

"The Chicken Dinner."

Planning a dinner party can be nerve wracking. It is extremely difficult for the poor. "Abuela" (Grandma) Maria lives in a poor, remote area of El Salvador. She is the matriarch of a large family of children and grandchildren that she has raised as a single parent. She has been receiving food support from CFFC for over twenty years. It takes her several hours each week to travel by bus to the AGAPE compound where the food is distributed. "Abuela" is so grateful for this assistance for her family. On one of Dr. Simone's recent trips to El Salvador she invited him to her home for a special chicken dinner. She wanted to show her gratitude to him and to CFFC. Dr. Simone was touched by this generous offer of friendship. He accepted her invitation. A few days later, when Dr Simone, his driver, and assistant arrived at her home, "Abuela" suddenly became sad. She was embarrassed by the reality that she did not have the necessary cutlery, plates, and cups for the extra two visitors travelling with Dr. Simone. She wanted everything to be proper and nice. She privately shared this information with Dr. Simone with tears in her eyes. He told "Abuela" not too be embarrassed. He had a nice visit with her and her grandchildren and then took the chicken in a plastic bag to eat in the car on the way home. "Abuela" liked this idea very much. Do you have any extra forks, knives, spoons, plates, and cups that you could share with "Abuela" Maria and her family? The poor need all of these things that we simply take for granted. Jesus loves it when we share with each other.

Brian Finamore



Abuela Maria putting the Chicken in the pot on her stove.



Abuela Maria receiving a beautiful fur coat for being a fantastic Grandmother. Dr. Simone says that she is his hero. Mauricio, one of her grandsons is in the picture. He was dying of starvation when his family was brought to our attention. Today he is in the El Salvadoran Army. He is strong and healthy.

AMAZING GRACE – CANADA
1258 Lakeshore Rd. E Mississauga, On. L5E 1E9

Alcoholics Anonymous,

For the last month I have been attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous with my friend Peter. This organization does very wonderful work. At each meeting one alcoholic shares his life. I remember one man, who was drinking 11 cases of beer (24 bottles per case) per week. He also told us that when they opened up a bottle of whiskey, they never kept the tops, since it was never put back on the bottle until the whiskey was finished.

He related, that at one time, when they needed money, they actually sold his wife's washer and dryer and took it out of the house, while his wife was upstairs, only a week before they had their baby. I have learned many things from going to these meetings. Only God can change the alcoholic to stop drinking. Pestering by friends or relatives, husbands, wives, children, bosses has no effect. The only thing we might do is volunteer to go to an A.A. meeting with the person. They have open meetings where the public is allowed to go and observe.

One day, Frank got up in front of the meeting and said that you can go to your doctor or your relatives or your minister, priest or rabbi and they might tell you to stop drinking, but they don't know how you feel. Frank then said, we as alcoholics know how you feel. The only people that can help alcoholics are other alcoholics. At one meeting one man related how his only goal in life, since he was 15 years old, was to get drunk. He never knew how to even think of loving another person. When he stopped drinking, his sponsor said "show people love" he said, how can I? I don't even know what love is. Gradually as he has remained sober, he is learning each day to love a little bit, but it is quite hard for him. Last week an anonymous person gave us a beautiful dinner in our home. They were going to let our family go to a restaurant, but because of our lifestyle, we requested that we perhaps could eat at home. The beauty of this was that we had a very lovely meal. Peter, who is our alcoholic friend was able to attend this meal. It was a wonderful joy to have this person with us, as we shared the gifts of food that God provided through our anonymous friend.

Andrew Simone m.d.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph our strength and our glory

Jésus, Marie et Joseph notre force et notre gloire