

## Ideas to "Live Love" during the Summer of 2014

*"To love at all is to be vulnerable."* CS Lewis

The following suggestions can be carried out by an individual, family or a small group. Print some in your church bulletin/newsletter or post them on a bulletin board or Facebook page.

**June 10<sup>th</sup> is National Iced Tea Day.** Celebrate with an iced tea stand near a busy street. Give away drinks or take donations for missions. Or buy bottles of ready-made tea to keep in an ice chest in your car. As you travel notice people who look hot & tired. Offer them a free drink. You may want to tie on a note: "Living Love with this free gift. The love of Jesus is also free, you only have to ask."

**June 15<sup>th</sup> is National Smile Power Day.** Give everyone you see a big, friendly, "I like you" smile. You never know, but it just might turn someone's day right around. Spend the whole day with a big, bright smile on your face. Flash a toothy smile to everyone you encounter. It's actually easier to smile than to frown. A smile uses fewer muscles.

**July 1<sup>st</sup> is International Joke Day.** Everybody needs a good laugh now and then. Spread some laughter by telling a joke or sharing a funny YouTube video. Here are a few good ones to get you started: <http://blog.calendars.com/2013/07/international-joke-day/>

**July 20<sup>th</sup> is National Lollipop Day.** Buy a bag of lollipops and pass them out to children or adults as you go about your day. They are sure to bring smiles. For extra fun sing or play the lollipop song; sung here by the Chordettes: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-DuC0tE7V4>

**August 22<sup>nd</sup> is Be an Angel Day.** Be sure to pick one of the suggestions in this newsletter to preform today...or create your own angel idea. If you are the receiver, make certain to express your appreciation and recognize the angel in your life as being sent from God.

**August 31<sup>st</sup> is National Trail Mix Day.** Combine various cereal, nuts, pretzels, raisins, M&M's, fish crackers, marshmallows, chocolate chips, etc. Include a note similar to above. You may want to add your church's name and email. Put treats & note in small Ziploc bags. Visit a park, biking trail or campground. With smiles, hand out the treats to anyone interested.

*"Not all can do great things but we all can do little things great."* Mother Theresa

### Ideas for Living Love in your Family

- Buy a "Just Because I Love You" gift for a family member.
- Don't wait until a funeral to say nice things. Pick a close or distant family member. Write down the things you love about them, and share the positive difference they have made in your life. Mail or deliver your card in person.
- Make a CD of their favorite songs ... even if the songs are not your favorites ☺
- Mail a funny or encouraging card anonymously to someone in your own home. Act innocent when it arrives and just watch their surprise.
- Give mom & dad a break – kids fix an easy supper once a month.
- Do chores normally assigned to another family member...just because.
- Once each week pick a different family member to honor with their favorite meal.

*"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."*

Romans 12: 9-10

### Ideas for Living Love in your Church Family

- Call someone who has not attended for a few weeks. Let them know you missed being in worship with them. Share with them any church news they may have missed and ask if there is anything you can do to encourage their return to your fellowship.

- Make your favorite dessert and take it to church with you. As you observe people choose someone who has had a difficult week to receive your special treat.
- Visit a faithful member who is now a nursing home resident. Remind them of all they have given to the church and how you appreciate their contributions.
- Attend a child's ball game and cheer them on.
- Offer to help do yard work for senior citizens.
- Interact with teens by asking their summer plans...jobs, vacations, camp, service, etc.
- Invite someone who is new to your church to meet you for coffee or lunch to get better acquainted.

*"Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more."*

H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

### **Ideas for Living Love in your Community**

- Leave a sealed envelope in a restroom on the hand dryer with the words "Help Me!" written on the outside. Inside the envelope place a \$10 gift card and a note, "Helping you, helped me! Enjoy this and pay it forward however you can. Have a nice day!"
- Keep an extra umbrella in your car or at your work so you can lend it out when it rains.
- Celebrate your birthday or honor a friend or relative's birthday by doing acts of kindness for each year you are celebrating. Ex: 42 years old...go to a day care and hand out 42 chocolate kisses. You'll likely get some hugs in return.
- Carry around some \$5 gift cards to local stores (ex. Dairy Queen) so you can give it to someone who does something awesome. Create and carry "thanks for making my day" cards to include with the gift.
- Look for something around you that can be fixed up, picked up, or attended to. Ex: Put shopping carts where they belong, pick up trash, reshel items fallen on the floor, etc.
- Most receptionists greet everyone with a smile, treat everyone with respect, and have only kind words to share. Give them a card or some homemade goodies with a note: "Thoughts of your sweet demeanor and kindness warm my heart and make my day."
- Night shift hospital staff are often too busy to stop for a meal. Reward their sacrifice by delivering quick, easy to eat snacks: granola bars, trail mix, chocolates, dried fruit chews, etc.

*"Happiness...consists in giving, and in serving others."* Henry Drummond

### **All Church Ideas for Living Love in your Community**

- One Sunday instead of worshipping together, serve together. Organize activities in your local area for all ages. Ex.: yard work, washing windows, oil changes, child care, visiting shut-ins, etc. Some may want to stay at the church to bake cookies and make encouraging cards to give out to others or to have lunch ready when workers return.
- When the temperature soars, set up shop on a busy street corner (make sure you follow city ordinances) and hand out free, bottled water to passersby. Or do this at a local Farmer's Market or festival. Attach a card with your church information.
- Show appreciation to the men and women who have served our country. Host a free lunch or brunch for veterans and their families.
- If your church has a gym or other exercise facilities, open them up to your community for free use. Organize summer leagues for youth and adults, as well as exercise classes.
- Designate a Sunday to have worship in a local park. Invite the community to the service and a free potluck meal to follow.

Let us know how you "Live Love" by sharing your experience on our Facebook page. Search for IAYM Christian Education, then click 'join group' in order to post or comment.

**We look forward to hearing how God is using you to live out His love in our world.**