



*Flowers from the Mission window box*

## *A Pot-belly Encouragement*

*Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ~ Luke 12:33 NIV*

I had been in Amarillo for a month working at the church but my family was still in Dallas waiting for school to be out in six months before joining me. There were times when I was desperately lonely. One day a box was waiting for me on my desk. When I opened it, an old pot-belly bear stared back at me. This treasure from my son's childhood had survived the many purges of growing up. I had a teenage son who would not part with that bear for money and did not care if his buddies knew it. The note said the bear was being sent to keep me company and to remind me that I was loved. My son still has that bear and I have a precious memory.

Generosity, as it is used in several places in the New Testament, is a different sort of word and does not mean what you would expect. It refers to folding something with simplicity so there are no hidden or secret pockets or double folds. It is kindness that is transparent, not opaque, without a hidden agenda- love in its "simple-fold" form.

Throughout the years I have been the recipient of tremendous kindness. I have a wife whose generosity towards me has been unrestrained for fifty years. I have a son who supported and encouraged me at some crucial times. I have a grandson who opened his little treasure box and said, "Grandpa, these are my favorite things and you can pick one to keep." I have friends who have forgiven my mistakes and a Savior who paid off my debts. It is impossible for me to look at someone in need now and not offer them the same robe that has been woven for me by so many hands over the years.

One of the sure signs that a man or woman in our program is on a good path is the emergence of a generous spirit. It is a major moment when someone goes from being the kind of person who can only see what they want and who they can use, to being able to see the value in another person and investing in it. That stimulates so many different gifts in the giver and opens new pathways for blessing. Generosity is a

tide that always returns but not before it touches people and places that may be invisible to us. Time and time again our graduates return with food and clothing for our shelter. They come back to testify and encourage those in chapel.

There are some things in society that seem to have massive amounts of money thrown at them and yet there is no enduring solution. The scripture would call that putting your money in a bag full of holes, a purse that wears out. God encourages us to put our treasure where it is immune to forces in the world. True love-born generosity, prompted by obedience and encouraged by hope, is tarnish proof. One of our chapel speakers walked out at the finish of the service on a cold fall evening and I noticed she was in her stocking feet. When I asked about her shoes she smiled and said they were happier on someone else's feet. The smile on her own face was all high-beams. I discovered later that one of our ladies slept in her dorm bed with those very shoes under her pillow. Don't you just know that gesture drove home the point of every word spoken in the service?

We are moving into a season of harvest, a season we always associate with abundance. Is there a gift you can simply-fold into someone's life? Let's look around with the eyes the Spirit has given to us to see where we might direct His treasure. Let's toss a blessing upon the tide of a life and celebrate where the obedient waves take it even if we never see the shore. Our little bit can become mighty in His hands. Some of the smallest gestures people made in my own life gave me the most encouragement. There are no small generosityes given with great love.

Thank you for your loving partnership. It has been a sustaining blessing for this ministry. I am also asking you to consider deepening your investment in this particular ministry at this particular time of economic challenge. We will use your support in straightforward ways Christ would applaud.

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May the blessing of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless and inspire your life, granting favor to all your endeavors, that you may energize His Kingdom. May He fill your future with those tokens of pot-belly affection.

In love, hope and gratitude,

**Pastor John LaMantia**

### Thank You

Thank you Pastor Brandon Testerman from For the Bride Ministries for a windfall of socks and a generous donation for our kitchen upgrade. You folks have been such faithful and generous partners.

Thank you, Kevin and Denise Bell, Rhonda and Larry Shure and others for generous Bible donations. What a blessing.

### Honoring Rachelle



We purchased fleece throws for the beds in our women's dorm that match their quilts. We made the purchase in memory of Rachelle Timog with a gift from Vince Timog. Rachelle went home to Jesus this past year but the goodness she poured

into the Mission and into the lives of those she ministered to lingers. What a blessing to honor her life and her contribution.

We had a showing of I Still Believe for Movie Night followed by cake. Hungry people cut big portions.



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.

### Walking With Peter



We have been having great classes as we are studying the life and writings of the apostle Peter. Some of these folks are copious note takers and others are full of questions.

### October Memorials

*“...a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name.”*  
(Malachi 3:16)



Memorial for: Penny Yonker  
by: Dennis & Teri Hedman

Memorial for: Ben & Myrtle Sherbahn  
by: Grant & Keren Turner

Memorial for: Robert Becker  
by: Sherri Litterer

Memorial for: David Gray  
by: Sherri Litterer

Memorial for: Frank P Flavin  
(Flavin Photography)  
by: Gail Galleher Flavin

### We Need Bibles

We have enrolled so many new people in our program who needed a bible, as well as having full chapel services where people were hungry for a bible of their own, that we are much in need of bibles at this time. What a wonderful need to have!

