



Your Gospel **RESCUE** Mission of Manitoba

**WINTER 2022**



## Footsteps

by Loriann

Three awesome sisters from our Charis Centre took the step of Baptism on Wednesday 16th of February, 2022 and we couldn't be more excited.

Holly, Angie and Amanda are beautiful creations of the Lord and our sisters for eternity. Nothing the 'street' or the world can offer can ever compare.

As you look at the wet footprints of joy, please contrast in your mind the trodden imprints of drudgery, emptiness and captivity to drugs on a bitter cold snowy morning, and the persons whose feet those imprints belong.



Now please cast your mind to your part in our three sisters' journey. If you prayed, volunteered, donated, or are just now celebrating these ladies lives, your input matters. Thank you so much for caring!



## Street Ministry

February 7th was another inhospitable morning. Shortly before 7am, I stepped over the threshold of 320 Princess to move my vehicle to another location. As I opened the door, I ran into Alphoido, a refugee from West Africa, who was looking for pastries. UGM was able to provide; thanks to all our supporters.

As Alphoido went on his way, trudging through the fresh fallen snow, I noticed how crippled his legs were. I was moved to pray that he would be back at lunchtime. I was touched by the need to see this man healed.

Roll the clock to 11:30am. I went to check if Alphoido had returned. A peek into chaplain Carel's office revealed the answer. Not only had Alphoido returned, but his stockinged feet were in the hands of brother Carel as he prayed for healing. It was a picture of love in action. I will never forget the image and I was able to share with both men how meaningful the scene was.

Please pray for our Muslim friend Alphoido. Whilst brother Carel was

praying, Alphoido had commented that he felt a warming in his legs. We know that Jesus heals and we know that Jesus has His eyes on our new friend, even though we had never seen him before. Salvation and healing is our prayer. Please join us!

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## Only One

by Marlene

Romans 12:11: **“not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord”**

The cold and blizzardy days of January had not contributed to good attendance at the Bible studies we have on Tuesday and Thursday at Family Life Centre.

At one particular Bible study, only one lady showed up. In the past she had not shown much interest in the teaching of the Word; she didn't enter into discussion with the rest of the group, and actually appeared to be sleeping. When the volunteer teacher and I saw that she was our lone attendee we discussed forfeiting the Bible study and just letting her go through the clothing room. However, we decided to sit down together and share a devotional. As we conversed about the Bible passage, she began to share about her spiritual walk. We discovered that she was indeed a believer. She shared that she no longer believed the teachings of the church she was raised in, nor the traditional ways of her community. She attends a Bible believing church and she asked for prayer for her family.

She continues to attend Bible studies and is more attentive and even contributes to the discussion. Appearances are deceiving, people change, and we take every opportunity to build relationships and share the love of Jesus.

# Times to be Forgiven

by Ron and Sarah

Forgiveness is a difficult process at any age. The children who come to the Kid's Club at the Family Life Centre are very aware of this. Children can be mean. They say what's on their minds, sometimes without restraint. The natural tendency when a child is enduring another's rudeness is to give it right back. This situation is played out time and again at the Kid's Club. An example of this occurred one afternoon. A girl received some harsh remarks from another child. She reacted in anger and hurled some rude comments back. In talking to the girl, we discovered her belief that it's okay to retaliate like this when she is verbally attacked.

Since this happens frequently, it was brought up in a Bible lesson. The children have to know how God views all of this; that it isn't right to repay insults with insults. As difficult as it may be, forgiveness must occur. When Peter asked Jesus how often we should forgive others, he may be shocked to hear Jesus tell him to always be forgiving. The children learn life lessons from a corrupt world. It's up to us to adjust their thinking so that they learn life lessons from the Bible instead.

Forgiveness is hard for everyone, adults and children alike. Through Jesus Christ, forgiveness is offered to all of us. Think how utterly horrid it would be if there was no forgiveness from God. It's good to remind the children of this. Because God will forgive us, God expects us to forgive each other. This is not an easy thing for any of us, but the Holy Spirit will guide us through this when we ask. We all need help.

