

God's Helpers

By Jim Garner

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

There is no denying it. 2020 has sucked. Watching the nightly news is a depressing ritual, seeing the virus death toll rack up like some bizarre telethon. Violence and harassment against people of color have become even more routine. Blatant voter suppression efforts were pursued. And, the climate continues to lash out in response to the lack of caring for our planet.

In a recent *Upper Room* devotional, the writer took on the question: "God, if you are a loving, compassionate being, how can you allow this?" The answer came to him quick and hard. "If you are my disciple, how can you allow this?"



The devotional reminded me of when Fred Rogers tried to help the children who watch his show cope with bad events. Mr. Rogers told his young audience:

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.' To this day, especially in

times of disaster, I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers—so many caring people in this world."

There has been no shortage of helpers responding to this awful year. They are the doctors, nurses, and hospital support staff showing up day after day and serving as surrogate families for those suffering from the virus; the anonymous election workers who showed up, served, counted ballots, and ensured democracy continued here for another year; those working tirelessly to raise awareness of, and fighting to end, systemic racism; the firefighters battling unprecedented fires in California; and the first responders offering aid after hurricanes. These are God's doers.

While it is comforting to look for the helpers, we each in some way can actually be the helpers. God is calling us to be helpers. We all are called to use the gifts we have to be God's doers.

So, where is God during this horrible year? God is hard at work through the many anonymous people doing their work.

Prayer:

God, thank you for your doers. Give them strength and courage to continue. Help me see what gifts and talents I have to share in bringing about your community here on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.