



# Grace Place Ministries, Inc.

Ordinary People Serving an Extraordinary God

JULY 2019

## PICKLES

Each summer as a child, I would go visit my grandparents in Texas for one week. The minute that I entered that old farmhouse I could smell the wonderful scent of pickles and I knew what my grandma had been doing. I never knew the process that went into the making of those delicious dill pickles...I just knew that they were the best! My other grandma, who lived just down the road from me, made the best sweet pickles you've ever put in your mouth and again I never knew all the time and trouble that went into those awesome little green things that were served in that pretty little special dish. So, what was the Lord saying to me as I was thinking on these special memories?

I don't think of myself as a deep thinker and I learn best by visuals, so I'm going to attempt to put into words what I'm seeing in my spirit. The process of making pickles, which is transforming cucumbers into another form, is similar to the Lord transforming us into another image...His image. The cucumbers are just out in the sunshine growing side by side on the vine and then one day they are "hand-picked" and separated for a specific purpose. I'm told that the ones with lots of warts are the best to pick! They are washed, sliced and ends cut off so they will fit in the jars. The jars and lids are sterilized and the rings are ready.

The next process is where the vinegar and salt are mixed and brought to near boiling. The cucumbers are placed in the clean jars and then the hot vinegar, spices and salt are poured over the cucumbers totally submerging them. After a period of time "SOAKING", the cucumbers are changed into pickles, a transformation from one substance to another.

So, how are we like cucumbers, aka pickles? Aren't we "hand-picked" by the Lord to be His according to Ephesians 1:4, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight." What about the warts? 1Corinthians 12:26:29 says that God deliberately chooses the weak, foolish and lowly. Sometimes we are "separated" from family and friends for seasons of time as the Lord prepares and uses us for His plans and purposes. He washes us with His precious blood and the Word. Hebrews 10:22, "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

There are times that we are placed in "tight" places and squeezed what seems like for long periods of time. The "heat" from the trials and tests can get really hot, but if we trust the Lord to keep His hand on us and to change us, we can look forward to Him preparing us for specific plans for the Kingdom. The main thing that I think the Lord wants to speak to us about is the "soaking" process. For me personally, I "soak" each and every early morning as I just sit with Him. It's not the time that I pray for everyone on my heart or even read the Word...it's just the time that I sit with Him...loving Him and listening to Him and even if He's not saying anything to my heart...I just love being with Him! I believe that when I spend time "soaking" He is transforming me into another image...I pray, His image.

I have to tell you that when you decide to "soak", every devil of distraction will come against you but if you determine with your heart that you will spend this time with the One Whom you love, no devil will be able to stop you. It does take discipline and time (it takes time for the seasonings to be absorbed) but is vital for that transformation process. I'm reminded of the two sisters, Mary and Martha in Luke 10. Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and Jesus said, "Only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

One process that I forgot to mention is after the cucumbers are placed in the clean jars, a ring or seal is placed on the jar before the lid is secured. Think of the precious Holy Spirit as being our seal. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

There is so much more that I could share and I feel that this has been a feeble attempt on my part, but I pray that you will get deep in your spirit what the Lord is saying to us. It is vital and of great necessity that we spend time with Him. 1Corinthians 15:51-52, "Listen, I tell you a mystery: we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed---in a flash, the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed."

Ponder the pickle next time you eat one!

I love and appreciate you all!  
*Rhonda Grace, Founder/CEO*



# Total Served

## JUNE 2019

Lunch Meals Served (MWF)

# 3,145



Food Bags Provided for

# 591 people

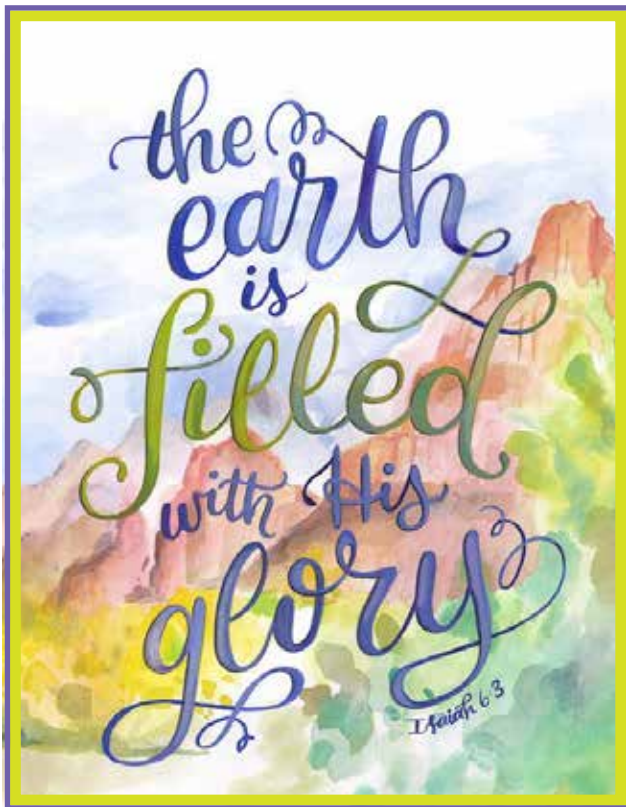
(Given 2 times a month)

#servethecommunity

Thank you to all the youth groups who served this summer!! Keep that light shining bright for all to see!!



- Swartz First Baptist Church
- Lea Joyner Methodist Church
- Christ Church
- North Monroe Baptist Church
- Holmesville Baptist Church
- Macedonia Baptist Church
- Grace Episcopal
- Seeker Springs
- D'Arbonne Woods Charter
- Sterlington High Basketball
- West Monroe High



### OUR CURRENT NEEDS:

- \*Finances
- \*Gift Cards to Office Depot & Wal-Mart
- \*#10 (106 oz) Cans of Fruit Cocktail
- \*#10 (117 oz) of Baked Beans
- \*1 oz Bags of Chips (need enough for 300 people)
- \*Plastic Forks
- \*Men's Socks & Underwear
- \*Small Stuffed Animals & Children's Books



Learn how you can help at [www.GracePlaceMinistries.org](http://www.GracePlaceMinistries.org)



1600 Jackson Street , PO Box 1296  
Monroe, LA 71202  
318.361.9702 or 318.509.9755  
RGracePlace05@aol.com