



## Overflowing With Gratitude

*Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in our faith, just as you were instructed, **and overflowing with gratitude.***

~ Colossians 2:6-7

Many years ago, I was teaching a class for new Christians and a question went around the room inquiring as to what mystery each person would want solved when they got to Heaven. One person wanted to know if Adam and Eve had bellybuttons. Another wanted to find out what happened to Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus. Someone was curious as to what Christ wrote in the sand in the story of the woman taken in adultery. I remember one young guy, who always came to class with a pastry in hand, wanted to know what happened to the bread and fish leftover from the miracles of multiplication.

I confess to having little interest in the anatomy of our first parents but the last question stuck with me through the years. What about the leftover lunch? Why were there any leftovers at all? Was Christ not accomplished at meal planning? Surely, He knew just how many He had to feed, how much each loaf and fish needed to be multiplied by to fill each belly. Why the excess- *twice*?

A few days ago, I turned off the news because it was not blessing me. I had my fill of Covid and monkeypox and gas prices above my budget. A quick trip to the store turned out to be twice the cost. Politicians and the Federal Reserve seemed to be long on excuses and short on answers. Remember the Scarecrow in the Wizard of Oz pointing in both directions at once when asked the way to the Emerald City? These days are challenging.

Praying resources in has always been one of my priorities here at the Mission. I had been praying even more fervently in the face of rising prices. Now sitting in the van with my groceries shouting out their predictions of doom from the backseat, I asked God what was the way forward. How should I align my heart, my thoughts, my speech in a nervous season? I heard the conversation of the apostles with Jesus, "Lord, these people are hungry, send them away. . . NO! Feed them. You feed them."

Paul in his letter to the Colossians tells them that they should walk in Christ. Walk in everything that life in Christ had planted in their lives, rooted in their lives, and that they should **spill gratitude** all over the place. That *overflowing* Paul encourages is the same term used in the gospels to describe the abundance left over from the multiplications that met the needs of thousands. In the first story we have personal sized baskets used to gather the fragments left over but the second time those were market-sized baskets they used - the kind big enough to let Paul down over a wall in a different story. Abundance out of need. Overflowing out of raised eyes to Heaven with thanksgiving.

Does anything in the news cycle catch the Father unaware? Will \$5.00 per gallon prices slow His throne-chariot? Is he surprised when politicians fail? No, no and no! Never!

I heard so clearly, the Holy Spirit urging me to face every challenge by overflowing with gratitude. Personal challenges, community challenges, national challenges, all challenges are to be faced with gratitude, overflowing, spilling, gushing like the living water we have received. It was not a suggestion Paul shared. "Do it," he is saying. Do it anyway, everyway, everywhere. When you can't see the answers, open the sluice gates of gratitude and flood the world with that blessing multiplied and gathered up again.

For my part, I always felt those leftover baskets were for the apostles to enjoy and share with their families. The more they obeyed and met the needs of others, the bigger their own portions grew. One day we will know for sure. In the meantime, I am going to overflow with appreciation for all Christ has done for me, my family, the Mission, the country. I may eat beans in place of steak but my grace over meals will be sincere. I may have to pray harder at election time and drive under the speed limit so the gas goes more miles but whatever challenge comes it will find me really and truly thankful for the love of Jesus uncontained by my heart.

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One day we will have the answers to all the mysteries. For today please share this gratitude with me, celebrate it, spread it, gather up the fragments and let the river flow! May His abundance eclipse every need in your life in Christ Jesus.

I am praying for you.

Sincerely,

*Pastor John LaMantia*



Had a great worship time with the mission team from Church of the Nations. Thank you, Pastors Daniel and Grace Song, for bringing the glory of the Lord to the Mission.

## *Following Jesus*



It was a great month for baptisms! Pastor Willie Tauanuu from University Baptist Church helped Daniel from our LifeSkills program to follow Christ in this public profession. Christ makes all things new and that is certainly true for Daniel. Prayers that he is strengthened in the faith day by day and that he runs the race with patience and joy.

