

"And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." — 1 John 4:16

Tuesday Night News: SEVEN YEARS OF LA MESA

As we near the seven year anniversary of La Mesa, there is so much to love. One of the many wonderful things on Tuesday nights is how La Mesa is the home church for many who attend. We love what God is doing on Tuesday nights! It is not just a meal and fellowship. It is an opportunity for all of us to come and feel the love of Jesus. The church is not a place but it is all of God's people coming together. Each week there is the opportunity to share the Word and sacraments, as well as experience the wonderful music from our worship team.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them." You can often see Jesus' love at work on Tuesday nights in many different ways. What a blessing that we can all experience that together at La Mesa!

La Mesa Ministries' Mobile Loaves Food Truck



I'm excited to share with you La Mesa's newest addition to the services we offer to our homeless and working poor neighbors in the East Valley by

way of a licensed mobile cold food truck providing quality, fresh meals and drinks along with hygiene items, clothing and resource information to assist them in getting the help they need. There is nothing magical about offering sack meals to people in need, but what is extraordinary is in the how and why we do it. This food truck ministry program was created and developed by Mobile Loaves and Fishes in Austin, TX over 25 years ago. To learn more about this amazing program, please go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zmlp6pldmrQ>.

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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Angela & Al Koorman



LM: How did you learn about La Mesa?

Angie: I was on a confirmation retreat with my son, lead by Pastor Jake (Vicar Jake back then) and he explained they were in the beginning phases of starting a ministry for the homeless and working poor in Mesa and they needed a cook. I was running a small catering business at the time and was definitely interested in helping others, so I told him to count me in! Funny thing was I wasn't supposed to be at

that retreat, Al was supposed to go but his plans changed and I went instead. God had other plans that day!

Al: Angela told me about La Mesa and thought it would be a great fit for me to come along. I had recently been laid off and was looking for something to do.

LM: What is the biggest personal benefit you receive as a volunteer with La Mesa?

Angie: The biggest personal benefit I receive from being a volunteer at La Mesa is getting to see how God transforms lives. I love to hear the stories of how people truly feel the love of Jesus at La Mesa, often from a small act of kindness. God is capable of moving mountains and parting seas, and yet He uses everyday people and the smallest acts of kindness to change a life, I love that!

Al: Biggest benefit for me is the social interaction and meeting new people and hearing their life stories. Especially during Covid it was a real blessing for me to socialize with people. La Mesa has given me a lot of joy and built me up spiritually.

LM: What might (someone) be surprised to know about you?

Angie: Something surprising about me is that I was born in the big city (NYC) but grew up on a farm in Chandler and learned to drive a tractor by the time I was 12.

Al: Not a lot of big surprises here but I do like to play chess, hike the San Tan Mountains 2 or 3 times a week as well as bike ride.

LM: Do you have a memory at La Mesa that stands out that you'd like to share?

Angie & Al: As far as a favorite memory we both agree hearing Yolanda's testimony and the ways in which God has changed her life was so powerful.



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FROM THE KITCHEN...

- ✦ August 3: Pork Carnitas Bowl
w/ Rice & Beans, Fruit
Dessert: Panera
- ✦ August 10: Chicken Teriyaki, Steamed
Rice and Veggies, Fruit
Dessert: Panera
- ✦ August 17: Breakfast Casserole,
Biscuits, Fruit,
Dessert: Panera
- ✦ August 24: Fold Over Taco Bake,
2 Bean Enchilada Bake, Desert: Panera
- ✦ August 31: Fried Chicken, Potatoes,
Veggies, Fruit
Dessert: Panera

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In its essence, we focus on building trust through relationships by getting to know our neighbor. This process takes time and consistency on a weekly basis. Over the past 10 weeks, we are beginning to make inroads in the Tempe area where our friends are now seeing our truck pull up and they are making their way to come and see us. With few exceptions, our neighbors are very courteous and show sincere appreciation for taking care of them. It truly is a joyful labor of love when we complete our run.

Our "S(M)UV" - Suburban Missionary Utility Vehicle comes on the scene and opens our side doors to offer fresh quality food allowing them to make choices of more than one type of sandwich, fruit, chips, snacks, and drinks with hardboiled eggs. We are not a leftover ministry. We offer dignity by extending them the opportunity to select what they would like. We believe in treating our neighbors like a friend or family member... a member of God's family. When we make that human-to-human, heart- to-heart connection we are getting one visit closer to their willingness to share their personal story and allow us to assist them to get the help they need to get off the streets.

Our vision is to inspire people into a lifestyle of service with the homeless. This ministry is much more than just serving food. It is for us to extend the love of Christ and to learn how to love even deeper like Christ loves us. We are noticing people in the community are observing us and at times stop to ask us what this ministry is all about. I'd like to share with you an amazing encounter we recently experienced:



A couple of weeks ago, about halfway through our truck run, we came upon a disabled vehicle on Broadway Rd. just east of the 101 freeway. Our team (Sammi Jo, Rob and me) made a quick decision to pull into a small professional office park just past the vehicle to see how we might be of help. Rob jogged over to assess the situation while Sammi Jo and I served a couple of folks. Rob came back and told us a Vietnam veteran was stranded with a broken down vehicle and we needed to help push his car to a more secure area. Because of the traffic that picked up during the early evening, we needed to push it on a double wide sidewalk but were able to safely get it to where we had parked the food truck.

Patrick, the grateful vet, was emotionally shaken because he had little money, no working phone, wasn't from Phoenix, was living out of his car and it appeared the vehicle needed much work to get it running again. While we provided him with food and plenty of water for him and his little dog, it was apparent he would need a great deal of assistance to get him on his way. About this time, Scott, a very kind and gracious tenant from the building who had been watching us push the car into the parking lot, came on the scene. When he learned about Patrick's plight, he went in and brought a pamphlet about an organization that caters to the needs of veterans. The problem was, it was after hours and Patrick would have to sleep in the parking lot overnight. Scott assured it would be alright and he would help him the next morning. As I thanked Scott for his concern, he in turn offered his professional counseling services to La Mesa if we needed it. I could see he was emotionally impacted by this event and commended us for what our ministry is doing.

We've learned our experiences on the truck are not always going to be the same. Sometimes we have served all the food within 2 hours. Sometimes God has placed before us someone in dire need where we had to find an alternate place to take the food we didn't pass out. I've come to learn that we must go where the spirit takes us and everything always works itself out. Proverbs 16:9 says:

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."



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Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday by appointment
from 9am to 2pm. Tuesday 10am to 5pm.