

## SO, WHAT AM I DOING WITH ALL MY SPARE TIME?

Hello everyone.

I send you warm (chili) greetings from our little basement suite in Vancouver.

On occasion, I have been questioned even pre-Covid 19, what I really do and when I might get a real job.

I thought I could take a few minutes to share a brief lighthearted answer to that question.

Being isolated for the past few weeks, on strict orders by the government and my family, I have just been **CHILI-ING OUT**.

In high school, I had actually considering going to Europe to train as a chef but I wanted to do the fancy stuff and not short order, so I moved on to other occupations with the Lord finally bringing me into education and now pastoring.

However, my conviction that **EATING FOOD TOGETHER CREATES COMMUNITY**, led me to almost always including meals during every gathering I organized. As the numbers increased, my budget dictated that I start cooking myself rather than ordering in.

That leads me to today, with strict social distancing guidelines and online meetings we recognized the dangers of isolation and potential loneliness.

### **Enter CHILI-ING!!**

I make chili in our home (following strict protocols) and my friend Irhya delivers it to many people in our neighborhood. At this point, the recipients are all known to us through the church or community connections but we are in the planning stages to get funding to help us reach out further to friends and contacts of our friends. The current tally for deliveries is 60+.

It has been beautiful to see how many people have engaged. Some people have cut onions and peppers at home. Others have donated chocolates, muffins, Girl Guide cookies, juice boxes, meat and clean yogurt containers. Catherine has graciously endured a chaotic house full of cooking pots and supplies. A local grocer (Polo Market) has given us great prices on quantity purchases. An Iraqi friend sent us an online gift of \$300 to purchase supplies and we are applying for a Covid 19 response grant from the Vancouver Foundation. Even our landlord lets us use his heavy-duty propane cooker.

Who would have ever guessed? **“Necessity is the mother of CHILI”**

Enjoy the pictures and smell the aroma. Bless you.

Thank you for your continuing prayer and financial support.



Ah the smell of cooking onions!



Our landlord's son thinks this is the best chili



Wanted! Chili Containers!



Skip the Dishes...Irhya at your service!



Just missing the coffee!