Welcome the interruption

2020 has definitely started out unexpectedly, with COVID-19 being used as an instrument to steal, kill, and destroy. The interruption it has caused in everyday life has bred fear and anxiety in the hearts of many.

As most are called to be stationary, feeling immobilized, Safe Families for Children is welcoming this interruption. We are accepting the challenge to mobilize the Church to reach the vulnerable, in any way we can.

This interruption in our lives can be turned into an act of great love by the body of Christ to those most affected and vulnerable. If we shake the chains of fear and anxiety, learning to trust in God, the Church could be a powerful force coating those who are hurting and fearful with the love of Christ.

As Christians, we are called to continue the good works, even in the moments of uncertainty. Life may have been interrupted, but the love of Christ and the Church are not immobilized. Now more than ever those in crisis need radical generosity and support. As ambassadors of Christ, we are called to live set apart from those around us, demonstrating His love to those who are hurting.

This pattern of unknown events is not unfamiliar to the timeline of history. Neither is the Church being the hands and feet of Christ during them. The Church has a rich history in boldly stepping out in the name of Christ to respond to those in need, mobilizing that love in times that seem to breed immobilization and fear.

Our vision for the "Welcome the Interruption" campaign is to is to encourage and equip the Church during the month of April to rise to the challenge with us. Using Titus 3:1 (ESV) as our battle cry, it encourages Christians to "*be ready for every good work*". Join us in living ready for the challenge of responding to the needs of our neighbors in this unprecedented time.

Churches have an opportunity to bring the radical love of Christ to those who are hurting. Titus 3:14 (ESV) states: *"and let out people learn to devote themselves to good works, so as to help cases of urgent need, and not be unfruitful"*. We are called to be ready for good works in every scenario, not only those that are comfortable and known.

Our mission during COVID-19 is to continue to host vulnerable children and create extended family-like support for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers. As well as find ways to provide for those parents affected by this virus the most. Families are in crisis, needing support and aid from the body of Christ, and we intend to continue to find ways to bring aid to them.

Our prayer and hope is for thousands of local churches to join us for "Welcome the Interruption" by subscribing to our weekly resources and sharing them with your congregation. Contact your

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local Safe Families chapter (<u>www.safe-families.org/locations</u>) to discover how to meet local needs of families in crisis and vulnerable children. You local chapter will also be able to provide training opportunities for individual people, families and small groups in your church to serve together.

Thank you, and may God bless you!

External links to share:

https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/issues/issue-49/black-death-christian-response-third-world-died.html

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-lessons-church-history/

https://coronavirusandthechurch.com/