



HE CALLS ME  
*beautiful*  
AND I AM HIS.

## *When a Bag of Clothes is Really a Second Spring*

*Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. ~ Proverbs 31:30*

*The long, soft dress had been hanging at the back of the closet for some time now. Its colors were still lovely but the taste of its owner had moved on. Sometimes in the dark the dress would remember dancing at someone's wedding or going on a date on a warm summer evening. How long had it been since it had cradled a baby in its lap?*

*One day it went for a ride with some other clothes and found itself in unfamiliar but gentle hands. It was hung up in a place that showed it off to best advantage and it felt useful and beautiful again. A shy young woman tried it on and the smile that quickly spread, as her hands stroked the fabric, made the old dress feel new. The dress had often heard the people in this new place talking about "second chances." Who would have imagined that would include a dress from the back of the wardrobe?*

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission has helped many women in the decades it has been in the business of sharing Christ's love with those needing a second chance. We have seen women who were terrified to interview for a job obtain one and be promoted. We have helped women immigrate to new countries for work. We have helped them finish their education, find new careers, find faith, find church families, find a husband.

Those successes do not come easily, not for the women and not for us. They would not become a reality at all without the generous help of the thousands of individuals, businesses, organizations and schools who daily show up to help us. From the kids who tithe their allowances to the tidy housekeepers who clean out closets, donations are the *tangible* fuel transformation runs on.

The old dress in our story found itself donated to the Mission. It was claimed by a hardworking young woman who was remaking her life and needed something beautiful to wear to her new church. As Christ was revealing Himself to her in greater measure, and she was embracing His version of her, she wanted the outside to reflect that inner transformation. The dress came to life. One of you reading this newsletter helped make a miracle. A one-dress-miracle not to be

overlooked or forgotten.

Author Elle Sommer tells us, "You can never know the ripple effect you create with one tiny gesture of kindness." I see that every day. Just ask Terri from our clothing room what happens when someone looking for work can go to an interview with new clothes or when someone, trading the old life before Christ, exchanges clothes with slogans that would make Hell applaud, for those that reflect a born-again life. Small kindnesses ripple through this outlet of grace everyday and we are thankful.

There are no small gifts. There are only gifts that have not been handed over yet. Our amazing and generous God is accomplished at multiplication, and He is teaching His children their times tables.

Like all businesses we have come through a challenging time, yet we are blessed. Your partnership has allowed us to flourish and to continue to do God-things here on Tudor Road. Our LifeSkills program is filling up. Our sober living program has a waiting list. Thanks to many of you, our computer upgrade costs have been completely covered with a comfortable cushion going forward. We have staff attending new in-service education opportunities. Our to-do list is long but happily so.

It is Spring and a season of new things. I wanted all of you to know that each of you has been a personal Spring for the Rescue Mission. You have been hope and growth and miracles of all sizes. How the Father must be thrilled by that, almost as thrilled as He was to see a beautiful young woman, who got a second chance, worshiping in a lovely dress that also came to life *all over again* through the kindness of strangers.

May the Lord bless you in all things, small and great. May your life bloom and green with new possibilities for enlarging Christ's kingdom. May you continue outfitting women who love the Lord and all who need the newness found only in Jesus.

In hope and appreciation,  
**Pastor John LaMantia**

## May Memorials



*“You are reborn with the roses, in every spring.”  
~ Juan Ramón Jiménez*

Memorial for: Ken Stout	by: Vincent Mee, Jr.
Memorial for: Nate Donaway, Jr.	by: Mitome Donaway
Memorial for: Robert Ely	by: Mary Doppelfeld
Memorial for: Patricia J. Kowalewski	by: Patrick & Jane Lamb
Memorial for: Kent Lindsey	by: Carol Lindsey
Memorial for: Keith Lindsey	by: Carol Lindsey
Memorial for: Aaron F. Moses	by: Floyd Moses
Memorial for: Katrina Dietrich	by: Jeannie Sherman
Memorial for: William Topel	by: Word of Life Lutheran Church

She sweeps up the shards  
of her broken wedding treasure,  
the accidental target  
of toddler exuberance.  
She wonders what's for dinner  
since the oven retired just as  
the bread finished proofing.

Once upon a time  
life was 'once upon a time'  
when the Prince brushed his lips  
over her flowing hair,  
her jeans were size six  
and beds were for  
sleeping through the night,  
not a playpen for kids at 2 AM.

