



Run the Race. Cherish the Effort. Claim the Prize.

*Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize?
Run in such a way that you may win. ~1 Corinthians 9:24*

Her mother was in a nursing home in another state and she knew this was a special day. How she wished she could give her mother, whose mind was faltering, one more hurrah. Then it came to her.

Every spring just before Mother's Day her mother, friends and family (not including her) would have a Derby Party during the running of the Kentucky Derby. Food and friends and a betting pool made it an exciting time. Her mother had a habit of winning. It was only where her health was concerned that her horse was not running well these days.

She called the nursing home and got them to turn on the television in her mother's room to the Derby channel. She got the nursing home to bring her mother a snack to enjoy. "Mom, how about you and I watch the Derby together? You there and me here with our snacks."

"I usually bet something on the race but I don't have any way to do that," her mother answered. That was when she had the brilliant idea to place an online bet. She had never done such a thing but how hard could it be? "Got any ideas about a winner, Mom?" "No idea, Honey. You guess for me."

She picked a horse with a color she liked and placed a \$10.00 bet online. "This is for you, Mom. Happy Derby Day!" A horse nobody expected to win ran with the angels and Mom was a winner! Everybody was happy and an email followed the race stating that the prize was \$150.00 and would be mailed to the address on the credit card.

The first indication that anything was amiss was when the credit card bill arrived with a thousand dollars' worth of electronic equipment purchased in California. Her husband called the credit union and cancelled the card and notified them of the theft. "How in the world had that happened?" he wondered. A germ of an idea began to form in her brain but she kept the

bet to herself. He will never know, she thought, forgetting that chickens like to roost at home. How had he missed the charge for the bet?

Just a few days later she got a call at work from her husband. He had just signed for a registered letter with a \$150.00 check drawn on a bank in China, from an online gambling site, with the word "Derby" on the remittance. He had already put two and two together where the card fraud was concerned but had been unable to convince himself of the origin of the bet. "Honey, I know you could *not possibly have* used that credit card for online betting. Honey? (Long silence) Are you there? I can hear you breathing. Tell me you are not a gambler. Remember you are the wife of an ordained minister and we would probably catch fire if we gambled. Well?"

"I think you are OK as long as you donate it to missions," was her careful answer. "Is that where the funds are going?" he inquired. "I certainly hope so!" she offered. "I know there is a story here," he said, and I am dying to hear it. I am pretty sure it involves electronic equipment, foreign hackers, racehorses and my wife. Good thing I love you. I have to ask, did you pray about that before you did it?" "How do you think I knew what horse to pick?" she said. "That wasn't exactly what I was getting at," he sighed. Think about who the lucky missionary is going to be and tell me when you get home." "You bet!" was her enthusiastic response. "The next horse you meet better be named Repentance," he offered before hanging up.

Not long after that her mother crossed the finish line and we spilled her ashes out in a beautiful glacier-fed lake. Her daughters had all found Christ and shared their hearts with her so that when she passed, salvation was a sure thing. She was able to claim the prize

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Paul spoke about. No fraud. No broken promises. No shortcuts. No longshots. Just the winner's circle with the King and an incorruptible crown.

All families have stories and that one gets mentioned in our house when Mother's Day approaches. Kathy's gambling career began and ended with one bet and a good act of contrition.

Christ is no gamble. He is the most reliable thing in existence. The higher rock. The surest foundation. The brightest and most beautiful. The truth. Generations of children learn of Him from godly mothers. Mothers who shield them with their prayers and live out their faith as an example to follow. Sometimes that works in reverse and it is the children who bring the Lord into the family. Christ's goal is to penetrate our hearts and He will travel any road to claim us; He will step through any open door.

Here at the Mission we allow ourselves to be that open door. Every night we sleep someone's lost son or daughter. Someone with a praying mother who is hanging onto the promise of God for her child. Someone who is running away from the lostness their own mother seeded into their lives. They are all here and He is coming to wrap them in His graceful arms, show them how to run the race, cherish the effort and claim the prize.

Thank you for helping us to keep those doors of mercy open so that everyone who will may find a place. Christ is our portion and our reward forever. That is a bet you can make with a clear conscience.

Blessings,
Pastor John LaMantia

Recognition of Service

This May our Facility Manager, Shane Day, will celebrate nine years with the Mission. We recently celebrated his service with a cake and card. We took him by surprise. Shane has been invaluable this past year with all the upgrading we have done and he has saved the Mission a great deal of money. Thank you, Shane for your faithful service.



Celebrating Resurrection Day



Resurrection Day is a special day for us. Christ conquered death, hell and the grave to the glory of God the Father. I appreciate all who made it a wonderful Easter, the kitchen crew (I heard the shrimp and all were great), the sound help, intercessors and Rev. Ronna Lopizich who presented the message in our evening chapel service. I was honored to minister in our morning service and break out my sax. To God be the glory! It was a full house.

