

October, 2020

ONE DAY AT A TIME...

By Karen Zimmerman

Hi, friends! I can't believe that summer is almost over. All the kids are now back in school, it's wood cutting time, we've already had frost, and it won't be long, before our gardens will all be gone and snow will be falling again, once again!

It's been an unbelievable six months in our world! Even though, I would like to think that things will get "back to normal," whatever "normal" is, I am not sure that our world will ever be the same again or back to "normal!" Who would have ever believed that COVID-19 could change our world? It brought our country and businesses to a standstill, taxed our clinicians and medical facilities, forced school and store closures, and turned our economic boom into a bust... but it has! And since March, we've all had to put our lives on hold and live... one day at a time!

In 2007, Juanita Carlson, a church member at that time, saw a need to feed the hungry, and she did something about it! She didn't just think about it, she didn't just bring it to the church board and talk about it. No, she actually did something about it! She called America's 2nd Harvest and arranged to receive food from their food bank and she asked our church to join with her to help feed the hungry people of our community, and the Friendship Feast Hot Meals Program was launched here in the Colville Valley. In the years between 2007 until 2020, four of the other local churches have joined our church in feeding the people of Colville and surrounding area. Each of the five participating churches hosts a lunch meal a different day of the week. So no one in our community should go hungry and they should be able to at least receive one hardy meal, each day of the week, excluding weekends. This means, there are thousands of free meals served in our community each year to anyone wanting or needing the meals.

In 2008, Juanita's health did not allow her to continue helping with the Hot Meals program, so my daughter, Halley, who was helping at the time convinced me to lead out until someone else took over. Well, one day at a time, lead up to one week at a time, which added up to one year at a time... and here it is twelve years later and I am still leading out...I never would have thought! When Juanita began the program, I didn't see the need or the relevance and I thought it was a waste of our churches resources and our time. But reluctantly, I agreed to help and what I've learned is this... "never judge a book by its cover," nor should you say "no" to a ministry that you know nothing about, haven't been involved with and haven't even prayed about, because God may have other plans for you...just as He did for me! I now realize that I have done many things and held many leadership positions in the church, but for me, at this time, Hot Meals is where God wants me to be, working for Him and serving food to His children in our community. What I have come to realize is that many individuals who typically attend Hot Meals are not only there because they may be hungry for food, but many may be starving for fellowship...the human touch! Many may not realize that they are actually starving for God, too, and it's up to us to fill them! Hot Meals is a gathering place to feed the hungry and for the elderly and anyone desiring a social connection. What you will see at Hot meals are adult children sharing meals with their elderly parents, the healthcare professional sharing a meal with their elderly/health-challenged patient, a single mom with her children, entire families sharing a meal, canes, crutches, wheelchairs of the elderly, the homeless people, the untouchables, the mentally challenged, young people that are hungry, people passing through our community needing assistance and a delicious meal, people who are hurting from the realities of life...death, sicknesses, addictions, and betrayal. There are people from every social strata and they all have issues in their lives, just like you and I have! Hot Meals is for anybody who wants to fellowship. Many of the people visiting with us haven't been treated with any respect in a very long time. It is our goal to always make our guests feel that they are always welcome and are very special to us! Many come because they desire a healthful

vegetarian meal and fresh veggies. Many folks tell us that the meals we serve are the only fresh and wholesome foods that they eat all week long because they cannot afford to buy these healthful and nutritious foods at home. Many, many folks comment about the fresh salads and how much they enjoy them; they say our salads are the best in Colville! Unfortunately, many of these peoples' diets consists mostly of foods that are high-calorie starchy carbohydrates food that are highly processed, boxed, easy to prepare, but anything other than nutritious!

