



Do You Need an Earthquake?

November 30, 2024 will mark the sixth anniversary of the Magnitude 7.1 Anchorage Earthquake. Remember that one? You may have been in the shower when the lights went out and all your cabinets began tossing your dishes onto the floor as your life flashed before your eyes.

Did you know that aftershocks have continued up until now for that particular seismic event? Approximately 585 aftershocks associated with November 2018 were reported in 2023, bringing the total count for that sequence to more than 14,000 aftershocks spawned from an event that shook the stuffing out of us just after Thanksgiving.

I was listening to some radio show in the aftermath of that earthquake and I recall the announcer saying, "OK God, enough, enough, we get it. Please ...stop already."

My wife and I moved to Alaska from west Texas in 1995. We left tarantulas, rattle snakes, scorpions and tornadoes for wolves, bears, blizzards and *earthquakes*. When I left Texas it was so hot my tennis shoes melted on an orphanage roof I was helping a team to repair. When I got here it was an unbelievable -27 our first winter. Kathy's solution was to buy a big dog and put her in bed with us. Then the earthquakes started. Nothing prepares you for something that knocks out your power, knocks you off your feet and opens doors you know to be well and truly shut. Welcome to Alaska!

Earthquakes always remind me of the uncertainty that surrounds what we consider to be familiar. They break up our routines and they remind us of a power that is beyond our control. I experienced my first earthquake in a church revival service where the minister had just read the text about the earthquake that freed Paul and Silas when the building I was in began to shake. Talk about an illustrated sermon! What are the chances?

I would, in fact, like to take a look at that Macedonian earthquake that Acts recounts for us. In Acts chapter 16:25-26 in the NIV it reads,

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose."

Paul and Silas had been ministering in Phillipi and in the course of their ministry they cast a spirit out of a girl who was being used to tell fortunes for money. Her owners fomented a riot that landed Paul and Silas in one of the extra secure cells in jail with their feet placed in stocks. Any jailbreak, as if such a thing were possible, would have resulted in their jailer's execution. These guys were not going anywhere. Did I mention that they had been stripped and soundly beaten before being fastened to the jail floor? Their situation could not have been worse. Impossible. Uncomfortable. Dark.

Out of the darkness a song arises and fills that musty place. A song sung through cracked lips, by men with bleeding backs who could not move an inch. That song came up to Heaven and into God's ears and a power that jail was unprepared to resist broke the chains and opened the door. All of the doors. You can read all about how it resulted in forgiveness, salvation and freedom. It is the real God-stuff we love to remind ourselves of and encourage others with.

I try to do that very thing every day in my work at the Rescue Mission. This might sound like an over dramatization, but **almost every person who comes through our doors needs an earthquake. A full-on, God-generated, door-busting, soul-freeing, hymn-singing earthquake.**

We have so many neighbors who are fastened in the stocks of despair, some in chains to alcoholism and chemical dependence,

...continued on page 2

...continued from page 1

people who are buried in the cells of mental illnesses, hopelessness and friendlessness. Many more, who are good people, simply can't get ahead no matter how hard or long they work because rent has gone up 24% in the past few years. They struggle to make ends meet and those ends never seem to meet.

People need change, they need to be able to breathe, many need a new start. So we teach them God's word and we model His grace. We share with them the song of deliverance Christ is famous for and in the lives of some of them, the ground begins to shake, the chains fall off, and the cell doors swing open.

Psalms 18:30 in the New American Standard Bible version tells us, "As for God, His way is blameless; The word of the LORD is refined; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him." The original term that is used to describe God's word being refined is describing something that is unmixed. It is something pure, like silver without dross. It is full strength and full of power and just what we need to move stubborn habits and circumstances in our lives.

People such as those dear souls we minister to are not the only ones who need the ground to move and the doors to open. I myself have wrestled with a challenging situation in my life that needs a God-generated, hymn-singing move. Maybe some of you do too. **Do you need an earthquake?** Not like our 2018 variety but the kind that freed two trusting souls in Acts?

2 Corinthians 1:20 New Living Translation states "For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" ascends to God for his glory. That tells us that there is a cycle of YES. Yes coming down to us and yes going up to God from us.

The energy that generates can move whatever you need transported, can open whatever is locked. Health problems, financial difficulties, relationship struggles, job loss, difficulties with our children. There is a YES! that wants to come down and shake the ground under you.

Let your YES! fly up to the ears of Heaven like the song of Paul and Silas. Remember they were singing while they were still bound. You may feel you are stuck and have no options, but this story would tell us otherwise. Praise is *always* an option. If it worked in Macedonia and it works at the Mission, it will surely work in your life and mine. Christ is our YES! YES! YES! Not a magic formula but a deep relationship confirmed, solid, unmovable rock under our feet that crushes what crushes us.