Self-Care Through Good Nutrition

Renae Foisy RDT, was kind enough to do a presentation on the principles of good nutrition for our LifeSkills program last year. We are so pleased that she has been making herself available for individual dietary counseling and has been coming to the Mission and meeting with our folks. What a valuable and encouraging kindness she provided.



Remembering those who gave their lives in service to our country this May 29th. For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ~ Job 14:7

May Memorials



“As you were you will always be, treasured forever in our memory.”

Memorial for: Rev. Ben & Myrtle Sherbahn	by: Grant & Keren Turner
Memorial for: Gerald Dubie	by: Beverly & Aaron Dubie
Memorial for: Gerald Dubie	by: Peter & Monique Harren
Memorial for: Charles Cosper	by: Susan I. Cosper
Memorial for: Robert Bosveld	by: Dennis Hedman
Memorial for: Harv Ellzey	by: Dennis Hedman
Memorial for: Gary Dalton	by: Dennis Hedman
Memorial for: Thelma & Jack Kephart	by: Sherril M. Litterer
Memorial for: Kent & Keith Lindsey	by: Carol Lindsey
Memorial for: Zenia Kolyaha	by: Verna J. Kolyaha
Memorial for: Brenda George	by: John & Kathy LaMantia

Food Donations Needed

This has been a challenging winter and spring for many of us in the business of feeding our hungry neighbors. We need your help.

As I write this our shelter is full to capacity, if only our food warehouse was full as well. Our shelves are not yet empty. No one is going without a meal but our food on hand has been diminished. We are serving an increasing number of families with children. More has been going out than has been coming in.

We take no funds from the government and rely on donations from those who share our vision. It is mostly Anchorage families who support us and those families are facing challenges of their own due to inflation so donations are down. The food we provide to individuals and an ever-increasing number of families is not being replenished at the same rate.

I am asking you and your church to consider hosting a food drive for us. We would be so grateful.

Should you be able to help us, I have attached a list of several much-needed items.

Canned:

- Tuna
- Chicken
- Hash
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Corn, carrots, green beans
- Kidney, pinto, chili beans
- Peaches
- Spaghetti Sauce

Perishable:

- Eggs, bacon, link sausage
 - Chicken leg quarters
 - Ground beef
 - Butter
 - Vegetable oil
- ### Dry Food:
- Oatmeal
 - Dry cereal
 - Krusteaz Buttermilk Pancake Mix
 - Coffee

• Always paper products

So Grateful for Community Generosity

The Rescue Mission received a \$1,000 grant from Alaska USA (now Global) Credit Union for our operating fund.

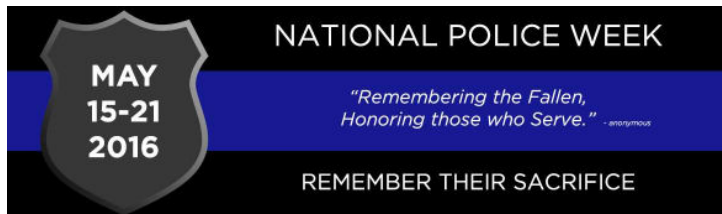
We also received a \$7,000 grant from a Hilcorp Donor Advised fund of the Alaska Community Foundation, the John C. King Fund, for our general operations.

We are deeply grateful and will steward the funds wisely.

Smile. . .

Sunday School teacher to her class on Mother's Day: Is there anything about your mother that is perfect?

Frank, age 5: Just her children.



"National Police Week is celebrated on whatever week May 15 falls in, under President Kennedy's decree to honor the men and women who risk their lives every day in the line of duty — it takes place from May 15 to 21 this year. It is also a time for police officers to honor their fallen colleagues, make sure those surviving them are supported, as well as to remember their commitment to keeping people safe. Citizens and civilians can also celebrate the day by showing some love and gratitude to the policemen around them. National Police Week is all about honor, gratitude, remembrance, servitude, and peer support." Thanking all of our neighbors who serve and strive to keep us safe. God bless you and your families. You are honored and supported by the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission.

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Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Victoria Has Graduated



Victoria Smith recently received her certificate of completion from our LifeSkills program. Victoria was such a help to us in getting 250 meals out the door every day during our meal carry months and always with a smile on her face.

We hired her during the work phase of the program. She developed some great kitchen skills and added to the

effectiveness of our food ministry during her time here. She was able to purchase a car.

We had donuts and coffee at an early morning graduation with her family. We had time to pray over her for the future and to thank God for her, then she was off to her new job at one of our local hotels.

Triple Graduation



We recently had a triple graduation from our Men's LifeSkills Program. It was great to get together for celebration, prayer, testimonies and some coffee and donuts.

John Odman (Left) is working with us here at the Mission as Kitchen Supervisor.

Anthony Whitmore (Center) is working with Julie's Maintenance taking care of apartment maintenance.

Benjamin Clemmer (Right) is employed by the Anchorage Municipality Department of Animal Care and Control.

These men have worked hard and come so far. We are proud of them. Please join us in praying for a bright future for all of them.