

Small Things

By Thomas Baxley

Jesus likened the kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed and leaven (Matthew 13:31-33). The mustard seed is incredibly small, smaller than many other seeds, yet it grows into one of the largest plants in the garden. When making bread, very little leaven is needed. Reaching back to the Book of Daniel and thinking of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the statue was destroyed by a stone, but that stone grew into a great mountain and filled the earth. Looking through the New Testament we can see this came to pass. John the Baptist and Jesus came preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near." Peter was given the keys to the kingdom, the church (Matthew 16:18-19), which he used to open the door to Jews (Acts 2) and Gentiles (Acts 10). By the time of the writing of Colossians, the kingdom, whose coming arrival was preached in Judea, had come and had been preached in the rest of the world (Colossians 1:3-6). So, remember that when we evangelize, it is rare to convince people immediately. Rather, we plant a small seed inside their minds, and, if watered and tended, it has the potential grow and to transform lives.

Encouraging One Another During This Trying Time

By Martha Lynn Rushmore

What can we do to encourage one another during this time of the coronavirus pandemic? We can call, write notes, send cards or postcards, etc. What have you done to be an encourager?

One sister in Christ sent postcards to every member of her congregation since the lockdown because of the virus as encouragement to her brothers and sisters in Christ. I am not sure how many are in attendance there, but I am sure this was not cheap. Glory be to God for her thoughtfulness.

There have been a lot of women from churches making masks for those of us who do not sew. In our congregation, we had at least two ladies making masks for anyone who needed them. This was thoughtful. They did not take any money for doing this good deed. Others provided the material. This was their part as they do not or cannot sew. So, you see these are encouraging things that can be done.

You can take food to older people or to those who are sick. You do not have to go into their houses. Just knock and leave the food on the porch. Then, they can come out without any contact. If you do not want to take the food, you can call a restaurant that delivers in their area and have a meal delivered to them.

What else can we do to encourage each other? How about the use of Facebook? This is a very good way to keep in contact with one another. Most people today have a computer and are on Facebook.

There are a lot of preachers using the Internet to preach sermons or to give 5-minute talks, etc. Many congregations are leading worship services online at least once a week so we can fellowship this way. Some congregations are doing Sunday morning, Sunday evening and Wednesday Bible Study. We have many choices for sound Gospel preaching over the Internet.

Some congregations are handing out communion in packages already prepared so we can worship together on Sunday morning. Handing out these items is done as safely as possible. Our members drive to the church building to pick up what is needed and do not get out of the vehicle. Those handing out the communion, the bulletin and anything else pass the items through the car windows. Those passing out these items have on gloves and masks. They also use sanitizer and put on a new pair of gloves between each car. These servants sit in the drive through 6-feet apart, ready to distribute supplies. This is what my home congregation is doing to help fellowship and also be safe as possible during this trying time of the coronavirus.

God bless and stay safe.

