

PLASTIC turkey dinner? **Out-of-the-box evangelism!**



Peter wanted to share his faith with his three fellow workers, serving with a Bakersfield homebuilding firm.

Wanted to, but....

Even as co-pastor (with his father-in-law) in a local church, Peter felt somewhat intimidated.

“I was so scared to speak,” he admits.

But then came COVID-19, with its social-distancing protocols — and a surprising solution to Peter’s reticence.

As Thanksgiving approached, we had to adapt our usual Box of Love® outreach in several communities. In some Bakersfield neighborhoods, instead of packing cardboard boxes with the makings of a big traditional Thanksgiving dinner, volunteers were given grocery gift cards to share.

We also provided online training to help believers get comfortable with introducing and talking about their faith.

Peter was emboldened!

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Out-of-the-box evangelism!

“Since we couldn’t go house to house, it was an opportunity to sit and do a little bit more interacting with the individuals,” he says. “It gave me more boldness or courage, confidence.”

One by one, he spoke with his colleagues on the job: Andy, Orlando, and Jairo.

In each case, the Box of Love gift card opened the door.

“It gave me a chance to really ‘step out of the box,’” Peter says, “to reach out to them and see if they would give me the time of day — and they did!”

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‘step out of the box’ ...”

Each of his friends was thrilled to receive such a wonderful Thanksgiving gift. And in those heart-to-heart conversations, Peter learned what each of them was going through off the job.

Andy was suffering because he’d lost custody of his children.

Orlando and his family were dealing with fear after his mother-in-law’s diagnosis of COVID-related pneumonia.

Jairo was skeptical at first about Christianity ... but the Holy Spirit was at work.

Before long, *each of these three friends gave their hearts to Christ.*

“Wow,” Peter says today, “this is what I’ve been needing to do for a long time.”

A small, flat plastic version of the Box of Love set it all in motion!

This year’s Box of Love campaign will be almost entirely “back to normal” — but *normal* only means God doing *extraordinary* things in people’s lives. Please give generously to share Thanksgiving meals — and the Good News — with people facing physical and spiritual hunger. Thank you!

