

# Feeding A Million People

Bud Moellinger

A very long time ago, or maybe just a few short years ago a Man was traveling throughout Turtle Island. This man was becoming well known as a teacher and a healer. This man had a following of others who went everywhere that he went.

It seemed to the man's regular followers that he led them to many towns where the people had been at war for long periods of time. And many were not only at war with other nations, but were also at war with themselves. In other words, they were not going to the best neighborhoods. His followers also noticed that when they returned to one of these places later, the people were much more peaceful. In many places the wars with other nations had ceased and the people were again happy among themselves.

At one very large town which was situated in a central location among many other large towns the teacher had spoken to the people for several days. He talked with small groups of people. These people told others, and the word began to spread to the other near-by towns. So on this particular day there were millions of people gathered to hear what the teacher had to say. Well maybe it was not millions. You know how stories go. Every time someone tells the story the crowd seems to get a little larger. But it was a nightmare to find parking places for everyone's pick-ups, or horses or whatever they had arrived in.

So anyway, there were probably hundreds of people gathered to hear what the teacher had to say. They had gathered on a high spot near the river where there were a lot of mature trees which provided shade, and a comfortable cooling breeze rising up from the river.

At mid day the teacher and his regular followers or helpers were hungry and were wishing that they could stop for a while and eat. There were no McDonalds near-by. In fact there were not any McDonalds anywhere at all, because they had not been invented yet. But the teacher said that it would not be good to eat in front of all of the visitors, and that if everyone could not eat, then no one should eat. Since they did not have cell phones at that time, it was out of the question to call Pizza Hut and have some pies delivered to feed everyone, so it looked like everyone would just have to tighten their belts for dinner and cut the meeting short so they could all get home in time for supper.

However, a young boy standing near the teacher and his helpers had heard the discussion and approached them. He too was hungry, and he wanted to eat. So this boy walked up and removed some pemmican from his pouch and placed it in a huge empty basket made of birch bark. He said, "You can use my food to share with the others, so that we may all eat". The helpers took the basket and added their own pemmican to that which the boy had placed in the basket and showed it to the teacher. He told the helpers to begin passing the basket amongst the crowd of people.

The Healer reckoned that it would not last long enough to get around the whole crowd,

but it was the best that could be done considering the circumstances.

The first person who took the basket from one of the helpers looked into it and saw that it contained some pemmican. He had some pemmican in his bag, and on the sly he added most of his own pemmican to the basket, while pretending to take some from the basket, and began eating.

The basket made its way throughout the whole crowd of people, with most of the people doing the same as the first man. Those who had no food with them were able to eat from the food that the others had put in the basket. When the basket was returned to the helpers and the teacher it was overflowing with pemmican. The teacher looked out at the crowd of people and saw that all were eating. So he told his helpers, "Now that all are eating, we too can eat." He looked into the basket and marveled that it was still overflowing with pemmican. Turning to his helpers he asked, "How can this be?" "We have more pemmican than we started with and yet everyone is eating". One of the helpers looked at the teacher and said, "I guess it must be magic". "Our Creator saw to it that all of the people were fed".

"Yes it is magic from Our Creator, the Great Mystery", all of the helpers agreed. And all was good, and the teacher and his helpers continued their travels among the people of Turtle Island. Many people talked about the "magic basket" that the teacher had used and the story spread throughout Turtle Island and from there throughout all of the earth.

What exactly was the magic there along the river on this day so long ago or maybe not so long ago?

Was there really a magical happening that all of the people who had grown to be self centered had finally seen the wisdom in sharing as their ancestors taught then a long time ago?

Or was it just a hungry boy, wise beyond his years, just wanting to be able to eat his dinner?