



NORTH
AMERICAN
BAPTIST
CONFERENCE

1219 Pleasant Grove Blvd.
Roseville, CA 95678

Return Service Requested

There's Room...

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST FALL APPEAL 2019

ROOM

AT THE TABLE

*In the family of God, there is always room at
the table, and everyone is invited.*

In eating with tax collectors and sinners, Jesus illustrated that there is always room at God's table for any who are willing to accept His invitation to new life.

Many pastors and leaders within the North American Baptist Conference are following this example by sharing life around the dinner table and communion table with people who hunger for God, people like Mary.* During a recent dinner with Liz Stevahn, the Care Lodi program director, Mary shared how God drastically changed the direction of her life, taking her from a drug-addicted gang member to a student getting a medical assistant degree.

As leaders like Liz intentionally create spaces where they can invite those like Mary to the table of the Lord, they are assisted by the ministries and staff of the NAB International Office through the Ministry Resource Fund, which is designed to provide the resources, training, and support for every ministry. Your gift today to the Ministry Resource Fund will directly serve in efforts that change lives like Mary's.



The Care Lodi staff has recently established Family Dinners, where they invite themselves over for dinner with the families of their students. As part of the One-Eighty Teen Center, the Care Lodi program hosts after-school programs for students in the most vulnerable communities in Lodi, California. These Family Dinners help the staff bridge the gap between staff and parents while also blessing them with food.

At a recent Family Dinner, the oldest sister in the family, Mary, shared that God changed her life through her sisters' connection to the local church. Mary was involved in a gang when she was young. She had witnessed her boyfriend's murder and was raising their two children on her own. Enduring all of this trauma had her questioning the value of her own life, but, as Liz said, "She happened to see some of the artwork her sisters brought home from church one week and knew that God had something more for her." Since then, Mary has gotten off drugs, has earned her GED, and is finishing school to become a medical assistant. Mary heard God's invitation to new life, and she eagerly responded.

"She happened to see some of the artwork her sisters brought home from church one week and knew that God had something more for her."

As Jesus tells us in the parable of the great feast, the master of the house told his servant to "go out into the country lanes and behind the hedges and urge anyone you find to come, so that the house will be full" (Luke 14:23 NLT).

Many across the NAB are taking these words from Jesus to heart. Leaders like Liz and pastors like Darren Platt of Steele Heights Baptist Church in Edmonton, Alberta, are deliberately sharing food and spending time with those who hunger for God.

Twelve years ago, Darren noticed a few students skateboarding at the church after school and wanted to find a way to connect with them and invite them in, so he brought out the leftover doughnuts from the staff meeting earlier that day. When three boys returned the next day asking if there were any more, JH Drop-In was born.

Two days a week, students come to Steele Heights to play table tennis, foosball, and basketball; eat food donated by a local grocer; and hang out in a safe environment under the care and support of the Student Pastor and volunteers. Through this intentionally created relational space, students who otherwise would not set foot inside a church have the opportunity to respond to the Gospel and forge relationships with caring volunteers who love them and love God.

**A pseudonym*

As believers, our task is to let people know that in the family of God there is always room at the table and everyone is invited. God is already at work reaching out to people in our communities, and He has allowed us the privilege of coming alongside Him, inviting people to take part in the bountiful feast He has set before us in the Kingdom of God.

Your gift today of \$50, \$100, \$500, or more to the Ministry Resource Fund is a direct investment into training, resourcing, and supporting more leaders like Liz and Darren who are opening up space for these kinds of encounters every day.

Ways to Give

Online	www.nabconference.org/give/fall
Text to Give	Text gift amount followed by "FALL" to (204) 400-2238 for Canadian giving or to (916) 249-0534 for US giving.
Credit Card by Phone	Contact Lisa Meinschock (916) 797-6222 ext. 235
Check/Cheque	Make payable to "North American Baptists, Inc."
Stocks or Securities	Contact Betty Buchholz (916) 797-6222 ext. 223

