



CREATOR'S TOUCH MINISTRIES, INC

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Touching The World
Matthew 25:33-46

SPRING 2003 NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter

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FOOD PROGRAM CELEBRATES 2ND ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, April 4, 2003, beginning at 9:30 AM, at Cathedral of Praise Church in Onalaska, WI., CTM will celebrate its 2nd Anniversary with a Press Conference, Open House, and Food Distribution. To date: **OVER 1,000,000 LBS OF FOOD HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED WITH OVER 5000 FAMILY REGISTRATIONS.** Approximately 209 families are directly provided food during each distribution. Many of these families also pick up food for other family members, neighbors, and friends. Families coming from over 49 different communities around the Coulee Region, southeastern Minnesota and northern Iowa have participated. About 70 volunteers, representing over 20 different churches and other organizations, help each month in setting up and distributing the food. Many of these volunteers have previously or continue to pick up food themselves and want to 'give something back to the program' because they have been helped. We are very thankful for our faithful volunteers who come each time on their own with no calling or scheduling needed. (See Brochure)

ACT OF KINDNESS SHOWING GOD'S LOVE IN A PRACTICAL WAY

The purpose of this food program is to show God's love in a practical way by presenting this 'act of kindness' to people throughout the Coulee Region area. The general public is invited, with special emphasis on providing food to those less fortunate and those in need. We provide on a voluntary basis a variety of surplus food products that might otherwise go to waste. Each month we truck in 19-21 tons of food (about 70% fresh vegetables, produce and bakery goods), set up a temporary grocery store and allow people to 'shop' for as much food as they need. We ask people to take food for need and not greed. We partner with our local church, Cathedral of Praise, which hosts the distribution site in their church foyer.

CONTRIBUTIONS/DONATIONS

Donations, which allow us to continue the food distribution, come from participants, several local churches, and individuals who want to be a part of this outreach. All donations received between now and April 30, 2003 may be matched by a Grant given to Creator's Touch Ministries through the Feinstein Foundation. The Feinstein Foundation, in Rhode Island, will divide \$1 million among non-profit agencies throughout the country helping to fight hunger, using it to help agencies like CTM to feed those in need throughout the Coulee Region.

We need funds to cover ongoing program costs, to provide enhancements to the existing program, to build a storage/distribution building (approx 40' by 80'), to purchase refrigeration and freezer units, to purchase tables and chairs, and to purchase a fork lift and pallet jack. Any food distribution donations should be earmarked as such so general ministry funds are kept separate from the food funds. (over)

Directors/Officers

Dave Keating
President

Connie
Keating
V. President, Treas

Beverly Paar
Director

Jerry Hatlevig
Secretary



MARANATHA MINISTRIES

NEW CASTLE, SOUTH AFRICA
Partnering through Relationship

Dave and Connie returned to South Africa for their third missionary trip, September 18 to November 1st, 2002. It was very exciting to return to our 'friends and Christian family' in South Africa, it feels like our home away from home. The primary focus on this trip was to do some construction at the Bible College in Madadini. The first week was spent in acquiring all of the construction materials, tools, and crew (not an easy task). Most of the tools and all of the power tools were purchased in South Africa and left with that ministry when we returned to the states. Our goal is to train up the people there and then give them the tools to change their own lives and conditions, all through the grace of God. We spent the next three weeks doing construction during very hot, 80-100 degree days. The students at the Bible College in South Africa became our crew and did an excellent job. We really enjoyed working with them even though many did not speak English and none of them had ever before seen a power saw or power drill much less used one. The first day of construction was spent practice cutting wood and drilling holes. The most popular words became 'zoom, zoom' relating to the speed at which a board could be cut or a hole and screw placed. Another popular word was "sorry" which came about from not understanding enough of each other's moves and directions. We had a great time and really enjoyed the fellowship and working together. The students also did an excellent job. We built 20 bunk beds, 16 of them for the college dorms and four of the beds for an orphanage. We repaired the roof which leaked badly, repaired doors, replaced and rebuilt classroom tables, and rebuilt from scratch a small two room apartment on the grounds, placing new walls, doors, and ceilings. Weekends were spent traveling to different local churches around the country and ministering the Word of God. Every weekend we went to a different church and met new people. We were also able to meet with and minister to newly married couples. During one week of the six weeks there, Connie and I taught evenings in their Bible College. There is so much to do and little time and resources to get it all done. We thank God for His faithfulness and for friends and supporters like yourselves. Each of you have played a role in helping the South African Zulu people.

