

7 ways Christians can help in the COVID-19 crisis

Coronavirus is having a deep impact on our communities, well beyond the virus itself. Many are hurting from the impacts of social distancing and quarantines, and even more are struggling in the economic aftermath.

At The FAMiLY Leader, we are looking for ways we can be a blessing to our communities, and we wanted to take an opportunity to share 7 potential ways you can help others, too:

1. Pray: The most important thing the people of God can do right now is pray. Yes, pray for containment and cure and for those sickened by the disease. Pray for those who are mourning death today. But pray also for governing leaders as they make difficult decisions, many struggling to balance public health needs and economic implications. And pray for churches, that God will give pastors wisdom in leading their congregations and serving their communities.

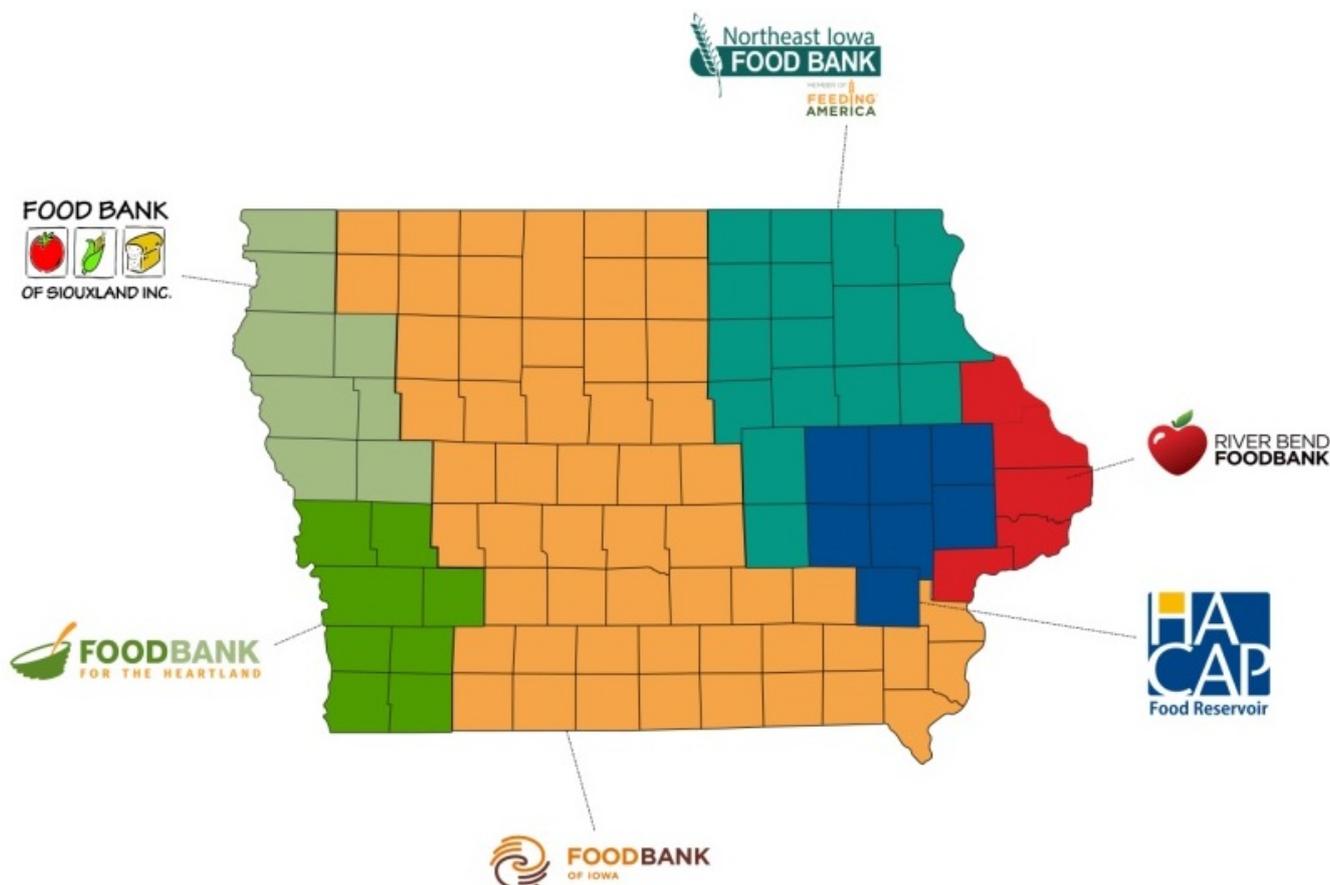
[*Join tens of thousands around the world praying for revival through the FREE If 7:14 app!*](#)