In the spring, the Hot Meals team was busily preparing and serving between 80-100 people per week, as we served our community friends that gathered each week at our Fellowship Hall for a healthy-substantial meal. But then, COVID-19 struck! No one seemed to know much about this "severe and mysterious acute respiratory illness causing a deadly form of pneumonia" coming out of Wuhan, China. All we heard was that this virus was spreading around the world like wide-fire! If you were over 60 and were infected by this virus...well, the prognosis was very grim; they said, "It was highly contagious and most likely, fatal!" The government ordered lockdowns, quarantines, and curfews to prevent the virus from spreading. Many of us serving on the Hot Meals team are over 60, or have young children with health issues, so it was decided that we should discontinue the Hot Meals program for several weeks. Our world, our state, our community, our lives were on-hold; it certainly was, one day at a time!

Finally, after about 4-weeks of living my life one day at a time, in semi-confinement, I decided that I had enough living my life like that! The Lord has blessed me with excellent health, I rarely catch a cold and it's been years since I had the flu...and I was confident that He could also protect me from COVID 19. Even if I did become infected, my life belongs to Him anyway...I have nothing to fear! I felt that the Lord was directing me to move forward and quit living my life in solitary confinement...He wants more from me...not just one day at a time, but every day! Hearing that one of the other churches had started passing out sack lunches, we decided that was an excellent alternative so we started making and passing out 50-sack lunches a week, also! Is the sack lunch program perfect? Did it fill the shoes of our weekly hot meals that were served in our fellowship hall each week? No, it hasn't. But here are a few things that it has done:

Our guests cannot seat down over a hot lunch to visit and fellowship together and we cannot get to know them as well, but we still have the opportunity to feed the hungry and let them know that God loves them, and so do we! Every lunch we pass out represents a tangible way to "love thy neighbor"!

It helped the Hot Meals team realize that God expects us to live our lives for Him...He doesn't want "one day at a time" from us...He wants our lives! He wants us to serve Him by reaching out and touching others, every day! If we can reach His people while we are in confinement of our homes... that is perfect! But reaching out every day...we can touch others even when we are social distancing—let's make a difference in lives of His people! Make a phone call, write a note, send an email, use social media, or even share a sack lunch!

Hot Meals serves 50 sack lunches every week to every adult and child who needs or wants a delicious and nutritious meal...everyone is welcome! We have no idea, nor do we care what their faith is, we serve people because we are God's people, we carry Christ's name, Christians! Because Christ served others... so do we!

Over the years, we have come to know our guests, as friends, and they've entwined themselves in our hearts...we miss them when we are not serving them!

Each week, the 50 sack lunches contains an Amazing Facts Bible Study guide, a tract, or a book. The Hot Meals program has spent over \$800 this summer in literature to share in the sack lunches that are passed out to the Colville community. Just yesterday, we were told that one of the recipients that receives a lunch every week, shares her bible study guide with a friend and together they study it every week and are really enjoying it! They had read in the index that lesson #10 was, "Are the Dead Really Dead?" They wanted to know if they could skip ahead and obtain that lesson so that they could study what the Bible says about death; since their husbands have recently passed and their hearts are

hurting. I hated to remove only one from the #10 packet, because then we would be short one the week we distribute it. Fortunately, I found that lesson with the Amazing Facts Bible Study guides in the Personal Ministries room, and these ladies were so happy to receive it! Please pray for these two women as they learn what the Bible teaches about death; that they'll receive peace and comfort. Please pray for our other guests; too, that they'll use our Bible Study guides each week to learn more about Jesus. It is our prayer that these Bible Study guides will touch the hearts of all our Hot Meals guests each week.

We've all had good times when we are on top of the world, but we all know that our lives can be changed in an instant! For example, when COVID-19 struck and people's worlds turned upside down, many became unemployed, many lost their food stamps and other governmental subsidies, many lost their homes, families fell apart, wives and children were abused...children and their parents are frightened and confused...they are hurting...they are struggling! Many of our guests have told me that since COVID, they would go hungry if it wasn't for our lunches, and the food boxes that we are distributing from 2nd Harvest. Passing out the nutritious sack lunches is our way of giving back and showing that we care. We have the perfect opportunity to share Jesus with them, to bring a ray of sunshine into their lives, and prayerfully, we may be given the perfect opportunity to pray with them. Just this past week, I was able to invite one of our guests to share Jesus with us this next Sabbath. This man loves Jesus, and he doesn't mind sharing with me that he does...he doesn't hide his light, he lets his light shine! Even though, he speaks Russian, and I only speak English, I get it... he loves Jesus! Jesus says, to all of us, "Come follow Me." He also says, "To the least of these my brother, you have done it unto me." Jesus wants us to share His love and what we have with others... that is what Hot Meals is all about!

