

# A Nurse Saving Lives in Unexpected Places



*“I miss hugging the homeless out on the street and talking to them eyeball to eyeball”.*

It is evident that God prepared Operation Care International Founder, Susie Jennings, for a time such as this! A nurse for more than three decades, Susie knows the challenges and risks of serving the homeless during this COVID-19 Pandemic. We recently caught up with Susie Jennings as she hunkers back in her home in Mesquite, Texas.

**Question: Being a nurse for 33 years what advice do you have for us staying at home weathering this pandemic?**

Susie Jennings: Disinfect your homes. Practice frequent hand washing, especially before and after eating. Drink plenty of fluids, especially warm green tea 3x/day; avoid cold drinks and ice cream because the virus likes the cold. Get enough rest, healthy food and Vitamins C and Zinc for your immune system. Most importantly, stay away from touching your MEN: Mouth, Eyes and Nose. Please stay home to help flatten the curve. Incubation period is up to 14 days but it is more critical to be careful because the symptoms will start appearing after 14 days if you are infected.

Wear a mask when going out in public! It is a MUST!

**Question: The homeless are twice as likely to get infected and spread the virus. How do you continue the ministry work and stay safe?**

Susie Jennings: God called me to love on the homeless. It's my life calling, and they are truly my family. This is really hard for me because I miss hugging the homeless out on the street and talking to them eyeball to eyeball. Imagine, we have our families to go to, but they have nobody! Obviously, we need to be creative in how we meet needs by dropping supplies off at our partner agencies and practicing social distancing at our warehouse. We aren't fearful but we need to be smart!

**Question: You had a surplus of much-needed items in the warehouse that you have given to many ministries like Union Gospel Mission and The Bridge. Are you concerned that if you give it all away you won't have any left for Operation Care International and the annual event at the Dallas Convention Center?**

Susie Jennings: No! It's like the story of Joseph in the Bible when he stored up food for times of famine. God blessed us with an abundance of items so we could be a blessing to others during hard times. Hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, 1,600 bottled waters, blue jeans, etc...Bruce Butler, who is the President of Union Gospel Mission said getting these disinfecting items are like getting gold. We know God will replenish what we gave away. Our Lord multiplies and as soon as we get the items out of our hands, we believe God will bless us with more! This is about saving lives! When we put the hand sanitizer into the hands of those who need it, it saves lives!

**Question: What have you learned through this trying season so that your faith seems strengthened?**

Susie Jennings: I become a FROG Lady: Fully Relying On God! I have learned to rely completely on God. Trust Him for protection. Trust Him for Provision. I have learned not to be anxious and really have been at peace. I'm spending time with Him consistently and praying more with our team and volunteers. God's got this! I know many are living in fear in these difficult times but God is still on His throne, and I know He is much bigger than the virus.

**Question: Finally, how can people help during this difficult season, what's the greatest need?**

Susie Jennings: First, we need your prayers because God is the answer to this problem. Second, Operation Care International needs funding to replenish the items we gave away. We normally have a fund-raising event in April to carry us through the Spring and Summer. Would you pray about giving a gift to help carry us through the next few months? You can give at [opcare.org](http://opcare.org) or [oneday2020.org](http://oneday2020.org). Thanks in advance for your generosity. You are a part of saving someone's life when you give!

***“Trust in Him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge”.* Psalm 62:8**

**If you have Questions, Please Email Mike Tirone: [mtirone@opcare.org](mailto:mtirone@opcare.org) or call 817-247-6487**

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