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Words of Encouragement
From Anne

Many years ago, my family had the rotary phone. It was a heavy black phone that sat on a table with having only a lamp on it. Attached was a heavy black cord nearly ten feet long that would reach into the hall allowing us to sit on the floor to experience privacy! I realized Zoom started way back then. We had a Party Line and at times there would be others on the phone. Each of us our own ring and would only answer if it was our particular ring. I would listen for the rings of the other calls and sneak around the corner, grab the phone, scurry down the hall, and listen to their conversations. I loved to listen to the other people on the line. I did not know who was talking, or what they were talking about and it really did not matter to me. I just wanted to know about these ladies (men really did not like the phone back then) and their stories. I had to be extra quiet or they would know someone was listening in and then I would be in trouble. This reminded me of my days right now.



I sit up in a bedroom I have made into a temporary office. I am on my phone, sometimes in my chair, sometimes snuggling a pillow on my bed, or sometimes I am walking back and forth in a small area. I am at peace as I talk to God's children and we share stories. We have so much to share. We need to be connected now more than ever.

Amazingly, as I talked to one of my friends, we found out 50 years ago, I walked in front of her house to meet with a mutual friend. We so enjoyed remembering the time and the environment back then. Memories of the area we lived around, neighbors we both knew, and the experiences during those times flooded our conversation. Those great memories we shared together left me smiling the whole day.

A large amount of my time is spent on calls from our Connectors (God's special servants). This group has offered to call, text, or email God's family so we may all stay connected. By connecting together, I have been overwhelmed with all the activities God's children have been involved in in order to help others stay safe. So many of you are making masks for our local hospitals and first responders. Masks are being made for family members, neighbors, and community helpers. Hundreds of masks have been made and shared by our Christian friends.

One Connector was so concerned about one of her friends that she went and purchased her some dark chocolate as she learned of her love of chocolate to lift her spirits.

An amazing gifted group calls to let me know the cards they have made are ready to be picked up. Beautiful handmade cards showing how much we care about each other are being made. They are being made to remind us we are being prayed for. Beautiful cards that show how much God loves us and how He is standing right beside us are being made everyday to be shared with others.

During many calls, I really get to know who the caller is and get to hear their actual story of who they are and what their life is all about. Not just the "how are you on Sunday — I'm fine" comment that I usually share with many of you as we continue to travel on in different directions.

Calls come to me wanting to help others. There is a need to help our friends. Some have picked up medicines, some have gotten groceries, some have mailed letters or made muffins to surprise a lonely friend.

I have been so surprised by the honesty of all of us. Words, like I am sad, I am lonely, I am a mess, I need my family, I need my church, I am ready for this to be over are easily shared.

Confirmation of these true feelings and emotions brings healing conversations for all of us. I have had to be honest with my callers and confirm I miss my mom, I miss my kids and grandkids, and I miss my church and all our connections with each other.

Of course, I am on calls that need to inform the church of personal events happening or have happened in their lives that need to be prayed for or over. These are the calls that hurt my heart the most because we cannot go to them. When God's children are hurting, we all hurt. We have recently had deaths, surgeries, falls with broken bones, cancer diagnosis, kidney stones, pneumonia, continuing cancer treatments, flus and colds, and COVID-19. We have those that need surgery, but they are not life or death situations so are not scheduled at this time. All of this is harder to take when your family and friends cannot be with you.

The calls that hit my heart are the calls I make with Pastor Britton. One by one, we pray for God's people with their joys and concerns. We feel God working in each prayer as we call on Him. We pray for God to hold us and show us His path for us so we will show His love to all His people! We pray for all to be connected with Christ!

I am calling all of you to be connected with each other. If you think of someone: please call them. If you need a phone number or email let me know. If you would like a call from a Connector, please let me know! Please share your joys and concerns with us! Let us pray for you! God Bless you each day!

"I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought." 1 Corinthians 1:10

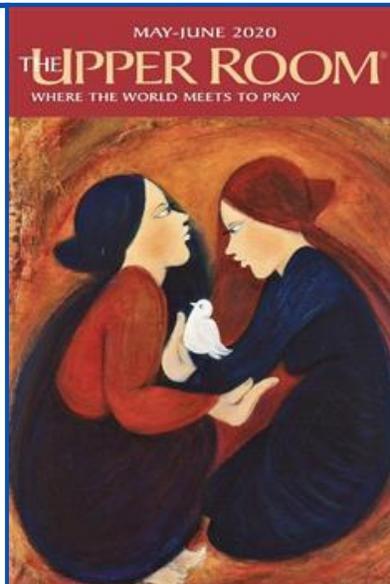
Blessings,
Anne



**Celebrating 100 Years
Young on
Friday, April 24**

Join the fun by sending
a card to the address
below.

Caroline James
8401 N Harbour Place
Parkville, MO 64152



**Pick Up Your
Upper Room**

The front door of the
church will be open
for people to pick up
copies of the Upper
Room devotional
from 2-4 p.m. on
Friday, April 24.