

# HELP ACROSS THE STREET

A few years ago, when a severe ice storm left thousands in rural Kentucky without electricity for more than a week, Joe Stutzman walked across the street to check in on his neighbors, the Hutchins family.

He then brought them coffee every morning and fresh water from his well. Mrs. Stutzman made the family home-cooked meals, and Joe lent them a kerosene lantern so they could see in the dark.

The Stutzmans were largely unaffected by the storm. Being Amish, they didn't miss electricity; they hadn't had it before the storm either. But they knew their neighbors would be in for a difficult time.

Joe Stutzman could have gone on with his life, unaffected by the struggle that was taking place across the street, but he decided to love his neighbors in a few small but meaningful ways.

As Christians, we are called by Jesus to be in the world, but not of it. That means seeking to develop good relationships with our neighbors, our co-workers, and others. Basic friendliness goes a long way.

And believers ought to be the best neighbors. As people who have been blessed by Jesus, we are to be the ones most ready to pour out blessings upon others.

Consider the various ways you can serve someone – the patients in your building, a fellow associate, a vendor in the center, or your neighbor –as you go about your responsibilities today.

And it might not hurt to have some fresh coffee available!

*Let each of us please his neighbor for his good (Romans 15:2 NKJV).*

– Beecher Hunter