

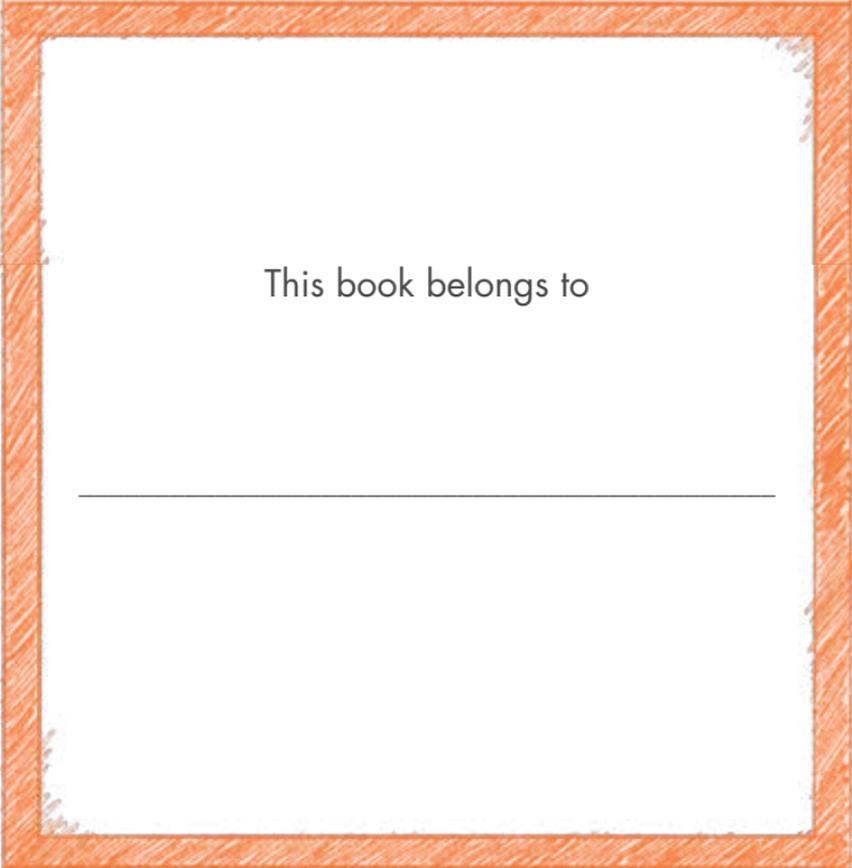
LOVE

where you

are



A Resource to Help You Bring Jesus' Love and Healing  
Where You Live, Work, Play, and Learn



This book belongs to

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# Index

## Chapter 1

Introduction from Dr. Scott Dudley.....	Page 4-5
How to Use This Booklet.....	Page 6
Live, Work, Play, and Learn: The BelPres Roadmap..	Page 7

## Chapter 2

25 Ways and Ideas to Love Where You Are.....	Pages 8-27
10 Conversation Starters.....	Pages 28-29

## Chapter 3

Love Where You Are Map.....	Page 30-31
Tips.....	Page 32-35
Final Thoughts from Dr. Scott Dudley.....	Page 36-37
Resources.....	Page 38
Notes.....	Page 39

I am a Christian because a coworker named Margie bought me a bandage. At the time, I was a committed atheist reading atheist philosophy, hating Christians and showing contempt toward them. One morning I got a severe burn on my arm and went to work in pain. Margie went to the store on her break, brought back creams and bandages, put them on the burn and said, "I know you think Christians are stupid, you've made that clear, but I want you to know there are some of us here who care about you and are praying for you." Afterward, I realized I was the self-righteous, judgmental one in this equation.



That began a nine-month process in me of searching, reading, asking questions that eventually led me to make Jesus my leader and forgiver.

Margie saw an opportunity to show Jesus' love and to point to him in a non-pushy way that did not offend even a committed atheist like me. I passionately believe that we can ignite revival if we all just have

eyes to see and respond to the opportunities the Holy Spirit gives us daily where we live, work, play, and learn.

