

## **Good Morning PGCC!**

We care for and love all of you, and are concerned for your welfare. In an effort to stay in touch and keep you informed, we will be sending out this “Good Morning” email regularly. The email will have updates, encouragement, devotional thoughts, and helpful tips.

From 249-262 AD, one of the worst pandemics in history devastated the Roman empire. It is estimated that at its peak 5,000 people a day were dying. Did this slow or stop the church? Just the opposite. It accelerated the growth of the church. While everyone else was showing fear, selfishness and treating others, well, “like the plague,” Christians were finding ways to care, not only for one another, but for non-Christians as well. The love, care and unselfishness believers showed to their neighbors, made their faith in Jesus real to others and was so out of the norm and so attractive, that many, many, many people put their faith in Jesus.

A century later, the emperor Julian attempted to curb the growth of Christianity after the plague. In a letter, Julian complained that the non-Christians needed to match the Christians in virtue, blaming the recent growth of Christianity on their “benevolence to strangers, their care for the graves of the dead, and the pretended holiness of their lives.” Elsewhere he wrote, “For it is a disgrace that...the impious Galileans [Christians] support not only their own poor but ours as well.”<sup>1</sup>

The reason why Christians were able to respond with kindness, love, charity and self-sacrifice is that they were followers of Christ. They were following the example of Jesus who sacrificed himself on behalf of the lost. They saw their own actions as opportunities for worship, obedience and testimony. They were not afraid, but were calm and courageous, because they were secure in Christ. Even if the worst happened, they were secure in the promise of eternal life.

**What was true then, is still true today!**

Here are simple, practical things, you can do to serve Christ and minister to others.

### **1. SHARE**

Start a Toilet Paper outreach. Is a neighbor running out of TP? Share a roll in the name of Christ. And if you or someone you know is in dire need, come by the church during office hours and you can pick up a roll or two of our TP. And if they are running low on food and you have some extra, share what you have. And while people are stuck inside, share a good book, or a jigsaw puzzle.

### **2. CHECK**

Check on the people you know who are at the highest risk if they were to be exposed. These are people with health issues: heart problems, breathing problems, low immune systems. And the older you are, the more at risk you are even if healthy. Check to see how they are doing. Check to see what they need. Ask specific questions. Do you have enough food? Do you need medications? Etc. And check just so they hear a friendly voice and have someone to talk to.

### **3. OFFER**

If you are not at high risk, offer to help your friend or neighbor. Do a little grocery shopping for them. Pick up their medicine. Bring their trash can in from the street. What things would feel helpful to you? Offer that to others?

### **4. VOLUNTEER**

Are you able and willing to serve or do some shopping for others? Please let us know. We would like to have a list of people we could contact as people contact us with needs.

### **WHAT DO YOU NEED?**

We want to serve you. So, let us know what your needs are. For those of you who are at high risk and need help shopping, or if you have other needs, CALL US. We have people willing to help.

## **GROWTH RESOURCE**

A free online Bible Study from Max Lucado: *Anxious for Nothing*

Go to the following link:

[https://www.faithgateway.com/anxious-for-nothing-obs-registration/?utm\\_source=wordpress&utm\\_medium=banner&utm\\_campaign=afnobs&utm\\_term=afnobs](https://www.faithgateway.com/anxious-for-nothing-obs-registration/?utm_source=wordpress&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=afnobs&utm_term=afnobs)

### **Blessings, PGCC staff**

If you know of someone not receiving this email, they can request to receive it by emailing [keapgcc@gmail.com](mailto:keapgcc@gmail.com)

Sunday, March 15 Worship Service video can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B94RASwF55E&t=4s>

Church office remains open Mon-Thur, 9-4.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-early-church-teach-coronavirus/>