



Soup Kitchen Update

Mt. Arrowsmith Salvation Army Ministry Unit

Giving Hope Today

March 14, 2018

Soup, Soap and Salvation

The soup kitchen operates out of our church kitchen and dining hall four days a week serving an average of 120 clients a day. We know that this ministry not only feeds hungry stomachs, but provides a place of acceptance, dignity and community for those who are in need in Oceanside.

After months of struggling to fix our old dish washer and using disposable tableware, we have had to make the call to replace it with a new unit. The dishwasher replacement revealed other items requiring attention in the kitchen that have now been addressed such as some floor rot. In addition, the sink and dish washing area has been upgraded with more suitable counters to accommodate the incoming dirty dishes. Joan, our soup kitchen supervisor, and a team of devoted volunteers have undertaken the substantial job of putting a fresh coat of paint on the kitchen and dining hall and installing new kitchen shelves.

Amid some project setbacks including the theft of the old dish washer which we had hoped to retain for spare parts and a break-in earlier this week which resulted in the need to replace a few lost and damaged items, we are focused ahead with positive anticipation that we will be able to re-open and serve our community on Friday March 16th. The total costs of this undertaking will now be approximately \$13 – 14,000.00.

We are extremely thankful for the contributions made by our volunteers and local tradesmen in the areas of plumbing, carpentry, electrical, painting and general cleaning/organizing. It is through their giving of time, energy, materials and monetary donations that this important community work is furthered.

Some of the situations we have encountered during this project, such as the two theft events, can tempt us to unkind words, finger pointing and to lose our love for the very people we exist to serve. If we have one message as a result of these events it is this: **let us love our neighbor with the kind of selfless love that God calls us to and that He demonstrated to us in His love for us, despite our behaviour.**

"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

If you are tempted to draw negative correlations and speak negative comments about those in need in our community as a result of the thefts, we ask that you stop before the words are formed and instead pray for those in need and look for ways to support them and help them restore their lives. If you hear negative comments, don't join the gossip, but respond by speaking life and hope and challenging others to join you in practically affecting lives so that they no longer feel the need to steal. **Regeneration doesn't happen as a result of harsh words, judgements and ostracizing, it happens when we engage with the hurting in our community and help to lift them where they cannot lift themselves.** We are to be known for our mission of **GIVING HOPE TODAY**. Will you help us to foster that spirit and atmosphere of hope here in Oceanside?

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth. But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Matthew 5: 38-48)

If You Discover a Break-In

We want to let you know what to do if YOU discover a break-in:

Should you arrive on site and notice doors open that ought not be open or other signs of a break-in, please:

- 1. DO NOT enter the building until the site has been deemed safe**
- 2. CALL THE RCMP and wait for their arrival**
- 3. Contact the officers or site supervisor to let them know**
- 4. Fill out an incident report and provide to the supervisor regarding the details**