



Abundant Living Ministries

Encouraging Christian Living since 1978

October 2022

Dear Friends,

Hope is a wonderful thing. Without it people give in to discouragement, despair, depression and ultimately defeat. With it, every day is full of possibilities.

Hope hangs on when the going gets tough. Many folks I talk with are facing very-challenging situations... family conflicts, loss of job, loss of health, shattered dreams. We wish we could somehow instantly fix all these problems. But we can't... we don't have every instant fix... but one thing we have, and can offer, is HOPE.

This HOPE is not just positive thinking, although thinking optimistically and positively is good. No... this HOPE is much more than a good mental attitude. In fact, in scripture, the word HOPE means "joyful and confident expectation."

And we're not referencing hope in ourselves, in another person, the government, or tomorrow. NO... we're talking about hope IN GOD! In Hebrews 6:18 & 19 we read that it is impossible for God to lie, so... ***we who have fled to take hold of the HOPE offered to us may be greatly encouraged. We have this HOPE as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*** It is the *Object* of our hope that is critically important and powerful. When I place my hope and confidence IN GOD, I can persevere even in the most troubling of times. Yes, life brings adversity, hardship, and ultimately death. But God stands the test of time and adversity. I can pin my HOPE on Him, because He's always going to be there for me... today, tomorrow, and forever!

Hope... my joyful and confident expectation... puts a smile on my face instead of a frown. It perseveres instead of quitting. It is patient, not up tight. It replaces unrest with peace.

Hanging on to HIM... my HOPE!

John Charles for the entire ALM team

AN EXPLANATION ABOUT THE EXTRA-GIVE PROGRAM - Since 2018, ALM has been the grateful recipient of contributions made through the annual *ExtraGive* program, conducted by the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

I want to inform you that Abundant Living Ministries will not be participating in this year's *ExtraGive* program. This is due to changes in the application requirements which now disqualify ALM. Specifically, all participating organizations are now required to have, and to publish, an acceptable "nondiscrimination policy." This policy needs to extend to the **hiring** practices of the participating organization/ministry.

While nondiscrimination in regards to such items as race, color, and national origin are appropriate, there are other required items (e.g. gender identity, sexual orientation, religion) which are outside Biblically-acceptable standards for the hiring of staff at ALM.

I'm sure you know that, in addition to sending a \$\$\$ gift through the mail (or by credit card over the phone), donations can be made, at any time, on ALM's website. ***AbundantLivingMinistries.org***

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR KIND AND GENEROUS HELP!

Caring in a Crisis



Many of us know someone who is suffering. Perhaps they have lost a loved one, are dealing with serious illness, or lost their job. Jesus urges His followers to “mourn with those who mourn” and “bear one another’s burdens.” In other words, we come alongside those who are in crisis and help them through their season of challenge. Consider the following ways of showing love to those in need.

Words that refresh

Tell the person who is suffering that you are praying for them and then DO pray!! When a person is in crisis, their faith may be weak and it means so much for them to know that others are lifting them up in prayer.

Send texts that include a written prayer for the individual who is suffering. They can re-read that throughout the day. Assure the sick or grieving person that they do not need to reply to your texts.

Those who are suffering or grieving benefit from pleasant and encouraging words, not critical, complaining words.

Promote gratitude not griping.

Visits that give life

Keep visits, to a sick person, brief. If they are ill, they need to get plenty of rest.

If helpful, run the vacuum, wash dishes in the sink, fold laundry, make a grocery store run or mow the lawn.

Often, just sitting quietly, listening, or holding a hand, is a great blessing.

Include a Scripture reading... the truth of God’s Word ministers hope, comfort, and strength!

Offer to pray. A person who is hurting benefits greatly from hearing the prayers of others!

Practical gifts

- Frozen food items in throw-away containers
- Gift cards for local grocery stores, gas stations, etc...
- Postage stamps for their possible thank you notes
- Small individual snack items / bottles of water
- A CD of soothing music or an audio book

Let’s be alert to those who are facing great sadness or difficulty. Enlist your family to help. Your caring may well be the tool God uses to enable them to weather their storm victoriously!

Written by
Sharon Charles



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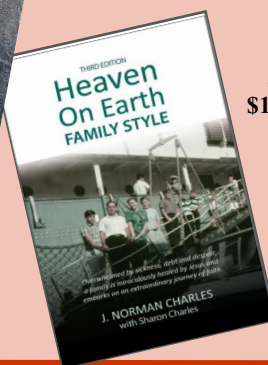
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Contact Information

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