



The Kindness of God

By Tamara Roberts - April 2024

“Be kind to one another” Ephesians 4:2

One of my little loves rushed into my arms bubbling out the story he’d just lived through. He said, “Mama fainted at the store, but a lady helped her and me until Sissy brought the car to the door, and an ambulance came and took Mama away. The lady gave me a hug and said she was going to stay with Mama at the hospital until Daddy could get there and I was going with Sissy to your house.” He rubbed his eyes. “I cried a little, but she said ‘God’s got this.’ Just like you always say.”

“I imagine that was scary.” I said. “Wasn’t it nice that God had a lady right there to help you?”

“Yes. She was kind, and God was kind to help us.” He said.

Because of the kindness of a stranger, who put her plans on hold, my family was impacted. It turned out that she was a pastor’s wife of a nearby church. She lived out the Scripture, “ And be kind to one another, tenderhearted” Ephesians 4:2

So many people have spent the forty days before Easter contemplating Jesus’ last steps here on earth physically. There is so much to consider after His resurrection and before His ascension. Then just ten days later, at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit lit the fire of the believers and 3,000 were added to the church. It was exponential growth. And, so we ask today, what is next for us after our own celebration of Easter.

As I read Acts, I noticed many Scriptures talked about the kindness of God shown through the early church members. Sharing Christ, healing people, and giving to those in need were part of their all day-everyday life as they replicated Jesus. Just as Christ had been out among the people constantly, so were they. Then they shared the great things God did every time they met. And the church grew even more.

When I gather with my prayer partners, each one reports seeing opportunities to share Christ and disciple as we go through our daily lives. Our prayer is for God to send someone into our lives who needs us to share or disciple or help. Lo' and behold, He answers that prayer. Even hospitalizations and chemo treatments offer opportunities to encourage and share.

Sometimes these God adventures lead to people being added to the church just like in Acts. It fills us with such joy, we can't wait for the next opportunity. Dr. Caroline Leaf, a well-known Christian neuropsychologist, quoted several studies that reported doing something for someone else decreased depression as much or more than anti-depressants.

Of course, being kind helps us. We're wired for it. It was always a part of God's plan. Paul said in Titus 3:4-8, "*But when the **kindness** and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works.*"

The word kindness in that scripture is "ches'ed" which is also translated as steadfast love and tender mercies. That type of kindness is who God is. It's what He does. Because kindness and goodness breed more of the same, we multiply it as we go about doing good works. For years our church started reaching outside our walls one weekend in October. But that wasn't enough. It quickly progressed to year-round outreaches of kindness.

Last year, our church primed the pump of our individual kindness in Love Extended by passing out \$20 bills for people to go about and find a way to show kindness in the community. Many did, and the reports were amazing. Let's keep that up.

Recently, during NAMB's Serve Dallas, some of our members participated with the many churches in the metroplex and beyond. What a blessing to hear their stories. People of all generations and backgrounds pitched in. God had a plan for each one to fit the diverse needs all around us. The world may look dark, but God's kindness is shining brighter than ever through His church.

One opportunity during this very political year is to find a way to disagree with respect and kindness. I always laughed at the pastor who said, "I'm not narrow minded. I'm just right." Sometimes I've felt the same way. Those with whom we disagree probably feel the same toward us. When we disagree, let's pray for the ability to be kind and respectful to each other.

When we embrace what's next after Easter, what opens-up for us are amazing God adventures in being kind-hearted, compassionate, and thoughtful. God gave us the tools to shower others with the ways of kindness. In so doing, like the a kind woman, who simply and gently led my little love to the safety of the Author of Kindness, we get to share the "che'sed" of God.

Prayer: Loving, Kind Father, we praise You and appreciate Your love and kindness in saving us. Help us spread it around. Open our eyes, show us where and what You have planned for our own personal God adventures. Give us everything we need to accomplish more than we could imagine, hope, or dream for the Kingdom. In the Name of Jesus and for His sake. Amen

Pray for our Church Family

Cross Church Hospital Board & Prayer Sheet as of March 27, 2024: Anita Chapman, Laurel Carroll, Robert Atwell, Judy Bradford, John Garrison, Janie Groce, Karen Jackson, Evelyn Lochridge, Jackie Mapston, Vern Myers, Beverly Nelson, Russell Chapman, and Teresa (the Filewood's granddaughter). **Birth(s):** Esther Masuaku (Parents, Marc & Meta). **Sympathy to the families of:** Anita Christensen, Russell Woodard (Robert & Mickey's son), Christie & Stacie Votaw (The late Bob & Connie Votaw's daughters), Father of Javier Alvarez, Suellen Swank (Bill & Barbara's daughter), Linda Gaharan (Danny Koonce's mother-in-law), Troy Maxwell (Jackie Bozeman's son), Troy Smith, Larry Wells (Jim & Betsy Burson's son-in-law, and Bobbie Pendell (Stuart's grandmother). **Continued Needs:** Thomas Albaugh, Javier Alvarez, David Antwiler, Greg Bell, Jeremy Berveiler, Sharon Booker, Charles Bourne, Sr., Nikki Bowmer, Jackie Bozeman, Carole Browne, Tiffany Browning, Connie Bushor, Weida Caldwell, Jackie Campbell, Maddox Carmean, Sherry Christensen, Sam Cochran, Jack Combs, Gerald Daniel, Joy Davis, Mike Doyle, Shari Emmons, Elaine Fauntleroy, Summer Fernihough, Gary Fuller, Will Gopffarth, Betty Gresham, Jerri Hajek, Kay Hamelwright, Michael Hamelwright, Dean Hancock, Brenda Harrison, Jake Jacob, Beth Kelley, Edith Martin, John Martin, Deanna Maynard, Lisa McWilliams Sharon Mings, Alan Moody, Mark Moses, Aaron Parrill, Pete & Becky Pipkin, Rob Puskas, Tammy Roberts, John Seely, Kathy Stricklin, Linda Shepherd, Phillip Smith, Glenda Sobel, Arnold Sumrall, John Tankersley, Mikki Thiele, Leland Thomas, Mike Tidmore, Tyler Whitten, Mike Williams, Thomas Wittner, Glenda Sobel, Arnold Sumrall, John Tankersley, Mikki Thiele, Leland Thomas, Mike Tidmore, Tyler Whitten, Mike Williams, and Thomas Wittner.

