



A Fork in the Road

Show me the right path, O LORD; point out the road for me to follow. ~ Psalm 25:4

The famous baseball catcher, Yogi Berra, was known for his "Yogi-isms." Some were wittier than he intended. Some were groan-worthy. One that stuck with me was one Yogi made the title of a book, "When you come to a fork in the road, TAKE IT!"

If only that were true how easy it would make our lives. We wouldn't have to search God's word for guidance, or listen for a voice behind us, or limit our travels to using narrow gates. No such luck however. God's GPS will always default to that ancient path because we are assured that is where the good way is. It is a path hallmarked by righteousness, rest, light and delight. Our work is to find our feet on that path and then not to leave it ever. That path will take us home.

Our program folks work hard to memorize scripture, to read through the word and complete class work illuminating the truth of it. To know His ways is to find the path that makes life worth living. Psalm 119:35 shares, "Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it."

I am an OK driver but a terrible navigator. The internet solved that problem for me for the most part but still on occasion the directions offered have not kept up with road changes and I have gotten really turned around. That will never happen with God because the way to a righteous life, to God and glory, is Jesus. He is fully alive and in the moment in our lives.

We are teaching our program men and women and our clients to choose wisely when they come to a fork in the road. The Mission itself sits beside just such a spiritual fork on Tudor Road. We will never stop pointing to that good way, the way that leads to life and relationship- a way out and a way up. Personal change is possible with a change of direction.

People who a year ago were living in terrible conditions in local encampments are sitting in classes learning about God's great gift. My heart swelled and knocked against my ribs when one of them said the Mission's being here saved his life. We are out to secure his real and forever life.

If you are reading this you can help us point the way. Remember us in your prayers, donate to our ministry and introduce us to your friends. There is much work to do and we need your companionship next to us on this road home.

May the Lord guide your own steps, filling your way with His illuminating wisdom and His unparalleled company. May all the glory be to the most wonderful "catcher" of all time, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Pastor John LaMantia

Graduation Day



Graduation day for two of our LifeSkills program men. Daniel Yenne, who works hard every single day to overcome challenging health issues just kept on keeping on throughout the past year to graduate and embrace a brighter future. A person he did work for during the program, Charlene, came to honor him at his graduation.

Christopher Starr we are proud to say is now one of our van drivers and has been a blessing to us. We look forward to ministering with Christopher in the future. His pastor, Philip Boswell from Anchorage Native Assembly attended.

Please join us in wishing all the best to these two men as they walk out the plan of Christ for their lives.

Pastor John, staff, Board and Partners



Welcoming Amy Zink



We welcome Amy Zink to our Board of Trustees. Amy is a nurse practitioner at ANMC, a wife and mother of four. She likes exploring Alaska and renovating her home.

Amy has experience with foreign missions and a burden for the lost. In her own words this is why she offered her services to the Rescue

Mission, "My husband and I both work in health care and often provide care to individuals dealing with homelessness in our community. We see first-hand the needs, struggles and hurts of this population and have a burden to see individual lives changed. I am able to meet physical needs in a small way but I believe that only Christ can break the destructive cycles causing damage to hearts and minds. I want to be involved to a greater extent with serving the whole person as much as I am able and I am encouraged by the work that the Gospel Rescue Mission is accomplishing."

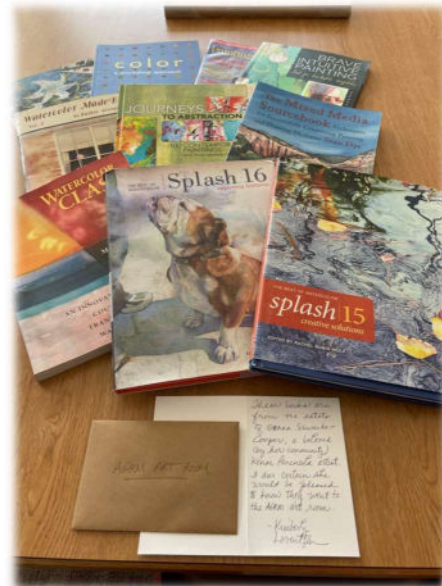
Thank you, Amy. We are so glad to have you working with us for the Kingdom.

Pastor John LaMantia and Board



October 13th is the day we celebrate the birthday of the Navy. God bless all who serve and who have served.

A Wonderful Gift



One of our donors purchased the art books from the estate of Donna Schwanke-Cooper a Kenai artist.

Thank you, Kimberly Lorentzen. We are honored to have this contribution. They are in our art library.

Many people read the newspaper online these days but if anyone has the real thing coming to your house would you consider collecting a few weeks-worth and donating the used newspapers to the art class? We are going to be making art with papier-mâché and will need a good bit of it. There will be a donation box in the office. We would be grateful.

October Memorials

*I trace the rainbow through the rain and feel
the promise is not in vain...*



Memorial for: Brenda George
by: Sherrie George

Memorial for: Dwayne Brantley
by: Frank & Carole Vivona

Memorial for: Try Wieland
by: Dennis Hedman

Memorial for: Betty Benson
by: Dennis Hedman

Memorial for: Frederick Strand
by: Mary Doppelfeld

Memorial for: Helen Carter
by: Duane & Shirley M. Luedke

Memorial for: John Sliwinski by: Loren & Carolyn Leman

Memorial for: Cyndi Saunders by: Loren & Carolyn Leman

Memorial for: Bemma Lou Floyd by: Loren & Carolyn Leman

Memorial for: Yvonne Clauson by: Loren & Carolyn Leman

Memorial for: Justin Heinzeroth by: John & Kathy LaMantia

Memorial for: Don Bettis by: John & Kathy LaMantia

Art Donations

A thoughtful gentleman donated his late wife's card making supplies to our art department. Many wonderful (as in full of wonder) projects will be made in her honor. Thank you.



Thank You Northrim Bank



Meet the wonderful team from Northrim Bank who donate their time every month to help our LifeSkills program folks achieve financial stability. Northrim is a dedicated community partner and these generous professionals bring encouragement and much needed guidance to our neighbors seeking a second chance. We are so grateful for their investment in us.

Kim West, Branch Supervisor, Mila Castiglione, Business Banker, Debbie Bolton, Branch Manager

Holiday Blessings

Acknowledging our Jewish friends and supporters during Rosh Hashanah (October 2-October 4) and Yom Kippur (October 11-October 12). Blessings to you and your families.



Don's Homegoing – Don is With Jesus



Don Bettis, former director of the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission, passed from a life of service to a life of reward September 9th after a long illness. Don was a stabilizing force for the ministry of the Mission and helped shape it. We owe him much and were pleased to have been asked to participate in his memorial service at Grandview Baptist Church. Charlotte and the family will need our prayers. Christ is our hope.



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Our Art Sale Was a Success!



If you would like to help our Creative Beginnings art class we always need wrapped canvasses in 6x6, 8x8, 12x12 and 8x10 sizes. Michael's has good prices on packages of these. Beauty and encouragement make a difference.

Thank you to all who helped make our mini-art show a success. We collected \$1000 in two hours. It was wonderful and great to meet some of our supporters in person as well as seeing old friends.

We had two winners selected in our drawing to come and create an acrylic pour with the class.

Special thanks to Shane, Stephen and Marilee from the Mission staff and Eugene, Rick and Michael from the men's program for all their hard work.

*Art is not a thing, it is a way.
~ Elbert Hubbard*

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.

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