

International House of Prayer of Greater Fort Wayne

...a day and night , city-wide, multi-church prayer and worship ministry

You feed them....

The Gospel of Mark gives us this amazing story of Jesus' disciples who are attempting to deal with the crisis of real need standing in front of them. Thousands of men, women, boys, and girls had no food and the disciples could see no means of providing for them. Then we have these amazing words recorded by both Mark and Luke, Jesus who spoke worlds into being (Col. 1:15-16) the guy who healed the sick, delivered the demonized and raised the dead - He has obvious 'connections' - and this is His response from the Message translation Mark 6:35-38 (emphasis mine).

When his disciples thought this had gone on long enough—it was now quite late in the day—they interrupted: “We are a long way out in the country, and it’s very late. Pronounce a benediction and send these folks off so they can get some supper.”

*Jesus said, “**You do it. Fix supper for them.**” They replied, “**Are you serious?** You want us to go spend a fortune on food for their supper?” But he was quite serious. “How many loaves of bread do you have? Take an inventory.” **That didn’t take long.** “Five,” they said, “plus two fish.”*

The powerful moment of this exchange for me is Jesus clear resolve to invite His friends into the journey of participation. He was not there to put on a show of force but instead invited His friends into another realm. Here they stood, and let's make sure we don't miss this, they were absolutely correct in their evaluation of a real problem. By all they could see and measure the most kind and caring solution would be to send these folks away so they could get some supper. Jesus invites the disciples into another realm - called the Kingdom -where measurement is not based on human limitation but lived out in faith and love. This is the space He describes when He later sends them out with no money or provision and instructions to proclaim - repent the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Here in Mark 6 is the beginning of the disciples repentance. An invitation to rethink reality, that this lunch of five loaves and two fish was enough! Enough when placed in the hands of Jesus. Enough when they choose to lay aside mere human evaluation and trust Jesus. Wow! I have often pondered the emotional punch that was to His friends - I think the Message translation gets it right by translating this phrase 'are you serious'? No way!

Beloved in the last couple of weeks I have been moved by pictures of thousands of refugees risking their lives to cross borders into Columbia from Venezuela, Spain from Senegal, America from El Salvador and Nicaragua. Men, women, and children who quite literally have nothing left and nothing to eat trying to find something in another country. Now lay aside the political background, the historical abuses of power, the broken systemic foundations that in some cases has led to total economic collapses in their home country - lay all that to the side and we have a similar picture to Mark 6. Send them home makes sense on many levels. Yet, in many cases, there is no home to go to. Jesus what do we do? Jesus response, you feed them...and to be honest, that is what we have been doing in the offering to El Salvador. Taking our fish and loaves and putting them into the hands of Jesus, asking Him to use our little to make a big difference in the lives of men, women, and children in El Salvador. Having been in the country, and specifically in San Pablo Taco Chico, I can tell you our little is the difference between some families being able to sustain their home for another year.

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And the secret is simply this: **Christ in you!**

Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come. Col 1:27b, JB Phillips



It was not until recently that I had a friend who connected the current crisis with our offering. Now please please let the reader understand I am NOT trying to be sensational and certainly have no intent to misrepresent anything. I cannot give you direct testimony that this offering meant someone did not choose to make the very dangerous journey of trying to enter the United States illegally. What I am saying is that I do know we had an incredible miracle in the offering given! Over the last several years IHOPFW, Praise International Church in Fort Wayne, and Pastor Louis Alvarado have combined efforts to raise as much as 5000 dollars to send in aid to El Salvador. This year we raised over 10,000! Let me emphasize that impact and partnership is not based on the amount of money raised but it stuns me how generosity has flowed even during an obvious time of difficulty in our own country. We will again be able to help over 50 families this year, we will again host a monthly gathering, an annual

holiday banquet, and more importantly continue to be a front line help in this community that has suffered even greater loss and hardship during COVID. The monies raised have helped pay for funeral expenses, have helped replace lost belongings due to floods this past year as well as helped provide for families with medical expenses and needed care. So our relationship remains strong and we continue to trust that as we walk in Courage based in Love we might see a little more of the Kingdom become visible with our fish and bread offering. As this outreach continues we are seeing more and more families come to the gathering, to be loved on and to see, hear, and experience the love of Jesus through this gift. Thank you to those of you who chosen to give. Thank you for trusting Father with the giving of your loaves and fish.



Grace and Peace beloved, Ben

Awakening the Song of the Heart—Musings of a Jesus Lover by: Denise Bouwers

My purpose in writing this Journal was to invite you to connect to your story with Jesus—to your own unique song! As you read and ponder the quotes, musings, and Scriptures presented in these pages take the time to consider the following questions:

- What is Holy Spirit revealing to me?
- What is Jesus' invitation to me?
- What is Father asking me to do or say?

You can order your own copy online at www.thebookpatch.com click the bookstore and search for Denise Bouwers.

***IHOP Fort Wayne
Summer Camp 2021
July 12-15
Limited spots available***

Where: Stillwater Retreat, Yoder, IN
Who: Children ages 8-16+
Contact: Debi Shinn @ 260-485-3182 or debishinn@yahoo.com to reserve your spot.

Good Times with Friends as We Pursue the Lord and Fellowship with Him Together!

With gratitude and integrity we steward your gifts. Thank you for partnering with the mission the Lord has given us in this hour as we partner with Him in His kingdom purposes.

Please make your **tax deductible** contribution to:

**IHOP Fort Wayne
5907 West Wallen Road,
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Ben and Denise, Please agree with us over these prayer needs for the next month...

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