2. Reach out to a neighbor: Many around us do not have a church fellowship to fall back on in these times of isolation. If there is someone you have been meaning to have over for a meal or to bring a gift to, consider doing it now. Many of our elderly neighbors, in particular, need someone to deliver meals or take them to a doctor's appointment. There may be community organizations near you that help the elderly and that need volunteers now more than ever. You never know how God will use these incredible opportunities.

3. Give to local food banks: Perhaps the most urgent need right now, we're hearing from community and government

leaders, is food banks. With schools closing, and with even more Iowans economically displaced, the needs continue to grow. Iowa has divided its food banks into parent organizations. We recommend reaching out to your parent organization to learn of their specific needs. The most universally communicated need is funds. For example: Food Bank of Iowa is expecting to spend \$80,000 a day to meet needs, a number significantly higher now than during typical operation.

- River Bend Food Bank (Davenport): <https://riverbendfoodbank.org/>
- Northeast Iowa Food Bank (Waterloo): <https://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org/>
- Food Bank of Iowa (Central Iowa): <https://www.foodbankiowa.org/>
- DMARC (Des Moines Metro): <http://www.dmarcunited.org>
- Food Bank of Siouxland (Sioux City): <https://siouxlandfoodbank.org/>
- HACAP Food Reservoir (Hiawatha): <https://www.hacap.org/>



4. Keep giving to your churches: As many churches will not have services over a prolonged period of time, it is important that we as attenders do not cut back on giving. Times like these can be a huge strain on church budgets.

5. Give to church benevolence funds: The virus is having a significant impact on our economy and will result in many people in our churches and communities having hours cut, or losing their job all together. Consider giving to a benevolence fund or something like it in your church to help those who are in urgent economic need.

6. Be ready, willing, and available to serve: Over the coming days, The FAMiLY Leader's Church Ambassador Network will continue to coordinate with churches across the state on ways we can best assist our communities. And many churches are already laboring in your community right now. We recommend letting your church know that you are ready, willing, and available to serve and intentionally looking for opportunities to serve in your community. The Next Door app and Facebook are wonderful ways to find opportunities of needs.

7. Support local restaurants: As restaurant dining rooms are closed across the state, locally-owned small businesses will be taking a huge hit. Unfortunately, many will not be able to re-open their doors. If you are able, consider ordering food "to go" from some of your favorite local places. This helps keep important cash flow for the business, as well as keep hourly people employed.

These are just a few of the many ways you can be a blessing and a light. We are sure you have many great ideas of your own. Above all, let us all encourage each other in Jesus, love one another, and keep our eyes on Him, that we may walk with Him and in His peace in this time of storm.

[Do you have other suggestions on how Christians can help? Share them with others in the discussion on our Facebook page](#)

[by clicking here!](#)

Coronavirus: Now is the time for the Church to step up

The FAMiLY Leader has been a trailblazer in forging biblical – and constitutional – cooperation between local governments and local churches. Both of God's institutions, when they work together in separate roles but deliberate relationship, can meet community needs far better than either can working alone.

And now the coronavirus pandemic is pressing practical and personal hardships upon our friends and neighbors, many we may not even realize.

The FAMiLY Leader's Bob Vander Plaats and Greg Baker discuss this incredible opportunity for the Church to be the hands and feet of Christ:

[Join tens of thousands around the world in prayer for revival with the FREE If 7:14 app!](#)

**TFL'S Capitol Connection
Special Edition: Legislature**

suspended

The Iowa Legislature will be suspended for 30 days as a safety precaution during the coronavirus pandemic.

