



20

PRACTICAL WAYS

TO BE

Missional

IN COVID-19



20 practical ways to be missional in COVID-19 - Blessed to be a Blessing

We know we are all experiencing a sense of enormous change and disequilibrium in our lives as we continue to sit out the coronavirus lockdown. It is not a natural state for us to be socially or physically isolated from our families and friends and of course our faith community. Questions around how we can continue to love God and love neighbour remain a constant conversation for most of us. We know that Australians are experiencing unprecedented levels of anxiety, loneliness, and grief and so our individual and collective acts of loving kindness are so necessary now.

Fresh Expressions UK has asked some helpful questions for us to consider:

- *How does physical distancing not mean goodbye, farewell, and separation, but promote new ways of presence, closeness, lovingness, and nearness?*
- *How does social isolation not mean loneliness, segregation, and seclusion, but would require new ways of thinking through radical inclusion, solidarity, and mutual support?*
- *How does the physical act of community building still happen?*
- *What does a neighbourly response look like? How can our many gifts, skills and talents be channelled into new creative and exciting ways? How do we continue to unearth the gifts of our neighbours, and encourage new ways these can be shared with each other?*

On the following pages there are some ideas that might prompt new missional thinking for our churches in this time and catalyse our individual and collective acts of loving kindness.

We hope these ideas will inspire you to find small ways to make a big difference. However, once you have started small you will be amazed how quickly you will be encouraged to go even bigger. We would love to partner with and support you in this work so please do get in touch with us at missioncatalyst@buv.com.au to continue the conversation.

First off – Pray

1. Undertake a regular prayer walk in your neighbourhood, praying for each household ([you may want to follow this link for a fuller review with our Community Portrait Document](#))
2. Establish a prayer movement in your church where members pray for three people God lays on hearts currently.
3. Pray for your neighbours.

20 Practical Ways *your Church* can be a blessing in COVID 19

Young People and families

1. Establish an online gaming competition sponsored by your church.
2. Ask people to donate laptops and tablets for families who are home-schooling and do not have access to technology.
3. Establish a neighbourhood toy exchange either at your church or home.
4. Establish a digital after-school homework club (through the Children's Ministry Department but open to parents from outside the church)
5. An online mum and babies' group (advertise in your local neighbourhood to connect isolated mums at home)
6. Host a parenting course online
7. Set up training schemes for young people online in life skills, IT, CV writing.
8. Raise funds for domestic violence support using an online donations platform.

The Elderly

9. Make phone visits with the elderly
10. Deliver meals to elderly residents
11. Establish a computer servicing and assistance online program

Community Building

12. Host a marriage course online
13. Members of the church join their local suburban FaceBook page and contribute, or Create a community website or Facebook page
14. Run an online community regular quiz night
15. Set up a book exchange
16. Organise an online community choir (many examples of this on Youtube)
17. Set up a temporary street café offering free food (See article in Bulletin from the Daylesford Church)
18. Online Mental Health Course (eg. Sanctuary) – Coburg Baptist.
19. Offer a healthy eating course online (you can partner with organisations such as OzHarvest, Food Bank Victoria), or distribute food through these charities
20. Organise basic reading and writing for adults (see article in Bulletin from Shepparton Baptist – Story House)

See the next page for **20 Practical Ways you can bless your neighbourhood during COVID 19.**



20 Practical Ways you can bless your neighbourhood during COVID 19.

1. Buy your neighbour (or barista) a local takeaway coffee.
2. Join or launch a front window bear hunt for the local children.
3. Launch a street Facebook. Messenger or WhatsApp link to share requests, needs, ideas etc.
4. Link into the “Viral Kindness” website and introduce yourself and how you can offer small acts of loving kindness.

HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is

I live locally at

My phone number is

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping Posting mail

A friendly phone call Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. **#ViralKindness**

5. Offer to do the shopping for neighbours who are experiencing mobility issues.
6. Cook an extra meal and leave it at a neighbour's door.
7. Offer to walk a neighbour's dog who is working or unwell.
8. Leave a child's craft pack (colouring book and crayons) at the front door of your neighbour who has small children.
9. Set up a community street pantry that everyone can donate to.
10. Offer to garden a neighbour's front yard.
11. Volunteer to cook takeaway meals for the local Salvos.
12. Set up a 'time bank' where people can offer services in exchange for hours back
13. Establish an online “knit and natter” group (Coburg Church has a great online craft group which meets)
14. Establish a book exchange out the front of your house
15. Establish a “movie night” with neighbours on zoom
16. Organise a “thank you” initiative to the local
17. Hand out cards and flowers to your local traders who are supporting us in this time.
18. Hold a “dinner on the driveway” night for everyone in your street.
19. For the artists – paint a picture each week and put out front with a message of hope
20. Work with aligned neighbours to propagate plants to bless the community.