



When a Person Loves You, They Say Your Name Different.

*When a person loves you, they say your name different. You just know your name is safe in their mouth.
~ Johnny, Age 4, How Children Define Love*

I am guessing that many of us recall what our name sounded like when our mother was irritated with us. Our full, Christian name was used that included our middle name and every syllable was struck with the precision of a piano tuner. My name, so spoken, froze me in place. We might expect an almighty and all powerful, thought-reading God with eyes everywhere, to be equally inclined to use our name to terrify us when we fall short. We would be wrong.

What God calls us and how He calls us is inseparable from what we call Him. Through Christ's atoning sacrifice we have been joined forever to the obedience of the perfect Son, and having been adopted into that relationship, we call God, Abba, Father. He in turn calls us Beloved of God, Partakers of the glory that shall be revealed, Pillars in His temple, Vessels unto honor, Blessed of the Father, the Called-Chosen-Faithful ones, First-fruits, Friends. Names promised with a whisper in a garden, "Not my will but Thine" and delivered with a fragile breath, "It is finished."

When a person loves you, they say your name different. They certainly do. They say it with tenderness and humor, with a kind of music written only for you using the best and most hopeful notes. Your heart hears it and no mistake. It cuts through despair and hopelessness and quiets fear. It inspires and uplifts.

I know of a young man whose life was filled with pain and disappointment. He was in a struggle against physical forces that could limit his very days on this earth and fill them with hardship.

In the midst of what seemed a hopeless situation God said his name differently and he heard it. The Father let him know that he would be called "Sought After" and that in one of the darkest moments of his life he should, "Make plans!" That man enrolled in graduate school, became a social worker and just purchased his first home. When a person loves you, they not only say your name differently, they give you new names.

Romans has it right in Chapter 8: *I am convinced that **nothing can ever separate us from God's love.** Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow – not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below – indeed, **nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Every day we labor to help change the lives of those who come to us by showing them how Christ can change their hearts, how they can become sought after, how they can make plans. We see these desperate neighbors as the Called-Chosen-Faithful ones, First-fruits, and Friends because that is the identity our loving Savior died for and our loving Father allowed. There is music in the names the Almighty has for them that might never be heard if our doors were not open.

In this loving season we thank you for the blessing of your partnership and your willing generosity. May you hear your own

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name softly and tenderly spoken by the lips of Jesus for *you* are one who is Beloved, who has helped us make plans. That is something any mother would applaud even if she used your *whole name* to do it.

Now to the God who can do so many *awe-inspiring things, immeasurable things*, things greater than we ever could ask or imagine through the power at work in us, to Him be all glory... Ephesians 3:20-21 (Voice)

Blessings,

Pastor John LaMantia

You really shouldn't tell somebody that you love them unless you mean it. But if you do mean it you should tell them a lot. People forget. ~ Vanessa, Age 8

Remembering Dr. King



The Mission received a blessing from Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church. What a helpful and much needed donation of food and paper products from these faithful community partners who model the scriptural mandate to care for your neighbors. On Martin Luther King Day they shop for local non-profits they support. These good and generous people have embraced the Mission and we cannot thank them enough.

February Memorials



Memorial for: Dimitrius Titone
by: Gary and Alice Morton
Memorial for: Ken Stout
by: Vincent D. Mee, Jr.
Memorial for: Don Andrews
by: Vincent D Mee, Jr.
Memorial for: Dale Lindsey
by: Carol Lindsey
Memorial for: Bill Harple
by: Lynette Harple

Memorial for: Lee & Thelma Embley
Memorial for: Ben & Myrtle Sherbahn
Memorial for: Pastor Bill Miller
Memorial for: Kirk Edward Grigsby
Memorial for: Faye Palin
Memorial for: Marian Genovese

by: Joyce Knight
by: Leon & Lois Smith
by: Leon & Lois Smith
by: Dennis & Diane Allen
by: Dennis & Diane Allen
by: John & Kathy LaMantia

Thank You

Thank you to all who helped make Christmas wonderful. Because of when our newsletter goes to print there is always a delay with pictures of events. You can see things in real time on our Facebook membership page. Here is a sample.



