



Lord, Give Us Fishing Dreams!

In the last days it shall be, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ~ Acts 2:17 MEV

I am in my seventh decade of life. My dear wife is constantly reminding me of that especially when I borrow a mountain bike and try to keep up with my son and grandson or when I add a few too many weights at the gym and you can smell the Ben-Gay before I arrive in the room. The truth is, I seldom actually *feel* old.

The movie Jesus Revolution caught my attention recently and I went to an advance showing, in part, as a trip down memory lane. I was saved in that movement in the early 1970s. Saved good because I am still walking with Christ. Those were exciting times. I was a young Catholic soldier in Germany exploring eastern religion and in love with a nursing student in Ohio who told fortunes on the side. Enter the God who invented light itself. He was dazzling! Kathy and I were both saved, an ocean apart and our letters crossed in the mail. No cell service in 1972.

The people surrounding me at the theater were all my age. Probably all experienced salvation in that very same movement. What a time it was. America was in combat in Vietnam. War protestors were everywhere. LSD was the escape of thousands of college students and many of their professors. Love was “free” or so people thought. It was anything but free and it was anything but love. The news was full of campus riots, rice paddies, racial conflicts, the Manson family and Woodstock. People were looking for something and that something showed up. I bought my first Thompson Chain-Reference Bible in Heidelberg. I have had it rebound twice since.

Solomon nailed it when he said there is nothing new under the sun. Here we are in a world crashing time honored values. Everyone seems to have quit their day job in favor of raising sacred cows and everybody’s cow is sacred except yours. We have conflict on a global level but even families can’t seem to agree across the table.

Enter the Holy Spirit on a campus in Kentucky a few weeks ago with the embers of that awakening spreading among college students, at the same time a movie is released about revival in the 70s. God is lighting new fires while simultaneously blowing on old embers. The young seeing visions and the old dreaming- what a battle plan! We tend to think of dreaming as an attribute of the young but God has always been an upside down and backwards sort of strategist.

I don’t know about you but I am getting with the plan. I am going to pray and do some serious dreaming. Whatever God has for me, for my family, for my city, for the Mission and the souls under my voice, I want to have that revelation and then I want to run with it. “To him that has it shall be given.” I want to let what God is doing, what He is capable of inspiring in me, loose. The 70s changed me but if I am breathing then I should *still* be changing, becoming new every morning.

We are emerging from the last weeks of winter and spring is coming. So many possibilities are coming with it. New dreams

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and visions of what may be, of what He really paid a price for, Christ's own dream of us at this very moment in our lives. Should I meet anyone new these days who asks me what I do, I just might have to confess to being a dreamer and then I will explain that it has nothing at all to do with sleeping. The opposite in fact.

The late poet, Richard Wilbur said, "All that we do is touched with ocean, yet we remain on the shore of what we know." Time to launch out into the deep and to do it for the same reason Peter let down his net after catching nothing the first time, because Christ said to do so. *Lord, give us fishing dreams!*

May the wind of the Spirit blow upon your heart. May something vibrant and new come alive. May there be dreams born of unparalleled intimacy with the wonderful Son of God. May we all see the will of God come to pass in our homes and lives and the life of the Mission. God has given us to this time just like He gave Esther to hers.

In anticipation and obedience, that the whole world may know Him,

Pastor John LaMantia

On the Rock is Rockin' On



Meet Willie Broad who is the new facilitator of our AA meetings at the Mission. Willie loves Jesus and credits Him with stepping into his life when he asked for help many years ago. Our first group with Willie as facilitator was meaningful and hopeful and offered help to a dozen people. We are so glad he made himself available to our program folks and to the wider community. The On the Rock 12 step group has been functioning at the Mission for 10 years. It is now an advertised AA resource

for people inside and outside of the Mission. All AA groups in some way reflect the character of a particular group's membership and interests. This group reflects the character of the Mission.

The Mountain City Church Knitter's Club

These are so beautiful! (Only a small number are shown here.) The Mountain City Church Knitter's Club gifted the Rescue Mission with their art. What a stunning way to say, "We care about you." It actually says God ❤️ You on each cap tag. Thank you so much sweet Knitter's Club!



