



UPDATE FROM PASTOR RUSS AND ANNE LORIA

The Father's Heart: established April 30, 2011

Dear Friends: Our newsletter looks a little different this time. Due to COVID-19 we were unable to have our annual fundraiser. Instead we mailed this letter to remind all of us that LOVE is at the heart of our ministry. We would like to encourage you to grab a cup of coffee and read through the letter. And should the Lord prompt you to give in any way, please know that we would be both encouraged and blessed by your generosity.

In 1 Corinthians chapter 12, the Apostle Paul begins by bringing to light spiritual gifts that are distributed to believers as the Holy Spirit sees fit. He then goes on to write about the body of Christ, making comparisons between the spiritual body of Christ and the human body itself. Then in verse twenty-seven, he states, "Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." (KJV)



In other words, we are the body of Christ and individually members of it. It is an important and exciting chapter, reminding us of our mission to carry out the ministry He has given us. Paul gives us the insight to see that we possess power from the Holy Spirit to do amazing things for the Lord and then we are further

informed that if we work together as one body in Christ, we can do even greater things and accomplish even more than we can alone.



But Paul is not finished yet. The Holy Spirit has more for him to pen for us. You see, as important as chapter 12 is, as Paul transitions to chapter 13, he does so to tell us about something that is vastly more important than what was contained in the previous chapter. How do we know it is immensely more important? Because Paul ends chapter 12 this way:

"But now let me show you a way of life that is best of all." 1 Corinthians 12:31 (NLT)

That, "way of life that is best of all" is love. The Apostle lists what love is in one of the most familiar portions of Scripture and tells us that **love must** be the motivating factor in all that we do. He then ends chapter 13 verse 13 this way:

"But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love." (NASB)

How beautiful! And how the love of Christ, shown thru His children, is so deeply needed at a time like we are in right now.

Earlier this year, a new virus appeared in the U.S. which was identified as COVID-19. This was an unfamiliar, sinister virus, and it came raging upon America like a winter storm in New York and with it came uncertainty and fear to the population, including our government leaders. New York State was virtually shut down.

During the shutdown, while we were all anxiously awaiting our state to reopen, things took place around the country that began to cause anger and unrest. Demonstrations and even riots followed in some major areas across our nation, including our own city. And regrettably, we continue in that type of atmosphere even now.

We remain deeply divided.

Why are these things happening? Why is there so much division? Why is there so much hatred? It is because in all of this, one thing is absent: love. And it is the one answer to our culture's problems. And if we don't show it, and we don't reflect the love the Lord Jesus has shown to us so that others around us might see the light of the glory of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, then who's going to do it? In His choosing us, He has given us the ability and called us to be ministers of reconciliation. And it all starts with loving our neighbor. And what kind of love is this?

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 (ESV)

We can and should demonstrate love in our individual lives; and we read earlier, if we work together, using all parts of the body of Christ, we can even do more. That's where The Father's Heart comes in. Through this ministry, we all have an opportunity to work together – to love together, in an environment where only love can successfully change minds, hearts, lives, communities, cities, counties, states, and even our nation.



As individuals, can we draw a crowd of scores of people to hear the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Probably not. Individually, can we have an opportunity to pray for many hurting people in the span of just an hour or two? Probably not. Individually, do we have the financial means to purchase groceries and make a hot meal three times a week, week after week? Again, probably not.

But, we can through the ministry called The Father's Heart!!

That's how the Lord works. He brings His people together, each having special gifts, to work together as one body, to show the love of Christ through the preaching of the Good News, the distribution of food for the needy, and a hot meal for the hungry. And to God be the glory!

In the past, we would have shared a message like this with you in person at our annual fundraiser. Sadly, because of continued restrictions placed upon all of us in New York State due to the ongoing presence of COVID-19, we found it necessary to cancel our September 12, 2020 fundraiser. Our annual fundraisers have given us the opportunity to inform, fellowship, and break bread together, and to share the many ways in which the Lord has blessed the ministry throughout the past year. The prayerful, generous donations from those in attendance always gave us extra support, and what a blessing it has always been! This added support has allowed us to see God's hand in the ministry by allowing us to move in many wonderful and surprising ways. We were always amazed and awestruck by how the Lord moved many of you in our fundraisers! Allow us to say, “Thank you” once again.



This year, instead of an in-person fundraiser, where you come to us, we are coming to you through the words in this letter and asking you to prayerfully consider just three things: ¶

First, is to pray (or continue to pray) for the ministry. We deeply covet your prayers because we are in constant need of God's mercy, grace, power, safety, and provision in the ministry. He is our enabler and our buckler. He is our provider and our rock and so may He remind you regularly to lift up the ministry of The Father's Heart, that we might receive His incredible righteous favor and you might see your prayers powerfully answered! ¶

Secondly, we ask you to prayerfully consider either continuing your volunteer work with the ministry or if you have not yet taken that step, give it a try. Your help is greatly needed, and you will always find that it is immensely appreciated. If you know of someone you would like to introduce to The Father's Heart, please bring them along so they can see what we do. Perhaps the Lord will move them to volunteer right alongside of you!

Lastly, if through prayer, the Lord places it in your heart to give financially, we would be so very grateful. Your donation can be done either electronically through our webpage, or by writing a check made out to "The Father's Heart" and mailing it to us at the post office box below.

Please feel free to reach out to us per contact info below with questions or if you would like to volunteer. We covet your prayers for us and the ministry.

Please know that we are keeping you in prayer during these times as we deal with health risks, unemployment, isolation, family issues, and unrest. We trust the Lord will meet our every need, allowing us to share the love of Jesus with people in the streets, bringing them provision, and hope in His name.



Sincerely,

The Father's Heart Board of Directors

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The Father's Heart

Our mission is to share the love of Christ with as many people as possible and try to enhance the quality of life for all whom we witness to on the streets.

We share the word of God and feed and clothe people of the streets of Rochester, bringing hope that Jesus will grab hold of their hurting, lonely, hopeless hearts to be His hands and feet extended in love!

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Hear ye, hear ye!

It's a YouTube thing...
YouTube

This is an important message for everyone!



The Father's Heart ministry uses Facebook to broadcast live from each of its outreach locations.

Unfortunately, FB is changing the rules on live broadcasts, so we are changing to YouTube for live streaming.

But there's an issue: Before we can live stream on YouTube, we must have a minimum of 100 subscribers to our YouTube URL.

Here's where you come in.

We are asking that you go to YouTube and then type: thefathersheartroc into the search bar. That will take you to our YouTube site. Once there, please hit the SUBSCRIBE button.

That's it! That's all you have to do! If 100 people will subscribe, we'll have enough to use the live stream portion of YouTube.

Thank you for helping us...and God bless you!