Just as she bites her lip  
and stifles a sigh from  
the most sleep deprived  
part of her soul,  
just as the glass tinkles  
as it pours from the dustpan,  
just as her hair springs  
loose from the elastic  
and falls across her face-

a sticky fist grips her pant leg  
and deep pools the color of  
the Prince's eyes look into hers  
as a little voice whispers,  
“Are mommies princesses  
before they are mommies?”

Her unrouged lips smile the answer  
as she opens a ceramic jar and  
removes two golden cookies.  
Young princeling settled in her lap,  
piles of laundry as her footstool,  
she opens a book and releases her magic,  
“Once upon a time in a faraway land...”

Real Royalty (A Mother's Day Offering)  
- By Kat Cavanaugh LaMantia



## Welcoming Our New Manager

Steve McGuire joined the Mission as our new Kitchen Manager upon the retirement of our previous manager in March. Steve comes to us from a local hotel restaurant where he was managing the kitchen and its employees. Steve is a wonderful addition to our executive staff and is involved in working with our LifeSkills program people. While a wonderful chef and an efficient

manager, he is also an encourager and teacher. Just what we needed for this vital area of ministry and comfort to the community. May the Lord bless and prosper Steve in his career at the Mission, expanding his gifts for God's glory.

Our request for help in upgrading our computers has been completely met with enough over to cover the cost increase that took place in the past few months. We are so grateful for God touching the hearts of our partners. Some donations were made with the memories of loved ones in mind and those are always the sweetest kinds. Thank you to all the dear friends who responded. You bless our hearts. You change lives.

## Honoring Our Fathers



Our Mission Art Department is offering cards for sale for Father's Day. Supply is limited and it is cash and carry. They are \$5.00 each or they are free with the purchase of a fresh 12 oz bag of Mission Blend ground coffee for \$15.00. Cardstock is 110 lb with embellished colors. The image is of an acrylic pour done in the Creative Beginnings Art Recovery Program. Each card will provide a meal for one of our guests as well as a commission paid to the artist. Sentiment is: May the day be a blessing and a reward for all the love and leadership you have shown. Card back specifies that the purchase provided a meal for a needy soul.

## Kickin' the Habit



Dr. Paula Colescott presented our full staff and program people with an informative, insightful and prayerful smoking cessation class. So much was explained about the addictive and medically compromising aspects of smoking as well as strategies for quitting. Thank you, Dr. Paula for presenting and Pastor Ronna Lopizich for helping. I have no doubt that God wants us to live tobacco free. Call **1-800-QUIT-NOW** for help.

## Easter Was Wonder-ful



It was a wonderful Resurrection Day at the Mission. Thank you to the kitchen crew and manager, Steve McGuire for a delicious Easter Brunch. Thanks, front office staff for showing Risen,

and thank you, Kathy, for filling Easter bags with treats and scriptures for all our staff, program folks and guests. Our chapel service was beautiful and honoring of the One who gave all He had for us. We had a large crowd who heard the Truth. We also had a lovely Communion service for Good Friday.

## Movie Night Went to the Dogs



For Movie Night we watched **Home Run**, a great movie that spotlights Celebrate Recovery, a program at MCA church that many of our folks have attended. April saw the official opening of baseball season, so a baseball movie followed by hot dogs, chips and cold drinks seemed just the thing for a Saturday night. Our kitchen folks, gifted me with the first dog. We had a pretty full house for this one. Thank you to all who donated to this. I highly recommend that movie.

Thank you to everyone who purchased our Mother's Day cards. All have been sold. They will purchase 75 meals.

## Needs for Men and Women

- Hoodies
- socks
- Toothbrushes
- Hairbrushes
- Anti-perspirant
- Jeans
- Tee shirts
- White bath towels

*"The loveliest masterpiece of the heart of God is the heart of a mother."*  
~ St. Therese of Lisieux

## Help!! We Need Books!

May 2-8 is Children's Books Week. Our Children's Dinner Library books disappear faster than hot dogs at a picnic. Many of the books never return once they go home in a happy little hand and that is alright with us. Could you help us restock our shelves? Any children's books you are looking to re-home would be welcome here and appreciated.



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

*A is for Awesome*



Victoria is such a hard worker in our program. She is diligently working her steps as well as applying herself in all of her classes. She was thrilled to have gotten an A on the test for the Obedience to God course work. She will be entering the outside work phase of the program shortly and is at a place of decision concerning her career path. She could use your prayers for direction.

*The Winner is...*

Our donor thank you drawing winners are Pamela & Larry Kaniut. We will be sending them one of poet and essayist Lucy Shaw's many books, Thumbprint in the Clay. Thank you, Pamela and Larry.

