



Provision and Protection

I face your Temple as I worship, giving thanks to you for all your loving-kindness and your faithfulness, for your promises are backed by all the honor of your name. ~ Psalm 138:2 (Living Bible)

I knew of a small boy who was sitting in time-out in his room so that he might contemplate some inappropriate behavior. His mother concerned by his silence went to check on him and finding him on his knees, was touched. "Are you praying to Jesus to make you behave?" she asked. "NO!" he replied. "I am praying to make *you* go away!"

There you have it, that thing we have all wanted at one time or another, the absence of a scorekeeper. Who among us, while exceeding the speed limit, hopes he will pass a police car? No, we are looking in every direction hoping they are all answering a call on the other side of town. I threw out a bathroom scales once because it had nothing nice to say about me.

We have all wanted to bend the rules or ignore a posted warning. Spare us a Jiminy Cricket on our shoulders. Accountability can cramp our style but there is little honor without it, little safety as well.

Josh McDowell tells a story of a young man who crept out in the middle of the night and walked onto a neighbor's property. He ignored the sign on a tall fence that indicated it was private property and trespassing was not allowed. He climbed over. Once inside, he proceeded to cannonball off the diving board for a midnight swim to tragically discover there was only one foot of water in the pool.

The wisdom of the scriptures and the guidance we are given in prayer are there not to kill the good times but to provision them. The "shalts and shalt nots" are there to protect us from the empty pools of life but also to lay up blessings that cannot be stolen. Everything God does is to lead us towards that final, "Well done, Thou good and faithful. Enter in!" His promises are backed, not by the changeableness of things in this life, but by His own immutable character.

Tonight in chapel almost every seat was taken. Many of the people there are new to us and some do not like rules of any kind. They may make a grudging acknowledgement of the safety in those rules but they have yet to recognize their provision. God seems to them to be an inconvenience they must suffer if they want a bed. Our guests have yet to experience the blessings that have only begun to settle into the hollow places in their lives just by walking through the doors of the Mission, but it is coming.

A volunteer told me a story recently. The volunteer was in the front hallway when an unkempt man walked to the Mission door and back out into the parking lot three times. The man was undecided about this place. A staff member left his desk and opening the door said, "Hey, you're in the right place. Come on in. Welcome to the Mission." It may have been his first welcome in a long time.

We covet your prayers for this season and for this opportunity to share the beauty of Christ with people little accustomed to beauty of any kind. Beauty with rules that allow for a healthy life in community. We are on a mission to illuminate God's protection and provision and His wonderful, dependable, trustworthy promises.



May we all face Him with hearts of worship, in thanksgiving for His loving-kindness. May His mercy unlock every heart and every opportunity for us all. We are in the right place.

Blessings,

Pastor John LaMantia

August Memorials

Some kinds of remembrance are so much bigger than this moment that only Eternity can contain them.



Memorial for: Ed Rasmuson
 by: John & Kathy LaMantia
 Memorial for: Wesley Tegeler
 by: Nikolay Fonov
 Memorial for: Carol C.
 by: Kamala Satyal
 Memorial for: Lou W. Waddell
 by: Vance & Charlene Campbell
 Memorial for: Byron Kohfield
 by: Vance & Charlene Campbell
 Memorial for: Wesley Tegeler
 by: Charles & Jean Lamb
 Memorial for: Russ Wilmot
 by: Renate Wilmot
 Memorial for: Wesley Tegeler
 by: Amy Stevenson

Voice of Praise



Thank you, Voice of Praise choir and Director, Holly Lee, for your recent performance at the Mission. This group traveled to Anchorage from the lower 48 to minister.

Happy Graduation



So proud of Keith Erickson. He has stepped into a new life with joy and vigor. We celebrated Keith's successful completion of, and graduation from, our LifeSkills program. Keith brought his smile to every area of the Mission. Keith elected to work with us during his work phase and when a van driver position opened up, he stepped into that role, interacting with

business donors. Join us in congratulating Keith and praying for every success in the future.