March Memorials

Safe in Christ's keeping is everything we love.



Memorial for: George Whalen
by: Lorene Grant

Memorial for: Jan Snoderly
by: Christ Community Church

Memorial for: Fred S. Vaughn
by: Donna L. Vaughn

Memorial for: Ken & Betty Muckey
by: Francis & Cheryl Dorish

Memorial for: Christi Taylor
by: John & Kathy LaMantia

A Helping Hand

One of our dear donors, Vicki Markwell, has really been filling up our clothing room. Several new coats will be so welcome wrapped around cold neighbors. Vicki gave us two carloads of clothing and shoes that we will put to good use. Thank you, Vicki, and her church which helped her collect these, Lifespring Bible Church.



Easter Dinner Service Needs

- Hams
- Chicken legs and thighs
- Canned corn, carrots
- Mashed potatoes
- Apple or Peach pie

Needed by April 5th

New Seating in Our Dorms



Spring cleaning and replacement of the couches in our program dorms for both men and women. The other seating was well past its end date. What nice, welcoming spaces for our dear people.



Tailgate Party



Our men's LifeSkills afternoon class has been watching the movie American Underdog in installments. We learned how important it is to stay "in the pocket" on the field but also in our spiritual lives. The pocket is where you have the best chance of scoring, the best chance of being protected on the play. Following the final viewing we had in indoor mini tailgate party for the guys and enjoyed some snacks and interaction.

Welcome Back



Our dear friends at For the Bride Ministries are back in Alaska and paid us a visit. They brought with them beautiful warm coats and so many pairs of socks. May the Lord return their kindness. L to R: Marti & Robin Jones, Brandon & Beth Testerman.

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.

Always a Good Evening



Movie Night is always a good time. We showed Harriet, the story of abolitionist Harriet Tubman, followed by some delicious snacks put together by John (pictured) who is in work phase of the LifeSkills program, and our kitchen helpers. It was a full house. Many of our dinner guests remained to enjoy the movie and snacks.

Helping Hand from Community Council



Al Milspough, Vice Chair of University Area Community Council was kind enough to help us out on the Good Neighbor section of the application for licensing required by the city. I am happy to say that our own good neighbor policy has been in effect for many years and this community council and its membership have been wonderful Mission partners.

In addition to serving on the council, Al, lends his talents to the Food Bank of Alaska. We appreciate his contribution to making our community a better place.

Point in Time



Volunteer group at the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness getting ready for the Point In Time Count. They filled bags with toiletries, socks, hygiene products and snacks to hand out during the annual, national count of all our sheltered and unsheltered neighbors. The count went on for several days and teams directed by the Coalition were all over in every kind of circumstance and weather. That is some serious frontline kindness and dedication. The count goes a long way to helping all involved in housing and sheltering our homeless neighbors know where we stand and where we need to go in terms of the scope of the need and in allocating resources. Thank you, Kathy, for representing the Mission by helping fill bags. Our thanks to all who participated locally and across the nation.



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Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Prayers for Every Success

I was thrilled to have a tour and a chat with the folks who are working in the new Navigation Center downtown. This center is a marvelous collaboration and has so much potential to be a resource for many non-profits that share a common interest. Honestly, they had me at, "Hello."

We will be able to transport our clients there for screening and direction to services, as well as being able to meet with clients of the center and help them access our services and programs for housing, meals, education and job re-entry.

Ariel Berg and her team were helpful, positive and motivated. The added bonus for me was finding one of our past graduates of the Lifeskills Program, Earl Bell, now working for the Navigation Center. Earl has been wonderful to visit the Mission after graduation and to encourage others, by his lived experience, to continue on the journey to positive change. Seeing Earl made my day.

Best wishes to Catholic Social Services, their staff and to all connected with the Resource & Navigation Center for every success.



Thank you to all whose collaborative effort made this opportunity possible.

Pastor John LaMantia

(Earl is in the middle of the group)