

# Voices from the Street

May | June | July 2020



### **Union Gospel Mission**

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Frank Ulrich **Executive Director** 

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**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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# Listen to a program of hymns

Monday - Friday 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.





Steinbach





Union Gospel Mission has a variety of guest speakers for your next event, whether that be a Men's

Breakfast or a Ladies Tea, a youth rally or concert or a focus on mission's

We will even come and speak to a small group such as a pot-luck with a purpose, a Bible study or a missions committee.

We are still available to help with pulpit supply as well.

To arrange a special speaker please contact Martin Chidwick at 204-943-9904 Ext. 237.

## JESUS IS THE ONLY ANSWER

By Frank Ulrich, Executive Director

"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27 NKJV)

I am so thankful for the many truths such as these that we can cling to during these tumultuous times.

My prayer for you and your loved ones is for those who do not have a relationship with Jesus, to invite Jesus into their hearts. For those who do have that relationship, to take more time to read the Bible and pray. My prayer for those who are suffering financial implications; that God would provide for vour basic needs. For those struggling with anxiety, please claim the following promise: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving,

let your requests be made known to God: and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-8 NKJV)

God willing, we continue to provide Christcentred programs to addicted and poor people through our seven ministries. We are doing this, while observing government recommendations. Jesus is the only answer for us and for those we have the privilege to serve. Please pray with us, that many of the people whom we serve will give their hearts to Jesus.

### STREET MINISTRY

Drop-in - Chapel Soup-line - Meals

#### **JESUS IS FAITHFUL**

By Carel Cloete, Chaplain

For the last 25 years, James has been a faithful partaker and member of the larger UGM family. James Delorme grew up with his grandparents in St. Laurent, Manitoba. His mother dropped him off at the home of a family friend when he was still an infant. He never knew his dad. At 18, James moved to Winnipeg, started working and, for about ten years, lived a fairly purposeful life. But one-day, after excessive alcohol consumption, he woke up in the drunk tank. It was the morning after his 28th birthday. The alcohol use escalated and life for James went downhill rapidly. Unable to hold a job and, yet again, finding himself on the street, a friend brought him to UGM. In 2003 James accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior, got baptized and has been attending Chapel services ever since.



"UGM makes up a large part of my support system" James shares, "Here is where I get my spiritual food". He daily visits Drop-in and faithfully attends Overcomers on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. James has children and grandchildren, but is not part of their lives. Please pray for him as he has a deep desire to be reunited with his family.

James is forever thankful to UGM for faithfully serving people on the street, bringing them the Good News of hope, salvation and everlasting life in Christ Jesus.

"Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5 NIV)



# CHILDREN & YOUTH Family Life Centre

### THERE IS HOPE

By Ron Albo, Children's Ministry

Jesus said, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28 NKJV)

Not long ago, a ten year old girl divulged privately: "My mom got drunk today." Chances are this wasn't the first time the girl witnessed this horrible parental behavior. That's a heavy load for a child to bear. The influence of a parent is huge in a child's life. Yet, there are way too many parents who are content with passing negative and Godless values down to their children.

Because this little girl is a very frequent participant in the Kid's Club here at the Family Life Centre, she is exposed to an opposite influence; an influence that can radically change any life. Of course, I'm referring to Jesus Christ. No other person in history has had a greater influence on our world. To reverse the trend of Godlessness, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, must be preached. Jesus offers the

only way to successfully overcome the perils of a Godless society.

No child should have to experience a parent who chooses booze over the welfare of the family. But at the same time, there is a far better experience in store for this little one, should she decide to bring her sins and sorrows to Jesus. She could experience a Saviour who lovingly provides forgiveness and thus, assured hope to all who place their trust in Him. That is why we will always proclaim the crucified and risen Christ!

# CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Faith Academy

# ANOTHER DAY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

By Gilbert Plante, Family Ministries Manager

I received a phone call from a distraught mom the other day. She had just kicked out her live-in boyfriend after having another fight with him. I asked if it was okay to come and visit with her and to my

surprise, she said yes. This family has been in Union Gospel Mission's Christian school program for the past two years and during this time I have not been able to do a home visit. Many times I have tried, but there was always an excuse for the family to not receive me.

As I entered the home I quickly noticed that the home was very well kept; this isn't always the case in other homes!! Mom immediately asked if I thought she did the right thing by kicking the boyfriend out. My response was very firm, but loving; "are you married to him?" "No", she replied. "I'm happy to hear that you have removed yourself from living in sin", I replied back. I opened my Bible to Hebrews 13:4 that reads "Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral". I gently told mom that marriage is a sacred covenant, the first that God instituted, that He takes such things very seriously, saying "a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Mom wanted to argue with me that marriage was only a piece of paper. I believe it finally sank in when I said that God has the final word on things and He said to be married, not living together.

I also informed mom that, for any marriage that is of our Lord; divorce is not in the future because God would not unit a man and woman to have them later divorce. We continued to read verses from the Bible to show her that this wasn't my opinion.... but The Word of God! Before I left that morning, I shared one more Bible verse. Matthew 6:33: "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." Please pray for my next home visit. To God be all the Glory!

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." (Matthew 6:33 NKJV)

ADOPT-A-STUDENT: \$50/MONTH OR \$600/YR

### **MEN'S ADDICTIONS** New Life in Christ Recovery Program

By Mark Kelm, Senior Chaplain

Richard came into the UGM men's addiction recovery program two years ago. Today he is an intern with UGM, helping in the transportation department. Richard's life is very different from what it was like when he first came into the program in 2018. Then, Richard was suffering from an addiction to crystal meth. He had lost his family and pretty much everything else in his life. As it always does, this addiction had taken over Richard's life and was leading him down a dead end path. For the first two months in the program, Richard was very nervous, paranoid and feeling a roller coaster of emotions. It can take up to two or three months of feeling this way before an addict has gotten over the worst of the crystal meth withdrawal symptoms. Then they face the reality of the devastation that this addiction has caused in their life.

After being in the program for six months, the Lord Jesus Christ had started to grab hold of Richard's life and dramatically turn things around for him. Richard was no longer paranoid and full of jitters. More and more, the anger and grief that had consumed him was giving way to the peace of Christ. Having struggled with negative feelings for such a long time, Richard's world was no longer full of the painful chaos of his past. He was experiencing the supernatural peace of Christ that the apostle Paul called in Philippians 4:7 peace that,

## "...surpasses all understanding."

A peace that comes from the Lord, helping him to forgive himself and others. A peace that was satisfying his soul so much that he did not want to go back to his old life of pain and addiction. May the Lord Jesus continue to work in Richard's life,

bringing him more peace and healing. May Christ do the same for all those who come to UGM looking for that same peace in their life.

**NEW LIFE IN CHRIST:** \$100/MONTH OR \$1200/YEAR

### **FAMILY MINISTRY** Family Life Centre

#### **GOD'S PERFECT TIMING**

By Marlene Wiebe, Women's Ministry

Arlene, a homeless lady, came into the Family Life Centre asking to use the phone. She needed to make a call up north because she'd heard talk on the street about a death in her community. We allowed her to use the phone and her loud weeping moments later let us know that someone Arlene loved had passed away. We prayed with her and tried to comfort her. Knowing that there is usually a bereavement plane that takes loved ones from Winnipeg to the community, Arlene called Perimeter Airlines and yes, there was a plane leaving at 3 p.m. It was now 1:30 p.m. Thankfully, a volunteer was leading the Bible study that afternoon, allowing me to drive Arlene to the air terminal. This lady had nothing except the clothes she was wearing, so we went to FLC's clothing room where she found clothing to take with her. She was hungry and thirsty, so we gave snacks and tea to go.

As we drove to the air terminal, I asked Arlene about her faith and she if knew Jesus as Savior. She told me that she asks Him to forgive her all the time. I asked about her dad and Arlene said that her father was a gospel singer in his community. She then started singing, her voice vibrant, clear and beautiful and I marveled in what God was allowing me to hear -"Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now..." then her voice broke and

she wept the rest of the way to the air terminal. That is the best rendition of Amazing Grace I have ever heard straight from Arlene's heart to God.

We are grateful to God for His perfect timing; we were blessed to be part of God's plan to help this dear lady get home to be with her grieving family.

"The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18 NASB).

## **WOMEN'S ADDICTIONS BREATHE & HEART Recovery Program** Charis Centre

By Tamara, Charis Centre Resident

My name is Tamara. I am 24 and I am an overcomer through Christ.

I come from a background of non-believers. My parents separated when I was 3 years of age and I never got to experience what it was like to have a family who did special things together. I wasn't given a lot of structure growing up and wasn't forced to go to school, it was an option for me. I wasn't taught anything about Jesus or God and all through my teens, I struggled with addiction to marijuana, pills, alcohol, cocaine and opioids.

At the age of 18, I got pregnant with my daughter and a year later, I had my son. I was a single mother due to the choices that I had made.

At the age of 20 I was introduced to crystal meth and my life took a turn for the worse. I lost everything, including my children. My hopes and dreams were shattered. I had so much self-doubt and went through a psychosis where I thought I was going to die. I overdosed several times, waking up to find myself in the hospital. The last time that I overdosed, the doctor looked at me



**CLOTHING TOSS BOX PROGRAM**  Toss Box Locations now can be found in:

- Anola
- Lowe Farm
- Mitchell
- Morris
- New Bothwell
- Oakbank • Pine Ridge
- Rosenort
- Selkirk
- Steinbach
- Stuartburn
- Winnipeg Stonewall

Vita

• Teulon

and said "you have a purpose on this earth or someone is watching over you." I had the choice to go back to detox or go back to the street. I knew that what I was doing was wrong. Romans 7:15-21 describes exactly how I was living. I made the decision to go to detox and applied to go to Charis afterwards. Since coming here, my life is being transformed daily. I accepted Christ into my heart and I am now walking this journey with Him. He has helped me see life through His eyes and is helping me understand life from a different perspective. I can now help other women on their journey. I never pictured myself coming this far from where I had been, and all praise goes to my Lord and Savior.

CHERISH CHARIS: \$100/MONTH OR \$1200/YEAR

#### **CLOTHING ROOM**

By Pearl, Volunteer

Jesus said; "I was naked and you clothed Me" (Matthew 25: 36 (NKJV)

"HOME MADE KNITS ARE LIKE A CALVIN KLIEN TO US" – Alice Cook, Grand Rapid, MB.

"Alice Cook is an amazing woman. Before she retired she was the social worker in her community, the Misipawistik Cree Nation at Grand Rapids. She has such a big heart for her people, especially the children. The clothes and household items she receives from UGM are greatly appreciated, especially the home made knits of hats, scarves, mitts and sweaters for all ages. Alice manages to share these items to those in need, whether on her reserve, or with surrounding reserves such as those of Norway House Cree Nation, Easterville, the Chemawawin Cree Nation Opaskwayak Cree Nation, Sapotaweyak Cree Nation and yet still others."

Alice and Pearl are great friends and we at UGM are thrilled that we are able to bless others out of the generosity that our donors have heaped on us. Thank you! Please keep the donations coming in. God bless each one of you.

# **ADULT EDUCATION**Faith Learning Centre

# THERE IS ROOM IN THE FAMILY OF GOD

By Nelson Gonzalez, Principal

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV)

Most of the students served at UGM's Adult Education Centre come from the north end. The men and women who are residents in UGM's addiction recovery program can attend too. This year, there are more residents attending school then in previous years. As staff, we are privileged to see how God is working in their lives on a daily basis. We witness both the men and women striving for a closer walk with the Lord. They are motivated and inspired to make the most of their new friend, Jesus!

Our adult students are always eager to know more about their Saviour. They have many questions and readily receive the stories of the miracles and power of God. But, for both students and staff, nothing can replace the experience of when God's miracle and power become evident and part of the stories of the lives of our students.



God has gifted our students with many career possibilities. However, studying theology in seminary becomes evident as an irresistible calling for some of them. These students have come to the realization that serving God is extraordinarily meaningful and so much greater than any other knowledge.

The Lord does not only bring them into the family of Union Gospel Mission, but also calls them to a purpose that is unique and far more reaching ... the winning of souls! The joy is unspeakable, not only in heaven, but also in the hearts of our future evangelists, pastors, and missionaries. To God be all the glory for this miracle.

Please continue to pray for the school. Your prayers help sustain the lives of so many students, former and present. We are forever grateful that you join us in Christian education ministry.

#### LOST SYMBOLS OF LOVE DISCOVERED AMONG THE CLOTHING GIVEAWAYS

Proverbs 31:10 (ESV) "An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels."

Approximately 80 – 100 years ago, an "excellent wife" was united as one, to a most "excellent fellow". We would love to know who they were. Are you missing a family heirloom?

Sometime in more recent history, a precious daughter received a "daughter's pride" or birthstone ring; her birthstone nestled between two smaller ones representing her parents. The ring was meant to stay with the daughter. Can we have the privilege of reuniting daughter and ring?



