Living Through Giving

“Pure and lasting religion in the sight of God our Father means that we must care for orphans and widows in their troubles, and refuse to let the world corrupt us.” James 1:27 (NLT)

In today’s church, we see a new form of widows and orphans – single parents and their children. Because of circumstances in this world, many women (and some men) are left to raise their children alone, with many of them in the poverty zone or at least labeled as working poor. These family units don’t exist only in urban areas anymore, they are present everywhere. According to James, we are called to care for them in their troubles while refusing to let the world tell us anything different.

Spirit Led Giving can be defined as this – As the Spirit leads, we give to support others by sharing from our current expenses, not just our excess. It’s really easy for us to give from our excess, but it is harder to give from our current income. But when the Bible says, “Care” - we need to stand up, take notice and address the need, even if it makes us sacrifice a bit of our comfort.

One great way to live this out is to have a “Thanksiving.” Some of the toughest times of the year for families in trauma are the holidays. It’s the time of year all of our money is tight! However, if we can address that need by giving some relief to their state, we honor God’s request to care for them. We also take a stand against the world’s view of “excess” during the holiday season. Here is how to walk your Great Commission Women through a Thanksiving. If you haven’t figured it out yet, Thanksiving is a play on words from Thanksgiving! We give, so they can live. You can use this giving project for any season of the year, just change the name.

1 Month before Thanksgiving:

• Discern with the help of the Holy Spirit who in your community could use some support for the holidays. This can be women from your church or better yet, families who don’t attend your church.

• Have one of your women make a phone call to each family explaining that your ministry would like to supply them with a Thanksgiving meal. Cast vision for the loving care of the Father for them and let them know the baskets will be delivered to them the week before Thanksgiving.

3 Weeks before Thanksgiving:

• Pull together a master list of what you will include in the basket. When we do this, we include the following:
  - A $15.00 gift certificate for a turkey
  - A recipe and all the fixins for a sweet potato casserole
  - All the ingredients for a pumpkin pie.
  - Stuffing supplies
  - Green bean casserole recipe and ingredients
  - A lovely note saying they are loved and a scripture to encourage them

• Each basket will cost around $40.00 when finished. Encourage the women to not just give money, but go out and purchase items to fulfill the list needs. You can also encourage the women to invite the church to donate ingredients as well increasing the number of families you can bless.

2 Weeks before Thanksgiving:

• Gather the women together to put the baskets together. Make them as beautiful as possible! Handwrite the notes. Spend the evening praying for each parent and their family that God would breathe new life into their homes. Divide up the deliveries and teams members so that everyone has a chance to make a visit!
• Confirm the drop off times for each family and who will make the delivery. We suggest going in teams of at least 2 but not more than 4.

1 Week before Thanksgiving:

• Make the deliveries to each home. Spend time with the parent and their children. Encourage them, pray for them and express God’s love for them and the commitment of your church to their well being.

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