Borrowing trouble from the future doesn't deplete the supply. ~ Unknown

A 50 Pound Blessing



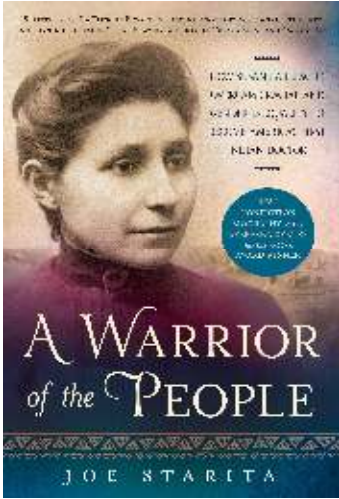
One of our industrial dryers had to be replaced. They are workhorses here at the Mission. All of our program folks have access to laundry service and we wash the clothes of our guests. We also have all the bedding to wash. That is a lot of laundry! Each of these dryers you see in the background does a 50 lb. load. Thank you to all whose donations helped us replace this and thank you to the installation crew headed up by our Facility Manager.

COAST GUARD DAY



Living in Alaska we have opportunities to appreciate the men and women of the United States Coast Guard on their special day, August 4th. May the Lord bless and protect them and provision the lives of their families.

A Labor of Love



The poignant and moving biography of Susan La Flesche Picotte, the first Native American doctor in U.S. history. On March 14, 1889, Susan La Flesche Picotte received her medical degree—becoming the first Native American doctor in U.S. history. She earned her degree thirty-one years before women could vote and thirty-five years before Indians could become citizens in their own country. ~ Amazon

One of our donors gave us new copies of this wonderful story (I know because I also own a copy) to gift one to each of the women in our LifeSkills program. It is inspiration such as this that fuels celebration and change in the life of the reader.

Supply Drive

For years now the Mission has partnered with our local elementary school to help supplement school supplies to children whose families cannot afford them. This year it will be harder than ever for some of those dear families. We will be collecting supplies throughout August should you wish to drop them off anytime at the front desk.



A Reciprocal Blessing



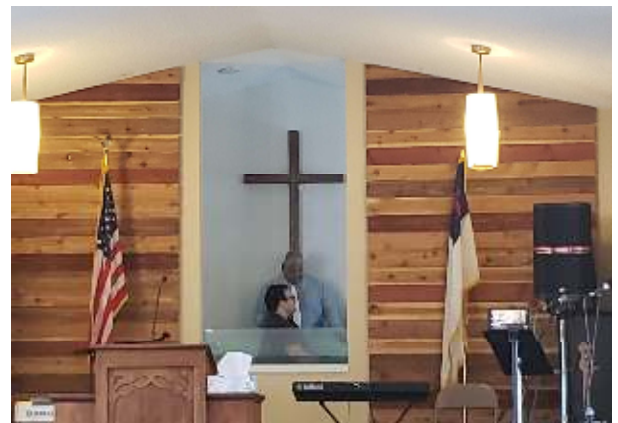
Terri supervises our art room and our clothing room. She is an exceptional employee and a good artist. Terri came to our attention several years ago in our women's program and is now working on an addiction counselor credential. Terri has been kind enough to allow us to use her art in things we make to promote the Mission.

Her Father's Day card allowed us to raise enough to provide a meal to 54 guests. It also allowed us to pay Terri a commission on every card sold. Something we have always wanted to put in place. Her boss, Shane Day, got to present her with that reciprocal blessing.

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission makes every effort to honor the wishes of our donors who have directed contributions to a specific area. We do, however, reserve the right to redirect the monies received over and above a specific need, into whatever areas they may best be useful.

To God Be the Glory

Moments like this make me so happy to celebrate our great big God! Part of our LifeSkills program encourages our folks to connect with a church family. Dalton has been attending University Baptist and they have been pouring into his new life. Dalton recently determined to be baptized and Pastor Willie Tauanuu instructed and facilitated that profession. Dalton has been eager and focused in our Bible classes. Please pray for continued strength and determination in his life.



A big thank-you to Mac Lyons and Meka Harris from the ACEH who spent time on site at the Mission to do the intakes necessary to enroll people in Coordinated Entry. They kindly offered to come to us to make it easier for people in need of housing to connect. We recognize extra-milers when we see them and these folks are two of them.



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Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Breaking Ground So We Can Break Bread!

On July 5th we broke ground on our kitchen upgrade that will allow us to better serve our clients and neighbors in need. Our staff and Board were represented along with donors, churches, volunteers and friends from the neighborhood. Cornerstone General Contractors made it all run smoothly and the Alaska News Source covered it. We feel humbled and blessed by the confidence our donors and the community have shown in this project. The inspiration is always Christ. May the glory be His as well.



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