

THE DELIVERY August 2018



In July,

We served:

- 1,172 Families
- 341 Seniors
- 940 Adults
- 778 Youth
- 738 Children
- 675 Volunteer Hours
- 74 Salvations / Recommitments

Less is More

It was when Jesus watched the many people dropping their money in the offering box that he shared an invaluable and unbiased observation with his disciples. While the wealthy brought their large sums, he took notice of a poor woman who put in two small copper coins. It was upon seeing this that He said to His disciples: “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on” (Mark 12:43-44). Oh how Jesus’ judgment differs from the scales of our own hearts!

This surely brings a diagnostic question to mind as Christians. What would be our heart’s initial response to an elderly widow, or even a young child, placing a couple of small coins in the offering plate just before we contribute our \$50 or \$100 check? Hopefully, our hearts wouldn’t be inclined to sneer at their offering in a dismissive manner; because Jesus makes clear that their small contribution in the fullness of what they have is valued greatly by God. Further, unlike any biases that we may carry toward others, thankfully, our Lord does

not dismiss *us* on the basis of our *spiritual* poverty.

Of course, this diagnosis does not pertain merely to money, but anything that some might be able to give in excess that others are only able to give in scarcity. In view of Jesus’ own words, it was quite striking to hear the account of one volunteer, Michelle, who serves with Southeastern Food Bank’s partner in ministry “Jesus Loves You, Love Him Back”. Michelle bicycles for over an hour each Monday to and from the ministry’s outreach event in downtown Orlando to serve food to the homeless and impoverished community there. The amazing thing about her volunteerism, however, is that, *she herself is homeless*.

Similar to the story in the Gospel of Mark, while most of us are able to give out of our abundance (being in possession of food, vehicles, and shelter), some, like Michelle, though they have nothing but time to offer, give it all when possible. And, when she is given food or money, she will divide it up amongst herself and other homeless individuals. Oh that we would learn from such men and women!

As a testimony to the success of the “Jesus Loves You, Love Him Back” ministry, Michelle, herself, was once on the receiving end of the food line each Monday. But through the program, she came to hear the Gospel, receive Christ, and get baptized. Now, her life is multiplying hope in the lives of others.

This leads us to a practical question: how will we offer our lives as a living sacrifice to God? As we see with the widow in Mark chapter 12 as well as with Michelle, their light contributions did/does not nullify the usefulness of it and the glory it brings to God’s Kingdom. In fact, perhaps some of the greatest opportunities we have to offer ourselves to others and to God come not when we have much, but when we have little— yet we give it all to Him.

How will we offer our lives as a living sacrifice to the Kingdom?

As people we have to learn to see with vision afresh; we must learn to see things through the eyes of God. Doing this will allow for us to enjoy our ability to give and serve in various ways for the Kingdom, no matter what season of life we are in.

Southeastern Food Bank's Needs List

Please pray for the following...

- Funding for additional staff at Quincy and Ocoee locations
- Two experienced semi-truck drivers and ministry outreach director
- Newer and more reliable semi-truck (current is a 1995 model)

Thank you... To Publix Charities for our recently awarded grant which will contribute toward our operational needs and overhead. We are thankful for Publix Charities being the community-centered company that it has been over the decades, awarding hundreds of thousands of dollars to non-profits each year.

We also gladly thank our volunteer groups who have faithfully served Southeastern Food Bank in their precious time of packing and sorting product in our warehouse. Often, on a weekly basis to be exact, this is the work of "True Ministries", also known as "Total Freedom". This month, we especially appreciated the first-time assistance of Celebration Baptist Church of Leesburg.

CALENDAR

Labor Day



Monday,
September 3

Thank you to our fellow Americans for their daily contributions toward America's well-being!
Have a restful three-day weekend!

Annual
Fundraising
Dinner



Friday,
September 28

Don't forget to order your tickets at Southeasternfoodbank.com! Simply navigate to the "Events" drop-down bar at the top of the screen to find our annual dinner page.

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