Ministry & More, Inc. 1107 West Empire Street Bloomington, IL 61701



Director

# From the Director

One day, just before closing the pantry, a shirtless man, pulling a suitcase on wheels, entered our parking lot-going who knows where. One of our volunteers called out, offering items that he could carry in his suitcase, that the intense heat wouldn't have any effect on, and filled his suitcase. As the man picked up the handle of his suitcase and prepared to leave. I asked his name and if I could pray for his trip, his safety—which I did, and ended with sharing the truest hope man has ever been offered—hope and safety in the love of Christ's sacrifice on the cross for our sins, mine, and the sins of my new friend.

The current covid crisis reminds me of the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks of 2001. That event, that crisis, changed how we now do many of our everyday things. I was in New York City shortly after the 9/11 attacks, praying with first responders and people on the street, survivors of the attacks. In the streets, I noticed silence in the city, few people going out. I noticed that those I did encounter on the streets made purposeful effort to make eye contact, looking for a smile—perhaps looking for hope. Today, like 9/11, our sense of safety, certainty, of hope, has been called into question.

In order to save money in postage, please let us know if you could receive the newsletter by email!

> Let us know at: minandmore@yahoo.com

Include your email address. Thank you.

#### Ministry & More, Inc. Newsletter / Summer/Fall 2020

#### Alan McLaughlin

I am thankful that our safety, our certainty, our hope does not lie in the actions, or wisdom, of men, nor can they be thwarted by a virus—but rests in our eternal Savior, Jesus Christ. God still has a plan that has not changed, only our circumstances.



Alan McLaughlin, director.

Alan

Praise God!

### **Back in 'Business'**



After 6 weeks of 'Sheltering at Home', Ministry and More, Inc. reopened in early May with drive-thu service for clients. (photo) Clients drive in and stop in front of the garage where they are greeted by a volunteer

who takes their prayer requests and prays with them, while another volunteer brings groceries to the car. There are always 'extra' items clients can choose from as needed too. It has been a blessing to stay in touch with our clients despite the covid virus. Since our re-opening, Ministry and More, Inc. has served 304 households! We have even been able to provide masks to clients as needed because of the generosity of some who made masks for the pantry to give to clients.



### **Back To** School Lunches

Families will continue to need food for lunches for their children this year as school resumes at

home. This will be an added strain on family food supplies and finances. Ministry and More, Inc. is

## **Shoot and Share**



This annual fundraiser has provided money to fill Thanksgiving sacks and purchase turkey coupons for families.

hoping to be able to regularly supply lunch items to help. Items needed include: fruit, peanut butter, jelly, sliced cheese, chips, fruit snacks, breakfast bars/snack items. (clip art—grocery sack, lunch sacks/food items). Also, any donated school supplies will also be available to families.

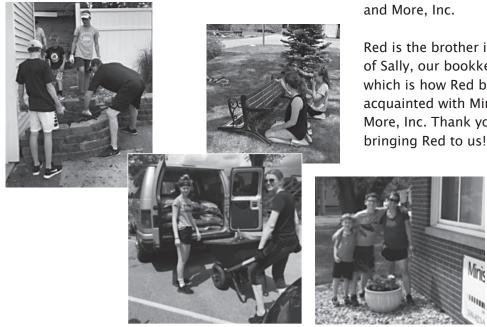
When churches could no longer safely have services, food drives stopped too! We have been looking forward to the re-start of church and food drives. East White Oak recently had a food drive as they reopened - thank you EWO!

It is the only fund raiser of the year for Ministry and More, Inc., Shoot and Share is always a fun time of fellowship, food, and clay shoot. Donated items are now needed for drawings at the Shoot (hunting, outdoor/ camping items). It's a great time to get together and has been a family event for some! Hope



**Volunteer Spotlight** 

Recently a group from Eastview Church came and spent a Saturday 'beautifying' Ministry and More, Inc. by attending to landscaping needs—they even cleaned our gutters! Thank you to this faithful group of believers, sharing God's love by serving others.



### Client prayer requests and praise: Will you PRAY—will you GIVE?

This is the most important part of what we do and of this newsletter – please take a few moments to pray for these requests, for those we serve and those who serve! Thank you.

- Client mentioned praise for The Daily Bread devotional given to her by Ministry and More, Inc.
- Pray for our nation to heal from the virus and it's impact on our country
- Son has stomach issues
- 'That my kidneys stay healthy'
- 'My mom's health'
- Pray for my neighbor who had to quit her job so she could help with her children's schooling
- Our family is going to court over a dispute
- Trouble breathing
- Pray for our nation's leaders to obey God

# **Our food needs**

As 2020 began Ministry and More, Inc. recommitted the pantry needs to the Lord and His people for provision. We have been amazed at how God answered our prayers-even during the covid crisis! We had no idea a virus would come to our country and the changes with it. Now we can see the wisdom of God's continued leading in relying on God to provide thru the generosity of His people. It reminds us of how God provided for



Israel through Joseph following God's direction, even though the famine was yet unseen. We could not foresee the impact of the covid virus and are humbled and thankful for our faithful Lord's leading.

you will come—registration due by September 11!

That said, we want to share current food needs here:

- Meat products such as canned meats (chicken, Vienna sausages, Spam, etc.) and fish (tuna, salmon, sardines, etc.) Our fresh frozen meat is nearly depleted and the food banks are experiencing shortages
- Pasta (all kinds) and sauce (red or white), Rice, Beans - can be uncooked or boxed
- Canned fruits and vegetables (especially canned tomatoes, green beans, carrots, peas,) Soups and Crackers, Peanut butter and jelly
- Breakfast cereal-children and adult, Boxed muffins mixes, boxed corn bread mixes, pancake mix, pudding mixes, Jello

One good turn, deserves another! Volunteers often join us by learning of our ministry from a current. Volunteer!

When Lyle retired he wanted to use his retirement doing something for others so he ioined his wife Diane who was already a volunteer at Ministry

> Red is the brother in law of Sally, our bookkeeper, which is how Red became acquainted with Ministry and More, Inc. Thank you Sally for bringing Red to us!



Lyle.



Red.

- Arthritis pain relief
- Praise for good doctor visit and a negative covid test
- Peace for all
- Pray for our President and Congress
- Friend in difficult marriage
- Help me do God's will
- Keep friends and family safe from the coronavirus
- Relief from pain following spinal surgery
- · Lord have mercy on us all