May the wonderful and generous Son of the Almighty God, hear you and receive your praise. May He strengthen your faith, reward your courage and grant you the desires of your heart in the name of His Dear Son, Jesus.

With hearts full of thanksgiving we say a resounding, YES! Lord and AMEN!

Blessings to you and all those you love from all here who love you.

Pastor John LaMantia

November Memorials



| | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Memorial for: Kent Lindsey | by: Carol Lindsey |
| Memorial for: Don Bettis | by: Charlotte & Larry Bettis |
| Memorial for: Larry Clarke | by: M. Joy Cunningham |
| Memorial for: Russ Wilmot | by: Renate A. Wilmot |
| Memorial for: Byron Kohfield | by: Dorothy Waddell Campbell |
| Memorial for: Lan Waddell | by: Dorothy Waddell Campbell |
| Memorial for: Darlene D. Warren | by: Deloris A. Stevens |
| Memorial for: Louis K & Catherine Brunner | by: Thomas & Faith Hundley |
| Memorial for: Don Bettis | by: Grandview Baptist Church |
| Memorial for: Don Bettis | by: Carol Fuller |
| Memorial for: Eleanor Anderson | by: Kenneth A. Anderson |
| Memorial for: Don Bettis | by: Clifford & Linda Hodgins |
| Memorial for: Jake Wildes | by: John & Kathy LaMantia |

Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! ~ Psalm 107:1

Welcome Bobbi



The Mission welcomes our newest Board member, Bobbi Outten, to the organization. We are thrilled to have her gifts and her experience in service to the Kingdom and the community.

Bobbi is currently the Director of the Family Wellness Warriors Initiative of Southcentral Foundation. Bobbie is of Native American descent. She has extensive background in counseling and working with those who are incarcerated to help them re-enter society. She is also an accomplished rider who rescues horses as well as people.

Bobbi has been a chapel volunteer here at the Mission in the past. We now welcome her in a new role and thank her for generously giving us her time.

Good Times in Hard Times



The kitchen crew put out a great treat table for movie night. We shared On a Wing and a Prayer with our clients. This is always a fun evening and much looked forward to. People from the street can also come in, warm up, snack and see a good film.

Jack, our newest hire, is pictured here. Jack has previous culinary experience and has been volunteering with us. He is a great cook and is now putting his gifts in service as a staff member. Welcome, Jack!



Thanksgiving Needs

Our Open Table Thanksgiving Dinner for our clients sheltering with us and for individuals and families from the community is just around the corner. Please help us bless those who need our encouragement. This is a wonderful, cheerful time for those we serve and a sweet opportunity to share Christ's love. We thank you in advance for being part of it.

- Turkeys
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned yams/sweet potatoes
- Green beans
- Mushroom soup
- Pies
- Rolls
- Eggs

Donations may be dropped off through 11/25/2024 at the front office between 7AM -8PM.

Community Connection



Thank you Larry for manning our booth at the VA Stand Down. We are always available to help our Vets.

My dear wife, Kathy, and Taylor from our Men's program manned the Mission table at the Project Homeless Connect event. 500 people were connected to services, jobs, clothing, food and encouragement.

We let folks know about our meal service, clothing room and our programs. We also gifted people with totes and toilet paper. One woman told Kathy that was a luxury for her. Makes you want to count your blessings.

Special shout out to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for putting in so many hours to coordinate this event and being on hand to make it all run smoothly.



Dining Room Upgrade



Installed new wide screen in our dining room. Playing videos of nature scenes during meals. Useful also for classes and graduations.

Many thanks to those who made this possible.



Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Anchorage,
AK
Permit #290

2823 East Tudor Road | Anchorage, AK | 99507 | 907.563.5603
Email: info@anchoragerescue.org | Website: www.anchoragerescue.org

Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Game Night



Game night was great! Everyone was a winner. The price of admission was a memory verse. Lots of laughs and fun and treats. Thank you to our Art Class for sponsoring this.

Did you know that the Mission in addition to the emergency overnight shelter makes it possible for unsheltered people to warm up on cold evenings?

It seems that even though our city tries to get everyone into shelter some will not stay and sometimes there is not room. Unsheltered people can come to the Mission at 4pm, eat supper, charge phones, use the restrooms, stay for chapel if they wish and remain indoors until 9pm seven days a week all year. Many take this option and we are glad to be able to provide this to the city without cost.

This is also a time to help those living rough with socks, coats, gloves, hats, sleeping bags and blankets. If you wish to donate to this need we would be grateful.

Personal contact goes a long way to breaking through those barriers that prevent people from accepting the help offered as a way off the street. We are here making meals, snacks and keeping people warm until that opportunity comes.

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.

MEMBER OF THE CITYGATE NETWORK. AN ASSOCIATION OF RESCUE MINISTRIES