



A Blessed Conversation Begins with Listening

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. ~ Psalm 143:8

Many years ago when our son was in a war zone my rock-loving wife sunk a large flat rock in the garden next to our front door and painted the above scripture on it. She wanted it to greet us every morning to set the tone for the day and every evening to create a sense of anticipation. When we moved across town we left it for the next people who moved in.

A few years ago when I was diagnosed with cancer Kathy spotted, you guessed it, a rock, in a field. She pulled the car over and pulled out a beauty bigger than a bread box, brought it home, sunk it in the garden next to the door and got out a paintbrush. Psalm 143:8 is a verse that gets a lot of mileage in our house.

My son came safely home and I am cancer free. There is not a morning we are not grateful. People who know our testimony remind us that, "God is good." God is indeed good and remains good regardless of outcomes. His love remains unfailing even when our understanding sometimes fails.

In the Hebrew the word "shama" means to hear. It is translated in our scripture as the bringing of God's word to us. The hearing which shama is talking about is not the passive hearing that goes on in our lives where sound enters our ears and is nothing more than background noise often ignored. It is intelligent hearing, obedient hearing, hearing that actually commands our attention as background noise fades in God's commanding presence. It is soul-hearing that makes the eternal part of us wake up.

As exciting as that idea is, even more compelling is the realization that God is listening to us in much the same way. He is listening to our prayers and conversations throughout the day with His full intelligence. He is at the ready to intercede and to interact. Our thoughts directed godward are never background noise in the Kingdom. Our Father is alert,

and actively hearing His children. There is never static on the line, no dead zones or few bars. You have His ear and His full attention *and* His unfailing love.

What do you need to hear today? If the sun came up then His word is reaching out to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to quiet all the other voices and distractions. Look to the day with expectation and listen with attention and obedience. God is doing new things in our lives. He said so. Let's not miss those things.

Sometimes I feel listening is a lost art and I am as guilty of not listening as anyone, just ask my wife. Listening takes effort and concentration. We set aside the movement of our own ideas and focus on the person before us. When we do this the rewards can be surprising. This is how I have discovered a wisdom that is to be celebrated when it is being shared with me by people the world often devalues. Listening is a treasure map.

May your mornings overflow with a priceless assurance that you are deeply and unfailingly loved.

Blessings,

Pastor John LaMantia



August Memorials



*"Let the King of
my heart
Be the mountain
where I run
The fountain I
drink from
Oh, He is my
song!"*

In Memory of: Herb Eckmann

by: Alexander & Ramona
Connors

In Memory of: Lee & Thelma
Embley

by: Joyce Knight

In Memory of: Ron Cooper

by: Joyce Knight

In Memory of: Rob Shipley

by: Dennis Hedman

In Memory of: Danny Fenandez

by: Dennis Hedman

In Memory of: Stan Cornell

by: Dennis Hedman

In Memory of: Beverly Legler

by: Dennis Hedman

August 17 is **National Nonprofit Day** where the contributions of our nonprofit corporations are recognized. Nonprofits come in all shapes, sizes and missions. Alaska is blessed with a considerable number of them.

The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission has been serving the needy individuals and families of our community since 1965 without any state or federal funding. Love is the fuel we run on.

If you have never partnered with us, please consider joining us in our mission to connect people to Christ while meeting their needs for food, shelter and housing. We will never take your partnership for granted.

Solstice Fun



Soaker squirt gun battle in art class. It was epic! Talk about a tension tamer! We were working on splatter art pieces that were completed in a second session. Splatter paint, wet the canvas (squirt guns work for this step) then let the paint run. Served as a background for the painted foreground in step two.

We had hot dogs and root beer floats followed by a summer squirt gun fight. The guys were so happy and told us how much fun they had.

A dozen guys in the class got to keep their soakers. Hopefully they will not be taking aim in the dorm. What a great Alaska summer evening! Art is FUN!

One of our splatter pictures became a ship on the ocean with a church on the shore. Very creative.

Botanical Garden Field Trip



Two groups of LifeSkills program men visited the Anchorage Botanical Garden. We enjoyed identifying the various plants. Our Native programmers shared the Native names with us.

It was a good learning experience as well as being fun. Ice cream cones finished the outings.

In an upcoming art class we will be painting the flowers we saw.

