



PRAYER WARRIORS

SPECIAL EDITION - JAN 2021

Welcome to 2021 and a Special Edition of the “Prayer Warriors”

At Union Gospel Mission we are acutely aware that our 7 ministries under God would not be nearly as effective without prayer and the faithfulness of our supporters. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not known fear but assurance. We have not known scarcity, but abundance. We have seen victory out of adversity, deliverance from defeat. We can truly say “To God be the glory, great things He hath done”!

Our desire is for you to feel better informed, more knowledgeable about the bank of UGM supporters (crowd of witnesses) to which you belong. New sponsors and donors, long standing supporters and faithful prayer warriors; we have learned that the more we trust and the more we get out the way, the greater the provision of the Lord for His ministries.

Yes, He takes care of us as we desire to be true to His calling and serve others as if unto Christ Jesus Himself! We continue to learn. Even now as I write, I know that many of you who are reading this, can look back on 2020 and recall the hours of prayer you have offered to the Lord on our behalf. We see it in the donations of time, of goods and of finances. You are an integral and vital part of UGM and we are so excited to share this edition with you. We so appreciate you!

As you read this booklet, feel free to share your thoughts. As one of our venerable and faithful prayer warriors often tell us, we are ‘subject to improvement’ and a ‘work in progress’.

Isaiah 48:11 – “For my own sake, for my own sake, I will do it; for how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.”

Linda Wilson's Story

Psalm 139: 13-16

Linda, over 60 years a friend of our Mission, recalls meeting former UGM director Bill McNairn when he was pastor at local Calvary Baptist Church in Emo, Ontario in the 1960's. Bill would go on to be the youngest inner city mission director in North America at the Welcome Hall Mission in Montreal (1968), before 15 years later coming to Winnipeg. But I digress, as it is so easy to do when seeing the richness of God's hand at work!

Linda and her husband Alec of 55 years, until his passing 4 years ago, faithfully prayed and knitted together their heart and love for God's creation. Linda shared how she would knit the bulky part of a glove and Alec would finish it off with the fingers and thumb. She shared that Alec, even on the day he passed, was chasing her for the second glove to finalize a pair.

Boxes of winter knits, lovingly put together gloves, will have adorned hundreds of pairs of hands over many years. Those hands seeking warmth, love and healing on the streets of Winnipeg or adorning the hands of those on a northern reserve, who value home made knits higher than a store brand.

Thank you to Alec and thank you to Linda who continues to provide. We also thank all of you remarkable 'knitters' who faithfully contribute – please don't be afraid to share your story with us!



Power of Heart

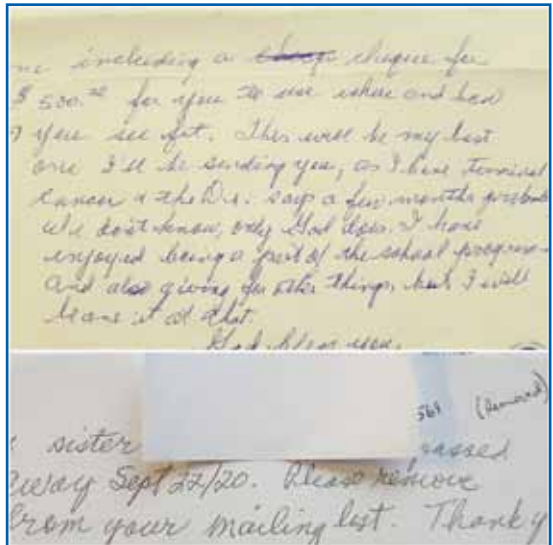
Matthew 26:7

A young lady from Brandon made a lasting impression on the Mission. It was spring 2020 when she telephoned and it was my privilege to answer her call. She had lost her job in the previous month, due to Covid, yet she was calling, deeply concerned for the people we serve and their plight. Despite personal loss, she insisted on giving to the Lord's work. It was precious to receive her sacrificial monies. The power at work in her heart was impactful. The Lord's multiplication factor was at work when the very next day, another unexpected donation arrived. Instinctively we knew that the genuine sacrifice and genuine appreciation was blessed!

