



## Union Gospel Mission

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Businesses/Volunteers/Groups/  
Speaking/Preaching

**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.



Join us on Facebook & Twitter for daily updates



**Listen to a program of hymns**

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

**CFAM** Radio 950 Altona

**AM 1250** Steinbach

**CJRB** Radio 1220 Boissevain



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 event.

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 Jeff Gilfillan at 204-943-9904 Ext. 237.

## ETERNITY IN HEAVEN

By Frank Ulrich, Executive Director

**"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." — John 3:16 (NKJV)**

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for loving us so much that you gave your Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for our sins. Thank you, Jesus, for suffering a painful, underserving death on the cross for us.

Our mission is to provide Christ centred programs to men, women and children who suffer from addictions and live below the poverty line. Through Union Gospel Mission's seven ministries, we provide many great Christ centered programs to God's dear

children. It is very inspiring when we see people transitioning out of poverty or overcoming their addiction; it is most important that the people we are serving invite Jesus into their hearts and begin to develop a relationship with Him. Essentially, on Judgement day what is paramount is not the amount of wealth those we serve have, or how long someone has been sober, but whether the individual has made a decision for Christ or not. This is our focus in everything that we do here!



## CHRISTIAN SCHOOL Faith Academy

### VERY SOON IN WILL BE CHRISTMAS DAY

By Gilbert Plante, Family Ministries Manager

Matthew 1:21 (NKJV) **"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."**

Silver bells, silver bells  
It's Christmas time in the city  
Ring-a-ling, (ring-a-ling) hear them ring  
(ting-a-ling)  
Soon it will be Christmas day

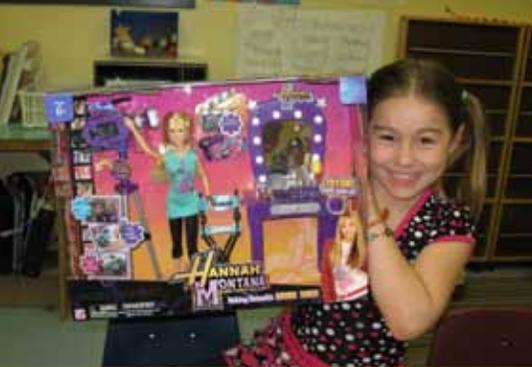
This popular Christmas song is meant to uplift our spirits during the holiday season. The song talks about busy sidewalks, children laughing, blinking lights and a joyous time of year. The song may be cute; however, the Christmas season in the inner-city is far from that in reality. This is one of the hardest times to do home visits. As individuals we are weighed down with the extra pressures of having to purchase what the world is telling them they need. The world tells them they need the latest and most expensive gadgets, when what they really need are the words of eternal life!! It's difficult to get across.



Matthew 6:33 – **"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."**

How do you tell a child that has been raised on potato chips and pop that they desperately need the Bread of Life to nourish them? I do many home visits during this time of year and I always start with fervent prayer. I understand I'm not going to achieve anything in my own strength, but only through the Spirit of God that dwells in us, will we be successful. During this Christmas season, please take the time to pray for the less fortunate in the inner-city. Pray that the Lord opens doors for home visits that perhaps have not been opened in the past. Pray for us to be His hands and feet in a very dark part of Winnipeg!

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



## CHILDREN & YOUTH *Family Life Centre*

### LINKING JOHN 3:16 TO CHRISTMAS

By Ron Albo, Children's Ministry

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."**

— John 3:16 (NKJV)

Last Christmas a local organization donated terrific gifts to the children who attend the Family Life Centre's Kid's Club. For some kids, this gift may well have been the only present they were the recipient of. One thing is for sure, the kids who come here don't get the plethora of gifts that children in other parts of the city are given.

These gifts were used as an illustration of God's greatest gift to us; the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. Someone cared enough for the kids that they were willing to pay a price and give presents to them. Each individual child had to accept the gift and then the gift was theirs to open and keep. They were told "God loved them all enough to give, (as His gift to us), his one and only Son." Like the Christmas gift, they had to decide whether to accept it or not. To accept God's gift, they have to admit they do things that aren't right (sinning) and then believe that Jesus paid a price for every one of their sins by dying on the cross. And whereas the physical gift

they got will eventually break or not be used anymore, the gift of Jesus will be theirs for eternity, you just need to listen and obey Him. There's no real "opening" of God's gift, because it isn't a surprise. You know ahead of time how great it is. You only have to accept it. A prayer of thanks for the gift of Jesus was said that day and we asked the Holy Spirit to make the message of salvation real for each child.

