



New Doors

“There I will give her (Israel) back her vineyards, and will make the Valley of Achor (Trouble) a door of hope...” (Hosea 2:15, NIV)

Having been a music teacher and a choir director, I always enjoyed listening to the anointed ministry of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. The fact that it was comprised mostly of everyday men and women God had touched, made it even more amazing. The church itself was in a renovated vaudeville theater in a rough area.

During a presentation where the music lifted me out of my seat, they made a moment to feature the testimony of an accomplished tenor and his wife who was also in the choir. These two radiant people told a story of how the wife had found her way to the church and to Christ, had joined the choir and wanted to share this with her husband. He was in the throes of addiction and was so lost he was sleeping in an abandoned doghouse on a vacant lot. His days were spent in filth in a drug induced haze. He did not want a wife or a savior, just a fix.

She did not give up. The church agreed with her in prayer and one Sunday morning the pastor stopped everything and they called out to God to save that man, to go to that lot and carry him to church. As they were praying, he stumbled through the door, fell on his knees and into the arms of Jesus.

We remember the story of Achan from the scriptures. His disobedience caused Israel to fail in battle, lives were lost that included his own and his family as punishment. It was a frightening lesson. Years later the prophet Hosea would make some terrible pronouncements over the disobedient nation but would also give them encouragement through God’s promise to put a door of hope in that notoriously shameful spot.

What a heart our Father has! In the place where we have ruined ourselves, attached the names of failure to our lives and dressed up in garments of shame- right there, He has placed the door to redemption and recovery. In our personal Valley of Trouble- HOPE! We cannot possibly know all the year ahead holds. We can count on there being hopeful doors. Christ has positioned Himself to be those very doors. We have souls in our charge who are hanging onto that promise for dear life. These are people who have really messed things up but who found the truth in the words of poet William Blake that love can build a Heaven in what would otherwise be hellish despair.

We have 365 days of hopeful doors ahead of us. They are doors hung with affection by a master carpenter who loves our souls and lives to unlock that secret place of the Most High for us. Let’s let Christ have His way with us in 2023. What a song that could put in our mouths! How we could look forward to each new day.

Wishing you a truly happy and significant New Year from all of us here at the Mission. Thank you for walking with us in 2022. We look forward to your future company as well.

Blessings,

Pastor John LaMantia

Too Loved to be Forgotten

Every year we have a special service of remembrance in chapel just before Christmas. On Sunday, December 18th our clients and program folks were able to share with us the names of those family members and friends who have passed. Each person has an opportunity to stand and honor those dear to them. We also acknowledged our donors and partners who have passed in 2022. It is a beautiful, heartfelt time.



They are in a place that is the opposite of pain, the opposite of suffering, the farthest point away from heartache that can be imagined. They are in a place of eternal victory, safe in the arms of Jesus. We remember them today with only temporary tears because we know that one day all our grief will be swallowed up by the Kingdom that is coming. -ℓ

A Warm Remembrance

Thank you Sally Heinzeroth for helping us out with a dozen blankets. They will be put to a good use in memory of your brother Edward Peterson. The frigid weather has increased the demand for blankets. We are always in need.



The Mission is operating a dayroom again this year so our clients can have a place to be on these bitter cold days. It means extra meals and extra housekeeping but we are glad to be able to offer this service. Being on the streets in the colder and darker days worsens depression as well as making physical symptoms more pronounced. We could use help with paper products, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues and also laundry detergent. Thank you.

God specializes in giving people a fresh start.
~ Rick Warren

With Appreciation

January 9th is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day but every day here at the Mission we are grateful for the brave men and women who protect our communities. May the Lord guard their hearts, keep them safe and bless their families.



In His Service



...you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. Colossians 3:24

Our generous servers from our Thanksgiving meal. What a great group. Your presence and your help were so welcome and appreciated.



With a few keystrokes you can put fresh fruit in a child's hand, outfit a man or woman for work, provide sound biblical teaching to folks walking out a sober life, put clean sheets on a bed and encourage victorious living. Remember the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission when you complete your application for your 2023 PFD. We make a lot out of a little. Thank you!

January Memorials

Remembering with love and respect.



Memorial for: Billy Allen
by: William & Mary Cook
Memorial for: Carolyn Larabee
by: William & Mary Cook
Memorial for: Helen Bruns
by: Johann Bruns
Memorial for: Keith Lindsey
by: Petro 49, Inc.
Memorial for: Rachele Timog
by: Olga I. Hankai
Memorial for: Fred S. Vaughn
by: Lisa Vaughn
Memorial for: Nicole Leman
by: Gwen Colliande

Memorial for: Joyce Olsen
Memorial for: Mickey Bettis
Memorial for: David Sherbahn
Memorial for: Ruth Boatner
Memorial for: Tom Evan
Memorial for: Kevin Mulder
Memorial for: Cherry Perry
Memorial for: Gary Dalton
Memorial for: Penny Younker
Memorial for: Dora Bulkeley
Memorial for: Russ Wilmot

by: Shoreside Petroleum
by: Don & Charlotte Bettis
by: Grant & Keren Turner
by: Grant & Keren Turner
by: Mark & Pamela Mickelson
by: Dennis Hedman
by: Dennis Hedman
by: Dennis Hedman
by: Dennis Hedman
by: Renate A. Wilmot

She stirred a rainbow into her soup,
baked a party into her pie;
her cupcakes were sprinkled with mirth;
her cobbler held the blue of the sky.

'Happy' is always a choice she said,
kneading smiles into her dough;
choose things from the bright side of life.
Remember, you reap what you sow.

The Baker
-Kat Cavanaugh LaMantia
#24 Shelter Poems

**“For last year's words belong
to last year's language
And next year's words await
another voice.”**

**T.S. Eliot,
Four Quartets**

Let'sandbox

In the Mood for a Miracle

It was a full house for Movie Night followed by snacks. It was good to be in from the cold and to enjoy some laughs. One of our clients shared that he was an extra in the film shot in Alaska, *The Big Miracle*.



January 16th is **Martin Luther King Day** when we remember the courage and sacrifice on one of our nation's best sons. Our shelter and kitchen will remain open but our business office will be closed for the day.

Extraordinary Generosity

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission is grateful to be the recipient of a \$400,000 grant from the Rasmusen Foundation. The grant will be used to help complete our Kitchen Upgrade so we may better serve those in need of our help. The Foundation has been a source of encouragement and support for many years as was their former CEO, Ed Rasmusen, who has now gone on to his eternal reward. Thank you, Rasmusen Foundation. May the Lord honor and bless your efforts on behalf of the hungry and the unsheltered in our community.

Pastor John LaMantia, Staff, Board and all the souls at the Mission



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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Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sticking to the Plan



The ever-wonderful Ma Ya from Nine Star providing some extra help for Daniel who has made a commitment to complete his GED. Her vocation, his determination and those new computers donated earlier in the year, will get him over the finish line. This work runs on the grace we give to one another each and every day.

Congratulations!

Pedro's instructor from Nine Star, Ma Ya, was as happy as he was when he received his GED. The hard work paid off and Pedro is on his way. It is no small thing to set new goals and to move forward with determination. Congratulations, Pedro. We are proud of you.

