

Greetings in the Name of Jesus:

The past few months have brought about many changes in Food Ministry and other related areas which concern us all. I wanted to send you this email to explain some of these events and to bring you up-to-date on what we at GFFA are doing to ensure that we may continue in the ministry of feeding people.

First, several hundred trucking companies have gone out of business in the last quarter. This has made transportation a very difficult matter for all who utilize them for the shipment of food and other goods. It is an even more competitive market than before, and it becomes more and more difficult every day to secure transportation for our food at a price which is such that we can pay the bills each month.

Due to this fact, our supplier has told us that they will no longer load any trucks which have less than 1000 cases on it when it leaves the warehouse. As we look at each of our drop zones and the trucks which service them, this would mean that we would have to terminate service to many of our Host Sites. The only way that we could accommodate these demands is to add more drop zones to each truck which would mean that many of you would not see a delivery until late in the day on Saturday. The dedication of each of you in working as hard as you do at a time when numbers for all food ministries in this country are down, will not allow us to accept these terms from our supplier.

As we have been having these discussions with our supplier, we have been seeking out other avenues of providing food to all of our Host Sites, without having to sacrifice food quality or service. We have found such a supplier. This week, we will be working to finalize our agreements with this company, in anticipation of making a change. Unfortunately, this is causing us to make some very difficult choices for which we are truly sorry:

1. We will not be able to continue taking orders for the scheduled August Distribution. We would ask that you refund any monies collected from your customers with our sincere apologies for the inconvenience they will suffer. We also humbly apologize to you, our Host Site Directors for this inconvenience. Our Home Office will be making refunds to all customer credit cards which have been utilized to place any orders on-line, and each will receive an email from the office explaining why this has occurred.

2. We will not be able to provide a food distribution for the months of August or September of this year. During this time, we will be working to get all of our Drop Zones and Host Sites who choose to continue in this necessary ministry converted over to the new program which we will begin with the October, 2010 cycle.

3. We will be sending each of you further information about the program that we are joining forces with very shortly. We have met with this company and can assure you that the food that we will be providing will be like none that you have seen thus far. This non-profit company is dedicated to providing the best quality food available to those in need.

I know that this is disappointing news. Please know that we have done all that we can to continue, but the demands being made on us at this time to continue with our current supplier, while probably fair considering the economic climate, is such that we cannot continue with them.

Many of you will be upset with this news. I understand! But we do not want your reputation in your communities to suffer. Just a few weeks ago, a major Food Program, completed collecting money from their Host Sites and then filed bankruptcy, leaving the Host Sites to deal with the problem of refunding the customers money on their own. We will not do so!

I would ask that you prayerfully consider your commitment to feeding those in your communities who are in desperate need of help. Our desire is to continue to minister in the Name of Jesus to all that we can reach through food ministry.

Let me assure you that your testimony to your community and those whom you serve is the primary thought in our mind as we continue to work to secure service to you. At a time when so many are hurting due to our national monetary crises, the enemy is attacking every food ministry in our country in order to minimize our impact on our neighbors with the Good News of Jesus. I ask you humbly to stand with us in prayer, not just for us, but for every food ministry which is seeking to reach out, that his attacks NOT prevail, but that God would give us Grace as we continue to strive to meet the needs of our families, friends and neighbors.

In closing, please know that I have provided you with all of the information currently available for us to share. Our office is open, however, neither Heidi or Eileen have any further information to pass on. We will be providing further information to each of you, just as soon as it becomes available.

Once again, I ask your grace and forgiveness as we work to remain faithful to the call on our lives.

In His Service, and Yours,

Pastor Dane Price
Managing Partner, GFFA