There are almost 4,000 of us who call BelPres home. If all of us responded to the opportunities around us and acted on them the way Margie did, how many new Christians would there be a year from now? And if those new Christians did the same, how many new Christians would there be the following year? There would be revival.

Bringing Jesus' healing is not necessarily about doing some huge, burdensome task; it's simple—it took Margie only 10 minutes. She never knew I became a Christian; I quit working there shortly after the bandage moment and lost track of her. I don't even know her last name. In heaven I will hunt her down and say, "Thank you; I'm here because of you."

This booklet gives some ideas for how we all can do this. It is not exhaustive by any means, but with the Holy Spirit guiding you, you'll be able to think up many more ideas.



## How To Use This Book

1. Pray and seek God's guidance on how to apply the things you read in this booklet.
2. Identify the people God brings to mind, and write their names on the "Love Where You Are Map" (page 31).
3. Ask God to help you determine your next step.
4. Act! Prayerfully pay attention to the nudges of the Holy Spirit and simply notice the people God reveals to you.
5. Share your journey, and be ready to answer the question to which the only real answer can be Jesus!

**Remember: You are empowered with the strength, wisdom, and love of the Holy Spirit! Read 2 Timothy 1:7, Acts 1:8, Colossians 1:9b and Romans 8:15.**

# Bel Pres Roadmap

## Bring Jesus' Love and Healing Where You Live, Work, Play, and Learn

**BELONG** to a warm, multi-cultural, all-generations community that supports each other; gets beyond news, weather, and sports; and serves together ([Acts 2:42-47](#)).

**BECOME** like Jesus, sacrificially committed to rescuing, renewing, and redeeming both the world and each other ([Matthew 28:19-20](#)).

**BUILD** toward "third way" racial justice and healing in pursuit of God's heart ([Galatians 3:26-28](#)).

**BE** an all-generations community where we all equip, empower, and release the next generation ([Romans 10:14-15](#)).

## Chapter 2

The following 25 ways to Love Where You Are is a collection of ideas to get things started within your surrounding community where you live, work, play, and learn.

These are simply ideas to get your creativity flowing. Come up with your own ideas as the Holy Spirit inspires you.

Have fun and tell someone in your community how it goes!



Live



Work



Play



Learn

# 25 Ways

TO LOVE WHERE YOU ARE...

## 1. Buy a coffee (or treat) for someone

- Buy coffee for the person behind you.
- Surprise your coworkers with coffee and donuts.
- Supply snacks for a stressful season at work.
- Eat lunch with someone who eats lunch alone.
- Pay attention to how the conversation unfolds and opportunities you may have to take the conversation deeper, and perhaps even point to Jesus in a non-pushy way.

*"On my last day working at the Boys and Girls Club, I bought donuts for my coworkers to thank them for being a part of my life. This simple act put "glue" on my relationships with the people there." -Anthony Ballard*

## 2. Honor your restaurant server or barista

- Learn his or her name, ask questions to learn more about them.
- Tip well, and consider leaving an encouraging note.
- Commend your server/barista; acknowledge when they've gone above and beyond.

## 3. Move your backyard lounge space to the front yard

- Yes, you have privacy in your backyard, but being out in the front allows you to say hello to neighbors passing by. You will likely be asked, "Why are you sitting in the front yard?" Be open and intentional in your response, "We want to meet our neighbors."
- Invite a neighbor to join you as you eat dinner, play board games or play sports outside.
- Pay attention to how the conversation unfolds and opportunities you may have to take the conversation deeper, and perhaps even point to Jesus in a non-pushy way.

## 4. Help someone with a home improvement project

- If your neighbor bought a fixer-upper, offer to help (painting, electricity, etc.).
- Put yourself out there and ask for help on a home improvement project, leveraging the expertise of others for more opportunity for connection.
- If you're not familiar with electrical or other specialized work, consider other jobs, like hammering nails, or making snacks. Safety first!



