

Compass Bearing #35

Devotions to Navigate the Coronavirus Pandemic

"Do's and Don'ts for the Next Chapter"

Thursday, June 11, 2020

by Pastor Mark Ellcessor

In just a few weeks, Jason Rice will become the next Lead Pastor of The Compass Church. I have written to you previously about his character as a good, solid, Biblical, dedicated pastor. But today, I want to write to you about how you can receive Jason and Vicki as your new pastoral family.

In the New Testament, Paul had a good relationship with the Christians who lived in Corinth. He was their spiritual father. He could talk to them about anything, encouraging, challenging, and even correcting them. They loved Paul, and he loved them.

But Paul knew that he would not always be with the Corinthian people. At one point, Timothy was going to Corinth to do ministry. Paul wrote to them, *"When Timothy comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am"* (1 Corinthians 16:10).

Let's personalize this verse. Compass Church, when Jason comes, see to it that he has nothing to fear while he is with you, for he is carrying on the work of the Lord, just as I am in Fishers.

Some Do's and Don'ts for ministry with Jason and Vicki:

- Do say, "I am praying for you." Prayer is the fuel to the engine of ministry.
- Do say, "I am here to help." Jump in and be part of the team.
- Do say, "I believe in our future." The best way to a great future is a successful start.

- Don't say, "Mark didn't do it this way." Of course not. He's not Mark. He's Jason.
- Don't say, "We've never done it that way before." That's actually a great reason to try it!
- Don't say, "We tried that and it didn't work." It's a good thing Thomas Edison didn't have that attitude, or we'd be sitting in the dark.

You get the idea. People who drive around looking out the rear window end up in a demolition derby. The future is through the front windshield. Focus on where God is taking you, not where you have been. Trust the Lord for a bright, new tomorrow.

I do believe you will love Jason, Vicki and their family just as you have loved Lisa, me and our family. As you have opportunity, bless them, assist them, support them, encourage them, and pray for them. Treat them with respect. Take them out for dinner. Have them over for games. Participate with them in ministry. Together, discover God's will for your future.