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

#### CONSEQUENCES

As told to Freda Klassen,  
*Recovery Chaplain*

"Sooner or later we all sit down at the banquet of consequences" – unknown

Consequences were not something that I was accustomed to. Sure, I received the odd spanking as a child, grounding as a teen, but I rarely experienced any as an adult. Certainly none serious enough in my addiction to prompt me to stop. So I was completely shocked to find myself at rock bottom. I had exhausted the kindness, patience and forgiveness of everyone I cared for and was left with two options: 1) Be homeless in B.C. 2) Return to Winnipeg and enter the program at Charis.

My intention was never to stop drinking. I simply wanted to appease my family and then carry on with smug satisfaction that I had won, that I had successfully fooled everyone, then continue on my successful affair with the bottle.

I always knew somewhere in my mind that drinking was filling a void,

masking a need to be something more than I was. But now, unlike in my 20's, without the pretense of celebration and camaraderie to veil the abuse, I craved alcohol as a direct response to the need I felt to escape my situation. Joyless and secretive, I drank and disassociated; drinking became all about isolation and self-medication.

Prior to my intake, I was informed that Charis was a Bible based program. I told myself "no problem, I faked being religious my entire life, what's another 30 days?" While I am told I am a good actress...I soon discovered that I am not that good. The staff saw through me immediately.



I was in complete denial of how broken I really was and how long and heavy the chip on my shoulder had become. I was defiant, angry and stubborn to a fault. By the grace of God and the patience and prayers of the staff, I finally surrendered. In an act of utter desperation and yielding, I threw my life into God's hands. I cried out, admitted my way was not working, it never had and it never will. With a final "FINE! It's yours, do with it as you see fit!" everything changed.

My life has not been magically morphed into one of bliss, sunshine and roses. My problems did not vanish overnight, but there is one profound difference; I am not alone. I do not have to carry the weight of the world on my shoulders, for He has overcome the world!

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**"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." – John 16:33 (NKIV).**

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

#### OUR NEEDS FOR WINTER:

##### Clothing:

- Winter Jackets, Boots, Gloves / Mittens, Scarves, Toques, Sweaters, Warm socks, Ski Pants

##### Food:

- Canned goods, Cereal, Beef (store bought or Government Inspected)
- Peanut Butter, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Condiments (ie: Ketchup)

##### Misc:

- Ice melt, Bleach, Mr. Clean, Sunlight Dish Detergent, Toilet Paper

*Donations can be dropped off at  
320 Princess Street, Winnipeg*



## ADULT EDUCATION Faith Learning Centre

### GOD SHOWED HIM

By Nelson Gonzalez, Principal

**“But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.’” — Matthew 4:4 (NKJV)**

A young man came to enroll at Faith Learning Centre this week; he heard that he could graduate from high school as a mature student. The night before, this student had a dream that he was doing a math assessment somewhere, but didn't know at which school. The next day, he contacted us and realized that an assessment was needed. He understood God was directing him here to Faith Learning Centre.

His story of finding a suitable program for him has come after four years of

wondering what could get him back to achieve university in English in Canada, since he is already a graduate from university in his country of origin.

He told us that he is a Christian and that the dream happened the day before. He had been praying to God because he felt stuck, not knowing where to go. He was desperate and praying earnestly; he is grateful his prayer was answered and is happy to attend Faith Learning Centre.

### FAMILY MINISTRY Family Life Centre

### A GRATEFUL HEART

By Marlene Wiebe, Women's Ministry

**“But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.” — 1 John 3:17-18 (NKJV)**

Sonia is native to Comoros, a Sunni Muslim nation. She left her home to live in the Congo and became a Christian there. As a result, she was disowned by her family in Comoros. She met her present husband in the Congo and they immigrated to Canada in 2008. They struggled making a living in Ontario, but God met Sonia in her struggle and she grew in Christ under the guidance of a church family. Sonia felt lead by God to move to Winnipeg and she arrived here on January 31, 2019 with only a little clothing. On-route, Sonia prayed

that God would give her a church family here. God answered!

