



Manna Matters

ON A WING AND A PRAYER

This month, I want to introduce you to my friend Jonathan Klein, Manna Cafe's prayer room pastor. I love to feed people, but I know the importance of feeding them spiritually as well as physically. The prayer room is one way we've been doing that for more than seven years. Jon is a huge blessing to our clients and staff, and I'm grateful that God sent him our way. Recently, my wife interviewed him; I hope you're inspired by his story.

—Kenny

Spend five minutes with Jonathan Klein, 36, and you'll see he's a warmhearted and joyful guy. He smiles easily and is quick to offer encouragement to friend or stranger. But he wasn't always this way.

"I was raised as a Christian," Jon explains, "but around the time I joined the military, I fell completely away from God." In the following years, he suffered from multiple injuries (doctors told him he'd never walk again, but he's proven them wrong) as well as chronic anger. "One day, I was in a hospital bed when another patient quoted John 3:16 to me. I looked at him and thought, 'Dude, you're off your morphine!' I never saw him again, but that stuck with me. When I came home, I knew I needed to find God again. I was angry all the time; even my kids were scared of me. I got down on my knees and prayed for the first time in years: *Father God, use me to my full ability or take me out—because I can't live like this anymore.*"

"People can get stuck in a very deep well, and sometimes they can't get out."

GOD'S GOT OUR NUMBER

Recently, we received our data from 2018 and were blown away! Check it out:

Food boxes distributed:

28,896

Clients served through food box distribution:

14,256

Hot meals served:

23,493

The next morning, Jon's son dropped a glass, then immediately gasped in fear of his father's reaction. But Jon simply said, "No worries," and swept up the mess. "I'd never responded like that before. That whole week, everyone saw the change in me even though I had no clue it was happening." During the next two years, Jon got "filled up" with the Word of God and also joined the Prayerborne Eagles, a chapter of the CMA (he is now chapter president).



WING AND PRAYER, continued

One afternoon, while volunteering at a Manna Café food drive, Jon and fellow biker Frank Wall were talking about their desire to minister to others in the community when Kenny walked up and introduced himself. Soon after, Kenny asked if they'd oversee Manna's prayer room, and they agreed. "From day one, we were like, 'Wow.' The need was tremendous. We were overwhelmed by the number of people—they were homeless, or had just lost a job, or had *nothing*. We were used to praying for people, but this was completely different." Now, five days a week, Jon and other Prayerborne Eagle chapter members pray for and minister to clients, staff members, and volunteers.

Tragically, in July 2017, Jon's 15-year-old son passed away unexpectedly. After a two-month hiatus from Manna Cafe, Jon knew it was time to return to his post. He says, "I knew I had to push through, so I decided, *I'm going to give this to God, and He's*



going to see me through this. Let's see where He leads me. That first day back, I almost lost it: everyone who came in that room for prayer had lost a child! I was just broken. I cried with them because it's a pain you can't describe. I told them I had faith that God was going to get me through and that He'd do the

same for them. It was just amazing. Their faith was strengthened, and we built each other up through our tears. Some of them come back every month, not necessarily for food, but for prayer or just to talk.

"People can get stuck in a very deep well, and sometimes they can't get out," Jon adds. "That's where light comes through because light always prevails over darkness. We have to reach out our hand so they can see that little bit of light, that little bit of hope—and get them out of there."

When he thinks back to his first day in the prayer room, Pastor Jon says, "I felt purpose. I've seen lives changed, including my own. God has poured into every single one of us at this ministry. He's guiding us through. We can't go wrong."

Have you had an experience involving Manna Cafe that you'd like to share? We'd love to hear it!

Email Vicki@MannaCafeMinistries.com.

Philanthropists come in all sizes!

Meet Trevi and Peyton, who raised money for Manna Café by selling stocking caps, bookmarks, and hair bows that they crafted themselves, along with the help of friends Ryleigh and Allison. "We started the Manna Café Club last year in the hope of helping a charity," explains Trevi. "We chose Manna Café because it's a local food bank, and we love to have food to eat and can't imagine what it would be like without it. We decided to give the money for food for a family." She adds that another goal is "spreading love and encouraging others to good deeds as well."



MISSION STATEMENT

Manna Café Ministries serves people in need in Clarksville/Montgomery County through a soup kitchen on wheels, food box distribution, and other vital resources. Propelled chiefly by volunteers, Manna Café strives to restore hope, dignity, self-reliance, community, and the love of God through Jesus Christ.