

# TEN WAYS TO SHOW UP FOR OTHERS THIS SUMMER

BY CATHY BAKER



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**1. Spot prayer opportunities.** Heading to the pool, amusement park, or beach this summer? We may not know who needs our prayer, but God does. *Lord, give us an intentional heart that stays sensitive to frazzled moms, children who feel invisible, and those we may easily overlook.*

**2. Do you know someone choosing to stay quarantined?** Reach out to let them know they're not forgotten by you, their church, and especially God. We are wired for community, not isolation. Offer to help with groceries, dinner, or yard work. It's a simple way to stay connected and bless them at the same time.

**3. Offer to stay put so that someone else can go to work, or get a break.** As you feel comfortable, offer to stay with children or relieve a caregiver for a few hours.

**4. Send one handwritten letter a week.**

**5. Harness the power of a picnic table.** In Kristin Schell's book, *The Turquoise Table*, she tells the story of setting out a picnic table in her front yard. She sat there at a certain time of day and eventually others in the neighborhood began to join her. #FrontYardPeople.

**6. Quench spiritual thirst.** Ours, that is. We know what our soul thirsts for -- drawing closer to God, sharing the gospel, studying Scripture, enjoying biblical community.

**7. Smile.** They're free, they're friendly, and they're powerful!

**8. A Hero's Handout.** Purchase individual drinks—lemonade, Coke, ginger ale, etc. Hand them out to a local fire department or other front-line groups, thanking them for their dedication. It's a meaningful way to refresh more than the physical appetite.

**9. Take an {intentional} walk around the block.** As you walk, pray quietly for your neighbors. Pray for God's blessings on families, for marriages to be strengthened, for single parents to have wisdom, and for children/teens to feel deeply loved by their parents, and especially God.

**10. Pick fresh fruit and share some with a neighbor.** One idea: Place berries in a ziploc with Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the LORD is good" written on it.

HOW FAR THAT LITTLE CANDLE THROWS HIS BEAMS!  
SO SHINES A GOOD DEED IN A WEARY WORLD.  
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE