



**UNION GOSPEL
MISSION**

Your Gospel **RESCUE** Mission of Manitoba

Voices from the Street

Christmas 2017

Isaiah 9:6 says, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Merry Christmas from your friends at Union Gospel Mission. Jesus truly is the reason for the season. He is our hope in this world and our free gift of salvation; thank you Jesus!

The focus of this edition of Voices from the Street is our Vision 20/20. This initiative focuses on being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us as a Mission by maintaining and upgrading the four ministry buildings in Winnipeg. Please visit our website at www.gospelmission.ca, click on Donate and then click on Vision 20/20 to stay current on what projects we have been able to take care of as well as additional opportunities you can help us to deal with. (Please see the middle section for more details)

Christmas time is a time when many people gather with family and friends to celebrate Jesus coming into the world. However, in the seven ministries that we work in, we find that this time of the year is especially hard for the people who we work with, as they find themselves in situations where they do not have healthy relationships with loved ones. Please pray for those we serve, that God would comfort them and most importantly that they would invite Jesus into their hearts.

Our prayer is that Jesus would fill your hearts and minds in a very real way this Christmas season as you celebrate Jesus's birth.

By Frank Ulrich, Executive Director



“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” – Romans 12:2

WOMEN’S ADDICTIONS

HEART Recovery Program – Charis Centre

CHANGES

by Adele Plett Bartel, Program Manager, Charis Centre

Christmas often brings out the best in us as we show love and grace to others in practical ways. It is a time of year when we celebrate God choosing to take on the form of a baby so that we can experience the power of God’s love changing us.

At the Charis Centre, our primary mission is to invite those who are struggling with substance addictions to experience and embrace God’s life changing power and love. One of the key verses we go to is Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

It is amazing to witness God’s power and love changing lives. Here are two quotes from women in the HEART Program on the changes they have experienced in their life while at the Charis Centre:



“I’ve had a lot of changes – positive ones. I asked God to guide me on my decision to stay or not (because I was going to leave after the 30 Days) but He told me to stay. BEST decision ever. I’ve never felt so content in my life. Everything is slowly coming together. I’m becoming a better person and I’m more aware of myself now.”

“I have experienced change in my life at the Charis Centre in becoming more connected to God and to a couple of the girls. I was isolating myself before, to the point of not even leaving my house for weeks at a time. Now I am able to go out among people and enjoying listening to and talking with others. I feel closer to God and am learning a lot about how my old thinking and beliefs have shaped me. Those things are becoming new as I grow in faith and continue to surrender my life to God.”

In this Christmas season and throughout the year, may each one of us make the decision to be transformed by God’s power. May we reflect the love that God has poured out from heaven, through Jesus the Messiah.

CHERISH CHARIS: \$100/month or \$1200/year

“... each day proclaim the good news that He saves....tell everyone about the amazing things He does.” – Psalm 96:2-3

STREET MINISTRY

Drop-in – Chapel – Soup-line



WHAT A TESTIMONY AND JOY!

by Rev. Israel Izuakor, Senior Chaplain

If believers that never lived on the street can reach out to those on the street, I believe that those that lived the street life before Christ changed them can do the same, if not better.

Part of what I try to instill in our interns during my classes with them in the past four years, is how to share their faith and reach out to others on the street. I'm glad that some of them, like Norm (our former intern, now a staff), Marcel and Tom (our interns), put this into practice.

Though these three men (in photo) are a work in progress like you and me, they're all believers, sober and clean, and involved in street outreach. Every now and then, Norm will ask, "May I have some Bibles and materials for my

outreach?" I am thrilled to meet his request, and to support him in prayer as he reaches out.

Marcel and Tom are also involved in their local church where they have been faithful for over a year.

A person formerly living on the street shared how he came to our recovery program. "It's through Marcel. Seeing what God's doing in his life, I said to myself, that's exactly what I need." What a testimony and joy to see these men striving to live for Christ and reaching out to others for Him. When I asked Marcel and Tom if they'd like to be baptized, they readily said yes. Thank God for both men, as they were recently baptized at their local church. Thanks for your continued prayer support!

