



## *Rededicating Our Resources*

*Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.  
1 Corinthians 4:2*

We had just broken the record for snow in November and we were not even halfway through the month. You know how it went. We had to clear our drives and walks three times in as many days. What a mess. Thank goodness for snowblowers.

We were just finishing for the third time around 8 PM and we still had gas in the can, so Kathy and I decided to be good neighbors. We have one guy who works very long hours and an older couple whose driveways were full of snow. We got to it.

Kathy shoveled the couple's walk while I blew the drives. OK. It was going well and we were still a happy couple until I got an idea to go back and clear one neighbor's walk so Kathy wouldn't need to shovel. I did not know that she had no intention of shoveling it because he never uses it and enters through his garage.

Kathy had just finished the couple's walk when disaster struck. I was only focused on pushing through the snow on the next-door guy's walk, looking straight ahead and giving not a single thought as to where the snow was ending up.

When I finished, I walked back to where Kathy was working and said, "Hey, aren't you finished yet?" I was greeted by a woman who looked like a mad bee wearing an Eddie Bauer jacket. Her head looked like the way the fireplugs looked with their 18-inch snowy hats. She was saying something I had a hard time hearing through the earplugs I was wearing but as best I could lip read it looked like it was something about *payback*.

It seems I had blown two feet of packing snow across two side yards, all along the walk she had just finished and buried her in the process, glasses and all. The force had driven it down inside her jacket and into her ears. I was trying to decide if a course of action was to find my passport and pack a bag or just get another shovel. Taking the safer way

out, I went home and made her hot chocolate in a cup with a bird nest on it. She re-shoveled, cooled off (no pun intended) and all was forgiven. Lesson learned. Watch where the blower exit is pointed at all times or maybe work alone.

You know I got to thinking that sometimes we all do good things in thoughtless or inefficient ways or perhaps not prayed over ways. Where our giving stewardship is concerned, we can give to organizations out of habit without checking to make sure their mission is still biblically sound and relevant. We really can pray over everything and God, who is our resource, can inspire us to act with wisdom and grace.

I promised the Lord that in 2024 I would allow Him to inspire my stewardship of the resources He has provided in my personal life. I want to get the right amount of seed to just the right ground, building people up in joy and blessing the Kingdom. **Lord, make me alert, let me listen, may Your vision claim my treasure.**

Maybe you would like to join me in rededicating our lives and our resources to the work of Christ as it is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit. I for one don't want to *blow it* in the wrong direction. The scripture tells us to those that have it shall be given. Follow the fruit. That is a giveaway for where God's blessing is at work.

May the New Year unlock new graces and new blessings for you. May each day deepen your walk and swell your love for all that He loves. May we all prove faithful and fruitful.

Happy New Year from all of us at the Mission!

God bless,  
**Pastor John LaMantia**

## January Memorials

Memorial for: Geri Austermuhl	by: Ashley & Barbara Schmiedeskamp
Memorial for: Laurence Clarke	by: Marilyn J Cunningham
Memorial for: Herbert Eckmann	by: David Syren
Memorial for: Russ Wilmot	by: Renate Wilmot
Memorial for: Herbert Eckmann	by: Loren & Carolyn Leman
Memorial for: Ivan Auten	by: Loren & Carolyn Leman
Memorial for: Nicole Leman	by: Loren & Carolyn Leman
Memorial for: Chris Kennedy	by: Sheri Litterer
Memorial for: Herbert Eckmann	by: Sheri Litterer
Memorial for: Kathleen Roberts	by: Sheri Litterer
Memorial for: Ben & Myrtle Sherbahn	by: Leon & Lois Smith
Memorial for: Bill Miller	by: Leon & Lois Smith
Memorial for: Jaysen Mathieson	by: Mark & Lynne Anderson
Memorial for: Jack & Mary Lou Bacher	by: Mark & Lynne Anderson



*All around me beams of light caress the  
saints in glory bright,  
while full of joy His face I behold; it was as  
He told us, these streets of gold!*

## Thank You Anchorage Native Assembly



I was deeply honored to deliver the message at the Anchorage Native Assembly. What a terrific group of believers! They let me update them also on what we are up to at the Mission and I got to play my Native flute for them. They totally overwhelmed me with a very generous donation towards the ministry of the Mission. May the Lord return their kindness and satisfy every need. Thank you Pastors Philip and Amy Boswell and congregation.

## With Gratitude

Thank you to some of our favorite partners. They bless us every single year and their faithfulness and charity is an encouragement. Thank you New Horizons Preschool for your gift of food and financial support. You are helping put hope on the "horizon" for our needy neighbors and we love you for it.

Many thanks to our friends at Scenic Park Bible Church for the food drive they hosted for the Mission. This is a lovely group of believers who have been so kind to us over the years. God's people are so faithful.

## 6,000 Cans!



Six-thousand cans of love! The Birchwood Christian School is the most faithful of Mission partners. Every year the children, teachers and parents have a food drive for us and they go all out. Jay, our donations driver, told us that after the kids helped load the van that there was not space left for a stick of gum. What an abundant blessing they produced. We love this group so much.

The Mission Business Office will be closed January 15th in honor of Martin Luther King Day.

*Darkness cannot drive out  
darkness; only light can do that.  
Hate cannot drive out hate; only  
love can do that.*

Martin Luther King, Jr.



## On the Way to Work



Linda from our ladies program all bundled up and on her way to her job. We are so happy to support Linda in her efforts to be independent. Linda is balancing classes as well as work and investing in personal development. Your clothing contributions are such a blessing to those who have to wait for a bus as their means of transportation.

## Service of Remembrance



From our Christmas Remembrance Service on December 3rd where we name those loved ones whose memories we wish to invite into our Christmas season and light a candle in their honor. As a benediction I played my native flute named Abundance over the audience and asked that the abundant love and joy of Christ

remove every sorrow and usher in a season of hope and celebration.

It was an added blessing that twenty-five souls stood when we gave an altar call.

## Prayer for the New Year

Lord, we ask for your wisdom in 2024, for your strength and power to be constantly present within us. We pray you would make us strong and courageous for the road ahead. Give us ability beyond what we feel able, let your gifts flow freely through us, so that you would be honored by our lives, and others would be drawn to you. In Jesus Name, Amen.

## It Was a Happy Thanksgiving



Our Thanksgiving Dinner was wonderful and delicious thanks to Kitchen manager, Steve McGuire, kitchen crew and volunteers. Facility Manager, Shane Day got the tables beautifully decorated and even KTUU showed up to put us on the news. Thank you to all who donated and made the day a success. This year we were able to serve people so quickly and seating was comfortable because of the upgrade we completed.



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## *Junior Artists Come to Visit*



About a month ago we were trying to come up with a plan to get some kid-crafted art for the kid corner of the dining room where we have the Children's Dinner Library cart. We had gotten a call from a homeschool group asking if they could help us in any way. We jumped at the chance to connect.

The result was some wonderful paintings made for the Mission by the children in the Green Room Co-op group. These homeschoolers made art we framed and then they came for a tour of the Mission, brought their parents, had cookies and assured us that the new warehouse would be the perfect place for a Nerf battle. They were also impressed with the cooler which was big enough to hold all of them. They also made cards we gave to our clients.



Thank you Green Room Co-op!  
You were a great group! Thank you, Wendy Perkins, for setting it up!