Terminal Cancer

2 Timothy 4:6-8

"I am including a cheque for 'x' dollars for you to use where and how you see fit. This will be my last one that I'll be sending you, as I have terminal cancer and the doctor says a few months probably. We don't know, only God does. I have enjoyed being a part of the school program, etc. and also giving to other things, but I will leave it at that." The blessedness of this woman's giving over many years is very special. We get several notes like this one each year and we pray into each one. So special.



Years of Donations

Philippians 4:16-20

We have many kind givers to the Lord's work – in some cases, generations. It is humbling to see records that date back to the 60's, 70's & 80's. If this is you – thank you! (If not you, thank you anyway!)

Prayer without Ceasing

Romans 12:12

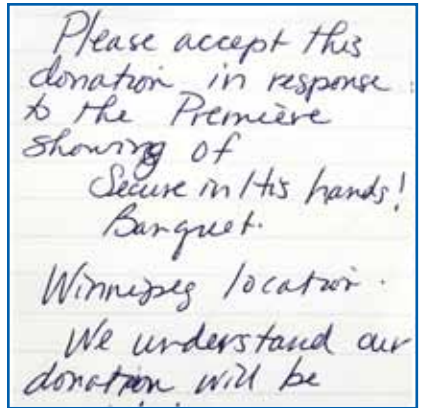
So humbling to be told “my wife & I pray twice a day for UGM” and “I take prayer warriors letters, place it on my kitchen table and pray constantly for the needs of the Mission.”



Grandparents

Proverbs 17:6

Often times we receive notes from grandparents concerned over the life choices their grandchildren have made. There is real heartfelt pain heard through the notes we receive. It is our privilege to join them with prayer.



Donor Calling Report

I have had the pleasure of working as a volunteer with UGM since fall of 2018. In calling donors I have the opportunity to thank them for their support and ask if there are any prayer requests that the staff at UGM could pray for. Sometimes I offer to pray with the donors during our phone calls when there is an urgent matter at hand. While most calls are only a few minutes long, there are also a few calls each week that last anywhere from 10-30 minutes! Many people are glad to have someone to talk to even for a few minutes. The loneliness and isolation of seniors during this time of Covid has certainly increased! The most common prayer request that we get is for salvation of loved ones and health concerns for family members. Almost all of the contacts with supporters have been very positive. A few people have been suspicious because of so many scams on seniors, but as time goes on, these are really decreasing. Some have thanked me for praying and report that their loved ones have gotten better since we last talked, so reports of answered prayer are very encouraging.

During phone calls I often get asked how the mission is doing, especially how we are handling the Covid crisis. This gives me a good chance to update them and it seems they really like having this type of current information. I have had a number of the UGM staff over to our house for lunch during the last year just to get a good understanding of how each one of the ministries work, which has been helpful since I often get specific questions about our 7 ministries. During calls I also get questions about donating items to UGM, so I am able to answer those and encourage use of the donation toss boxes.

Each donor who makes an annual donation is called at least once per year, so I expect that is a few thousand calls. Donors who give more frequently receive a call 3-4 times per year. One of the most frequent positive comments I get from donors is that they appreciate that UGM is sharing the gospel and not just supplying people with food and clothing. Many of our supporters have chosen UGM because of this and it is really the best part of our ministry to the needy! May we continue to preach the "glorious gospel" 1 Timothy 1:11 - in all of our 7 ministries!

Blessings
Bill Lennox

Praying with Donors

It is very humbling and a great honour to partner with so many faithful brothers and sisters to serve our King. As an assistant in the office, I have the great pleasure of speaking to our donors when they call. Before the end of each call I ask if there is anything I can pray for them.

At Union Gospel Mission, we are called to serve broken people. However, what I have noticed is that we are all broken people serving broken people. Why? Because in our brokenness we have found hope and healing and a future. We have experienced the immeasurable love of a Father, forgiveness through the sacrifice of His Son and the power of the Holy Spirit. We have received what we do not deserve and we want to share that joy with others. So when I pray with the father whose son is struggling with mental health and addictions; the daughter who aches to visit her parents when one is in a care home and the other in the hospital, but can't visit because of Covid; the many parents whose children and grandchildren have not submitted to the authority of Jesus; the growing number of lonely, we pray together in peace and faith, knowing that our Heavenly Father hears and cares for each concern. If He cares for us, we know He cares for the ones we have been called together to serve.