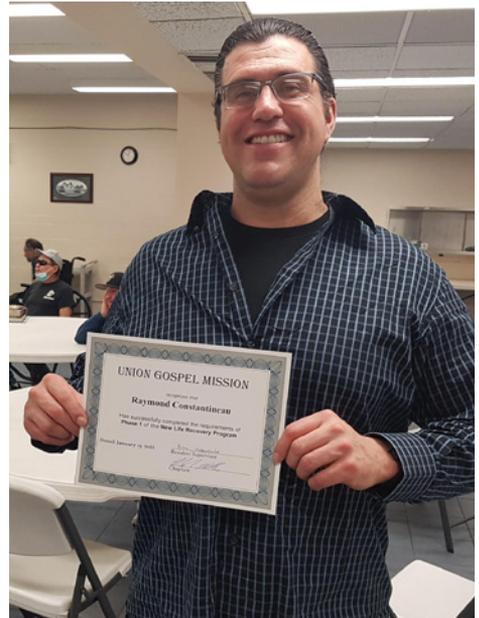
# Advancing and Growing

MEN'S PROGRAM

by Mark Kelm

Raymon came to the Mission a few months ago to join the men's recovery program. Raymon has a gentle demeanor and struggles with anxiety issues as well as an addiction to drugs and alcohol. He heard about UGM's Biblical approach to recovery and finding freedom from addictions through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. He wanted that freedom and he wanted freedom from his anxiety issues.

Once Raymon had been in the program for a few weeks, he started to let Christ into his life and let Him begin the healing process in Raymon's soul that was needed for him to be at peace. Eventually, Raymon began to trust the chaplains, and most importantly, he began to trust



Jesus with his cares. Raymon found 1 Peter 5:6-7 to be very helpful for him. He believes the Lord used this passage to help him find peace in Christ and a way to overcome his anxieties. In 1 Peter 5:6-7, the apostle Peter wrote, “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”

Raymon is growing in his relationship with Christ now and he is finding that he does not need to go to alcohol and drugs to overcome his anxieties. More and more the Lord is releasing him from the control anxiety had over his life and making 1 Peter 5:6-7 a reality for him. Praise God for his ability to overcome whatever challenge we face for His glory!

## Adopt-A-Student

by Gilbert Plante

From time to time I receive a phone call from the Pritchard Campus about a student that is having a tough day and has become too difficult to handle. I have the privilege of going into the classroom or where the student may be, to try and defuse the situation, and bring order back to class.

One particular day, I received a call and the teacher was crying asking me to please come over. As always, I immediately consulted the Lord looking for His guidance. All I heard in my inner Spirit was “talk to the boy.” As I entered the third classroom that is used as a lunch and multipurpose room, I noticed that tables and chairs had been overturned. Without engaging the student that was



sitting in a chair with his fists clinched, I sat down in a chair opposite of him and pulled out my phone and opened my Bible App. I read Philippians 4:6 that reads... **Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.** (NKJV) and then I thanked the Lord out loud.

With my arms crossed and hand on my chin I ask the student “do you build snow forts?” I told him that when I was his age, I would love to be outside in the winter and build forts in the snow. I again asked “do you like building snow forts?” His demeanor instantly changed, and he proceeded to tell me how his brothers and dad are currently make an igloo in their backyard. He went into great detail about the grand effort that was happening in the Point Douglas area. I began to get excited as well, I mean building an igloo, how cool is that. I thanked him for sharing the blueprints on igloo building and also asked if he needed help to set back up the tables and chairs. He sheepishly said no and asked if he may return to class afterwards. I gave him a high-five and told him I was just there to inquire about snow forts. Upon exiting the building I looked to the heavens and said “thank you Jesus, You are my Rock, and the horn of my salvation.”

**Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.** (NKJV)

## Love and Healing

by Jo-Anne

“I don’t even know what it means to be loved”, the young woman said to me as I shared with her the story of the Prodigal Son. This young woman came in when everyone else had left. She was wearing a hoodie with the hood up and tied tight around her face. Even still, I could see that her face was full of tattoos. As tough as she physically looked, to me she seemed like a child, very meek and very broken. Her words pierced my heart.

The Prodigal Son is one of the stories I often feel led to share at the women’s detox where I attend to minister one day every week. The emphasis is always on the Father’s love. I also share the story of the bleeding woman; **“And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, ‘If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well.’”** Matthew 9:20-21.

My prayer is the same every time I leave detox: “Lord, may these women even only touch the hem of Your love”. For I know that experiencing just the hem of His love will begin them on their journey to healing, freeing them from their suffering. Please pray with me for the men and women who struggle with addictions. Whether it was rebellion or life’s circumstances that drove them into addictions, God can heal them. May they experience and accept the love of their Heavenly Father. May they seek to be near Him and touch Him. May they hear Him say, **“Daughter/Son, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”** Mark 5:34.

