

Pastor's Reflections :

God's Work, Our Hands

We're celebrating "*God's Work, Our Hands*" this Sunday (6 Sept.) in the fellowship hall right after the Worship service! This year we'll be putting our faith into practice as together we put together backpacks for children entering the foster care system and Dignity, Hygiene Packs for women in crisis. This event reminds us that God works through ordinary people doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.

These projects we'll be doing are simple. We gather supplies, organize and fill backpacks and packages, and send them off to *Froggy's Closet* and *Showers for Souls* where they will be distributed to those in need. Simple projects, but it is so much more than just that.

A backpack can say to a child, "You have not been forgotten." A child entering foster care feels uncertainty, fear, and the trauma of separation from familiar people and places. A backpack filled with useful and comforting things won't make those feelings go away, but it can offer a small measure of caring, security, and kindness at a time when they need it most.

Likewise, feminine hygiene products are basic necessities. Providing these supplies is more than meeting a physical need. It is a way of saying, "Your dignity matters. Your needs matter. You matter."

We love God by showing love to our neighbor in need. Jesus tells us, "*Just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me.*" 'God's work, our hands' is worship that we do with our hands. As we work alongside one another, laugh together, encourage one another, and perhaps wonder whether our small contribution will really make a difference, we are serving Christ.

And that is the beautiful mystery of grace: God takes what we prepare and uses it for purposes far greater than we can see. Chances are you and I will probably never meet the child who receives one of our backpacks or know the name of the woman who discretely receives one of our packs when they come to shower. We may never hear their stories or know how our small act of kindness has affected their lives.

But we don't need to know. It's God's work. Our hands. Christian service is not something separate from our faith. It is a way our faith becomes visible. God has given us hands not only to receive his gifts, but also to share those gifts with our neighbors. On Sunday come ready to work, and ready to discover once again that even the smallest acts of love from our hands can become a vehicle for God's grace.

Pastor Larry