



Photo courtesy of Doug Steel, Anchorage

Go Big or Go Home!

Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back. ~ Luke 6:38 NLT

My Sicilian mother made fantastic soup but she never taught me. In my family there was a traditional division of labor. My father never changed a diaper or spooned strained vegetables into a fussy eighteen-month-old. He worked three jobs at once but fixing soggy drawers was not in his wheelhouse.

That all changed for me when I married Kathy and had a baby. There was a division of labor in our house and if our son sprang a leak, it was finders-keepers. We were both working so we were both parenting, cooking and cleaning. It brought me joy actually, to be so hands on. I would strap the baby in a harness over my chest and get out the vacuum cleaner.

Cooking, however, was the most difficult shared task for me and one I did not fully embrace until several years into our marriage when Kathy insisted I should learn to cook in case a bus hit her on the way home. That thought put a lump in my throat but I got to work in earnest and found I liked to cook. My biggest problem was not being able to substitute when I had to or to manage proportions. My style could be described as, "Go big or go home."

One day things really got out of hand and I kept overfilling the soup kettle. I just couldn't seem to stop chopping veggies or opening cans. I would add more broth, then when it looked too watery, I would chop some more. This caused a sort of *soup-tsunami* on the stove. Before I knew it, I had sized-up through every available pan in the house, had three burners covered and still the soup kept coming. At this point I turned everything down to simmer and went to Walmart for bigger pans. (It's a guy thing.)

You could bathe a Labrador retriever in a canning kettle and I knew that was the one for me as soon as I laid my eyes on it. I took it home,

hurrying before Kathy would get home from work, and filled it full of minestrone - *to the top*. And there I stopped not because of good sense but because I had emptied the pantry and covered all the burners.

The house was in a sort of fog made of garlic and onions. Rivers of their mingled flavors ran down the glass in the windows. It was like a Turkish bath and a soup kitchen in one place. I was very proud until a somewhat amazed Kathy pointed out that we only had 5 cubic feet of freezer space and it was full. I was saved because Best Buy was able to arrange a next day delivery of our hastily purchased new freezer. I had made soup for the first time *and it only cost a thousand dollars!*

Every friend we had, received a soup donation and I like to think it blessed some folks who really needed some of Claudia's minestrone. I confess to looking back on that day through the lens of two ancient prophets who provided us with stories about reciprocity and generosity. Stories about faithful servants whose needs were met by flour that was replenished by use and oil that poured as long as there were more and more pots to hold it. (1 Kings 17:7-16; 2 Kings 4:1-7)

It seems in the economy of heaven more begets more. Somehow the more cakes that are baked the more flour appears in the bowl. The oil flows as long as empty vessels are gathered. God Himself is the one in charge of measurements and stingy has never been one of His attributes, in fact, He is well known to return our investments multiplied many times over. It seems to me He is more a fan of the canning kettle than the thimble.

Both of the stories in Kings are told in stressful times where faithful people were pressed by a lack of rain, famine and insurmountable debt.

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Both stories showcase obedience and generosity as well as personal effort. There is still work the receiver has to do to partner with the miracle. So it is for the Mission. Every day we cook with flour that never runs out because people who love God speak into the work. Every day we pour precious ointment into empty vessels because your prayers become a river of oil. God does the math for those in need, for us and for all of you. Pressed down by angels, shaken so more fits in, and filled until it spills. "Like the cruse of oil unfailling, is His grace forevermore, and His love unchanging still..." (*Bring Your Vessels, Not a Few*, Leila N. Norris 1912)

We are so thankful at this time of Thanksgiving for the opportunities to cook for our neighbors, the small ones and the ones who would otherwise eat alone. We wouldn't be anywhere else but here on Tudor Road making the miracle with your help and the help of the One whose sacrifice and generosity makes relationship possible.

Thank you for praying and giving and helping us find kettles big enough to hold an extraordinary four-burner blessing. Happy Thanksgiving. May the Father, Son and Holy Spirit grace your table and your life throughout this season. You mean so much to us.

With affection,
Pastor John LaMantia

Over a two-week period in October twenty-one men and women stood on the promise of the Father in Christ and opened their hearts to a new faith in the loving Son of God. Please pray for these new brothers and sisters that they will continue to exercise that new faith, that hope will fill their hearts. They have been called, "Beloved." They need to respond to that every day of their new futures in spite of the challenges they face. Some are currently in our one-year program. Some have made a decision to apply. God has plans for each one.

I cannot tell you how grateful I am that I am able to walk with the people who come to the altar at the Mission. What a precious work many of you have created by becoming the paymasters of this mission field.

Warming Up at the Mission



Our shelter is currently full. We opened up several beds by encouraging people to enroll in our yearlong LifeSkills program but those beds refilled quickly to bring us back up to capacity. Many have inadequate winterwear. If you have a clean work jacket that has some life in it, we would put it to good use. We could use men's and women's small to 2X outerwear.

You, Dear Friends, always make a difference in how effective our ministry is to the poor. Thank you in advance. Be sure to leave an encouraging note in the pocket of any donation you make so the new owner can find it. We are creating the community we want to live in.