We are proud of Daniel Aguilar. Ma Ya from Nine Star Education and Employment Services presented him with the reward for all his hard work and determination - his GED. Congratulations, Daniel.



The Finish Line Is In Sight

We are close enough now that we can almost smell breakfast cooking in our upgraded kitchen space.

Just a short time ago there was a rush to pour the foundation and put up the outside walls before the weather turned cold. Now we have the inside walls up and textured, flooring in and siding in place. It is like a miracle. The willing and overwhelming generosity of our partners, as well as the sponsorship of organizations like the Rasmuson Foundation, have allowed us to build quickly and confidently. The finish line is in sight and we are asking you to help us reach it.

Approximately \$450,000 remains of our \$4,000,000 goal to build interest free. Nearly 90% of the projected cost has been collected or pledged. Upon completion, our ministry will not be taxed with a mortgage so that every future dollar donated can go to actual relief of suffering and evangelism. No state or federal agency will control our message as no funds will have been raised from those sources. My heart is as encouraged as it is grateful.

Will you prayerfully consider sprinting to the finish line with us? The opportunity to do so is now. The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission has received confirmation that the Murdock Trust will make available to us a large top off grant once we collect the remaining amount. Your gracious prayers and support can get us there and make those dollars available to us.

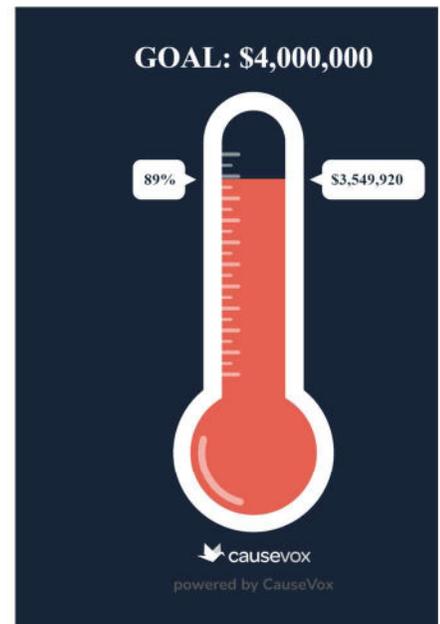
Half of what remains to be collected is for what will represent the heart of the kitchen:

A walk-in freezer of 833 sq.ft.	\$79,209.00
A walk-in cooler of 505 sq.ft.	\$46,385.00
An appliance package.	\$64,274.00
A double stack steamer oven.	\$16,549.00

Please take this opportunity to ask the Lord how your heart might best help our heart and respond in inspired obedience as He has enabled you to pray, to give, to encourage. Whether you give as a memorial to a loved one or in celebration of the goodness of God in your life, know we will steward that gift to bring in His Kingdom.

May the Lord bless and reward your kindness. May all of your own plans be established. To God be the glory, who daily heaps grace and blessing upon our lives.

Sincerely,
Pastor John LaMantia





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Welcome to Our New Board Member



The Rescue Mission has added a new Board member and we are honored to have her inspired and energetic contribution. Chelsea Pohland stepped right in during a capital campaign and we are grateful.

Chelsea is a wife, mother and businesswoman. She is a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Anchorage, who graduated from Dimond High School. She has three school aged children and owns a full-service salon in midtown, Shampoo etc.

She shared that she is thankful to be a part of the Mission as she has experienced firsthand the struggles faced by families that are challenged by mental illness or by people who have personal life struggles. She is passionate about making a contribution to the life and health of the community. Welcome, Chelsea!

Pastor John LaMantia, Staff and Board



Just a reminder that you can link the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission to your Fred Meyer Reward account. Once you sign up and link your Fred Meyer card to the **Anchorage Rescue Mission**, Fred Meyer will contribute a percentage of the purchase price to our ministry. This little program covers meal costs for many people every month. Amazon Smile is ending its program in February. Please use Fred Meyer rewards as an alternative.

Love must be completely sincere. Hate what is evil, hold on to what is good.
Romans 12:9