The FAMiLY Leader's Bob Vander Plaats, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll break down what that means for the Iowa government and what that means for our top legislative priority, the Protect Life Amendment:

[Join tens of thousands around the world in prayer for revival with the FREE If 7:14 app!](#)

TFL's Capitol Connection: "Gender identity" bathrooms spark confrontation

Typically, The FAMiLY Leader's Capitol Connection highlights bills and amendments currently being debated in the Iowa House and Senate.

This week, however, it's an old law – which placed "gender identity" into Iowa's Civil Rights Code in 2007 – that sparked a controversy at the Capitol.

TFL's Bob Vander Plaats, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll discuss not only the nonsense over "gender identity," which included a confrontation between students and State Troopers over which bathroom to use, but also the status of the Protect Life Amendment and in the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our planned event with U.S. Secretary of State Michael

Pompeo:

TFL's Capitol Connection: Iowans rally for Protect Life Amendment

This past week, roughly 200 Iowans gathered in the Capitol Rotunda to pray for life and passage of the Protect Life Amendment. Among those speaking was Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, who again made the case for why the amendment is so needed.

The FAMiLY Leader's Drew Zahn, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll sit down to discuss what that prayer rally meant for the amendment and how some high-level meetings with government officials are continuing to build the momentum for protecting life:

[Watch video from the 2020 Prayer Rally for Life here!](#)

[Get YOUR tickets for "An Evening of International Impact" with U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg before the March 21 event sells out!](#)

WATCH: Gov. Reynolds

champions Protect Life Amendment

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds spoke a crowd of roughly 200 pro-life supporters at the Prayer Rally for Life at the Iowa Capitol on March 2, 2020.

Chief among her topics: Iowa's need to pass the Protect Life Amendment.

"With one ruling the Iowa Supreme Court moved [Iowa] from being one of the most pro-life states in the nation to being one of the most abortion friendly," the governor explained. "That one ruling was more aggressive than the U.S. Supreme Court was in Roe v. Wade.

"It laid the groundwork to challenge every single regulation and restriction on abortion on demand and opened the doors for public funding of abortion," she continued. "I believe this decision is wrong, and it's up to us to correct overreach by the judiciary."

Watch Gov. Reynolds' full speech below:

Get the facts on the Iowa Supreme Court's radical ruling and why Iowa needs to pass the Protect Life Amendment: [Click here now!](#)

You can also watch video of the whole Prayer Rally for Life below, or use the time codes below the video to skip to specific speakers:

[0:00](#) Opening Remarks/Introduction – Danny Carroll – The FAMiLY LEADER /Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders

[2:10](#) Opening Prayer – Terry Amann – Pastor at the Church of

the Way

[6:52](#) Update on Constitutional Amendment

[8:32](#) Representative Steve Holt

[15:41](#) Senator Jake Chapman

[23:52](#) Introduction of Governor – Bob Vander Plaats – The FAMiLY LEADER

[29:22](#) Governor Kim Reynolds

[39:25](#) Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders – Maggie DeWitte – Executive Director – Iowans For LIFE Coalition of Pro-Life Leaders

[46:24](#) Mothers, Victims, and the Role of the Church – Laura Limmex – Restored by Grace Ministries, 515.971.5522

[58:30](#) Prayer for Life – Father Mark McGeary – Associate Pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, West Des Moines

[1:03:13](#) Recognize Legislators in attendance – ChuckHurley – TheFAMiLYLEADER

[1:04:52](#) Prayer for Legislators and Governor – A.J. Potter – Pastor at Pleasantville Baptist Church

[1:09:40](#) Closing Prayer Pastor Shawn Powers – Pastor at Redemption Hill Church

[1:11:57](#) Closing Remarks – Danny Carroll

TFL's Capitol Connection: Public hearing on life and 2 big events coming!