At UGM, we praise God for all; the prayers, the donors, the volunteers and the staff, He has brought together to serve in His ministry. We may all be coming to the banquet table because of a different reason. His banner, over all of us; those serving and those being served, is love.

– Jo-Anne

Volunteers

Acts 20:35

Where do we begin to say thank you?! From the regular visits of an 85 year old prayer warrior, through the 4 person family who faithfully serves in the kitchen, to the ‘jewels’ who sort through mountains of clothes and the many many others who have stepped up to the plate in this most challenging of years. We are humbled and grateful. To the Christian person who polices the books we receive to the men and women who take charge of meal making – we are humbled and grateful!



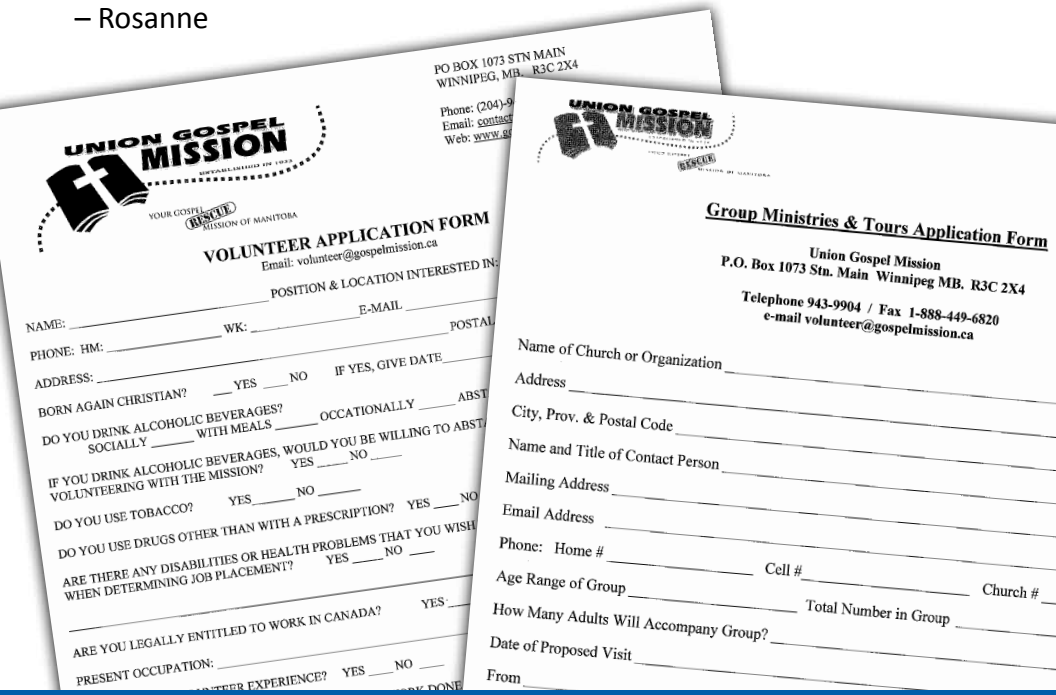
Coordinating Volunteers

I have the privilege to connect with various people wanting to volunteer their time and serve at the Mission in our 7 ministries. So many people want to help those we serve, share their faith and make a difference for the Kingdom. I speak with families, individuals, church groups of many kinds, youth groups, and school and mission groups wanting to help in a variety of ways one time, monthly or even weekly.

We are so very blessed by the love, joy, faithfulness, eagerness and enthusiasm that our volunteers share. The countless of hours they lovingly devote to our ministries cannot be measured. We would need so many more paid staff members to equal the work of our precious volunteers. They make it possible to do all that we do, because of their sacrificial service.

The current restrictions have limited some of the individual and group volunteers who come so faithfully, so we continue to pray and look forward to the day when restrictions are lifted and we can once again all serve together for the Lord.

