



SPRING 2020

Dear Ministry Partners,

The Wizard of Oz is one of my favorite movies. I faithfully watch it each fall as the leaves begin to turn color and fall from the trees. There is a scene I particularly like when Toto, the little mangy dog, takes the courage to bite into the green draped curtain and pulls it open to expose the true Wizard of Oz, a worn out circus magician cranking levers and pushing buttons.

That little mangy dog had the courage to do what no one else dared to do. "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain," the wizard commands them. But the hocus-pocus is over, the illusion is gone, and it's time for a frightened girl from Kansas and even the Great Wizard himself to see way beyond the rainbow.

It reminds me of the recent courage we have had to summon during this global pandemic. Like the little mangy dog we have had to pull back the curtains of our lives and hearts to reveal our vulnerability and honestly say how frightened we have been. We have had to deal with the world the way it is, not the way we wish it was. Dr. Seuss once poetically waxed,

"You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself in any direction you choose."

And isn't that where we are at right now, taking responsibility for where we go from here. Either positive or negative, you get to decide what life looks like from here on out. But here's the cool thing ... though we might not understand what's going on or what we are supposed to do, thankfully Jesus does. For it's not what we see, or what we feel, or what we did, or what we say...but it is the truth of who we know ourselves to be in Christ. Doesn't He remind us that we are a "pearl of great price" and we are the magnificent "treasure hidden in the field."

Jesus is the compassionate truth bearer and does not shout or speak to us through a green floating head. He is the God of Elijah, who gently speaks. He is in the still, small voice. The man behind the curtain doesn't need to fool us anymore. Just like the little mangy dog, we need to grab hold of the curtain and give it a good yank. Then we can begin to step into our royal inheritance and walk away from trying to figure it all out. And so maybe we need to step outside, get some fresh air, and remind ourselves we can, with the strength of the One who conquers death, move forward and begin to give thanks for where we're going ...somewhere way beyond the rainbow.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we continue to work to feed the most vulnerable in our community.

**Faithfully,
Pastor Amanda+**

Dorothy: Weren't you frightened?

Wizard of Oz: Frightened? Child, you're talking to a man who's laughed in the face of death, sneered at doom, and chuckled at catastrophe...I was petrified.

THANK YOU!!

I want to thank my incredible staff – Kate, Dawn, Jordan and Fred - for hanging in there with me and helping me to prepare, serve and deliver food to many in need within our community. Kudos to each of you and I could not have done any of this without your help! I cannot begin to tell each of you how much you are appreciated for your kind and selfless acts of love given to those in need.

I want to thank everyone that made and delivered to us numerous peanut butter and jelly sandwiches each week. I want to thank the churches that helped with these efforts as well. Thanks Holy Comforter, St. John's and St. Peter's for your help. Lastly, I want to thank those leaders who helped to organize the volunteers into a formidable PB&J force!

I want to thank everyone who heard our cry for help. Many of you came by and dropped off the food we needed so we could continue serving our vulnerable population. I cannot begin to tell you how much that food got us through in a crunch.

I want to thank United Church of Tallahassee who monetarily donated to Grace Mission so we could provide food baskets to the families of the children in the Grace Mission S.O.A.R program. Everyone was so thankful for the wonderful food.

I want to thank the Kearney Center for being terrific partners in this whole endeavor that we embarked on to help our community. Bill, Jacob and Audra thanks for helping us in so many ways.

I want to thank Sustainable Tallahassee for making safety masks for us to wear during this difficult time.

I want to thank many of you that supported us financially through this global pandemic to keep us working in the mission and ministry of helping those in need. Super thank you!



Madeleine Siegel of Florida State University's, Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Fraternity at FSU teamed up with her employer King and Wood Law Firm and Ology who worked together to graciously donate locally crafted sanitizer for the upcoming soup kitchen and summer programs.



COVID-19 Meals
In April we served 6,006 meals and in May we anticipate serving 5,824!

S. O. A. R.

SUCCESS, OPPORTUNITY, ACADEMICS, RELATIONSHIPS



This semester focused on academics pertaining to teacher requested standardized testing practice, such as, homework help, sight words, counting time and money, reading, and multiplication. Big Fish Chapel encouraged students to seek and read Scripture engaging students in a love for learning about the Lord and instilling confidence in their own voice to express love and curiosity for the Lord. **Students learned that love can work miracles, forgiveness can work healing, and prayers can bring peace.**

Everyone eagerly awaited the upcoming spring break from one another to enjoy the season with friends, family, and FUN! Little did we know the semester would end abruptly just before spring break, when we made the major decision to suspend program due to COVID-19 response and safety. This is not the kind of break we had in mind. Now, togetherness is what we miss the most and this sentiment is shared by all.

We continue to reach out with concern for families and students in the program to provide food, curriculum, and encouragement during this time of uncertainty. **Because of you**, Grace Mission is able to be an integral part of this togetherness within the community and for that we are truly grateful to our ministry partners who support our children's ministry. **Thank you!!**

Sincerely, Dawn Adams

SUMMER CAMPS

Although we are saddened by the possibility of summer camp cancellation ...we will adapt and rise up to support the children's ministry. Depending on the current CDC regulations, we are gearing up for our **SEATURTLETASTIC Reading Academy** which we hope to host in late June. This one-week academically intensive reading camp will focus on exploring the wonders of sea turtles though curriculum geared on biology, identification, evolution, anatomy, environment, threats, protection, tracking, and rescue. These studies meet the Florida Sunshine State Standards criteria for literacy, mathematics, vocabulary, and science. Volunteers and support needed, please contact Dawn at (850) 320-2233 or email: dawngracemission@gmail.com.



In addition, once it is safe to do so, we hope to SOAR on an adventure to the **JOURNEY BEYOND Camp** designed to explore, discover, and ignite the imaginations of young minds. This week-long camp will take the children on a journey through local museums, parks, springs, and a SeaTurtleTastic beach visit.



Fred Rogers states that, "Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood."



SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER

Thank you to everyone who helped to organize, decorate and contribute to the 11th Annual Grace Mission Gala, **Saturday Night Fever**. Special thanks to Melanie and Erik Salsgiver, John Allen and Jonathan Jackson for making the evening so much fun and spectacular! Special thanks to the Sheraton (Bricks and Brass) for the great venue, Gypsy Belle Photo Bus, and Naugahyde Park Band for the incredible music!



Together we raised

\$30,416.08!

THANK YOU!!

Thank You!

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Melanie Ann Hines	Jason & Michele White
Jonathan Jackson & Greg Springer	Andrew & Ann Wong

SAVE THE DATE – **AUGUST 22** for the 2020 Blues and BBQ Fundraiser for Grace Mission.

Come have fun and dance to the sounds of local Blues group **Brett Wellman and the Stone Cold Blues Band** at the American Legion Hall – 229 Lake Ella Dr.

Doors open at 6:00pm and the band begins playing at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door or purchased online at gracemission.net. A few local churches are also selling tickets to the event.

There is an \$8.00 optional dinner (pulled pork, beans, potato salad and dessert). Tickets for the optional dinner only sold at the event. Cash bar.

We look forward to seeing you there and supporting your neighbor in need.