**GRACE MISSION**

Episcopal Church
*…a transformative ministry of the forgotten*

Dear Ministry Partners;

I want to share a story that I shared at Grace Mission. It goes like this:

*There was a farming town that was experiencing a severe drought. Crops were drying up and the people’s livelihood was vanishing along with their crops. The only thing that would save them would be rain so the pastor, at one of the churches in the community, encouraged her congregation to go home, pray and believe. Then they were to come back next Sunday ready to thank God for sending the rain.*

*People did as they were told and returned to church the following Sunday. But as soon as the pastor saw them she said, “We can’t worship today because you don’t believe.” But, they protested, we prayed and we do believe.” “Believe, she responded, then where are your umbrellas?”*

*Where are your umbrellas?* Jesus talked about that kind of faith and trust in God throughout the Gospels – *Umbrella Faith!* In one story in Mark 4:26-34 Jesus shares with us the story of the farmer who goes out and plants seeds in the ground. The farmer doesn’t worry about the seeds, lets nature take its course and the seeds grow and mature (it takes a lot of faith to be a farmer). Jesus reminds us that we are all called to be like the faithful farmer. We are called to faith – faith that God is in charge, faith that He is working even when we can’t see Him – even when we have lost sight of Him – even when He seems silent or there is no answer from Him. *Umbrella Faith!*

At Grace Mission we often remember Paul’s words, *“We walk by faith not by sight.”* Many times, too numerous to mention, God takes our shortages and turns them into blessings of abundance. For example: Eggs are hard for us to get and we never know if we will have them for Sunday breakfast. God never fails and someone *“out of the blue – wink, wink”* will show up at our kitchen door with the amount of eggs we need to feed many that are hungry. Milk is another item we often do not have for breakfast cereal. Someone just the other day dropped off *“out of the blue – wink, wink”* four gallons of milk. We were able to offer cereal that morning. We pray – we walk by faith – we embrace *“Umbrella Faith”* on a daily basis.

We appreciate all of our ministry partners who pray for us, support us and encourage us. We appreciate your *“Umbrella Faith!”* Please continue to hang tight to your umbrellas, keep praying and watch God work at Grace Mission. Each day He brings wonderful miracles into our midst.

Faithfully,

Pastor Amanda+

*An Evening of Grace,* the Grace Mission annual fundraiser, is on September 19 at the FSU Alumni Center. Please go to our website for the details (gracemission.net). Please consider being a sponsor, a ticket holder or donate to the silent auction. Do not hesitate to call us if you have any questions. More information on the Gala is on our website gracemission.net. Thank you!

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