We are thankful that Juanita Carlson had the vision for starting the Hot Meals Program 13-years ago, so that when this crisis struck, we were prepared to carry on by temporarily offering sack lunches and monthly food boxes. With smiles on our face, we deliver the sack lunches directly to our guest's car or greet them at the door, with "We are so happy to see you!" and "We have a yummy lunch for you today!" It sounds pretty simple, but to some guests, it's music to their ears!

The Colville community is very fortunate to have dedicated Christian people of different faiths, working together to provide the Hot Meals Friendship Feasts, which provide food and fellowship to our community, Monday-Friday, throughout the year...in the good times and in the bad!

While I've expounded on all the positive reasons for our church to participate in the Hot Meals Friendship Feast, I also must mention the one negative aspect...that is the cost—money! While we are not cooking for 100 people and only preparing 50 sack lunches every week, the cost for the sack lunches is considerably higher. First of all, 2nd Harvest is bringing us food that is difficult to use in a sack lunches. Since the shortage of food, 2nd Harvest is preparing pre-boxed food boxes, which we directly distributed the first Thursday of each month to about 40 households; some being church members, some being Hot Meals friends, while some are just community guests. While the premade food boxes that we've been receiving from 2nd Harvest each month is phenomenal for the families receiving the food boxes, it isn't as user friendly for the Hot Meal program, which means, we have to purchase more of our food and supplies. However, it's great for the recipient families receiving the food boxes, because it helps cover their monthly food needs for their families. But, it's more costly to us. Purchasing the sacks, baggies, individualized condiments, water, juice, etc. is expensive! One may say, like I did 13-years ago, that feeding the hungry and showing kindness to the hurting isn't relevant; it's just a waste of time, it's not important and that these people will never change, and it's just a waste of our time and our churches resources. I hope this letter has given you a clearer view of what a blessing Hot Meals is to our community and to the many people that benefit from the lunches each week! But now...13 years later, I would reply, "How can you put a price tag on someone's life?" If it wasn't for the Hot Meals programs, many of these people may go hungry on Tuesdays, where else would 50 people a week receive a Bible Study guide, a pamphlet or a book sharing Jesus with them? Where would they see Jesus? One of our guests once said, "The only Bible that the world may ever read is you!" Wow...now that really makes one stop and think about your actions and

words! The gospel commission instructs each of us to feed the hungry, cloth the naked and share Jesus with the world!!!

In June, I applied for a grant through the Innovia Foundation, which is a group of local philanthropic organizations, individuals and businesses that pooled their resources to establish grants to help with COVID-19 Community Response and Recovery. Volunteer grant advisors from communities throughout the region met to identify key organizations positioned to meet immediate local needs resulting from the COVID pandemic. We were selected as a recipient of a \$900 grant, to help support food distribution to members of the Colville community. These funds have gone a long way this summer in helping fund our sack lunch program. We are extremely grateful and pleased that Innovia chose us to help meet the needs of food distribution to the members of the Colville community. It has been such a blessing, and we “thank” them!

The Hot Meals program receives no direct funds from our church’s Combined Budget. Without committed people like you that faithfully pledge to fund this ministry monthly, Hot Meals will cease to exist. Funding is running very low and our funds are almost depleted. The weekly 50 sack lunches and the 40 food boxes will cease and many of our community guests may suffer. Will they starve, probably not, but they may go hungry! Your donations to Hot Meals will ensure that this program will continue to offer food and fellowship, and share our Friend Jesus to our community. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, just mark your donation to “Hot Meals” and your donation will go directly to fund this ministry, and if you would like to personally get involved, please give me a call.