– Rosanne



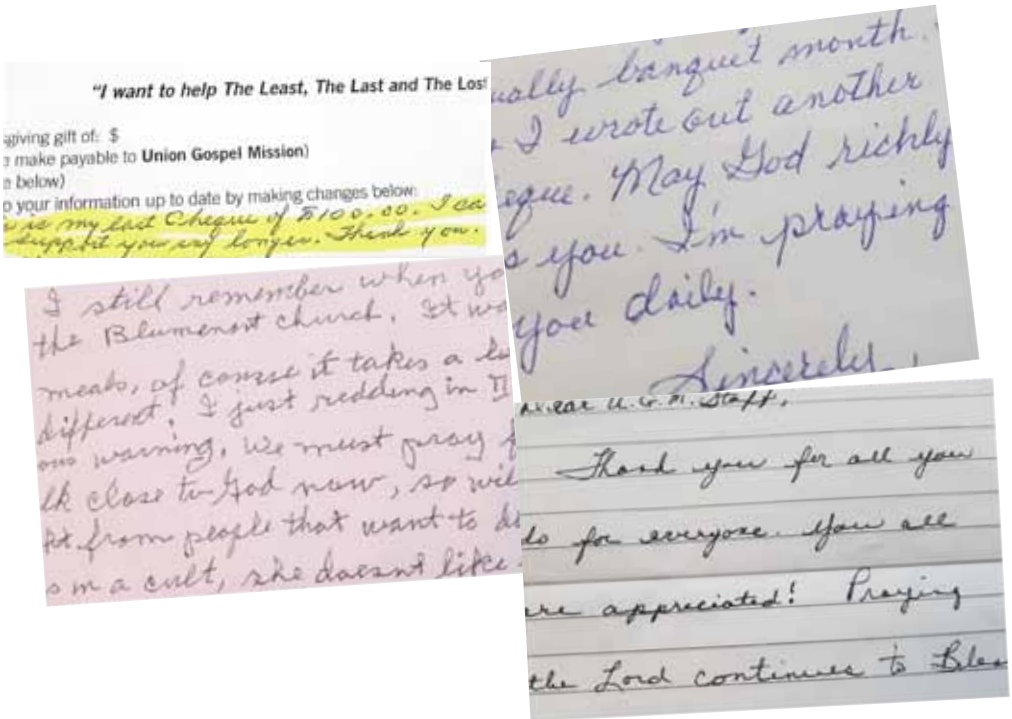
Street Guests

Proverbs 14:31

We are open 24 hours a day at our Princess Street location. We hand out food and supplies all year round and in all weather. Despite Covid restrictions and fears, it is always our intention to show the love that Jesus has for each individual that comes to our door and expresses a need. For context, on a night shift from 10pm to 8am, our staff can serve as many as 70 people. Because of your support, we are privileged to make a difference. Thank you!

Encouraging Notes

1 John 3:20



Recovery

John 8:36

Imagine. You are a scrawny 7 year-old boy. You are in your 4th Foster Home. Your Biological mother is an addict. At school, they make fun of you. No one seems to want you around. All the cupboards and all the rooms at your latest 'home' are locked. Your new minders are never home and many times you sit on the curb outside waiting for their homecoming – maybe until midnight.

Then, a 15 year old angel invites you into her home. Her family feeds you. The children inside introduce you to hide and seek. The cupboards and all the rooms are open to you. Excitedly you hide. Why? For the first time your young life is meaningful. Someone cares enough to look for you and when they find you, they are so pleased.

Memories run deep. Rare visits to your real mom are interrupted by a succession of men visiting her. Sometimes you are pulled from mom's arms as you try to stem the flow of blood that a man has inflicted upon her face.

Imagine. You are a 5 year old little girl. Pretty as a picture. Your biological dad plays poker. He entertains other people in your home. You are part of the poker tournament. Your dad trades you to others for poker chips. Years later, you keep dulling the pain of abuse in alcohol. You don't know your value other than the context of a poker chip.

Imagine. You are now a forty year old man. You don't know what 'love' means. You have absolutely no concept of 'faith' or 'trust'. You have never known boundaries, responsibility, family, your parents, with no idea where any siblings are. Drugs were your fortress. Now you are in 'recovery'.

Imagine. You are sharing Jesus and His love and the good news with precious souls who have these backgrounds and stories. Imagine you are in one of UGM's recovery programs.