# Our Students Receive from God

## ADULT EDUCATION

by Nelson Gonzalez

Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them."

This report provides the testimony of one of our students who believes that when she prays, she literally talks with God and can empty her soul to reach Him in her times of need. This is the case of Kate (not her real name), who one night out of her deep desperation to find her way back to normalcy, said a prayer to Him, which she says was the closest of heart to heart conversations. She told Him everything, especially how hopeless she felt at that moment and asked Him to give her the strength to enroll back to school. She wanted the best for her life and her baby, whom she does not have at this moment with her.

The next day, she felt relieved from all her burdens and chains that kept her tied to a cycle of addiction. She came to school and registered. She has stayed ever since; now she cries with joy for that strength that God gives her every day.

She is hopeful that over time, her baby will be given back to her and she and her baby can be a family. Kate expressed that it is very hard to grow up lonely. She is only 19 and many people deserted her in the difficult times and challenges in her life. She prays every day and continues to believe in the Lord Jesus.

Please pray for our students; we need your prayers every single day. May the Lord bless you!

# Faith and Services

by Frank

"What does it profit, my brethren, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can faith save him? If a brother or sister is naked and destitute of daily food, and one of you says to them, Depart in peace, be warmed and filled, but you do not give them the things which are needed for the body, what does it profit? Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2:14-17)

At Union Gospel Mission we share the gospel with the people that we serve. We also provide people with assistance in terms of their basic human needs including food, shelter and clothing.

On occasion, I have the privilege of serving people that come to our doors on Princess Street. It breaks my heart to see men and women not having appropriate clothing to cope with the harsh climate that we live in and the forlorn look these dear people have on their faces. I provide them with a snack or some bread, along with a gospel tract, and invite them to come back for lunch, supper and our Drop-In program.

There are many people who are lost and desperately need to have a relationship with Jesus. Please pray along with me that through the Holy Spirit many would invite Jesus into their hearts.



# Volunteer Recognition

by Martin and Daniel

Two missionaries, independent of one another, felt led to share the following two narratives. This is no coincidence. In each we hope the reader will find encouragement and delight in the fact that both stories of faithful servant/s are undergirded by the desire to truly serve our Lord. We are blessed indeed.

## PART ONE

As I write describing an exceptional person, a loyal selfless volunteer, a beacon of light and hope, I am overcome with a wave of responsibility to convey in truth and revelation just how blessed we are to know Eleanor and what she means to this Mission and community that she interacts with.

For five years, Eleanor has volunteered at Union Gospel Mission. First one day a week, then two, then three and now for the last several months, five days a week.

Her routine and commitment are to be admired. Living outside the city on a hobby farm, this lady makes a daily round trip of close to 80 kilometers. That's a lot

of gas and wear and tear on the vehicle, to say nothing of the driving component, especially in some of Manitoba's unfriendly climates.

He is up at 4:45 a.m. reading scripture, prayer and a cup of tea with her husband Walter. This is followed by milking the cow and feeding the livestock on the hobby farm. At 7:45 a.m. Eleanor is on her way to this tough area of town at 320 Princess Street. Here, she works in our receiving dock, organizes food donations and deals with kitchen needs. Eleanor sorts that which goes to a freezer, to the fridge and to emergency needs. On Fridays, she delights in handing supplies to those that Winnipeg Harvest have blessed by sending them here for food, a smile and a kind word.

Eleanor has a life story that would bring tears to the listener. A woman of great faith. A woman who even in the midst of cancer treatment served faithfully. Even with little physical strength, this lady served, not missing any days, simply leaning on Jesus and loving on people.

Eleanor counts herself blessed of all people and desires to give back and that she does!! "I have been through troubled waters but rather than drowning me, Christ cleansed me'!



## PART TWO :

### EVEN BETTER THAN THE SMELL OF FRESH BREAD!

Most of us love the smell of freshly baked bread! We are so thankful for all the baked bread and goodies we receive at UGM to bless others!

The scripture is talking about a sweet-smelling aroma in Philippians 4:18 "Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God."

The Apostle Paul received this gift from the church and reminded them that it was well pleasing to the Lord! Wow!

I am thinking of Eleanor and Walter. A wonderful, godly couple who sacrificially volunteer many hours for the Lord to support the Mission. They have been serving in the kitchen for many years. Walter has been clearing the snow with his equipment many times. We would have been stuck without him. Eleanor is receiving donated food items. As she is sorting and getting bread ready for the people in need, her kind and heartfelt service smells even better than fresh baked bread! It is a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God!

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