cereal, raisins, cheerios, cranberries, cheez-its, fish crackers, marshmallows, peanut butter chips, etc. Create games & crafts all around the popcorn theme. For ideas google ‘popcorn party games’.

**March 9-15 is Teen Tech Week:** Use this as an opportunity to interact with teens in your church and community. Ask them questions about the latest technology they are using and perhaps set a time for them to give you instruction regarding one of the newer products. Show your appreciation for their skills with homemade cookies and hugs.



**April 2nd Children's Book Day:** Celebrate by giving a new book to a child, donating one to your church library, or a shelter or after school program. Most importantly read to a child. If you don’t have a child in your home, ‘borrow’ a neighbor’s or visit a library and take a seat in the kids section. Before long you will find a little one who would be happy to hear you read a story to them. Instilling a love of reading promotes a lifetime of learning and enjoyment.

***“A day without laughter is a day wasted.” Charlie Chaplain***

**April is Humor Month! The 14<sup>th</sup> is National Laughter Day!** Share some laughs! Laughing lowers stress hormones, relaxes muscles, and decreases pain. Chances are if you laugh often, you will attract people. Laughter builds community. Encourage other people to laugh.

- Forward funny emails on to friends or print and mail to those without email.
- Invite friends over to watch your favorite comedy DVD.
- Hold a “laugh fest” at church. Bring in a local Christian comedian, have a joke telling contest, encourage people to dress as clowns, show Veggie Tales videos, watch old family movies, find fun food ideas to serve from library cookbooks or online.
- Find a funny clip on Youtube. Bookmark it to review whenever you feel ‘blue’. A favorite of many is this laughing baby: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wyo127dggZU>
- Don't take yourself too seriously – life is too short.



**April 7<sup>th</sup> Coffee Cake Day:** Purchase or make this yummy treat then share it with the spouse of someone who is in a care facility. Take it to a busy mom with young children, a widow living alone (stay and share a piece while you visit), or package and mail to a serviceman or college student. You know it will make them smile! ☺

**Easter Egg Surprise:** Easter is April 20<sup>th</sup> this year, but you can offer this surprise anytime. Put small gifts inside a plastic egg and 'hide' it where it will be easily seen. Tie a note around it saying "You are receiving this random gift from an anonymous friend who wishes to brighten your day and share the love of Jesus." Gift ideas: ponytail holders, seed package, stickers, felt moustache, baby doll, whistle, small coins, mini car, legos or candy. Write down where you leave each one and then go back in a few days to check if they are gone.

**May 1<sup>st</sup> is May Day:** Since May Day symbolizes spring, it's only logical that flowers which start to bloom in spring are its main symbol. The custom is to hang the basket on the person's front door, ring the bell and then dash away before the door is opened. These may be paper, plastic or live flowers. Candy would be welcomed by most. This could be a creative project for kids to do with grandparents and take to a nursing home to leave on the residents' apartment doors.



***"One simple act of love or kindness can prevent several acts of violence"***

**May 11 is Mother's Day:** While roses and candy are synonymous with Mother's Day, this year think of the holiday as an opportunity to reach an overworked and stressed out single mom, a grieving family, or partner with a local crisis pregnancy center and provide care packages to teen moms. Mother's Day can be extremely difficult. Encourage everyone to remember the contributions women—mothers or not—have made in their lives.

**A Surprise While Waiting:** We have all been in line waiting to pay for food or drink. Next time do the person behind you a favor; buy a gift card and pass it on to them. Or when you are at the drive up window paying, tell the cashier that you would like to pay for the food for the people in the car behind you. You will not only bless the person whose food/drink is free but also the cashier.



***"Christ's love compels us. When we love deeply we serve with a glad heart."* Wayne Cordero**

**Words of Compliment:** When you receive good service at a store or restaurant ask to see the manager and let them know of your pleasant experience. They will love the positive feedback and it will make the clerk or servers' day as well.

### **Ways to "Live Love" in your own neighborhood or your church's neighborhood**

- Hold a BBQ/picnic in your yard to get acquainted. Knock on doors & invite everyone! Provide the hot dogs, buns & drinks. Ask others to bring side dishes.
- Create a neighborhood watch for safety.
- Plant a tree or a flower bed in a park area.
- Get to know the elderly or disabled and regularly check on them.
- Organize a clean-up day to pick up trash, blown down limbs, or paint over graffiti, etc.
- Offer to help during vacations to gather mail, water plants, fed pets, mow lawn etc.
- Encourage fellowship nights once a month or once a season at homes or local facilities.



***"Choose being kind over being right and you'll be right every time."* - Richard Carlson**

If these spark other ideas that work for you, let us know and we'll share them to bring encouragement to others. If our faith in God doesn't cause us to do anything different, then our faith is not a living faith. Bring your faith to life by putting it into action today!

**Passing this along with our love and prayer . . . IAYM Christian Education, 2014**