MEAL-A-DAY: \$1.99/meal



“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” –Matthew 7:7

ADULT EDUCATION *Faith Learning Centre*



THE LORD ANSWERS PRAYER

by Nelson Gonzalez, Principal

The start of a new academic year can be apprehensive; many details have to be in place to start. Most of the aspects to consider fall within the context of teamwork and above all, we trust in the Lord to help us. Through prayer and supplication, we have started the year and are excited about what the Lord will do in the midst of us. We are grateful that He has provided us with the staff to teach and students that desire to advance their learning.

Our prayer in July and August was to have all aspects of the program in place at the start of the year. The

Lord has faithfully answered our petition. Our gratitude goes primarily to Him for listening to our prayers and answering once again. We are also grateful to the people who have helped us.

The students are learning skills that they need to improve their lives. They also learn about the love of God. We could not do all that is done without your support. We need you with us for all the many people that are needed to be reached.

Please continue to pray for us, especially that students stay in the program.

“Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you know not.” – Jeremiah 33:3

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL *Faith Academy*

THE GIFT!

by Gilbert Plante, Family Life Centre Ministries Manager

The holiday season is upon us and soon we will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ. The K-1 class at 220 Pritchard is always full of activity and at this time of year, the room is filled with “I wonder what I will receive for Christmas”. If you ask any student what they would like for Christmas, they will give you a very long list of wanted items. At the tender age of five and six, it is difficult to comprehend the significance of the Saviour’s birth. They do not quite understand that with no birth, there is no resurrection, and with no resurrection, there is no gift of reconciliation. Even though some will play the part of a shepherd or a wise man in the class play, they don’t seem to grasp the concept; For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. It always tugs at my heart strings when I have the privilege to engage these little ones in the truth about who our King is. As important as it is to learn the basic academics, I believe it is even more important to feed them the Bread of Life and get them to drink the water

where they will never thirst again. Very few schools these days teach students the words of eternal life. During this Christmas season, whether it be with family or friends, we need to stop and give thanks for the best gift we will ever receive, the gift that will make an eternal difference, the gift of a Saviour and a King!!

To God be all the Glory!!



ADOPT-A-STUDENT: \$50/month or / \$600/year

Vision 20/20



Why Vision 20/20? Our supporters have blessed Union Gospel Mission with critical financial help in the last few years. We are very thankful! Vision 20/20 presents further opportunities to support Union Gospel Mission as we minister to the least, the last and the lost.

CAPITAL FUND

Each year we need to replace, upgrade or purchase new equipment for our five buildings, so that we can continue to offer quality programming that glorifies God. By the year 2020, we need to purchase or replace the following equipment:

LIFT FOR THE
FAMILY LIFE
CENTRE
\$15,000

2 STEAM
TABLES
**\$5,000
EACH**

NEW CHAIRS
FOR THE UGM
CHAPEL
\$10,000

KITCHEN FLOOR
\$35,000

CARPET THE
OFFICE AREA
320 PRINCESS ST.
\$10,000

NEW COMMERCIAL
STOVE / OVEN
\$20,000

320 PRINCESS ST. ELEVATOR
REFURBISHMENT
\$125,000

NEW EXTENDED CARGO VAN
WITH A CHILLER FOR THE
TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
\$40,000

Growing for the Future



PROGRAM FUND

Our annual budget exceeds 2.5 million dollars, and is projected to be 3 million dollars by 2020. Amazingly, with this budget, we are able to provide 7 major ministries to the poor, due to very modest support levels for our 50 plus missionaries. Donations of \$1,000 or any other amount would greatly assist the following programs:

Family Ministry (Family Life Centre)

Guests from the community receive Bible studies, meals, food bags and clothing for women and children.

Children & Youth (Family Life Centre)

Children enjoy Bible clubs and other events. Over 1,000 children are sponsored to a dozen Bible camps every summer.

