

## Encouraging Help

### Description

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Settling into a new town, we became close to our landlady. She became a mentor in ministry. Her spouse had been the pastor of our church for 17 years. Many times, he would take on extra jobs to pay church budgets. His spouse worked and raised seven children. When I read, “Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you” (1 Thessalonians 5:12), I think of this pastor and his wife. In addition to their church ministry, they eventually opened a community bakery where their whole family worked.

Hard work, encouragement, and patience are precious values and characteristics. As the Holy Spirit works in our lives, let’s strive for them and make an impact in the world.

Your encouragement might be a lifesaver for someone disheartened and weakened by the darkness and disappointments in their lives. You, too, can make a big difference. Use your gifts, skills, and energy as a witness for God’s goodness. You could change the world!

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