

Ideas to "Live Love" during Autumn of 2013

The "Live Love" project is to give practical examples of how we can show genuine love and compassion to those around us in an effort to live out the goal of loving God and loving others.

The following suggestions can be done as a family, individual or with a small group. You might want to print a few in your church bulletin each week.

September 2nd Labor Day Express your gratitude for those who have to work, i.e. in fire and police stations or hospitals. Deliver cards, flowers or food to those who 'labor' away from family on the holiday.

Ideas to "Live Love" at the Grocery Store

- Help pack and/or carry out groceries for a young mom or elderly person
- Offer a close parking spot to others by parking further back yourself
- Give someone who seems impatient, a smile and your place in line
- Buy a flower and give it to the cashier checking you out
- Pick up or properly arrange items that have fallen or are out of place
- Give an encouraging word (or even a gift card) to a harried mom of preschoolers



Be kind to unkind people - they need it the most. ~ Ashliiegh Brilliant

Sticky Notes: Write messages of encouragement on sticky notes and post in public spaces. Examples: On a restroom mirror, "Smile! You are God's creation and you look amazing!" On a co-worker's desk, "There is nothing that will happen today that you and God can't do together." In a child's lunch bag, "I was praying and God told me He has great plans for you!" In a library book, "Is what you are living for worth Christ dying for?" At a doctor's office, "When we cannot understand what is going on around us -- let us be calmed by the thought that what is hidden from us is not hidden from God."



Meet to Pray for Others in Public Places: Pray for those in the hospital, or to ask God to show mercy to those with a court date today, or a job interview...really any form of interceding for another person's needs. God wants to see the sick healed and sinners forgiven.

Kindness is never wasted.

If it has no effect on the recipient, at least it benefits the bestower. ~ S. H. Simmons

October 3rd Techies Day: This is your chance to give your friendly technician(s) some well-deserved thanks. When your PC goes down, or gets a virus, that person is invaluable. He's on top of his trade, and can get your system back up and running faster than you can say "gigabyte". Make sure that your techie knows that he is appreciated. Give him a token gift or send an e-card with your compliments.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF: Order your fundraising kit. Assemble your boxes when the kit arrives. On Halloween, go door-to-door Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF or have a UNICEF party with friends. Did you know that UNICEF has helped cut child deaths by 40% since 1990 and distributes 25 million anti-malarial mosquito nets yearly? <http://www.trickortreatforunicef.org/clubs-groups>

Listening: Some folks say they have nothing to give, except time. However, that can be the best gift to many. Ordinary people, when given the opportunity to share their story, become real gems. Time and presence are the best gift you can give. You can make the day of someone in a retirement village or cancer ward by simply being with them and listening as they share their life.

*Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.
~ Leo F. Buscaglia*

Veterans' Day November 11th honors all members of the Armed Forces who have served this country. Personally thank a co-worker, neighbor or loved one who is a veteran. Bring patriotic-themed baked goods or cards to a local retirement home and help staff distribute to veteran residents. Remind your children or grandchildren of our nation's history and encourage them to participate in making patriotic cards to pass on to a local veterans' home. Prepare a care package to mail to a soldier overseas.



Warm Them Up: Share coffee or hot cocoa with outside workers, i.e. postal service or package delivery workers, people putting up Christmas decorations, construction workers, crossing guards, etc. All would gratefully accept this warm act of kindness, given freely with a smile.

Ideas to "Live Love" at your Job

- Write your boss or a fellow employee a note of appreciation
- Leave an anonymous treat on the workspace of someone who needs a smile
- Tell the janitors how much you appreciate their efforts
- Give flowers to someone who is often taken for granted
- Display a joke or riddle of the day to brighten everyone's mood

Kindness is a gift with no strings. Kindness is evidence that selfishness has been conquered.

November 17 Homemade Bread Day is a day for the whole family to enjoy the joy of making, baking, eating and sharing loaves of nutritious homemade bread. You may prefer to bake banana or pumpkin bread over yeast breads. Either would be enjoyed and appreciated by an older neighbor, a working single mom; a college teen away from mom's cooking; your Sunday School teacher, etc.

We encourage your whole church to work on the following suggestions together.

September 26 Johnny (Appleseed) Chapman's birthday: Celebrate his sharing of apples by giving an apple to everyone at church on September 22. They can pass it along to someone else in their life with a note of appreciation or add others to it to make an apple dessert to share. If possible plant an apple tree near your church so you can have fruit to share for years to come.

Garden Extras: Collect unneeded produce from members' gardens and share with a soup kitchen, women's abuse shelter, or a family in need. Use grated zucchini in breads or cakes to pass on to these organizations saving them the time required to bake.

Community Cleaning

- Identify buildings in need then obtain approval and arrange to wash and scrape off dirt and graffiti.
- Provide for a "Dutch" day for street sweeping and washing.
- Adopt an area or city block to wash and clean signs and benches, pick up trash etc.
- Cut & remove the weeds in parking lots, vacant lots, etc.



Pastor Appreciation: October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Think of one small thing your pastor enjoys --M&Ms, fishing lures, coffee, etc. Ask each member to bring that item on Sunday. **OR** Use an October calendar to schedule folks for a month of surprises. Each day, the pastor will receive a token of appreciation from an individual, family, or group. The tributes will vary--a balloon delivery, a shoe shine, an apple pie, a gift card. Don't forget a note with specific reasons you appreciate your pastor's spiritual leadership.

Decorating: Decorate your church for the fall season. Bring items from home or purchase what is needed. Begin by mixing a Mulligan Stew. Assign families to bring: potatoes, soup beans, onions, carrots, chicken or beef, tomatoes, etc. Let it simmer while you decorate. Hard rolls and apples make a complete meal.

**Passing this along with our prayers for you
as you "Live Love" in your church and community.**

The IAYM Christian Education Board