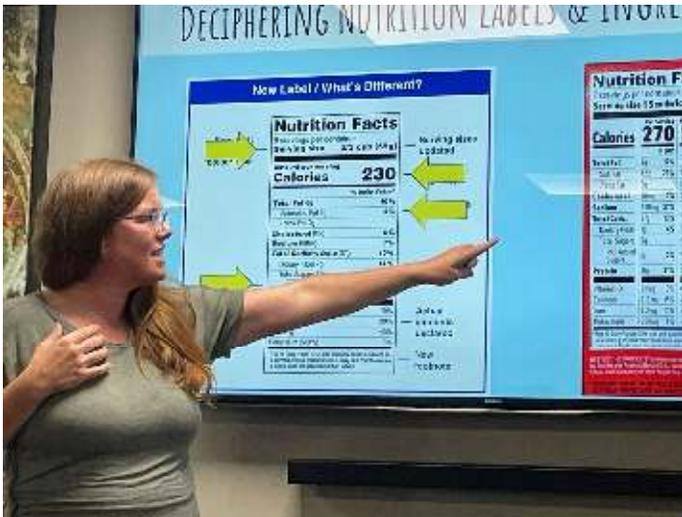
If anyone would like to donate bibles, we promise to put them in hungry hands. The best choices right now would be the NIV or New King James translations in English. We did receive some generous gifts of Bibles but more are needed.

## Making New Friends



It was good to meet Colonel Jim Kelly and give him a tour. We appreciated the gloves and shoes he kindly brought along for our program people and clients.

## Developing Good Food Habits



Our program men and women had a great class on nutrition with Renae Foisy RDT. Eating habits are one area we need to focus on when making positive lifestyle changes. Renae made it fun as well as informative for this good-sized class. She taught the principles of good nutrition and brought examples of products to show us how to read labels.

**Remember**, if you know someone who is hungry, the Mission Open Table is available nightly from 4:30-6:00 PM. Individuals and families are welcome. They do not need to be staying in the overnight shelter to join us for our evening meal. There is no fee for service. Everyone is welcome seven days a week. Because we are a safe place for people in recovery, we do require a zero result on a breathalyzer to enter the facility.

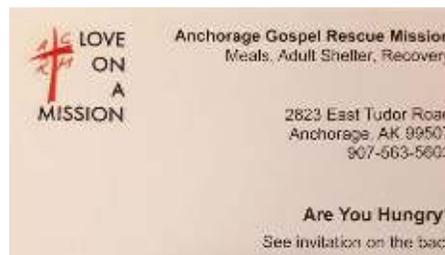
## Steve is a Peach!

Steve was grilling peaches to make a delicious treat. He is such a blessing as our Kitchen Manager. He makes the most of our tired old kitchen. That space is in the middle of a much-needed facelift. **We are in the home stretch with nearly 70% of our budget raised for the upgrade.** We are praying in the remainder so that we can go forward, debt free, to help those who need us. We welcome your support.

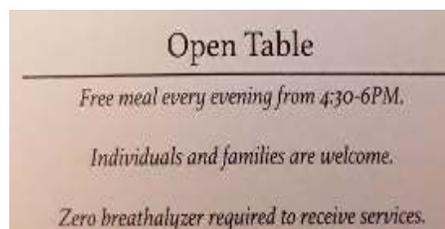


Lord, forgive me for failing to celebrate answered prayer, and for not expecting You to do great and mighty things in response to my intercession! Help me to purposefully give You praise as I seek Your face so that You will take pleasure in answering! Fill me with a large measure of faith to believe that You are always about to do something amazing in response to the prayers of Your people. Show me how to expect Your highest and best for the glory of Your Name. ~ Eddie Smith

## Are You Hungry?



We stuffed meal invitations into new pairs of socks for street ministry. We had cards made with our address and phone number and a question, "Are you hungry?" The back of the card directs people to our Open Table every evening. We never give people money on the street but we do provide snacks, socks, gloves and such. It opens a door for a conversation. Sometimes that meal is the beginning of a life not on the street.



If you would like to have 5 of our cards to share on your own, we will send them to you if you will send us a self-addressed, STAMPED envelope. A single stamp will cover it. Mail to Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission, Attn: Pastor John, 2823 E. Tudor Rd, Anchorage, AK 99507.



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**Nightly Services 7:30PM - 8:30 PM**  
**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

*Sunset at Pyramid Mountain*



This beautiful print of a painting by Linda Infante Lyons has found its spot at the Mission. The print and the framing were purchased with funds donated for this purpose when I asked for Native art for our walls.

Linda is a former Rasmuson Artist Fellowship recipient. Her lovely pieces can be found all over the city. A new piece of her work was just placed at Providence Hospital. This piece is a print of Sunset at Pyramid Mountain (Kodiak) and reminds us of the beauty our Creator put into our world.

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