

## ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

### WHO NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT? *Isaiah 35:3-4*

Truett Cathy (founder of Chic-fil-A) once said, "How do you identify someone who needs encouragement?"

Answer: That person is breathing."

How do you offer encouragement? Here are a handful of suggestions.

- *Remember that you can't give encouragement when you're talking about yourself.* Sometimes we try to give others perspective on their problems by telling them how bad ours are. It doesn't help.
- *Tell them what they're doing right.* They already know what they're doing wrong. Tell them what they do well. Tell them something good about themselves. Don't worry, they won't get big-headed about it.
- *Tell them what the future can be.* Remind them of what God can do, how he can transform any situation for his glory, how he can transform any person into the image of Christ, how he can use anyone to accomplish his purpose.
- *Tell them how it's worked before.* Tell them how a friend overcame a similar problem. Or how a business leader dealt with the same adversity. Or how another Christian's perseverance ultimately paid off. Give them hope.
- *Tell them you will help them refine their strategy.* You can't solve their problems for them. You can't take the actions they need to take. But, when they ask, you can gently, in love, point out what should be done differently, and what should be done next.

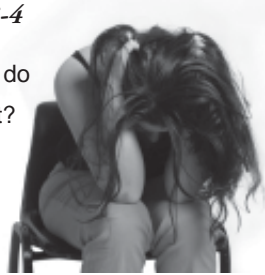
Remember the words of Isaiah: *Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with an anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, but he will save you."*

#### • Steve May

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Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children's activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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