

Welcome the interruption

COVID positive, but Christ is greater

As we enter into our 4th and final week for “Welcoming the Interruption,” we encourage the church to continue to radically love on those who are vulnerable. Through these weeks, we have seen the need for those willing to help, and as followers of Christ, we are empowered by His strength to rise to the occasion. We are called “to devote [ourselves] to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need and not be unfruitful” (Titus 3:14, ESV). As it is not of our own strength that we are able to radically love and serve those around us, it is the strength and love of Christ that lives within us. We encourage you to rely on His strength, despite the fear, and love those around you with radical generosity. This week, we want to focus on our Chicago chapter, as they work to help others welcome the interruption.

Sunny moments during windy times

In the height of this pandemic, one of our Chicago chapter’s family coaches, Monica Vanover, was on call during the weekend. She received a call requesting help for a homeless woman who had tested positive for COVID-19. She had three children—two boys and a girl. Due to the fact she had the virus, she was hospitalized, and was not allowed to have her children with her in the hospital. It was especially challenging, as these children had been exposed to the virus.

A relative came forward to care for the boys, leaving the 2-year-old girl in need of a host family. Both the girl’s father and aunt backed out, deciding not to take her in at the last minute.

Thankfully, SFFC found a host family who took in the little girl. This host was a single mom who had adopted 5 children out of foster care with plenty of experience in showing generous hospitality. She took in the little girl for a week, which proved to be challenging, as she missed her mother. The host family, SFFC Chicago, and her mother worked to find a way to allow them to stay connected, honoring the CDC restrictions.

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After a week, the mother was discharged from the hospital. On that Wednesday, she had planned to move into an apartment. However, there was a mix-up, delaying the move-in until Friday, leaving her without a place to stay. Until she was allowed to move into the new apartment, SFFC Chicago worked with the generosity of those willing and provided the mother with a hotel room to stay in. She was reunited with her daughter on the same day.

Not physically there, but still loved

SFFC Chicago is no stranger to the loneliness that hospitalization is producing during these times. With the CDC restrictions due to COVID-19, hospitalization becomes isolation for many.

Another parent receiving help through SFFC was hospitalized—not from COVID, but because of diabetes complications. Her stay lasted three weeks, and due to the lack of visitors, she was feeling very down and discouraged. Knowing she was feeling isolated, several SFFC volunteers came forward to cheer her up with cards and gifts, displaying the love of Christ to her in a moment of sadness—reminding her that she was not alone.

Your willingness to be radically generous, loving on the vulnerable, can change someone's situation significantly. As you walk through this interruption, will you choose to be the hands and feet of Christ, relying on his strength to love and serve the vulnerable?