

March 30, 2020 ~We Pray for The Non-essential Workers Now Without Work~

Lord God, across our land, over 3 million of your people in America went home from their jobs one day, and were told not to return the next day. They are the people who found and chose the doors you'd opened to earn wages for paying their bills, feeding their families, and paying for insurance when suddenly, and through no fault of their own, those doors were slammed shut, leaving them no place to go but home.

These are the hard working people who never could and never would be able to work at home. They commuted to work earning salaries essential to them, their families, their bosses, and to the plans you had for them, Father. Overnight, so many of your children learned their jobs were non-essential. A storm of contagion closed malls, specialty stores, shops, and businesses. Owners and employers had with no sales and profit to pay salaries, and sheltered customers could no longer shop. Loyal employees, many more like family than paid workers, have been temporarily laid off, furloughed without pay, or fired by employers with no other option. Speak to us, Holy Spirit. Open our hearts, God. Give us a desire to share our excesses to provide all that jobless workers can no longer afford to buy.

We lift up to you, God, those who provided service to us in restaurants, hotels, salons, and barber shops. Many of your working children who relied on a salary and our generosity in tips and gratuities, are at home with no patrons, no clients, and no pay because their workplaces exceed guidelines for the hopeful results of social distancing.

Marketing and sales people have no market in which to sell. The contract workers, free lancers, and self employed are now among the unemployed. Your dedicated, working people are worried. They're hurting. They have mortgages and rent coming due. Utilities, credit card balances, and car payments need to be paid at the beginning of the month. Father, we thank you for unity and leaders' wisdom in remembering unemployed, non-essential workers and their loses. Give landlords and mortgage holders compassion and patience with hearts to cancel late penalties, move due dates, or even delay monthly payments for several months. Open hearts and soften restrictions of credit and utility providers, lenders, mortgage holders, and landlords to work with people in financial distress.

Bring those owing money together with those to whom money is owed, and intervene in creative compromises. We ask that grace be giving to the unemployed that lifts unfamiliar burdens and worry off those with empty bank accounts and depleted emergency funds.

Omniscient God, you know the thoughts that won't go away, the nights when sleep won't come, and the personal sadness, a sadness like grief, that depresses the human spirit of those who long to return to working at their jobs but cannot. Use your Holy Spirit, Lord, to give people mourning their lost jobs peace, and use more fortunate, generous spirits to offer financial help and the everyday provisions working people always provided for themselves and their families.

For those who will receive help from America's rescue legislation, use your servants in each state to remove barriers of application, and speed the delivery of money that will lift the financial hardships of missed paychecks and anxiety about indebtedness.

You take such good care of us God, and the more fortunate can now help you take care of the non-essential workers who cannot work. Merciful and gracious God, guide our government and all of your children who have the resources to reach out with encouraging and compassionate generosity to lift up and sustain the non-essential workers who cannot work.

Almighty and Powerful God, hasten the treatment of the afflicted, and protect the wellness of all others. Use all your power to help everyone working so hard to successfully fight, prevent, and defeat all coronavirus here in our country and around the world.

In the name of Jesus our Savior Son, we ask that our nation, our unemployment crisis, and all who are suffering would be healed. Amen.