



### *Feed Your Hopes. Starve Your Fears*

*So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are brief and fleeting, but the things which are invisible are everlasting and imperishable.*  
 ~2 Corinthians 4:18 AMP

Many years ago my wife was putting together a special series for our church and she named it, “Extreme Motherhood.” One of Kathy’s lessons in the series was about the Prodigal Son and I observed out loud how that was not a story about motherhood. Hands on both hips, one eye squinting like when she levels her Redhawk on a target, I heard her whole mind on the subject.

“The entire time the father was waiting and watching day after day for that sorry boy to walk up that road, just what do you suppose his mother was doing?” she asked.

“Well, nothing I guess, maybe praying,” I offered. “She is not mentioned. We don’t catch a glimpse of her.”

“You have to see *what is unseen*, John! Mothers are experts at that! Do you want to know what the prodigal’s mother was doing that entire time since he left home? She was feeding the fatted calf! That calf was probably the size of Shamu!”

Over the years I have found myself remembering Kathy’s retelling of that story. There was a loving father who never took his eyes off the road and a mother who was planning a party. When a calf was set aside against some future undeclared celebration, Mom had already determined whose celebration it would be. Can’t you just picture her going to the stall every day with an extra handful of sweet grass, some clover, a treat? She fed her hope and starved her fear. In her heart this trouble was temporary, but her celebration would be everlasting. She was making plans even

while the son she loved was in a foreign pigpen.

I think I like a reimagining that allows us to see what is possible in the face of endless empty days. When the sun rises and sets on another empty road it is empowering to realize that we can still feed our dreams. **That calf was fed every single day.** We must do the same and we have to see it to feed it.

We are after the everlasting and imperishable things of Heaven here at the Mission. People come and go. Some people come and the angels have a celebration. I have a daily prayer time where I feed the dream of so many donors over these many decades, that men and women will find their way to the cross and the One who is watching for them- that a change of clothes will accompany a change of heart. There have been wonderful opportunities for rejoicing. There needs to be more, so we are claiming Christ’s lifegiving promises for our neighbors and feeding the calves of rejoicing.

Thank you for standing with us. Thank you for feeding the calves of past and future celebrations. Thank you for what can only be seen through the power of the Holy Spirit and some of those very determined “Extreme” mothers.

May Heaven nourish every hope and every God-dream that is yours.

**Pastor John LaMantia**

## August Memorials

*Remembered with affection until we meet again.*



Memorial for: Vernon Embley	by: Joyce Knight
Memorial for: Brenda George	by: Bob & Jan Collins
Memorial for: James Duncan, Sr.	by: Kimberly & Jeffery Duncan
Memorial for: Neil Givens	by: Phil & Edith Pease
Memorial for: Ross Wilmot	by: Renate Wilmot

## Serving Smiles

Serving smiles along with the meals. When our clients contribute their talents and volunteer it is a special blessing. We always have something to give even if it is our smile and how that enriches the world.



Our clothing room folks have given me a heads up that we are in "dire need" of socks. We had many pairs thanks to the kindness of our donors but the rain pitched us a curve and we have had so many requests for clean, dry socks that we are almost out. If God lays our feet on your heart, please listen. Thank you so much.

## We Love Tours



Wonderful time touring this group from one of our faithful church partners the Hillside O'Malley Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their new pastor, Pastor Matthew Sandvik (second from Left), had lots of questions about how the Mission works. Their congregation is currently doing a grocery fundraiser to help stock our new kitchen.

Contact us using the communication form on our web site if you or your group would like a tour.

## Kitchen Transformation



I appreciated the hospitality of the Hillside-O'Malley Seventh-Day Adventist Church. It was great to be able to share the platform with Board Vice-President, Ralph Nobrega, and show our before and after kitchen pictures. What a wonderful group whose support is a 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.



Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ~ 1 Peter 1:23-24

Northern (wild) geranium, Photo by Mission Supporter, Rev. Alice Morton, Anchorage Alaska

## *Planting Some Love*

*“Always render more and better service than is expected of you, no matter what your task may be.” – Og Mandino*



Every year the men from our program care for Folker Park, which is our neighborhood park. They do this in service to our neighbors who make use of it and because service is part of our program. They clean the park, groom the beds and plant flowers. Thank you to our guys and to Facility Manager, Shane Day.

## *Tater Tots for Tots*

The children who share our Open Table have a favorite, Tater Tots. One little girl asked me specifically to use my authority to make the kitchen serve them at every meal. I have to say I thought that was a brilliant idea but one that our Kitchen Manager would probably not agree with. Nevertheless, the Mission "tots" would like more Tater Tots if they were available. I promise I am just asking for the kids. ~ Pastor John



Nathan Jackson, a famous Alaskan artist and teacher, whose work and life story we have presented at the Mission, has been quoted as saying, "Tradition is identity." I could not agree more. One's culture and history are at the same time both anchor and compass.

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission has a tradition of meeting the needs of those in difficult circumstances without the burden of red tape. If you are hungry today, you eat *today*.

For almost sixty years we have been serving our neighbors in distress. We serve because ours is a culture of honor and service. We are always trying to do it better.

In that spirit we took on the burden of building a new, debt-free, four-million-dollar kitchen to better produce the eight to ten thousand meals we were serving each month. We have now accomplished that. Our Conditional Certificate of Occupancy has been received. We are here to serve at a very crucial time as our city strives to address the ever-increasing needs of our homeless neighbors. Miraculously we have been able to sleep 100 people, run our programs and feed all those meals to needy individuals and families 365 days per year for a budget of just at one million dollars, none of which comes from the government.

We are grateful for the unprecedented support which helped our building efforts. I am asking you to prayerfully consider a commitment to monthly support, in excess of your usual contribution to our General Fund, to help meet the food insufficiency needs of our clients going forward.

Our Open Table meal service provides free meals to individuals and families every day. We are the breakfast and dinner meal provider for many children and the working poor as well as the homeless. We are their nutrition anchor. This contact also affords us the opportunity to help some people chart a path to a more hopeful future.

Please consider becoming a monthly partner with the Mission if you have not already done so or expanding your support. We will steward your contribution wisely and never take your partnership for granted.

I would welcome an opportunity to answer any questions you have and provide a tour of our facility.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Pastor John LaMantia



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

The One who was rejected is the same One who goes the limit to get us reunited with Him.

*Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you,  
And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you.  
For the LORD is a God of justice;  
How blessed are all those who long for Him. (Isaiah 30:18)*

Do you long for Him? I've got great news! In an even greater way—greater than you could ever imagine—He longs to be gracious to you. He is offering you all the things you hunger for. The table is loaded, and He is smiling, waiting for you to sit down and enjoy the feast He prepared with you in mind. Have a seat—grace is being served. ~ Chuck Swindoll, Insight for Living