Now, do you see why we value your prayers above all else? Jesus bled, Jesus suffered, Jesus was separated from His Father, Jesus conquered death, Jesus paid the price – only He can possibly know how to put back together the broken pieces of the lives we serve. ONLY HE!

Interns

2 Timothy 3:16

When men and women complete their recovery programs, we are often blessed and excited by their desire to ‘stick around’ and give back to their ‘family and home’, as UGM has become. One such intern is feeling the call to Bible College and is in process of raising support. What a transformation from a drug lost life to a redeemed life found. What a God we serve!



The Lord’s Lesson on Demographics

Union Gospel Mission is 87 years old. Many of our supporters are of that age and beyond. I confess to a worldly moment of wondering about the longevity of our support base. Within a few short days, the Lord placed three 90 year old plus donors before me. The first is a faithful prayer warrior and donor who is a healthy 90 years young. The next 2, both 93 years young, signed on to subscribe to give monthly to the Mission. One said “my mom was 102, my grandmother was 102, and I’m likely to go to 110! The message for me – “this is the Lord’s ministry, He will provide and if He wills it, the longevity of a supporter is His affair and no one else’s!” What a God we serve!

N.B. In sharing this, our father went and did the same thing all over again and in the space of 24 hours, highlighted 3 more 90+ year olds. Amazing God. Amazing Grace.

Churches

Jerimiah 20:9, Mark 10:45

We partner with some very active congregations and fellowships, over 150 churches in Winnipeg and over 200 Manitoba wide. Where Jesus Reigns, we feel the power of prayer and we witness the outpouring of blessings from each one. We love to visit, we love to fill pulpits (we have several chaplains and missionaries who love to serve you, UGM and most importantly the Lord in this way). Even in the virtual world, we can supply a sermon, share an encouraging testimony and story, or simply pray with your church. We are an extension of the same body of Christ.

Loyal-Faithful-Sacrificial = 30 Years of Service

For some of our prayer warriors the name Diana Fields (nee Friesen) is well known. For others of you, perhaps not so, however it is all of you wonderful friends of His Mission that we want to address and pay tribute to our loyal, faithful and sacrificial office manager. Testimony to God's grace.

Let us take you back in time.

Raised on a farm by the Morris River, near Rosenoff/Rosenort, Diana was one of six girls and two boys. A farmer and preacher's (Rosenort EMC 1954-74) daughter, Diana was exposed to the Lord at an early age. She was also exposed to her mom's love of fabric and sewing – so you could say, Diana's dad was a man of the cloth, and her mom, a woman of the cloth! Indeed, in the late 1960's (we think 1969), Diana's dad converted a chicken barn into a fabric store, adding outlets in Rosenort and Moosehorn, before a storefront and office in the town of Morris. "The Riverside Economy Shop" was born. Dad was book- keeper and administrator; mom was fabric sales-lady, sewer, advisor and still home-maker. Service for them was ahead of profit. Ministry ahead of gain (or grain for the farmer side). Spiritual

bread of life was ahead of bread as staff of life! Diana had amazing examples of what was to become a parallel life of service.

Diana's first vocation was as teacher. Grades 1 -3 children would have benefitted from this mathematics whizz and enthusiastic precisionist, but it was Diana herself who was not content and as the 90's loomed she took a leave of absence from teaching and immersed herself in an accounting course at Red River. Here the lure of numbers sounded the end of 16 years as a school teacher. A new career had been born.

God's hand was very evident in what followed next. A friend of Diana's suggested then UGM Executive Director, Bill McNairn, that he call Diana. He did. That was November 1990. December 1, 1990, a new career began. So sudden, so God ordained. Diana quickly felt at home, fulfilling the Lord's purpose for her life at that moment. However, it cannot have been easy. From the structure of teaching class to the world of addiction recovery, street ministry and charitable donations. From a world of text books to a home made computer program, minus an instruction manual.

Entering donations, keeping books, payroll, issuing tax receipts, dealing with CRA and auditors, writing thank you notes, designing posters for banquets, issuing tickets (hot demand for a UGM banquet!), answering phones, opening and distributing mail, assisting the Executive Director and providing reports for the Board of Directors, Diana's day was full.... as in very full! As time evolved, the need to oversee and administer the functions of new ministries were met. The Lord grew His ministry and another building on Pritchard and on Archibald were added (Adult Education and Charis facility for Women in recovery). A burgeoning summer program and growth in sponsorship with Faith Academy were all overseen by Diana. She was and is, invaluable to UGM.