Pray for Ministries of Both Campuses

Scott Maze, Senior Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ People to pray (by name) for friends, family & co-workers who are lost.

Danny Roberts, Executive Pastor requests prayer for:

☞ Our community as we communicate our "Love Extended."

☞ Wisdom for staff as we fine tune plans for the summer.

Stuart Pendell, NFW Campus Pastor requests prayer for:

✝ Our Midweek classes.

✝ Site preparation of the new modular building. Please pray for favor with the City of Fort Worth and safety for all the workers involved.

✝ Praise! The North Fort Worth Campus is looking forward to celebrating our 10-Year Anniversary on Sunday, April 28th.

Danny Koonce, Worship Pastor requests prayer for...

🎧 Our choirs to remain healthy.

Missions Ministry requests prayer for:

➔ Texas Baptist Men, Send, and other volunteers & missionaries who are in & around Ukraine.

➔ Local mission partners, I Can Still Shine, Refresh (BISD) & CAN (Cornerstone Assistance Network).

➔ God's direction for other mission opportunities.

➔ God to provide opportunities for ministry as a result of the food pantry. God's blessing on those who donate.

Dave Bryant, Associate Pastor, Couples & Next Steps requests prayer for:

👪 Families to grow together in their spiritual walk.

Daniel Simmons, HS Minister requests prayer for:

📖 Students to be disciplined and focused on Christ.

Michael Slater, Dir. of Communications requests prayer for:

⇒ Equipment to work well as we offer online services.

Jody Hayes, Wellness Center, Men's Ministry & Senior Adult Ministry requests prayer for:

• God to arrange opportunities to share the love of Christ in the Wellness Center.

GPS (Singles) Ministry requests prayer for:

☺ Reaching Single Adults in our community.

☺ Our DivorceCare Support Group as we minister to individuals in recovery.

D'Ann Laywell, Women's Ministry requests prayer for:

♥ Our Annual Women's Gala on April 26 to be an uplifting experience that draws us closer to God.

D'Ann Laywell-Children's Ministry & Caren Crow-Angel Land Director & Preschool Ministry, Natalie Goodman-Cross Church Children's Ministry & Russell Zwerg-KID Worship Ministry requests prayer for:

🚲 Eight Good News Clubs in Birdville elementary schools.

🚲 Good News Club Sunday to have many visitors and that hear and respond to the gospel.

Numbers to call for Prayer Concerns:

International Mission Board
Prayer Line 1-800-395-PRAY (7729)
North American Mission Board Prayer
Line 1-800-554-PRAY (7729)
International Mission News
<http://www.imb.org>
North American Mission News
<http://www.namb.net>
General Prayer Requests
mandi@ccdfw.org

Cross Church
6955 Blvd. 26
North Richland Hills, TX 76180

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Let us pray for the special activities of our church

Apr 1—Girls Ministry Planning Team Meeting.
Apr 7—Leadership Equipping Meetings.
Apr 9—GALS Brunch, 10-12 in FH.
Apr 10—WOW (Widows of Worth) to SWBTS
for the Women's Auxilliary Lunch and Style
Show. Students LIVE on the Lawn.
Apr 12—Kids Night Out.
Apr 12-13—Student Girls EMBRACED Retreat.
Apr 14—New Members Class. VBS Kick-Off
Planning Meeting. Deacon Meeting.
Apr 15 & 29—Mom 2 Mom.
Apr 20—Dad 'n' Lad to Pure Adventure in Flow-
er Mound.
Apr 21 & 28—Graduating Seniors Bibles availa-
ble for Verse Dedication.
Apr 26—Annual Women's Gala!
Apr 28—Baptism Sunday! Little BIG Offering
day! We are working toward paying off the NFW
Campus debt. Pray about your participation.
Apr 28—GPS (Singles) Spring Cookout at Linda
Spurlock Park!

AcademyHomeSchoolChoir	Adopt-A-School
Angel Land Preschool	BSF Groups
Celebrate Recovery	Child Care Ministry
Children's Choir	Children's Ministry
Connect Classes	Couples Ministry
Cross Church Campus	Discipleship Groups
Divorce Care	Divorce Care for Kids
ESL Program	Financial Peace Univ.
Fine Arts Academy	Food Pantry
G.A.L.S. Media Group	Good News Club
GPS (Singles) Ministry	GriefShare Ministry
Homebound Ministry	KID Worship
KIDS Beach Clubs	Ladies Prayer Group
Library Ministry	Media Ministry
Men's Bible Study	Missions Ministry
Men's Ministry	Music Ministry
Pastor's Prayer Team	Preschool Ministry
Senior Adult Ministry	Spanish Speaking Ministry
Student Choir	Students Hang Time
Students Ministry	Upward Basketball
Wednesday WILD	Wellness Center Ministry
Women's Ministry	Women's Step Study
WOW (Widows of Worth)	Young Singles 20s