

2016 World Activity Kit - Social Service

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I am living here in Indonesia, where the climate has become even hotter this year due to global warming. This morning I read in the newspaper that due to global warming, the sea levels have risen and several big cities across the world could become submerged under water. Jakarta, which is the capital of Indonesia, was included in the list. That's not all. There are also thousands of people that have become refugees, unable to return to their own countries and homes, and rejected by the surrounding nations. The terrorist attacks that take place worldwide make us tremble with fear. Then do these sufferings keep occurring because the world still doesn't know God's great love?

At this time I would like to thank the Social Service Department in each of the countries that have bravely helped serve our neighbors in need throughout the world. Even our small concerns, services, and prayers can provide hope and comfort through God's great love to our neighbors that may be living in fear. When we visit our neighbors who have suffered tragedies or are limited due to illnesses to offer encouragement, we witness a little piece of heaven from their response to our message.

Visitations are one of the important ministries in the Social Service Department. Some of our members have re-used the flowers that were used to decorate the pulpit at the church they serve on Sundays. They place a flower in a small plastic bottle to take to someone they want to encourage that is lying in a hospital bed. This is similar to the type of ministry that Jennie Casseday carried out. There are times when we can use Bible verses and also times when we can not. Regardless, we still believe that the love and encouragement we give to them is the same.

Another great way we can encourage and share our faith with others is by using a free messaging app on our smart phones. These apps are used to share Bible verses, useful links and information, urgent prayer requests, and personal and group messages to encourage one another. I think these messaging apps are another great way to contact our sisters around the world and to strengthen each other's faith. I hope and pray that our WCTU sisters will experience and be thankful for God's unchanging love each moment.

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