In all this, God revealed another reason for placing Diana at the Mission. Love blossomed in Diana's personal life. In the book, "Rescue - In Word and Deed", chapter 4 titled "Surprised By Joy", a beautiful love story is touched upon.

His name was Wayne Fields and not only was he the Mission's driver, daily making innumerable pick ups of mail, food and donations (starting at 5.30 a.m. by the way), he was also a phenomenon. A

remarkable man with a great sense of humour and, an even great sensitivity to the Lord's leading as Diana was soon to discover! From Day 1, Diana and Wayne connected. Mail drops became coffee breaks shared. Quickly the Lord moved these two precious souls to unite as one, in September of 1991...precisely 282 days after first meeting one another....(who knew an accountant had a romantic streak?). Now married Team Fields gave their all to UGM in the service of our Lord and of others. Dreams the couple had of their own hobby farm, were among the many sacrificed as they served at UGM. Diana's, by now, incredible skillset could have placed her in the secular world at a considerably higher income; but no, for this extraordinary couple, the Lord's work came first.

Sadly, after 27 years, the Lord wanted Wayne home with Him. Still two years later, it is not very long before we all hear of Wayne and feel like we knew him. His memory is vibrant and his impact lasting. Knowing Diana is to know Wayne.

Two years on; and 2020 has been tough. Diana broke her ankle on a Mexican vacation she had been so looking forward too. There were complications and challenges to overcome. Yet rarely did Diana complain and stoically she soldiered on at home, training a new staff person, Jo-anne, whilst guiding and leaning at times on 10-year veteran, Rosanne, to seamlessly and precisely keep things ticking on. It will come as no surprise that God put these 3 ladies together to confront the challenges of COVID 19, nor that He mobilized so many of you Prayer Warriors to intercede as you do for His work here. We are so grateful!

Diana still has love and passion for our/His Rescue Mission. She appreciates fabrics, enjoys sewing and loves baking. It is no stretch to see her Dad's characteristics in her (fondness for math, for precision, for a touch of entrepreneurship and a dose of courage) and that of her mom (talent for sewing, love of fabrics, great at baking).....and together her parents love for Jesus and desire to serve others, is a rich heritage.

Please celebrate Diana's 30 years of loyal, faithful and sacrificial service, by thanking God for her life, for Wayne's large part in her life, and Diana's own witness to God's grace and an answered calling.

Secure in His Hands - The Video

Isaiah 40:16, John 10:28

We estimate about 5000 people would have watched the video. We have sent out several DVD copies and we have more available if there is interest. The exciting thing for us was to let our people, especially the recovering addicts share testimony to the difference Jesus is making in their lives. He, Jesus, is huge! We have appreciated the affirmation and kind words from many of you and it has gone some way to soothing the hurt of not sharing a banquet or dessert evening in person this year. We sincerely hope that 2021 will let us see you in person once again!

Watch the

Secure in His Hands

Video, showcasing some
of God's amazing activity at
UGM's 7 Ministries



Correspondence Footnote: His “Voice”

1 John 3

From time to time a saint will challenge the perceived cost of our mail outs. The reality is that we utilize free computer programs that enhance our publications or letters with vibrant artwork. We have support of a generous art designer and the kindness of a Christian printer. Both consistently facilitate at little or no cost to us.

We know from conversations how much many of you appreciate our Prayer Warriors or Voices from the Street newsletters. We understand that letters written at Christmas, Easter, Summer and Thanksgiving are expected. It is our desire to share our Lord’s extravagant love and our appreciation for His church family every time we mail or reach out to His saints. We are accountable and we desire to be transparent.

We highly covet your prayers and we highly value each one of you. We truly hope that 2021 will be a blessed year for you. God Bless!

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Union Gospel Mission Winnipeg

Donations to Union Gospel Mission can be mailed to:
P.O. Box 1073, STN Main, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2X4

Spending of funds is confined to Board Approved Programs and Purchases. Each gift that is 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 tax purposes.