This week the Protect Life Amendment was given a public hearing before a crowd of hundreds and the focused eye of TV cameras. TFL's Bob Vander Plaats, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll not only update you on how it went, but also keep you in the loop on the Prayer Rally for Life at the Iowa Capitol March 2, and "An Evening of International Impact" on March 21.

Plus, click below to:

- [Watch the testimonies from the Protect Life Amendment public hearing](#)
- [Get the details on the March 2 Prayer Rally for Life](#)
- [See how you can join us for "An Evening of International Impact" with U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg](#)

WATCH: Exclusive, behind scenes interview with Joel Rosenberg

One year ago, New York Times bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg came to Iowa, to a FAMiLY Leader Foundation event, to debut his newest novel, "The Persian Gamble."

Before that evening's dinner and presentation, TFL President

and CEO Bob Vander Plaats sat down with Joel in an exclusive, never-before-seen video.

The two talked about how America has changed since the day in 2012 when, at TFL's Family Leadership Summit, Rosenberg issued a call for God's people to humble themselves and pray to seek revival in our nation. That Summit significantly changed the direction of TFL's ministry. And in this video, Vander Plaats and Rosenberg discuss why the Church must lead the change if we're to see God stay His hand of judgment upon our country:

Now, one year later, Rosenberg is returning to Iowa to debut another new novel, "The Jerusalem Assassin."

What's more, he's joining a very special guest – U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo – for **"An Evening of International Impact"** at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown on Saturday, March 21, at *6:30 p.m.



**CLICK HERE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS**

"As tensions mount in the Middle East, we wanted to set apart an evening to begin a conversation," says Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO of The FAMiLY Leader Foundation. "We have invited Rosenberg and Secretary Pompeo to sit down with us and discuss the current global situation, America's role, and the impact our faith has on these circumstances."

The evening dinner, brought to you by signature sponsor Lindell Recovery Network, will include an update from Vander Plaats on TFL's "The Daniel Initiative" and presentations by both Secretary Pompeo and Rosenberg.

Secretary Pompeo has served the U.S. as an Army officer, a

U.S. representative from Kansas, and the director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He serves today as the U.S. Secretary of State.

Rosenberg will join the dinner as part of the debut book tour for his newest novel, "The Jerusalem Assassin." Author of 13 previous New York Times bestselling novels, Rosenberg has repeatedly proven his uncanny ability to foreshadow geopolitical realities, marking his place as a leader in fact-based fiction. Attendees will receive one complimentary copy of "The Jerusalem Assassin" per family unit, and Rosenberg plans a book signing following the event.

*** Please plan on arriving early and leave personal defense items at home or in your vehicle, as the event will be monitored by diplomatic security.**

Hotel offering your special group rate:

- **Des Moines Marriott Downtown for \$125 USD per night**

**[Book your hotel room with a group rate for
The Family Leader Fundraiser Dinner](#)**
Last Day to Book: Friday, February 28, 2020

[Tickets on sale NOW! >> Get yours here <<](#)

WATCH: Protect Life Amendment public hearing

On Tuesday, Feb. 25, observers at the Iowa Capitol were truly surprised and inspired: Pro-lifers came to the Capitol by the hundreds to pray, to testify, and to cheer on Iowa's pro-life champions at a public hearing for The Protect Life Amendment.

While long-time Capitol observers remember well the days when Planned Parenthood's pink-shirted crowds chanted and drowned out small gatherings of pro-life activists, Tuesday night marked a significant shifting of the tide. The former State Supreme Court chambers, the hallways, the Rotunda, and an overflow room were all crowded this time with a comparable crowd of pro-lifers. Those who have seen the ultrasounds and those who know that infant lives in their mothers' wombs are babies deserving of protection came to cheer on the Protect Life Amendment.

In fact, as the night concluded, House members noticed, the pro-abortion forces ran out of people willing to testify, while the pro-life list still ran over a dozen long of people hoping to speak.

The FAMiLY Leader's camera and communications team was there, covering the action. You can watch the entire night's slate of testimonies below, or use the time-stamp list below the video to skip to a specific speaker:

Click on times to jump to spot in video.