This year, we will make our annual missionary trip to South Africa in November and stay approximately 4-5 weeks. We will be attending the graduation ceremony at the Bible College in early December where many of the students that we worked with and taught will be graduating, as well as teaching and marriage seminars.

I (Dave) have also been asked by Christ the Rock Church, Memphis, Tenn. to administer and oversee a building project to house and school more Bible College students. Currently the college is set up for about 25 students. The facilities will be enlarged to provide housing and classrooms for 100 students. This will mean a couple of extra trips this year to South Africa. I will provide a plan, in phases, to get to their goal of 100 students, oversee the contracted and volunteer labor, and administer all funds for the project. Several other ministries are involved and will raise the necessary funds for the construction and provide travel funds for me. At this time, I am tentatively planning a short trip in May and perhaps a longer trip in July or August just for this project.

SOUTH AFRICAN NEEDS LIST: For our annual missions trip: funds to purchase airline tickets, pay for housing and food, purchase Bibles, and other miscellaneous supplies.

May God richly bless you, all you do, and keep you in His hands.

Thank you for your interest in Creator's Touch Ministries. We love and appreciate you very much.

Dave and Connie Keating



An Act of God's Kindness
 Food Distribution
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We ask people to take food for need and not greed. Many families also take food for other families, friends, or just want to bless someone else in the neighborhood who is not able to get out themselves. We partner with our local church which hosts the distribution site in their church foyer. Any leftover food is provided to the Salvation Army and other local food pantries. Donations which allow us to continue the food distribution come from participants, several local churches, and individuals who want to be a part of this outreach. The Gideons distributed over 250 small New Testament Bibles at our February food distribution. (See attached newspaper article, "MULTIPLYING LOAVES" reprinted from LaCrosse Tribune dated Sunday, January 6, 2002).



The Gideons distribute Bibles.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION NEEDS LIST: 30" by 8' folding tables (Qty 25), warehouse building (approx 8000 sq. ft.), used forklift, grocery store floor refrigeration units (Qty 6), folding chairs (Qty 100), 1 ton pickup truck.

CATHEDRAL OF PRAISE CHURCH

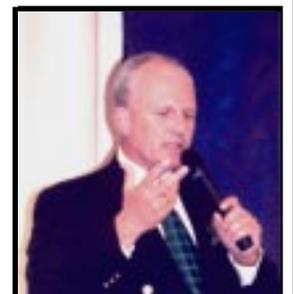


Cathedral of Praise Church is a non-denominational church, located in Onalaska, Wisconsin, with the vision to worship the Lord in Spirit and in truth, to love one another with the love of Jesus Christ, to become Jesus Carriers, to make God welcome, and to go into all of the world to make disciples of all people with signs following the Gospel.

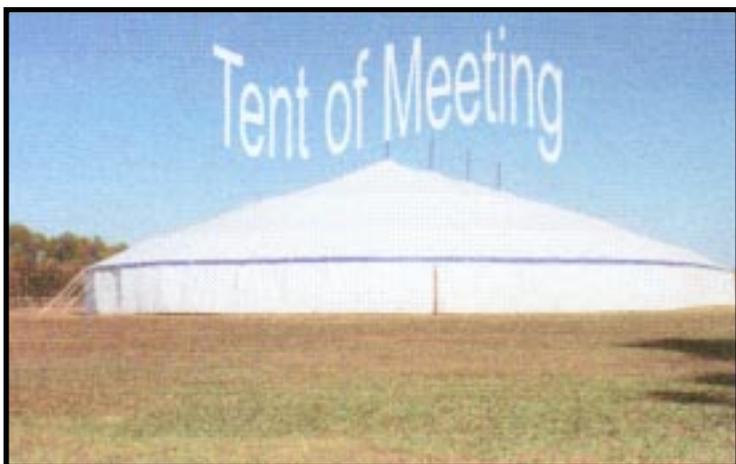
Cathedral of Praise Church is our local home church and hosts the Coulee Region Food Distribution Program. They also strongly support Creator's Touch Ministries with regular financial support and volunteers. Dave and Connie are both ordained ministers and are active in their local church. Connie does all of the bookkeeping for both the Church and its fully licensed Day Care Center. Dave is an Associate Pastor, the Church Administrator, Board member and Treasurer of the church. Dave and Connie participate in Men and Women's Groups, teach, preach, and are involved in many of the church's ongoing activities. Pastors Jerry and Nancy Hatlevig are the senior pastors of Cathedral of Praise and Pastor Jerry also sits on Creator's Touch Ministries Board of Directors.