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.

## *September Memorials*

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Memorial for: Wes Tegeler              | by: Thomas & Krista Shelby   |
| Memorial for: Wayne & Reta Diller      | by: Evelyn Mamaloff          |
| Memorial for: Marlene Johnson          | by: Gwen Colliander          |
| Memorial for: Larry Clark              | by: Julie A. Korting         |
| Memorial for: Celia Heath              | by: Dennis & Kathy Purviance |
| Memorial for: Gary Dalton              | by: Dennis & Teri Hedman     |
| Memorial for: Marie Wilson             | by: Dennis & Teri Hedman     |
| Memorial for: Lawrence & Evelyn Michou | by: Will & Linda Butler      |



*We remember with affection those souls who now give witness that God's promises are true.*

## *He Makes Everything Beautiful in Its Time*

Ecclesiastes offers that for everything there is a season, a time, a purpose. One of those seasons is a time devoted to building up. Laura from our LifeSkills program is in a building season and she has been making lovely work of it. She completed her "Trust in the Lord" painting and it is full of color and interest. The flowers dance on the canvas. May the love of God continue to inspire her journey.



## Meeting New Friends

What a good visit with friends from Southcentral Foundation. Leandra Ross, Senior Director of Corporate and Intergovernmental Affairs (left) and Michelle Baker, Senior Director of the Behavioral Services Division (right) let me give them a tour.

SCF has helped the Mission many times in terms of financial support, training and encouragement. They have also hosted numerous events that our clients and program folks have been able to attend with enthusiasm.

Thank you, Southcentral Foundation, for being such good neighbors.



## Welcoming Long-Time Friends



Got to visit with long time donors and encouragers of the Mission, the Skinners. They came to see what's new and check out our kitchen upgrade. Always a delight spending time with them.

## Clothing Room Needs



At the mission we are always in need of just about anything and everything. At the moment our big need is for clothing. Men's and women's (all sizes) jackets, hoodies, shirts, pants and underwear. Emphasis on work clothes but all types of clothing are needed. We have ladies who would like to dress nicely for services in their new church homes so sweaters and dresses would be appreciated. Shoes and boots are also needed. If you can help us, we would be so grateful. Donations can be dropped off seven days a week.

## Partnering With the Health Department

I had the most engaging visit with Robert Seay who is the Mass Care Planner with the Anchorage Health Department. Rob was responsible for directing folks to our overnight shelter for services and I wanted an opportunity to meet him and show him our facility.

How fortunate we are as a community to have people of his caliber demonstrating servant-hearted leadership in such a crucial area. Thank you, Rob for taking time with us. Thank you for your service to the city.



## Keeping Up



Some of us needed to update our CPR/AED certification and some needed to take the class for the first time. We really appreciated the thorough and professional instruction we received at Frontier Safety and Supply, our neighbors on Tudor at Lake Otis. Thank you, Instructor, Jon Hunt, for a great class.



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**Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### *Thank You Freedom House*



Thank you, Freedom House, for your grace filled ministry to our clients at the Mission. Thank you for shopping for our clothing needs and bringing us a trailer full. Always wonderful when you folks come to town.

### *Pizza Time*



Lunch at Guido's for our program people who worked so hard helping us relocate all our food supplies prior to ground-breaking for the kitchen upgrade. It was a very long job and they were so gracious to help. We treated them to lunch and had a drawing for a gift certificate. What a nice time to eat and laugh and enjoy one another's company.

Our printer has been experiencing supply chain interruptions that have resulted in some of our newsletters being delayed in reaching you. The Mission relies upon your monthly partnership. Credit card donations can be made on our secure website [anchoragerescue.org](http://anchoragerescue.org). Our mailing address for check donations is Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission 2823 E Tudor Rd., Anchorage AK 99507. Thank you.