



Reaching Out Across the Street and Around the World
Caring, Witnessing, Making Disciples

P.O. Box 985, Starkville, MS 39760

April 22, 2020

Jane Thompson
410 Chapin St
Starkville MS 39759

Dear Jane,

About the time you receive this, we will be coming to about the 1994th Anniversary of the night when Jesus had a fish fry with the disciples by the Sea of Galilee. He asked Peter, "Do you love me?" And when Peter said yes, He responded, "Feed my sheep."

Three times they went through the process, some think because Peter needed to hear three times that he was forgiven for denying the Lord three times. I certainly have needed to be reassured of God's forgiveness many more than three times, not because I doubt His goodness, but because my faith is just that weak.

But that's not the point today. This afternoon, we met with the local owners of the Chick-fil-a restaurant and they presented us with a check from corporate headquarters saying, "You are doing so much during this crisis to feed His sheep."

It was the first time I had thought of what we are doing to provide food in just that way. I had thought of it more in terms of the loaves and fish and the Lord's ability to multiply. But feeding His sheep? I've always understood that command in more spiritual terms, as if to say, "Disciple believers. Make sure their faith is strengthened."



But today, I really heard "Feed my sheep." So I came home and looked up the Greek (okay, I googled it), and discovered that the first time he says it, the word Jesus used literally meant "pasture" my sheep. In other words, get them out there where there is plenty of food and make sure they get what they need.

In Starkville, our numbers have grown from 20 to 150. God has been so faithful to prompt His children to give. In India,

the Gospel Friends staff is providing 50,000 food packages at 60¢/package. From March 24 to April 16, they distributed 22,500 packets of food. These are not boxes of food; they are manila-envelope-sized packets, folded in banana leaves or newspaper. Millions are going hungry. And the story is similar in Pakistan, Nigeria, Nepal, where we have partners, and in many other places.





Let me tell you, the “sheep” are appreciative! We have many volunteers helping to cook, package, and deliver the meals to nine different routes, including one group of 44 people in an apartment complex for the elderly. When Elizabeth Williams delivered to one house, the resident gave her an envelope for all of us. It read:

Dear Church Members,

With so much sickness and death around the world these days, it gets lonely not being able to be with family. And then comes a Ray of Light, when Christians cook, prep, and then deliver meals twice a week to us at Boardtown. The words thank you are not deep enough, but I feel blessed and burdens are lighter. For this 80-year-old, it is wonderful, and I remember, God is in control.

Thank you again. Joy

Yes, we cried that day. What an honor to get to serve someone with such a precious heart!

A few days later, the local CBS affiliate, WCBI, contacted me about doing a follow-up interview to a story they did just after we started our meals program. At that time, we were feeding about 60 people. The producer told me that a gentleman called their station right after the interview. He said,

I lost my job when this COVID-19 shut-down started. I thought I was going to lose my house, and I still might. I really had nothing in reserve. The meals program offered by Christian World Missions has saved my life. It saved me literally from going hungry. But it saved me emotionally by reminding me that I am not alone, that there are people who care enough to help me, and that God is with me through it all.



The needs are tremendous and are only growing greater every day. Your sacrificial giving is making this possible. The enemy would love to get Christians to shrink back from giving as the crisis goes on. We must not! God has promised to provide for our needs. Let's show Him how much we trust Him by giving with all our hearts, without reservation, with great faith, without fear. Jesus didn't hold back when he said these words:

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
(Luke 6:38, NIV)

We are blessed to be a blessing. We can't afford to hold back, either!

Following the Good Shepherd,

Lee Ann