## 5. Host a neighborhood event

- Block party.
- Game nights (e.g. board games, yard games, video games).
- Movie nights.
- Ice cream social.
- Sunday night dinner.
- Invite a new family from church over on Sundays.
- Neighborhood BBQ.
- Craft night.

## 6. Help a neighbor

- Look for promptings.
- Mow their lawn.
- Shovel their snow.
- Take their trash to the curb.
- Tactfully offer to repair something that you've noticed is broken or is falling apart.
- Go outside and clean up your street.
- Pay attention to how the conversation unfolds and opportunities you may have to take the conversation deeper, and perhaps even point to Jesus in a non-pushy way.

*"Our new neighbors worked around their day jobs to help us fix up our house in a short turnaround. Each person jumped in to do whatever needed to be done, some brought food for the group. They gave us their time and generosity, and life long friendships blossomed." -Tiffany Meaney*

## 7. Host a party

- Cooking class.
- Afternoon tea.
- Brunch.
- Holiday soirée.
- Cheese tasting.
- Costume/Theme party.

## 8. Start a book or movie club

- Look for opportunities to talk about deeper parts of the plot and tie them to biblical truths.
- Create a list of discussion questions in advance.

## 9. Look for opportunities at your retirement home

- Be an intentional listener.
- Pray for or with someone.
- Help where you can.
- Help organize events or a new club.
- Visit those you don't know.

## 10. Look for opportunities at school

- Invite classmates to study, or form a homework group.
- Find someone sitting alone at lunch and ask if you may join them.
- Help someone with a subject at school you are stronger in.
- Pay attention to how the conversation unfolds and look for opportunities go deeper, and perhaps even point to Jesus in a non-pushy way.

*"I was in math class, and there was a student being pretty rude to my teacher... After class, I went up to my teacher and said "I'm really sorry for this student. You were super helpful today." I think the smallest things that people do, like recognizing people, make a huge difference." -Lillie Lindberg*

## 11. Opportunitites for kids

- Fix bikes in your neighborhood.
- Teach another kid to do something cool!
- Volunteer to be a crossing guard.
- Choose the kid who is typically chosen last.
- Visit a retirement home.
- Stand up for someone who's being treated unfairly.

*"I came downstairs early on a school day to find my daughter boiling an egg... I asked her why she was doing that and she explained: "I have this new friend at school. She just moved here from a different country. At lunch I can tell she feels embarrassed because her food is so different from all the other kids'. The only thing I recognize in her lunch is an egg and I thought if I brought an egg to school in my lunch she wouldn't be so embarrassed."*

**-Ryan Beattie on behalf of his daughter, Megan**

## 12. Look for opportunities at the gym

- Be encouraging and motivating.
- Offer to spot someone.
- Bring extra protein bars to share or buy someone a smoothie.
- Take off your headphones and engage with the people around you.

## 13. Invite someone to join an outdoor activity

- Camping.
- Hiking.
- Canoeing.
- Paddling.
- Rafting.
- Off-roading.
- Fishing.

## 14. Tell someone your faith story

- Practice telling your faith story (get it down to less than three minutes).
- Focus on what Jesus has done for you. Be specific.
- Avoid clichés.
- Keep it focused on you and your story, not theology or arguments, or converting them.

## 15. Look for opportunities at work

- Bring donuts to a meeting.
- Follow up with a coworker who is sick.
- Take the “new person” out to lunch.
- Keep free tea/candy on your desk.

## 16. Customer service

- Learn your customer's name.
- Anticipate their needs.
- Go the extra mile.
- Honor God and your customer with your excellent service.

## 17. Opportunitites for TECH/Engineers

- Teach marginalized youth how to code.
- Mentor someone in math.
- Host a non-profit hackathon to solve a problem.
- Volunteer to support a project at a nonprofit.

## 18. Bring food to a neighbor

- Exchange recipes.
- Learn how to cook a dish from another culture.
- Make your signature dish for your neighbor.
- Bake cookies together.