No one that works at Hot Meals receives a salary; everyone donates their time. Next time you see Marge Van Doren, Bonnie Tuato, Gene and Patricia McClintock, Leta Lidar, Trisha Kiess, Shae Dalrymple, Vicki, Roger, and Jessica Prouty, be sure to express your appreciation to them for all the time and effort they give to Hot Meals. Many of us are not trained chefs, and there are a few that say that they really don’t know what end of a knife to even hold! ha! ha! But we all enjoy working together as a team and we use the talents that God has given to create these scrumptious sack lunches. We wash and chop the vegetables, we make sandwiches, we fill baggies, and we wash a ton of dishes... it’s all very time consuming. Every week our lunches are different and we try our hardest to make them nutritious, appealing, and delicious. I would personally like to invite you to be involved with Hot Meals. If you haven’t been involved before, I pray that you won’t be like me 13 years ago, and say it is not needed, it is not relevant, and a waste of the churches funds. I would now highly recommend that you try it, before you decide! Even if you can’t donate time, your funds are also very important and much appreciated! Putting others first by giving of your time...chopping, cutting, dicing, washing dishes, or even sweeping floors, helps us learn the rewards of helping others and putting them first! Jesus reminds us, “Unto the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto Me!” My prayer is, “Jesus, please make helping others... who we are...not, one day at a time, but every day because ‘sharing You’ is who we are and it is what we are all about!

Thanks Karen for taking the time to write about the Hot Meals program which serves so many in our community each week. I encourage each of you who have never helped with Hot Meals to take the time to go and serve others in this worthwhile program.

Thoughts on Fires around Pacific Union College and the Elmshaven Miracle

“The small town of Angwin, California has now been consumed by the fire,” the National News reported. I was heartsick listening and my thoughts returned to my years spent at Pacific Union College (PUC). I had been praying along with hundreds of others for safety for the areas of Angwin, Deer Park, St. Helena, Calistoga and Santa Rosa all strongholds for Adventists in Northern California. Now Angwin, the town where PUC is located, was all gone! Was PUC gone also? Phone calls and texts from friends I had known at PUC began to flood in. Really, was Angwin gone? The National News said it was, so PUC must be gone also, but no one I knew could confirm either way. I would learn about a day later that PUC had not burned and the fire had been stopped just before Angwin.

The fire had already swept through the little hamlet of Deer Park, just a few miles downhill to the west of Angwin. Both towns are/were predominately inhabited by Adventists. Within Deer Park's borders, were many Adventist buildings such as, the St. Helena Hospital, the Sanitarium SDA Church, Foothills SDA Grade School, the Community Center and Dorcas buildings, along with Elmshaven, Mrs. E. G. White's last home. Most of Wayne Taylor's family, (my son-in-law) (you may know Wayne as one of the men who run the audio-visual during the sermons) lives in this town. Wayne, Kati and the boys travel each November to Deer Park to have Thanksgiving with Wayne's family in the Community Center. It's very sad, because they will not have Thanksgiving as usual, as the Community Center is gone. Wayne stated that his cousin's house was gone along with Kati's friends Ruth and Renee, parent's house was lost. I know many of Colville's church members have ties to this area and your relatives and friends may have suffered great loss, also. So, so sad.

