Food Pantry Ministry

Over the last few weeks Jeff has been preaching about making disciples from “Jerusalem . . . to the ends of the earth.” One of the opportunities we have for making disciples is here in our Jerusalem; in our own church to be specific. Norway has had a long standing food pantry ministry, currently led by JoAnn Marcum. Until now she and a small team of helpers have been responsible for this ministry. We as a church now have an opportunity to scale it up and engage food pantry customers in more depth. Under JoAnn’s leadership we want to start a ministry to food pantry customers who have diabetes. The plan is to prepare special diabetic food boxes with healthy food just for them. Along with the food boxes they will be invited to participate in a brief diabetes education session. To do this, however, we need more of you to adopt this as a ministry. We need church members and small groups to adopt food boxes and supply the contents every month. The cost will be less than $15 a month, but it will be a monthly commitment for 12 months. We also need members who will learn how to teach brief, interactive, educational sessions that will help people with diabetes learn self-management skills. Richard Crespo will train you in how to do this. He has trained many hundreds of community members from Ohio to Mississippi as lay educators. No special skills are needed; just a willingness to learn and a heart for ministering to others.

These sessions will open the door for many of us to minister among the neediest in our city. They come to us because of the food pantry. You can build relationships with them right here in church. It can then be a basis for inviting them to come on Sunday and other days in which our doors are open. It is intimidating for people to come to an event where they don’t know anyone. But if people come to know and trust you, they are more likely to come. You can make a difference in their lives physically and spiritually.

Our goal is to start this ministry on Thursday, February 25th during the normal foodbank hours. We will send you more information in the next few days, and tell you how to can be involved. Meanwhile, please be praying for this outreach and ask God if you are someone who He wants to minister here in our Jerusalem.