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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we are 6 weeks into this strange new world and Lynette and I have been reflecting on the fact that we have not been in church with any of you since February 10<sup>th</sup>, that is 11 whole weeks!

We miss gathering with you and sharing faith, fellowship and the testimony of God operating in your lives.

I have been so very encouraged by the acts of generosity and care I have seen and by the genuine attempts to be supportive of one another. Our Lord would be pleased.

I feel a bit like old Mr Grace from the British TV series "are you being served?" (apologies to everyone under 50) saying "*you have all done very well*" so let's continue to love and encourage our neighbours.

I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you that even as we practice physical distancing... we need to connect socially now more than ever.... while we maintain our physical distance.

If you have the feeling that people aren't calling or contacting you often enough then... **you contact them**. If you are worried about intruding then start the call with something like

*"do you have something you need to do at the moment or can we talk for a few minutes?"*

Keep the calls short... 10-15 minutes... you can always ring again in a couple of days.

During this time of isolation Lynette and I have used the time we would normally spend driving or at a coffeeshop or shopping to:

- Try to walk the dog more regularly
- **Begin** to sort out the end room
- **Start** more regular skirmishes with the weeds
- **Watch** online sermons, bible talks and how to [do, use, make] ...
- **Progress a few** maintenance /repair projects around the rectory.

I encourage you to make every effort to use this time positively.

- If you have struggled to maintain a regular prayer and bible reading habit start now.
- If you have difficult family relationships that you want to be different, then start by writing a letter or making a phone call.
- If you have books on the shelf you bought because you thought they would speak to you in a positive manner, read them.
- If you have a cupboard, a room, a garage, a storage shed that houses things you intended to sort through one day, start today.

If, like me, you aren't a natural self-starter then partner up form a group, become accountable and encourage each other in your endeavours.

If you need a Biblical basis for being productive in difficult times... remember that the Apostle Paul wrote letters of encouragement, power and hope to the **Ephesian, Philippian, Colossian** churches, and a personal letter to **Philemon** all while languishing in prison.

Remember we have many online activities which you can be a part of:

- Sunday worship
- Bible studies on a Tuesday
- Morning Tea on Wednesday, and
- A Family Quiz night on Thursday May 14.

If that is a challenge then let us know and perhaps, we can make it possible for you to be a part of these things too.

It may seem like the right time for some things never comes along, but now is absolutely the right time to share the hope and love and of our Lord Jesus with the world.

*...for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. (Phil 2:13 NIV)*

Blessings

Ken & Lynette Rampling