

COVID-19 Neighboring – 101

Dear Grace Family,

I hope everyone is staying safe during this uncertain time. When I look at the graph of COVID-19, my heart melts as the numbers on those affected go higher and higher each hour. Many countries and cities across the world are on complete lockdown. People are not allowed to even come onto the roads or take a walk or even sit on their porches. They are to strictly stay inside “locked-down”. This is terrifying to many and I do not want to discount the fear of COVID-19 by any bit. It is a deadly virus and every human is terrified by the fear of death. It is a reality. As Christians, saved by grace we are prone to this fear as well; but we have hope, Jesus Christ and that is what marks us different than those who do not know Him. **Read 1 Peter 1:3-7**

I do not know if my next-door neighbors have the same hope, or the 16 other homes in our community. We are people called by name, placed in this time, in this place for a reason. We are to let our lights shine in this time of uncertainty and fear by showing the love of Christ to others, to our neighbors, because this is our Jerusalem; **Acts 1: 8** *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth”*

Here is how we are reaching our community:

1. **Know your neighbors:** Some of you may know everyone that lives on your street. I only know 4 families. I signed up for [BlessEveryHome](#) by SBCV and it is a great tool to know your neighbors by name.
2. **Reach out to your neighbors:** I used our HOA email from last year to reach out to my neighbors. You may not have an HOA in your community but if you do, that is a great resource.
3. **Check-in with your neighbors:** I use emails to check-in with our neighbors; you may already be reaching out to them via call or text.
4. **Let them know you are praying for them:** I have been in constant contact with one of my neighbors and told her we’re praying for them. At first, she was thankful and now she is open to meet.
5. **Let them know you care for them:** I have offered to run some small errands for them such as getting groceries. Although no one has taken me up on my offer yet.
6. **Increase your face-time:** If your health, time and weather allows, following the social-distancing protocol, increase your face-time (in-person). Walk in your community, wave at people, stop to say hi and intentionally ask them how they’re doing.
7. **Practical ways:** A couple of weeks ago, Chris shared a link to [Practical ways](#) that can open the door for gospel.
8. **Surprise Visit:** While we cannot meet as a group, we found it helpful to just walk and (surprise) visit our members at Grace, who live in a one-mile radius, adhering to social-distancing of course. I miss seeing everyone’s faces.

You may have other means of reaching out to your neighbors that you want to share with the group.

I am not asking you to negate social-distancing and start associating with people. We need to follow the necessary preventive measures to stop/reduce the spread of the virus but at the same time be mindful and intentional in reaching out to your neighbors, while we still have time. God bless you all, stay safe!!

-Stanley and Satya