Jerry Hatlevig is presently the Senior Pastor at Cathedral of Praise Church (COP), a non-denominational church in Onalaska, WI. Pastor Jerry is a graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. He served 9 years in the Army National Guard as a 1st Lieutenant while also serving in God's Kingdom as the Director of Central Minnesota Youth For Christ. He then accepted the call to pastor at an Assembly of God church for seven years. Then in 1987, he and his wife Nancy (also a pastor), and their three sons moved to Wisconsin to serve as Senior Pastors at Cathedral of Praise Church. Both believe in servant leadership, are very active in helping with the food distribution and fully support other Creator's Touch Ministries activities such as their work with Vanguard Evangelistic Ministries and mission trips to other countries. Jerry and Nancy have always shared a like-vision with CTM and we are blessed to have Jerry serve with us.

Meet one of our
 CTM Directors



Jerry Hatlevig



Vanguard Tent: Used at each state Prayer Walk Meeting and at other Evangelistic Outreach meetings. Tent is 200 ft by 125 ft and will seat up to 3000 people.

VANGUARD EVANGELISTIC MINISTRIES

God has a specific plan for America. God wants all Americans to be saved. We believe with all of our heart that God is poised and ready to send forth His incredibly powerful Holy Spirit to spark a revival in America that will ignite the human heart with passion for Jesus Christ and compassion for the lost unlike ever before.

God is raising up a people who will be obedient and willing to serve Him in this coming revival. Dave and Connie are blessed to minister with John and Sandy Halvorsen, and Ron and Linda Olson of Vanguard in this enormous task. Vanguard Ministries role in this coming revival is to promote state-wide prayer walks and preach the Gospel in the power of the Spirit in each of the fifty states.

Evangelistic Outreach Crusades will also occur in many of these states. Vanguard Ministries has already completed Crusades in the states of Florida,

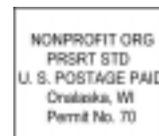
Minnesota, and Georgia. There are tentative plans to hold Crusades in five additional states in 2002. The glory of the Lord will be seen throughout the whole earth. This fact is recorded in Habakkuk 2:14: "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord". We must get ready in America to behold our God. Philippians 2:10-11 says, "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

In February of 2001, the first campaign was held in Florida as "Pray Florida". Using the 'Adopt a highway' concept, a statewide prayer walk with over 50 prayer teams participating, blanketed Florida on February 24 (a single day) covering every mile on an east-west and north-south route. This tent was erected in Oakland, Florida at the crosspoint of these routes. Eight days of 24 hour around-the-clock prayer and intercession was held in the tent as well as evening church services. Florida is now developing a plan to prayer-walk every road and street in the state. In August 2001, the Crusade team moved to Brainerd, Minnesota for "Prayer Walk Minnesota" and then forward to Georgia in October 2001. Pastors in Georgia continue to meet weekly in prayer and fellowship. God moved in many, many ways. Lives were impacted by the power of God and much prayer went forth on behalf of each state. These states continue to work together and are continuing to march forward, being about the Kingdom's business. We may not know or fully understand the full impact of these campaigns on this side of eternity. Prayer is the one factor that will release the necessary power to advance the Kingdom of God.

CRUSADE NEEDS LIST: Finances to travel to each state with Vanguard Evangelistic Ministries to cover transportation, housing, and meals.



Creator's Touch Ministries
Dave and Connie Keating
918 Lake Street
Onalaska, WI 54650



Christian food shelf helps area poor stretch their budget

By GAYDA HOLLNAGEL

Of the Tribune staff

ONALASKA, Wis. - Volunteers who help people carry food to their cars from the monthly food distribution program at Cathedral of Praise Church in Onalaska frequently get a hug for their efforts.