*“Historically, Chinese are obsessed with food. It would not be uncommon for a person to spend two hours cooking a meal... In fact, the most common greeting historically is not the general “how are you?” (how do you truthfully answer that profound question?), but is actually a very specific question of concern, “chilemeiyou”, in English, “have you eaten, yet?” This is apparently a hold-over from history, since, generation upon generation, there was always the threat of famine and starvation. Eating is a key issue, especially to ask about.”*

**-Reggie “Uncle Reggie” Tsang**



## 19. Arrive to work or school 10 minutes early to pray

- Don't neglect the power of prayer!
- Take a walk around your campus or building to pray.
- Your classrooms.
- Coworkers' workspace.
- Sports field or court.

## 20. Coaching

- Look for opportunities to distribute equity.
- Coach the whole person, not just the skill.
- Pay attention and listen to emotional needs, look for opportunities to bring Jesus' healing and love.
- Encourage often.
- When correcting, affirm.
- Cast a vision for who they could be.
- Be inspirational.

## 21. Holiday events

- Collaborate with your neighbors and host an event on a major holiday (bonus points if it's honoring an international, cultural holiday!).
- Host a "friendsgiving."
- Gather friends and serve a neighbor or others in need.
- Host a multicultural holiday recipe exchange.

*"Once or twice a year, our family throws a party at our house for all of my husband's coworkers, including their families... There aren't many opportunities in the workplace setting for families to meet and get to know each other. I was touched when one person thanked me for inviting him over and told me that he had never been invited to the home of his boss. I hope that it made him feel like a valued part of the team."* -Heather Hedlund

## 22. Become known for something

- Seeing the best in people and drawing it out.
- Having a healthy marriage.
- Supporting single moms or dads.
- Being a listening ear.
- Excellence.
- Being known for WHAT YOU'RE FOR, not WHAT YOU'RE AGAINST.

## 23. Pray for others

- As you walk, ask God to reveal opportunities for you wherever you live, work, play, and learn.
- Let someone know you're praying for them.
- Ask, "Can I pray for you right now?"
- Go on prayer walks around your home, office, and community.
- The MOST you can do is pray!

## **24. Reach out to someone who's struggling**

- Acknowledge the individual.
- Look the person in the eye.
- Validate their pain.
- Offer support and resources where appropriate.
- Be a friend.

## 25. Be relevant

- Familiarize yourself with different cultures.
- Stay informed on current events locally and globally.
- Practice being present.
- Admit when you don't know all the answers (i.e. don't be a "know it all").
- Be yourself.

## 10 CONVERSATION STARTERS

1. If you could have any job in the world, what would it be and why?
2. If you could spend four hours doing anything, what would it be and why?
3. What's one family tradition that you had growing up? Have you continued this tradition with your family now?
4. If you could be anywhere and doing anything right now, what would you be doing?
5. What is one thing that you have overcome in life (e.g., phobia, anxiety, addiction)? How did you do it?
6. What is one highlight from this year so far?
7. What is one thing that you want to learn (e.g., patience, playing the harp, swimming) and why?

## Chapter 2

LOVE where you are

8. What's the last book you read? Would you recommend it? Why or why not?
9. In the Bible we see God communicate in various ways—through a burning bush, through people, in a still small voice, etc. Have you ever experienced God speaking to you? What was that like?
10. Have you ever experienced God (e.g., singing, nature, prayer, a miracle, meditation, writing in a journal)?

## Chapter 3

**Write down the names of people** that God brings to mind (where you live, work, play, and learn).

**Write down some relevant information** about each person that you can remember.

**Write down some in-depth information** you learn through connecting with each individual. Ask more questions if you don't know. This might include their career plans, dreams of starting a family, or anything to do with the purpose for their lives.

**Pray for them** – Pray God's heart for them. Ask God to show you what your purpose is in their journey. Ask the Holy Spirit to open up opportunities for conversations and ways to bring Jesus' love and healing into their lives.

