



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Guideposts

Dear 55Alive Ministry –

We have two opportunities for ministry in the next few days that I want to encourage you to participate in with all your might! Almost ALL of us have extra time so I hope you will join these worthy ministry opportunities.

Recently Janet Parker, one of our members and a vital part of the WeCare Ministry, told me that she had an idea for touching ALL the residents at Ridgmar Place which can involve our whole church family. Her idea is for our church family to write cards to all the 210 people who are living at Ridgmar Place. Several of our members live there but we want encouraging cards for ALL of them. Here is Janet's request:

“There are 210 residents at Ridgmar Place that could use some cheering up. The “We Care” Ministry at Birchman would like to invite you to make a special card for a resident that says I’m thinking about you or I’m praying for you and then decorate it and write a little note on the inside. You can sign your first name and include from Birchman Baptist Church if you want to.

We would like each person in the family to make a card and then bring it to Birchman, Tuesday, May 5 between 11 and 1:00. There will be someone outside to receive your cards. If you prefer not to come to the church, call Birchman at 817-244-6590 and someone will come pick up your cards.

Please pray over your cards and continue praying for these residents during this time of quarantine.

Remember, we need 210 cards so if you want to make more than one card, that would be great!”

Since we don't know all the names of the residents, please make them generic and applicable to anyone. If you have grandchildren let them help!

The next ministry opportunity was presented to Janet from the Activities Director at Ridgmar Place. They are wanting to have a “parade of cars” with festive signs that have a name of each resident on them. Here is the information!

Mothers' Day Parade around the perimeter of Ridgmar Place, 2151 Green Oaks Rd., Ft Worth

Saturday, May 9 2:00-3:00 pm Please RSVP to the church if you are able to attend the parade.

Decorate cars with streamers, hold up banners that say things like, "Birchman loves Ridgmar Place Residents" "We love you _____", if you know the names of residents, etc.

This verse has become very special to me during these days. Let's do what it says!!

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

I hope you are staying in the Word, worshipping online, exercising, and staying in contact with family and friends – it's important!!

I can't wait to see each of you very SOON – Bro. Phil

SUNDAY, May 3

Our Sunday services online have been a special blessing, especially this past Sunday. The services are getting better and better!! Don't forget to join us at birchman.org or on the Birchman Facebook page. Don't miss it!

Here are some verses and special words to encourage our hearts this week:

Monday, May 4

Psalm 23:1-6

A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ...

Colossians 1:16

For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him.

"Always, everywhere God is present, and always He seeks to discover Himself to each one"

- A.W.Tozer

Tuesday, May 5

Psalm 46:1 - 2

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...

2 Thessalonians 3:3

But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one.

"The best and most beautiful things in this world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt with the heart." - Helen Keller

Wednesday, May 6

Nehemiah 9:6

"You are the LORD, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.

Acts 17:25

Nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

"I've learned from experience that the greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions and not on our circumstances." ~ Martha Washington

Thursday, May 7

Zechariah 4:6

Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 11:3

By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

"Our vision is so limited we can hardly imagine a love that does not show itself in protection from suffering.... The love of God did not protect His own Son.... He will not necessarily protect us – not from anything it takes to make us like His Son. A lot of hammering and chiseling and purifying by fire will have to go into the process." ~ Elisabeth Elliot

Friday, May 8

Deuteronomy 33:27

The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms.

1 Peter 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

“When you understand that life is a test, you realize that nothing is insignificant in your life.” — Rick Warren

Saturday, May 9

Isaiah 12:2

“Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation.”

John 10:10 (AMP)

The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).

“If God forgives us we must forgive ourselves.” – C. S. Lewis

Some closing words from PJ!

We are taking a “break” from acronyms because I found a wonderful article by John Maxwell about HOPE and I am sharing part of it:

What does HOPE do for mankind?

Hope shines brightest when the hour is the darkest.

Hope motivates when discouragement comes.

Hope energizes when the body is tired.

Hope sings when all melodies are gone.

Hope believes when the evidence is eliminated.

Hope climbs over obstacles when no one is helping.

Hope endures hardship when no one is caring.

Hope smiles confidently when no one is laughing.

Hope reaches for answers when no one is asking.

Hope presses toward victory when no one is encouraging.

Hope dares to give when no one is sharing.

OKAY – so there IS an acronym for HOPE:

Holding

On

Praying

Expectantly

Let's put our trust in Him and show the world our HOPE!!

The other acronyms are below if you want to review!! May the Lord bless and protect you ALL!! Bro. Phil

Celebrate God

Ask God for help

Leave the problem with God

Meditate on *good* things

The second is on I “adapted” from the Blue Zones which can help us to stay SANE in difficult days:

Scripture – be in God's Word DAILY! First thing each day!!

Active – be physically active. Don't be a couch potato!!

Neighborly – CALL someone! It will brighten their day AND yours!

Enter God's presence many times daily. God is still in control!!

Here is the THIRD acronym: We need to **PERC** each day (percolate) to be effective and grow:

Pray each day for your family, friends and our leaders!

Exercise DAILY! You have time and it will rejuvenate you in many ways!

Read a LOT! Turn off the TV and read your Bible! "When I get time..." books!!

Call someone – DON'T WAIT TO BE CALLED!! Call someone who NEEDS a touch!

OKAY – here is the **fourth** acronym that I hope will be helpful:

Jesus – Make Him your main focus! Spend time in Bible study and prayer!

Others – reach out to people. Be the hands and feet of Jesus!!

Yourself – It's important for you to eat right and do some exercises. **Don't veg out!**