Practical Blessings

One of our clients was fortunate to have secured vouchered housing. Problem was there wasn't even a roll of toilet paper in his new apartment and he would have had to sleep on the floor. It is things like this that cause people to abandon their hard-won housing.

We were able to provide him with a bed, bookcase, couch and chair as well as cleaning supplies, bedding supplies, towels, dishes, and food for the next week.

The best part was we got to pray a blessing over his new home and ask that Christ's presence always rest there.

Thank you to all of our dear donors who are daily helping us provide for the needs of those looking to change their lives. A lively, practical grace and common sense goes along way.



More People Entering the Homeless System for the First Time

A new national survey from Citygate Network offers a compelling one-day glimpse into the lives of people seeking help through rescue missions and life transformation ministries across North America. In 2026, 21,059 individuals were surveyed across 89 participating ministries, up from 12,849 individuals across 73 ministries in 2025, providing a broader picture of both the scale of the crisis and the growing complexity of the needs that ministries are addressing, reminding us that behind every data point is a person with a story, a struggle, and immeasurable value.

Findings show earlier-stage homelessness is more visible with respondents, who had been homeless for less than three months, that rose from 21% in 2025 to 30% in 2026, may without any benefits. However, those homeless for more than one year declined from 41% to 35%. This points to a population arriving with fewer supports already in place and underscores the need for stronger navigation, advocacy, and wraparound care. But this shift suggests ministries may be encountering more individuals earlier in their homelessness journey, creating opportunities for intervention before instability becomes more entrenched.

In questioning respondents, it was reported that 39% of respondents related alcohol or drug challenges, underscoring the importance of integrated recovery support within ministry settings. Data reports further indicated that many of the children included in family data skew younger, with the largest age groups being 0–5 and 6–12 years of age.

Even with homelessness reaching epidemic proportions in some areas, one finding remained remarkably consistent: preference for a ministry with a spiritual emphasis stayed strong - 80% in 2026. That response reflects the value many people place on care that addresses both immediate needs and spiritual restoration. And, it highlights the vital role of gospel-centered ministries that are meeting the urgent needs and offering pathways of healing and stability.

About Citygate Network

The Citygate Network (to which the Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission belongs) is a united movement of gospel-centered rescue missions, recovery programs, and life transformation ministries working together to address homelessness and its root causes. Through community, resources, advocacy, and shared best practices, Citygate Network equips members to serve with excellence and compassion as they help individuals move from crisis toward lasting flourishing.

(Excerpts from the 2026 Snapshot Survey - Citygate Network, Colorado Springs, Colorado)

Clothing Always Needed



Our ministry here on Tudor Road flourishes because of the generosity of our donors. Thank you, Sarah, for the beautiful clothing contribution you brought by.

Jesus is in the House



Enjoyed a special time with Mountain View Hope Covenant Church in the Mountain View Library. Their dedicated ministry people and visiting summer mission teams cooked breakfast and shared it with a warm personal touch. They also sponsored a pre-service food pantry.

I was thrilled to have been asked to bring the message and share the love and hope

provided for all of us through the sacrifice of Christ.

Pastor Phil Cannon has ignited such a warm and welcome work of grace at Mountain View Hope where many of our neighbors in need are seen, treated with respect, and helped in ways practical and spiritual. Sunday mornings at the Mountain View Library, Jesus is in the house.

As you can see from the picture, Pastor Phil is a really BIG guy. He serves a really BIG God!

Thank you, Pastor Phil for the invitation and the hospitality.

Everything you need GOD already is.
~ Priscilla Shirer

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



Falling in Love With Jesus Changes Everything!



Melinda from our Beauty in Grace program was beaming over receiving the keys to her own apartment. We were thrilled for her.

She was fortunate to have most of what she needed already available in her new place but we were able to help out with plates, silverware, paper products and cleaning supplies. One of our donors provided a beautiful rocking chair.

Melinda loves Christ, whom she met at the Mission, and we have every confidence that He will bring to perfection all the things that concern her. She will be taking her new Bible with her as well as all the wisdom shared with her in the weekly Ladies' Bible Study and chapel services. *Her name is now written in the Lamb's Book of Life not merely on a lease!*

Prayers and best wishes for the days ahead.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."
~ Jeremiah 29:11 NIV*