Christian School (Adopt-a-Student)

From nursery to Grade 12, sponsored students receive an excellent Christian Education at Faith Academy. About 80 students are bussed to school every day. We bring Biblical counsel to the families.

Adult Education (Faith Learning Centre)

Over 100 students have graduated from Grade 12, while others have simply learned to read. Dedicated Christian teachers share the Word of God while providing an excellent education.

Women's Addictions (Charis Centre)

We lovingly host women (and children) who want a new life. The Biblical help begins with a 30 Day program, and then moves to a one-year HEART program.

Men's Addictions (New Life in Christ)

Broken and addicted men find hope in Christ while all their needs are met in our facilities. Chaplains guide the men over one year or longer, until they can re-enter society.

Street Ministry Daily chapel services are followed by meals for the street guests. Dozens of churches participate. Clothing for men, showers for men and women, and other services are provided in the name of Christ.

"We commend UGM for their long history in helping men, and in this more recent period having the courage to create and develop this new centre for women. We are pleased to help support their efforts through our foundation." – Taylor Family Legacy Foundation



“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” – John 1:12

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY *Family Life Centre*

FOURTH PLACE?

by Ron Albo, Children’s Ministry Leader

Talking to the kids at the drop-in about Christmas, I get the sense they view this season much the same way that the majority of children in Winnipeg do. They enjoy the events leading up to Christmas, such as putting up and decorating the tree. They savor the atmosphere and spirit of everyone in the time surrounding Christmas day. But their favourite part of Christmas is opening gifts. Even though some only get one or two gifts, with one gift coming from a charitable organization, the anticipation and hope of a great gift is thrilling to them. Remember? Second on the list is the special Christmas meal. Third is getting together with family and spending quality time with them. In fourth place is Jesus. What?? Jesus only ranks fourth? On the very day we celebrate His arrival in bodily form?

Jesus should be first on everybody’s list, not only at Christmas, but all year round. But let’s face it, the world views Jesus as just a swell guy who said some nice things and taught some good lessons. One of the saddest verses in the Bible is John 1: 11, “He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him.” We have to set the record straight and teach the truth of who Jesus truly is: The Son of God, who came from heaven and dwelt with us, then willingly laid down His life in our place so that we can be forgiven of our sins. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will open the hearts of these little ones and pour in the truth. Pray with passion that they will realize that no gift from parents, or organization, will ever compare to God’s greatest gift to humanity, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Hooray for Christmas! God bless you all.



**“The Lord upholds all who fall, and
raises up all who are bowed down.”**

– Psalm 145:14

MEN’S ADDICTIONS

New Life in Christ Recovery Program

NEVER GIVE UP!

by Rev. Israel Izuakor, Senior Chaplain

Gord battles alcohol addiction. This is not his first nor his second time in our program. But, like him, who among us has never failed at something at some point in life? The thing that blesses us about this man is that he never stays down when he falls. “I won’t quit my journey to recovery if I slip. I’ll keep seeking help,” he shared with me.

He has the right attitude. The Bible speaks about those who failed, but there are no failures. I noticed something different about Gord’s resolve this time. Here was his response to my observation. “This time, I’m learning what it really means to be a believer. I’m yielding to Christ and not to my flesh.”

His chaplain, Mark, commented, “Since I’ve known him, this is his best time in our program.” Gord returned to our program on May, 2017 and has been sober and clean since then. Those that constantly battle alcohol addiction know how difficult it is. Yielding to Christ and sobering up has shown us another other side of Gord. He has the right attitude. He does not only complete his chores, but also helps other residents with theirs whenever he can. “My relationship with Esther (his beloved) keeps



improving,” he also gladly shared. We have three advancement phases in our men’s recovery program. As the senior chaplain, I take our advancement process seriously. When Gord advanced, it was such a blessing, as he was well prepared for it. In the chapel, he gladly shared with us what God has done in his life and continues to do. Praise the Lord! Please continue to pray for him and the other men in recovery.

Thanks.