In her words she wrote, “I first came to Family Life Centre in May. I thought it was just a foodbank, but I found out it was more than that. It's a place where you can come and feed your soul with the Word of God. It helps all the women that come over to be together, to laugh, talk, share problems, pray together and those moments make me feel at home. These are amazing moments; I always feel the presence of God in this place. We meet new friends and find out that our problems may be better than others. All the staff is very nice to all of us, no discrimination, everybody is welcome. Family Life Centre is full of love; this reminds me of God's instruction in 1 John 4:7 “let us love one another.”

“A woman like me, who relocated to Winnipeg with my family and have no relatives here, found the Family Life Centre as my family. Every week it's a joy for me to come here. I would love to thank whoever had the idea to set up such a place like this where we can come and worship God, increase our faith and nourish our soul by the Word of God and His promises, build relationships among women, request prayer and be helped with food, clothing and household goods.”



### 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
- Teulon
- Vita
- Winnipeg
- Stonewall



## MEN'S ADDICTIONS

*New Life in Christ  
Recovery Program*

### ASKING FOR HELP - A RESIDENTS TESTIMONY

*As told to Carel Cloete,  
Chaplain*

**“Be sober, be vigilant;  
because your adversary the  
devil walks about like a roaring lion,  
seeking whom he may devour.” – 1  
Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**

Growing up in BC, both my mother and step father were alcoholics. On the weekends their drinking would intensify and lead to long and prolonged arguments. After one such argument, my mother packed a bag and left on a bus to Winnipeg where her sister lived.

After a few weeks, it was apparent that my mother did not plan on coming back to BC. One Saturday after a few drinks, my father loaded my brother and I in his car and told us we were coming to Winnipeg. After arriving in Winnipeg, my father left me with my mother who was living behind the Main Street Hotels in low rental housing at the time. At 15 years old I was regularly buying my mother's beer for her and at sixteen I left home to support myself and worked in a furniture factory. At 18, I started working in rough and seedy bars. I was in an alcohol and drug induced haze most weekends and was often violent.

I continued to work hard, trying to make a good life for myself, but my weekends were always filled with excessive drinking. I eventually settled down with my future wife, had two children and a good life.

A murder in our family changed everything. The stress of our situation led to a separation and then divorce. My stable happy life began to slip away from me, leading to depression and alcohol abuse. After trying on my own to pick up the pieces and put it all back together and not getting anywhere, I realized I needed Gods



help and met with the chaplain at Union Gospel Mission. Asking for help was one of the hardest things I have ever done. I was welcomed into the men's recovery program at Union Gospel Mission and into the world of Jesus Christ.

With the support of the chaplains and the staff at Union Gospel Mission, I know that I am becoming the successful, sober person that God has intended. 1 Peter 5:8 has become my favorite verse: “Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.”

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

### STREET MINISTRY

*Drop-in – Chapel  
Soup-line – Meals*

### HENRY

*By Mark Kelm, Senior Chaplain*

**“When my father and my mother  
forsake me, then the Lord will take  
care of me.” – Psalm 27:10 (NKJV)**

Recently, I arrived at the Mission to start my day and I saw a man sitting on the front lawn under a tree. He looked as though he had been living on the street for a long time, as he was looking pretty rough. What

really caught my attention was that he had his head in his hands and was crying. I stopped to talk with him and ask him what was wrong. His name is Henry and he said that his life had fallen apart ten years ago because of an addiction to drugs and alcohol. He was crying because September was just two weeks away and that was a bad time of the year for him. I asked him why and he said it was because it's back to school time for the kids. That always reminded him of the fact that he is no longer in touch with his kids. He has two children, a boy and a girl. They are in high school now, but he has missed out on seeing them grow up for the past five years, all because of his addictions.

I told Henry about our recovery program at Union Gospel Mission and gave him one of our pamphlets. He said he would think about it. I also shared the gospel with him and told him that only Jesus can heal us and satisfy our souls so that we no longer need the drugs and alcohol to cope with the stresses of life. I also told him about Psalm 27:10 where it says, “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me.” I prayed with Henry that the Lord would take his addictions away from him and replace it with the peace of Christ. I also prayed that he would be able to see his children again and that on that day, they would be able to see a new Dad, because their Dad had met Jesus.



### FAREWELL TO BILL MCNAIRN

Bill McNairn went to be with the Lord on October 2, 2019 in British Columbia after a lengthy illness. Bill Served as the Executive Director at Union Gospel Mission from 1984-2004. Please keep Eileen, Bill's wife, and their children and grandchildren in your thoughts and prayers.