

*"Love desires to give and serve; the gifts and the service vary with age...show your love in service and confidence..." ("Ourselves", page 85)*

## **Ideas to encourage ministry & service in your home and family during the younger years:**

- ♥ Bake or prepare a meal & deliver it to a friend, a neighbor and/ or service station (police, sheriff, fire, army reserves and EMT) might be a little messy allowing small hands, but try allowing for stirring, pouring in an ingredient or two or some part of the prep to be done by those little hands. Plus, it might be a great time to show and practice clean up time.
- ♥ Visit a local nursing home/ assisted living community to bring a smile and delight. (Call ahead and speak with the director to coordinate before going.)
  - a. Make birthday, Veteran's Day, Valentine's Day and/ or Christmas cards and bring them to the resident director of the community to share with those whom may not have any close friends or family.
  - b. Bake some yummy goodies to share and drop them by to be enjoyed.
  - c. Sing...consider sharing some folksongs, hymns or carols
- ♥ Lead your children in remembering to bring prayer into all the corners of their day.
  - a. Make a paper chain of prayer requests and praises to bring to the Lord
  - b. Choose a person to pray for each week. If you are able to print and place in a prominent place (even in a small album that would be able to house all the photos of those whom have been apart of your family's prayer time) a photo of whom you have chosen to bring to the Lord with your child(ren), it may help bring "life" to prayer time.
  - c. Use a globe and explain that children live, play, eat and sleep in different lands all over the world. Let them chose a land and pray for other children in the world and learn about. Perhaps adding a missionary tale about how someone in the past was able to minister in the name of the Lord to an area within the land you will be praying for with your children would also help bring the truth of prayer and the gospel to them.
- ♥ Hospitality- open your time, your arms and thus your heart to others.

*"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality." Romans 12:13*

  - a. Welcome another mom and her child(ren) into your home for some time of fellowship
  - b. Host a "Blessings Party", ask a few families to join in bringing supplies to put together hygiene bags for the homeless, a local shelter, an assisted living residence or children's home in your area. Allow the children to have a hand in making the bags and even adding personal touches like cards.
  - c. Open your pantry and bring some of your family's favorite foods to a local food bank and consider going without for the day, week or month to bring it to others whom are in need.
  - d. Whenever you are out and the time arises thank a military or service man or woman in uniform for his or her service.
  - e. Share "thank you" to those whom you are around, taking time to look others in their eyes, giving them full attention and allow your child(ren) to have it in their atmosphere each day.

- ♥ Ask and/ inquire at your church if there may be a ministry opportunity that you may complete at home and/ or with you children participating.

{A few years ago, my younger daughters were able to prepare 50 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches once a month in my mother's home to be a part of sack lunches that were given out at the end of a "pop-up" soup kitchen. My older daughters are now able to be apart of the serving dinner each month, passing out those same sack lunches. It has been a blessing that the Lord has provided, something I would not have been able to orchestrate without Him, looking beyond ourselves and showing love to others.}

## *Love's Prayer*

*By: James Whitcomb Riley*

*"DEAR Lord! kind Lord!  
Gracious Lord! I pray  
Thou wilt look on all I love,  
Tenderly to-day!  
Weed their hearts of weariness;  
Scatter every care,  
Down a wake of angel wings  
Winnowing the air.  
Bring unto the sorrowing  
All release from pain;  
Let the lips of laughter  
Overflow again;  
And with all the needy  
O divide, I pray,  
This vast treasure of content  
That is mine to-day!"*