# Chapter 3

LOVE where you are

You



You are  
Here



Others

## TIPS

Pastor Alexis Ruhumuriza of New Hope Revival, and Pastor Jacob Zhang of The Rock Chinese Church share tips on how to love African and Chinese immigrant neighbors:

**QUESTION #1:** What are some things Americans can do to show love to their neighbor in spite of a language barrier?

**ALEXIS:** The best way to show love for your neighbor is to sacrifice your time, listen and get to know them as individuals. This creates better ways to understand and to build relationships.

**JACOB:** Most new Chinese immigrants can read English better than hearing it, because we usually learned English in a written form in China. If you are worried that your Chinese neighbor won't understand you, you can write your words on a card and give it to them when they open the door.

## TIPS (CONTINUED)

**QUESTION #2:** What are some ideas for ways to reach out to your Chinese or African neighbor?

**ALEXIS:** Just the need for your time. Welcome them to any activity you organize or visit them in their home. Try African foods.

**JACOB:** Many new Chinese immigrants don't know how to start to reach out to their neighbors because of language barriers, unfamiliarity to a new culture, fear of rejection, etc. I think it is great for our American brothers and sisters to reach out to them first. Just bring a small gift or dessert to them. I've heard many Chinese immigrants tell me how much they appreciated it when their neighbor reached out to them first.

TIPS (CONTINUED)

**QUESTION #3:** What are some things that could be offensive to your African or Chinese neighbor?

**ALEXIS:** When we don't feel welcomed and the culture that we bring is not accepted.

**JACOB:** Just like you treat other new friends. Don't worry how you may offend your Chinese neighbor. Even if you did something "strange" to us, we will just think it is part of the unique American culture.

## TIPS (CONTINUED)

**QUESTION #4:** What's a word of encouragement you'd give to your worshipping community to help them show love to their American neighbors?

**ALEXIS:** "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. This can bring hope and trust between different community" Hebrews 13:1.

**JACOB:** I always encourage our congregation to respect their American neighbors' culture. I believe most of Chinese immigrants would love to be part of a local community, but they just don't know how to start. If your neighbors invite you to do something, always be open to try it.

## Final Thoughts

So those are some ideas to bring Jesus' healing to people who need it in your neighborhood, school, workplace, local coffee shop, and places of recreation. When we bring his healing and love, we begin to shift our cynical, angry, fighting culture in a better direction one person at a time.

While the problems we face as a society can feel overwhelming at times, I firmly believe that if we each do a little bit we will change things for the better. This was true of the Christian influence on the Roman Empire, and then on non-believing post Roman Europe. It was also true of Christian influence in the abolition of slavery, and then later the fight for civil rights.

All these movements started with just a handful of people, and then went on to change the world.



History shows that a committed 2% of a population is all it takes to shift a culture over time. So, what are you waiting for?

**Let's go have fun even in the routine parts of our lives and Love Where We Are!**



## Resources

Here are some suggestions to dive deeper and learn more.

### **Books for Work**

*Every Good Endeavor*, by Tim Keller and Katherine Leary Alsdorf

*Visions of Vocation*, by Steve Garber

*Kingdom Calling*, by Amy L. Sherman

### **Books for Living**

*The Art of Neighboring*, by Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak

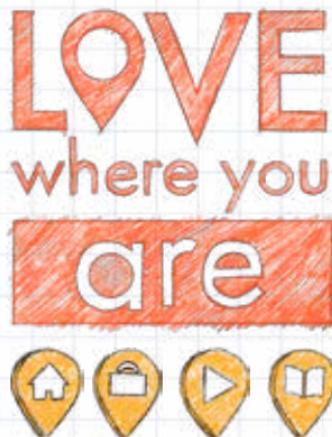
*The Turquoise Table*, by Kristin Schell

*Roadmap to Reconciliation*, by Dr. Brenda Salter McNeil

In addition to these, you can find more information and resources at [belpres.org/lovewhereyouare](http://belpres.org/lovewhereyouare).

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Notes



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1717 Bellevue Way NE • Bellevue, WA 98004  
425.454.3082 • [belpres.org](http://belpres.org) • [info@belpres.org](mailto:info@belpres.org)  
[belpres.org/lovewhereyouare](http://belpres.org/lovewhereyouare)

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