

FAIRBANKS RESCUE MISSION

Making a Difference One Life at a Time

SERVING GOD AND THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1974

JUNE 2010



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Fatherhood ~ EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR GREETING

In our society fatherhood has been so discredited that people expect men to fall short of or miss the mark. Hollywood has made fatherhood the ongoing joke of many sitcoms. George Lopez, Ray Romano, Tim the Tool Man, and Homer Simpson have come to symbolize fatherhood. These guys have become our standard of measure. Men look at the portrayed cluelessness and say to themselves, "I'm doing OK" or to their wives, "Hey baby, I'm a prize compared to that."

Clearly, we need to redefine fatherhood, but we must first understand what it is to be a man. Manhood is a step our society has misconstrued. Many cultures have a rite of passage ceremony for young men that clearly marks their transition into manhood. These ceremonies all speak to the inner and spiritual strength of a man. Our culture depends on observable steps such as obtaining a driver's license, voting, a full-time job, drinking, and

yes, becoming a father. So many men become fathers without accepting the role of father. Often, even those men who actively desire to be fathers don't understand the complexities and significance of the position.



They take on the job without a job description, training, or role models. The greeters at Wal-Mart go through a more in-depth training program.

There are traits that come naturally to men and there are others that our surroundings teach us. Men naturally desire to protect, defend, and provide. Men are taught to pull themselves up by their boot straps, to not cry, don't ask for help, don't accept defeat, don't read instructions, and don't ask for directions. (Though there are women who believe the "don't ask for directions" thing is not learned but hard-wired.)

These natural and taught traits are sometimes the very things that keep men from overcoming homelessness. The Mission is often asked, "How can

Because You Gave

APRIL NUMBERS

6,393 MEALS
were served

3,115 BED NIGHTS
were provided
2067 for MEN

746 for WOMEN
302 for CHILDREN

31 BIBLE STUDIES
were held

30 CHAPEL
SERVICES
were held

Thanks to our
VOLUNTEERS
for 206
volunteer hours!

Fatherhood continued

you charge or require work from a homeless person to stay at the shelter?" Our response is, "Dignity." It is hard to ask for help and being given an opportunity to pay their way helps. I once watched a father bring his wife and four kids to the Mission. His head was bowed down and I could see the shame, failure, and defeat on his face. When I had an opportunity to talk with him, I let him know I was very proud of him. He had overcome his natural and taught traits and put his family's wellbeing first. I saw it as an example of biblical fatherhood, putting the needs of others above himself and his own desires.

Jesus is the perfect example of fatherhood. Fathers are leaders and leaders are servants. Jesus said he didn't come to be served but to serve. So what is the Biblical definition of fatherhood? I think Jesus gave a good example of fatherhood in Mark 10:42-45, although it was not the topic of discussion.

"Jesus called them together and said, 'You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.'"

During a land navigation course in the military I could not find the geographical marker or "point" I was searching for. I knew I had walked the correct distance and in the right direction, but still my point was nowhere in sight. Panic began to set in. Then I remembered my training. I was taught to start walking a small circle and then walk progressively larger circles in

search of my point. I was greatly relieved when I quickly found my point. I had walked the correct distance in the right direction, but had drifted a little off course to the right. It's time for us men to retrieve the proper Biblical definition of manhood and we can start the same way I did when I thought I was lost. We need to begin making small circles. We need to first reeducate ourselves, then our families and then those in our communities.

So to the families of dads: This Father's Day instead of giving dad a tie or a BBQ tool, give him



encouragement, understanding, patience and love. Give him a list of all the ways he models the love of Christ and why you think he is the greatest dad in the world. This list will be the first draft of his manhood job description.

And men: Have a Paul (a mentor), a Timothy (someone to mentor) and a Barnabas (a peer or accountability partner) in your lives. Lock arms with other men and remember that many are in need of godly MENTors.

Happy Father's Day!

June 14th



TWIN BEARS CAMP

IDEAL FOR YOUR

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Call 452-5343 x109 for reservations

Cabins
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Rec Hall
Hiking Trails
ATV Trails
Fishing



MISSION NEEDS THIS MONTH

Kitchen Needs

Cooking Oil
Sugar
Coffee
Canned Vegetables
Eggs
Butter
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Macaroni & Cheese
Small soup bowls
Curry
Turmeric

Shelter Needs

Diapers, sizes 3 and 4*
Baby wipes*
Sippy cups*
Bottles*
Feminine Hygiene Products
Disposable Razors
Shaving Cream
Toothbrushes
Deodorant
Foot Powder

*Note: we currently have 28 children staying at the Rescue Mission.

Other Needs

8-1/2 x 11 Copy Paper
Scotch tape (for dispensers)

FRM RECYCLING - RENEW, RECYCLE, AND REUSE

**RECYCLING ROUND-UP
A BIG SUCCESS**

Organized by Interior Alaska Green Star the Round-Up included at least ten recyclers and re-users within the community. A steady stream of vehicles deposited aluminum and paper (mixed, cardboard, and newspaper) with the FRM Recycling Center. Other participators and the items they received were:

Wal-Mart: Plastic
C & R Pipe: Cans and other metal
Basically Basil: Compost material

FRA Closet Collections:
Clothing
Fairbanks Community Food Bank:
Food
Habitat for Humanity:
Building Materials and Appliances
FNSB Solid Waste Division:
Hazardous Waste
Interior Alaska Green Star:
Electronics

**FRM Recycling Center
Saturdays
11:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

Road to the Mission



A handsome man with a black scarf around his head, Tony asked if he could move to a chair with support for his back. After working all night, it was hurting. He was taking these few minutes to talk to me with four of his sons gathered around. Lines of fatigue etch his face and as he tells me about his schedule it's easy to understand why. After working from 10 PM to 7 AM he

watches his children and does 3 hours of work pay to pay for his night at the Mission. His wife, Marie, is on the women's side of the Mission with their other children and he tries to give her a break during the day.

Their family had lived in Fairbanks before when Marie was stationed here and they had liked it. With Marie out of the military, Tony got a transfer to the Fairbanks Wal-Mart and they moved back here from Georgia. They thought they had a place to rent, but the landlord decided against it because of their 8 children. Tony says they have a housing voucher and have been looking everywhere for a place to rent. His voice goes even softer as he tells me that it is particularly hard for his wife to not have a home of their own.



TONY WITH THREE OF HIS BOYS

When asked what we could request people to pray for, he says simply, "A place to rent."

**Please remember to keep those who share
their journey with us in prayer.**

"You can pray for anything, and if you have faith, you will receive it." -Matthew 21:22 (NLT)

REQUESTED

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