

## From



## Snapshots of Our Ministry

**From Lisa's perspective:** Grace's Kitchen has rocked my world over the past two years! It has been such an incredible journey of learning, trusting, obeying, failing and re-learning. Through it all, I have witnessed the hand of God like never before. If I had to pinpoint one major thing that Grace's Kitchen has taught me, it would be that God is always faithful. I have known that God is faithful cognitively. I have seen Him work and I believe what scripture says. But God has given me such a unique opportunity through this ministry to have a front-row seat to watch Him work. There have been many times over the past two years that I have wanted to give up or have felt that perhaps I misheard. But every time doubt creeps in, God reminds me in a tangible way that I am to persevere. I have absolutely no idea what the journey of Grace's Kitchen will look like in 1 year, 10 years, or at the end of my life. It may be that Grace's Kitchen is simply a journey of my obedience. It may be that I don't know the end result because if I did it would overwhelm me and I would never take another step. But I am confident that God has me exactly where He wants me for today and am thankful and humbled He has called me to be a small part of His master plan. Thank you to all of you who have prayed, given, and served over these past two years. Know that you have made a great kingdom impact and we are incredibly grateful to all of you. Please continue to keep Grace's Kitchen in your prayers, and pray that we will have wisdom and discernment regarding God's future plans for this ministry.

**From Paula's perspective:** Each week we ask for prayer requests from those in the park. God has used these requests to break down my own selfishness, self-sufficiency, and any feelings of superiority I might have. By seeking His face on behalf of those we serve, He shows me daily that we are all His creation and equally in need of a Savior. The requests from the park are really no different than the ones shared during the women's Bible study I attend. People ask for prayer to grow closer to God, for safety, to deal with depression, to overcome addictions, to mend family relationships, to find jobs, to be encouraged, to be comforted at the loss of a loved one, and the list could go on and on. Prayer is the most important service we offer these precious people. We know that only the grace and mercy of Christ can truly transform lives. I am humbled to think that God called me, with all my inadequacies and sins, to be part of this ministry. That's why I love 2 Corinthians 12:9 and echo Paul's words—"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." Soli Deo Gloria!

## Timeline of Blessings

God has been so faithful to this ministry since it began in 2009. We are overwhelmed by how He continues to work. Following are just a few examples of His provision.

- **June 24, 2009**—Lisa and Paula volunteer in The Lord's Kitchen in Louisville, Kentucky, while on a mission trip. When they each entered the space, they both felt God tell them to feed people. They leave overwhelmed and begin to pray that God will give them direction. The idea of opening a pay-as-you-can restaurant becomes a long-term goal.
- **July 26, 2009**—A friend suggests naming the feeding ministry Grace's Kitchen. Lisa and Paula choose 2 Corinthians 12:9 as the cornerstone verse.
- **August 19, 2009**—Lisa tells Paula about a God-given vision for the ministry's next step. They decide to serve hot breakfasts in downtown Birmingham's Linn Park every Thursday.
- **October 1, 2009**—With a team of seven people, GK serves its first breakfast in Linn Park.
- **October 16, 2009**—Lisa and Paula decide on a mission statement: Grace's Kitchen exists to glorify God by providing fresh and healthy food to those in need.

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## THIS JUST IN...

- THROUGHOUT THE MONTHS OF AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER, WE HAVE SEEN **INCREASED NUMBERS IN THE PARK** EACH THURSDAY.
- **THE MEN'S SMALL-GROUP BIBLE STUDY** IS CONTINUING TO MEET EACH THURSDAY. THERE ARE ABOUT THREE MEN WHO PARTICIPATE CONSISTENTLY; OTHERS COME IN AND OUT. WE WOULD LIKE TO START A SIMILAR GROUP FOR THE WOMEN IN THE PARK. PRAY THAT THIS WILL HAPPEN IN GOD'S PERFECT TIMING.
- ON AUGUST 17 AND 18, GRACE'S KITCHEN PROVIDED DINNER TO THE **OSSIE WARE MITCHELL MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM** IN SOUTH EAST LAKE AFTER THEIR CAMP.
- ON SEPTEMBER 20, WE SERVED LUNCH AT **M-POWER MINISTRIES** IN AVONDALE TO THOSE ENROLLED IN THE EDUCATION CENTER'S CLASSES.
- GRACE'S KITCHEN IS PURSUING AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD OUT A COMMERCIAL KITCHEN IN **BESSEMER**. RIGHT AFTER THE WEST HOMEWOOD LEASE AGREEMENT WAS RESCINDED EARLIER THIS SUMMER, THE PASTOR OF A NEW CHURCH IN BESSEMER APPROACHED US WITH THE IDEA OF BUILDING OUT A KITCHEN IN THEIR BUILDING. THIS WAS NOT SOMETHING WE HAD CONSIDERED BUT KNEW IMMEDIATELY THAT GOD WAS OPENING A NEW DOOR. WE ARE TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO SEE IF THIS IS A GOOD FIT. PLEASE PRAY FOR WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT.

## Timeline of Blessings (CONTINUED)

- **November 10, 2009**—Grace's Kitchen has a logo.
- **December 23, 2009**—Our attorney submits the 501(c)3 nonprofit status application to the IRS.
- **February 24, 2010**—In the past month, we had several big expenses. After paying these bills, the checking account was empty. Lisa and Paula had been specifically praying for the ministry's finances. This morning Lisa received a call from a friend whose father wanted to donate \$5,000 in seed money to the ministry. Her dad asked to pray with Lisa and Paula when he gave them the check. By the end of the day, the Lord had given GK more than \$7,000. He had replaced all that had been spent, plus some. We have seen this happen over and over in the course of the ministry.
- **March 5, 2010**—Grace's Kitchen is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.
- **May 18-20, 2010**—Lisa and Paula take the food safety manager's course offered by the health department and pass the certification test.
- **June 4, 2010**—One of our board members donates an entire restaurant's worth of equipment to GK.
- **August 5, 2010**—A man named Kevin prays to receive Christ with one of our park volunteers this morning.
- **September 8, 2010**—While pursuing a potential ministry location in downtown, we receive some stiff opposition. As a result, the building's owners rescind the lease offer.
- **November 4, 2010**—One of our park volunteers begins a men's Bible study. Four men attend the first week.
- **December 10-11, 2010**—With the help of 15 volunteers, 200 pans of green beans and mac and cheese are prepared and frozen for needy Alabaster families.
- **April 27, 2011**—Devastating tornados rip across our state. Lisa and Paula began to pray that God would show them how Grace's Kitchen could help those affected. Over the next three months, GK serves thousands of homemade meals to people in the communities of Pleasant Grove, Cordova, Pratt City, Shoal Creek Valley, and Hackleburg. We also have the opportunity to serve lunch to American Red Cross volunteers from all over the country who are working in the command center in Hoover.
- **June 15, 2011**—A friend of the ministry leads a Bible study for expectant moms at Lovelady Center. We had the opportunity to provide homemade cupcakes for a baby shower that honored the women and their soon-to-arrive babies.
- **August 1-4, 2011**—Grace's Kitchen provides homemade snacks for the 540 children who attended Winshape C3 Camp in Tuscaloosa.