Thank you for your service, your dedication and valor. May the blessings the Nation has received through your service never be taken for granted.

Art for the Heart



We have several new people in our one-year program. The first 30 days are the most challenging. Our art program, which has been in place for eight years now, has helped people to

redirect, refocus and create beauty. Our shelter guests are also welcome to join when they are staying with us.

We could use acrylic paints in the larger tubes and markers, mixed media paper, canvas and Sculpy clay. Washi tape and stickers would be great as the class is also journaling.

This has been a rewarding experience all these years. Our folks have entered contests, taken commissions and sold their work. They have connected with artists in the community and many have rediscovered the richness of their cultures.

Art supplies make great memorial gifts.

Thanksgiving Open Table

The Mission is fully open this year and fully full! Our neighbors, who need food help, share a meal with us every night. Those numbers always increase for Thanksgiving. Every year our partners are so generous and the food is plentiful. Please help us this year if you are able to. We will be needing frozen items to arrive by 11/22, pies and cool whip by 11/25.

Turkeys, canned yams, canned or frozen green beans, canned or frozen corn, boxes of turkey stuffing mix, large boxes of instant mashed potatoes, pumpkin and apple pies, cool whip, ready to serve rolls, eggs and coffee.

Dinner will follow a special Thanksgiving chapel service. We have servers in sufficient numbers.

November Memorials

- Memorial for Jill Jourdan by: John & Kathy LaMantia
- Memorial for Justin Heinzerth by: John & Kat LaMantia
- Memorial for Salvador Delatore by: John & Kat LaMantia
- Memorial for: Russ Wilmot by: Renate Wilmot
- Memorial for: Larry Clarke by: M. Joy Cunningham
- Memorial for: Larry Clarke by: Patty Nyholm
- Memorial for: Bill Miller by: Lois Smith
- Memorial for: Monica Pereira by: Anonymous
- Memorial for: Dale Lindsey by: Allan & Wilma Bentson
- Memorial for: Bill Harple by: Allan & Wilma Bentson
- Memorial for: Kent Lindsey by: Carol A. Lindsey
- Memorial for: Rev Ben & Myrtle Sherbahn by: Lois Smith

"Remembrance is Love's harvest."



Glory to God in the Highest

Christmas in October? Yes! A group of our program folks attended a special performance of the Gracias Christmas Cantata, "A show-stopping musical event that has been performed in venues like the Sydney Opera House and Madison Square Garden, as well as many other stages around the world." Glory to God in the highest is welcome in any month of the year. You might like to explore their site. There are streaming events as well. <https://www.christmascantata.us/>



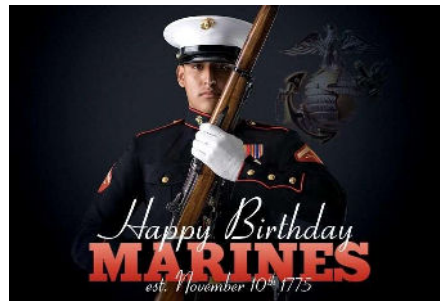
Have patience with everything that remains unsolved in your heart. ~ Rainer Maria Rilke

Club Beyond



I was so pleased to have been invited by Kevin Burgess to attend JBER's Club Beyond dinner to meet the kids and their families who have supported the Mission. I know I was looking at the future leaders of our communities.

For over a year now the amazing young people (Junior high and high school) of Club Beyond at JBER have been supporting the ministry of the Rescue Mission. This is an independent group that encourages service and commitment as they walk out their faith.



November 10th we celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corp. We pray for the blessing of God upon these brave men and women and their families

Applause for Ma'Ya

There are some people and organizations that have such an inspired sense of mission, who are on the frontlines of helping people raise themselves out of hard circumstances, who are just such a blessing to the community. Meet one of them. Ma'Ya is the wonderful Nine Star teacher who helps our program people with their GED classes.

We gave Nine Star a room at the Mission and Ma'Ya comes four days a week. She is dedicated and has a true vocation. We have always thought the world of Nine Star and they have made sure that opinion does not change. Thank you, Ma'Ya, Nine Star and their partners



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.



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Their Righteousness Endures Forever



Our kitchen upgrade is moving along and has been thoroughly baptized by an abundance of rain and some snow. The construction folks are an amazing group. They poured the foundation and once we had a wall up, (They now have it all framed in) I took an opportunity to write something that will remain sealed inside of the finished kitchen for as long as the Mission stands. So many generous partners have shared their treasure that I wanted to write out the description of those who fear the Lord in honor of all the men and women who, for love of Him, stand with us. You have made our walls rise.

(They have) dispersed abroad, (They have) given to the poor; (Their) righteousness endures forever ~ Psalm 112:9 (NKJV)

May the Lord see His word and remember each one whose life has been one of sharing with those in need.



May their righteousness and generosity be ever before Him. May the special oil of gladness be poured on the heads of our dear Board and especially upon our President, Tom Embly, who is tirelessly investing his wisdom and skill in the project.

With appreciation and affection,
Pastor John and all at the Mission

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