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST: \$100/month or \$1200/year



“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
– Luke 2:11

FAMILY MINISTRY *Family Life Centre*



LOST AND FOUND

by Connie Pattie, Women's Ministry Leader

A woman who comes to our Ladies' Bible study came in one day and said she had been sleeping in the park for the whole weekend. I helped arrange a place at a shelter for her, but she could not get in because she could not reach her EIA Worker. She said that since she had no addictions she was not qualified to get into the addiction programs. She wondered, “Do I need to have an addiction to get help?” The following week she came in and she said she was in the hospital and that someone called 911 because they could not wake her in the park. She was really dehydrated and had a fractured rib.

This woman has had a very traumatic life of abuse, violence and being a brought up in the CFS system. A few years ago, she completed her Grade 12 and received Youth Care Worker

training so she thought things were looking up, but she continues to have struggles. Although she does not struggle with an addiction, her family and friends who surround her do. At her darkest moments, she even feels suicidal. During the summer, she lived in a garage just to get away from her family.

She says that she is not a believer and is very angry with God because of how her life turned out. I explained to her that God did not cause the problems. In fact, He wants us to be a part of His family so He can help us to have a good life. She has been helping around the Centre to keep busy. She was so happy to have food, have a shower, and have clean clothes. I told her that everything is a process, and it takes time to rebuild a life. I am beginning to see more peace in her face, and she is even beginning to believe in God.

CLOTHING TOSS BOX PROGRAM



Visit www.tossbox.ca

Toss Box Locations now can be found in:

- Winnipeg
- Oakbank
- Steinbach
- Mitchell
- Pine Ridge
- Anola
- Rosenort
- Stuartburn
- Vita
- Stonewall
- Teulon
- Morris

WINTER NEEDS:

- Canned meats (chicken, tuna, ham etc.)
- Beef, poultry, fish (Donations from a farm has to be killed and processed at a government inspected facility)
- Eggs
- Bacon
- Breakfast sausages
- Produce
- Dairy products
- Frozen veggies
- Winter clothing
- Toilet paper
- Laundry PODS
- 30x38 garbage bags
- 38x50 garbage bags
- 6oz Styrofoam cups

CLOTHING NEEDS: (FOR MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN & YOUTH)

- Winter Jackets, Hats, Mitts, Boots
- Winter Socks and Underwear



THANK YOU!

CAN YOU HELP WITH CHRISTMAS GIFT BAGS?

These are our 'Christmas gifts' to the needy of our area. Based on past history, we require about 300 for men, 200 for ladies and 100 for children for our various programs. These can be filled with things like:

For adults:

- razors
- shaving cream
- shampoo
- socks
- winter gloves/hat
- tooth paste/brush
- hair brush
- deodorant
- Bible
- Christian book or CD

For children:

- new unwrapped toy
- new teddy bear
- Bible
- winter mitts/hat
- Christian book or CD

Please label the bag to indicate if it is for a MAN, WOMAN or CHILD.

NEW YEAR'S DAY (CHRISTMAS) STREET MEAL MONDAY, JANUARY 1, 2018

We will be serving over 300 guests a full Turkey Dinner. We need your help in putting on this event:

- Volunteering (we need 40 to help greet, serve and pray).
- Donating food (turkeys, potatoes, mixed vegetables, pies and juice).
- Donating gift bags (see information above).

IF YOU CAN HELP WITH ANY OF THESE NEEDS PLEASE CONTACT ROSANNE AT 204-943-9904 EXT. 226

If you would like to host an event in your church or community to help raise awareness and/or funds for Union Gospel Mission, please contact Jeff Gilfillan at (204) 943-9904 ext. 237

Listen to a program of hymns
Monday - Friday 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

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Radio 950
Altona

AM 1250
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Steinbach

CJRB
Radio 1220
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(Churches/Businesses/Volunteers/Groups)

SPENDING OF FUNDS is confined to Board Approved Programs and Purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated, with the understanding that when any given need has been met, or cannot be completed for any reason determined by the Board, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt for income tax purposes.



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