Wayne sent devastating videos of where Foothill SDA School, the Community Center and Dorcas buildings used to be. Now there is nothing left but a few charred trees and melted, twisted metal. The hospital, church and Elmshaven are all standing untouched, but the rest of the town is mostly gone. I hope you all saw the Miracle of Elmshaven video that was posted on Facebook. It explains at least **three** miracles took place that day at Elmshaven. 1. The firefighters fought the fire up to the back fence to save the estate but the fire was so intense they were pulled off due to the inferno. The workers at Elmshaven were told that the firefighters could no longer hold back the fire and Elmshaven would be destroyed. 2. After the fire abated enough for the Elmshaven workers to return to see what, if anything was left, they were surprised to see the fire had burned around the complete grounds, but nothing within the boundary was burned. 3. As the workers began to rake the dry leaves that had fallen during the fire, they were extremely surprised to see live embers still smoldering among the leaves. That the embers were still alive and not burning, should not have been possible. If Elmshaven had not burned during the fire, it should be burning now with the live embers which were still all over the grounds under the piles of leaves. Elmshaven had not burned!

One of the phone calls I received after the National News reported that Angwin had burned, was from a friend I had not heard from in quite a while. She forgot to say hello and instead screamed, “Kathy, do you know if PUC is gone? I can't believe it. GONE, the National News just reported.” I told her I had been looking everywhere to find out, but hadn't heard anything.

She then began to talk about her family's grief from the Paradise Fire. Her family had suffered the great loss of her grandmother's house, her brother's house; all her aunts, uncles and cousins homes in Paradise were consumed by the fire. She said, “And when I say consumed, I mean consumed, there was nothing left, barely any rubble.” I told her that our family's loss was not that great, but my children's aunt and uncle's home, just up from the Adventist hospital, had burned. We had spent many Thanksgivings and Christmases in that beautiful home, now gone.

Another good friend texted, “We need to do a Zoom meeting right now!” As soon as we connected, she says loudly, “Kathy, what is it with ADVENTIST AND THE FIRES? Fires are consuming

Angwin/PUC, Deer Park, St. Helena, Calistoga, Paradise and Santa Rosa, all of these are where many Adventist live. These are not just little fires but enormous fires!" Now, a little background on my friend, she was raised by an Adventist mother and sent to Adventist schools. She is a devout Christian, but not Adventist. We attended college at PUC about 50 years ago and she along with other friends and I were planning on returning 2022 for our 50th reunion. "We can't attend our 50th now because there seems to be nowhere to go." How did she remember that all the towns burning/burnt had many Adventist connections? I don't know how, but she knew they were Adventist communities.

I got to reflecting on sober thoughts and many of you with ties to these communities may also be thinking along these lines. So I leave you with these thoughts... Why does it seem to be that our Northern California Adventist communities are burning? Has Satan unleashed his wrath on towns with many SDA people? Could it be the Lord is trying to wake us up?

Thoughts by Kathy Melendy

A few updates that I (Kathy Melendy) have heard about:

Eager Beavers are meeting from 3:30-4:30 on Wednesdays each week. Ramona Abbott is leading out and is to be commended for all the work she does for the children.

Adventures Investiture was wonderful. Thanks so much Judy Ann and workers for putting on this program for our youth. You all did a great job. By this time, Adventures has started and is meeting Wednesdays from 3:15-5pm.

I also know the school had a Welcoming Dinner for the start of **CVJA**. The meal was delicious along with fun visiting while remaining six feet apart.

The annual **Meadow Lake Hike and Wiener Roast Supper** was a fun time for all. Thank you to all leaders that helped make this event possible.

Pathfinders is up and running. The first campout this season is to be Sabbath at Aspen Valley.

Children's SS Classes have resumed at 9:45am each Sabbath. Thanks so very much to all the leaders and teachers who are making this possible in spite of the COVID precautions.

A big thank you to everyone who helps make possible all the activities of the Colville Church. We thank you!

If you have any **news** our church should know, please contact Kathy at 775-225-0267 or kathymelendy@gmail.com and I will place it in the **Newsletter**.

Basil Bowe is selling **Suze Brink's house** and land. 3 Bedrooms, 1½ baths, two story house on 5.8 acres. Has creek, 27 gallon/minute well, fenced garden, fruit trees, garage, out buildings. Propane heat. Asking \$350K. There is an adjoining 10 acres, mostly fenced with pasture and another creek for an additional \$100K. Check with Basil Bowe at 684-3902, if you are interested.

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