[0:00](#) Rep. Holt – Opening Comments on HJR 2004

[2:43](#) Dr. Mary Browning

[6:01](#) Opposition

[8:59](#) Lisa Ambrozic

[12:05](#) Opposition

[15:18](#) Renee Aamodt
[18:15](#) Opposition
[21:14](#) Brittany Hruska
[24:11](#) Opposition
[27:21](#) Pastor Josh DeGroot
[30:35](#) Opposition
[33:45](#) Kim Laube
[36:47](#) Opposition
[39:59](#) Maggie Dewitte
[42:42](#) Opposition
[45:55](#) Jim Lamb
[49:08](#) Opposition
[51:48](#) Daniel Sunne
[54:30](#) Opposition
[57:42](#) Danny Carroll
[1:00:46](#) Opposition
[1:03:30](#) Caitlyn Dixson
[1:06:21](#) Laura Limmex
[1:09:23](#) Opposition
[1:12:30](#) Luana Stoltenberg
[1:15:31](#) Opposition
[1:18:31](#) Serena Dye
[1:21:47](#) Opposition
[1:24:57](#) Nancy Lincoln
[1:28:08](#) Opposition
[1:30:26](#) Eric Borseth
[1:33:37](#) Opposition
[1:36:42](#) Joan Thompson
[1:39:28](#) Rebecca Oleson
[1:42:21](#) Opposition
[1:45:30](#) Opposition
[1:48:23](#) Drew Zahn
[1:51:34](#) Lindsey M.
[1:54:29](#) Opposition
[1:57:47](#) Chuck Hurley
[2:01:22](#) Nathan Oppman
[2:04:02](#) – Closing/end

TFL's Capitol Connection: Major update on multiple bills in '1st funnel' flurry

The Iowa Legislature's "first funnel" date is always a flurry of activity, as the self-imposed deadline determines which bills remain eligible for debate this year and which effectively "die" until next session.

Now that the first funnel has passed, The FAMiLY Leader's Drew, Chuck, and Danny update you on several bills, covering several topics, including the Protect Life Amendment, other pro-life measures, euthanasia, religious liberty, and more:

[Get more details on the Protect Life Amendment public hearing here!](#)

POSTPONED: Mike Pompeo & Joel Rosenberg, March 21

ANNOUNCEMENT: The planned March 21 "An Evening of International Impact" will be POSTPONED as organizers seek to reschedule for a future date.

"In conjunction with the Department of State, we have decided to postpone the event as a precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 virus," says Bob Vander Plaats, president and CEO

of The FAMiLY Leader Foundation. “While we regret the inconvenience, with attendees from over a dozen states planning to attend, we have chosen to prioritize the health and safety of our friends and supporters.”

The FAMiLY Leader Foundation is currently working with the Department of State to secure a future date for Secretary Pompeo and Rosenberg to visit Iowa.

We are thrilled to announce that U.S. Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo will be joining New York Times bestselling author Joel C. Rosenberg for “An Evening of International Impact” at the Des Moines Marriott Downtown on Saturday, March 21, at *6:30 p.m.

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An Evening of International Impact
Saturday, March 21
Des Moines Marriott Downtown
700 Grand Ave.

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[**Reserve a table, discover how you can help sponsor the event, or reserve your tickets today!**](#)

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Keep an eye on www.TheFamilyLeader.com for additional details.

TFL's Capitol Connection: HUGE pro-life victories and much, much more!

We have some major news and something to celebrate!

This was one of our busiest weeks at the Capitol in recent memory – as multiple bills on life, religious liberty, education, and more pulled our Capitol Team a dozen different directions.

The big news, however, was the progress of the Protect Life Amendment, which not only passed through committee in the Iowa House, but was also debated and passed by a floor vote of the Iowa Senate!

TFL's Drew Zahn, Chuck Hurley, and Danny Carroll update you on the latest and why YOU may be needed in the next couple of weeks:

[Sign up for TFL's weekly Legislative Update emails here.](#)

Want to be immediately updated when there's breaking pro-life news? **[Sign up for TFL's text alert system, and get only the most urgent alerts sent straight to your phone!](#)**