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Just ask

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Hello friend,

How are you? Do you need some help?

I hope you feel that you can reach out to someone. There are many of us, and ideally all of us, here in the ward who would appreciate being able to serve you. But most of the time, we just don't know how, or what you're struggling with.

I know some things are very personal, and you don't necessarily want to share them with anyone. But you can reach out and get love and support from someone without telling them all the details.

Of course, if you're in real trouble, and having serious struggles, you really should reach out to someone and ask for help. We may not be able to solve your difficult problems, but we can try to give you some direction for where to get the help you need, or maybe just provide a listening ear, and that is sometimes all you need.

It's okay. Everyone has troubles. It's not if we will have them, but when. President Eyring shared this advice he was given by a district president, "When you meet someone, treat them as if they were in serious trouble, and you will be right more than half the time." (<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2004/04/in-the-strength-of-the-lord?lang=eng>)

As a Bishop, I'm beginning to learn that's true. And I'm glad to help where I can. But we can gain strength and support from many around us.

Why is it, do you think, that people feel like they they don't have anyone they can turn to in difficult times?

I think it's because sufficient trust has not been built. So, how do you build trust?

By interacting together, working and serving together, having fun together, learning from and teaching each other, and having important conversations with each other.

That's why we have a ward. The Lord knows these things. So he revealed the ward organization, with callings, groups, classes, and activities where we can build trust and friendships together. He organized ministering brothers and sisters too, so each one of us can be watched over and cared for.

If we want to follow Christ, and be true Christians, our goal should be to have so much unconditional love for each other, with no judgement or criticism, that we trust each other completely to be able to reach out when we are troubled or in pain and need some help.

What did Christ say? "love one another, as I have loved you... By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35)

If you've been feeling a bit distant from our community of saints, I hope you join us. Yes, because of the pandemic, most of our interactions are still virtual, but we are beginning to safely have more in-person options for interaction.

We are moving the church forward. Beginning April 11th, we will begin to have additional meetings during the second hour of church. See the attached document from our Stake leaders.

Also, next week is General Conference. A wonderful opportunity to increase your faith, develop testimony, and learn from the Spirit as we listen to "prophets, seers, and revelators" and other church leaders.

It's wonderful to be part of the fullness of the everlasting gospel. With Christ as our guide, we always have a way to get help when we need it. What a great reason to rejoice!

This means we are His hands too, we can give the help He would give. As we love and serve, we learn of Him. Then we are blessed as we bless others.

Thank you for being a part of this great work to help each other.

Take care,

Bishop Williams

P.S. Now that we've entered Phase 3 as a state, we are allowed 50% capacity in our church buildings. This means that everyone is invited to attend Sacrament Meeting each week. We will still keep distant, sitting every other row, and open the gym for additional seating.

For those who wish to stay at home, we will still broadcast at this link at 9:00am: <https://zoom.us/j/92685846361>

Because of General Conference next week, today is Fast and Testimony Sunday.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.

 **Moving the Church Forward.pdf**
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