"We've had a couple of volunteers, when they're loading the cars, they've been kissed," said Dave Keating, who with his wife, Connie, administer the food program through their Creator's Touch Ministries.

"We have people crying sometimes, It's amazing," he said of the gratitude frequently expressed by people on limited incomes who discover that their \$12 donation can buy enough food to stretch their food budget by a couple of weeks.

"We estimate that the average family leaves with \$125 to \$200 worth of groceries," Keating said, noting that some recipients take less and some more, depending on family size.

The food, primarily fresh vegetable, perishables like bread and fruit, and overstocked canned or packaged items, is provided free through the Evangelical Food Shelf, a food recovery ministry based in the Twin Cities area in Minnesota.

The \$12 donation is asked to help defray the \$1800 to \$2000 a month cost of trucking, storage and other expenses related to getting the food to the distribution site, Keating said, but no one is turned away because of their inability to pay.

The program, which began in April and now serves between 200 to 250 families a month, does not require people to prove they are low income but does target its advertising to people in need, Keating said.

"We don't ask any questions," Connie Keating said. She said recipients are asked to sign a waiver accepting responsibility for the quality of the food they take. Their names also are added to a mailing list so that postcards can be sent to notify them of the next distribution.

According to end of the year statistics, more than 161 tons of food were distributed during the first year of the program, with approximately 2,500 families served, including many who had food picked up for them by a friend or family member. The recipients represent 39 communities, including La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen and surrounding communities such as La Crescent, Winona and Caledonia in Minnesota.

The Keatings, who are members of Cathedral of Praise, view the project as a ministry through which they can follow the biblical admonition to serve the poor by providing them with food, clothing and shelter.

"Eventually, we'd like to open a ministry center that would provide shelter and other things," Dave Keating said.

About 50 volunteers a month, representing 19 churches, help out with the distribution. The work begins the night before when food is unloaded from the trucks. Connie Keating said all items are sorted and only food of good quality is distributed.

"When the food comes in, if anything wouldn't go on our table, it doesn't go out here," she said.

The program attracts people of all ages, Connie Keating said, including single mothers with small children in tow, elderly people on Social Security and others who might be temporarily down on their luck.

"It's been good, especially since we've had LaCrosse Footwear and the brewery laid off," she said. "We know there's a need."

On Friday morning, the Cathedral of Praise sanctuary was filled with people seated on folding chairs waiting for their turn to shop for the food displayed on three long rows of tables in the church's foyer. The selection included fresh lettuce, packages of broccoli slaw, several kinds of squash, green beans, onions, potatoes, bread, bagels, bananas, red bananas, tangerines, bottled juices, candy, frozen tortillas, frozen french fries, a cholesterol-free egg product and several other items.

Adeline Bolstad, 78, of Winona, Minn., said she made her first visit to the distribution site last month, after hearing about it from a friend.

"I love it," Bolstad said. "It helps on my groceries."

Bolstad, who has a limited income from Social Security, said she was especially please to get bananas.

"I Bake banana bread. I bake banana cookies," she said.

One 34-year-old man, who didn't want his name published, said he was a first-time visitor to the site. He has been laid off from his job since August and doesn't qualify for unemployment compensation. He said his wife works but also is going to school full-time. The couple has a 4-year old son.

"We're scraping," he said of their financial situation. The free food would make a huge difference this month, he said. "It's just that much less money to spend."

Cathedral of Praise food shelf

*The Coulee Region Food Distribution Program is offered from 10 a. m. to 1 p. m. the Friday before the first Saturday of each month at Cathedral of Praise Church, 3340 S. Kinney Coulee Road, Onalaska.

*A \$12 donation is asked to defray transportation costs. Recipients are asked to bring their own bags or boxes.

*Volunteers also are needed from 5 to 9 p. m. on the Thursday before the distribution, and during the distribution on Friday.

*For information, call Creator's Touch Ministries, (608) 783-2909.

People shop for items during the monthly food distribution Friday at the Cathedral of Praise Church in Onalaska, Wis. Organizers say between 200 and 250 families a month use the program, which asks for a \$12 donation to help defray costs.