

FAITHWORKS 2020

Hi Pastor Matt.

I am Ritchie Christianson, one of the parish nurses who used to meet monthly at the hospital until gatherings of more than 2 people became illegal.

Your parish nurse, Betsy Main, is a good friend of mine. I wanted to let you know about something happening on Mother's Day, Sunday May 10. FAITH WORKS 2020 is an event taking place from 8am till 4 pm where a group of Christians are doing something to tangibly help the many Tuolumne County residents who have lost their jobs or been laid off or have had their small businesses closed down by Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20. Even though big box stores like Walmart are open & thriving, many individuals are hurting badly financially. As a Christian, I feel we should do something to help these people besides just tell them we are praying for them. FAITH WORKS 2020 is an overtly Christian outreach to be the hands and feet of Jesus to provide things to help these people have a less stressful life. Besides being a general contractor, I have an active RN license with a BSN in nursing and an MPH in health education. I have worked 30 years in hospital nursing and know the reality of the Corona Virus problem. God asked me to do something to help these people in our county who are facing hardship so I teamed up with our local hospital, the parish nurse program and am seeking the help of Christian pastors to involve Christians in this project. I prayed about where to hold this event and felt impressed to ask the manager of the Junction Shopping Center in Sonora about the use of their parking lot. Wendy, the manager was in and it turns out she is a Christian who goes to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church up by Sugar Pine. She said they were looking for some way to help and she was excited to hear about our plan. Many of us have extra things in our homes which have value but we could share. My wife and I found kitchen things, extra new toothbrushes, seeds and garden supplies, home improvement supplies, smart phones that work but we no longer need, and so much more. Alex, a reporter for the Union Democrat is running an article asking people to come if they need help and also asking those with needed items to bring them to the event to give away. The event is totally free, but if anyone wishes to donate money to help these people, the Hospital can run tax-deductible donations through the Chaplain's Fund. To comply with public health guidelines all helpers at this event will be given N-95 masks and gloves and 6 foot distancing will be used. I realize at this time Christian Churches can not meet in groups as we used to do but this is a way that we can have Christian outreach to those who need help. We are hoping to pray with and for those who come. If you, or any of your members could help with this, please contact me at wchristianson7@gmail.com or by my cell phone (209) 559-4394

Thanks, Ritchie Christianson RN