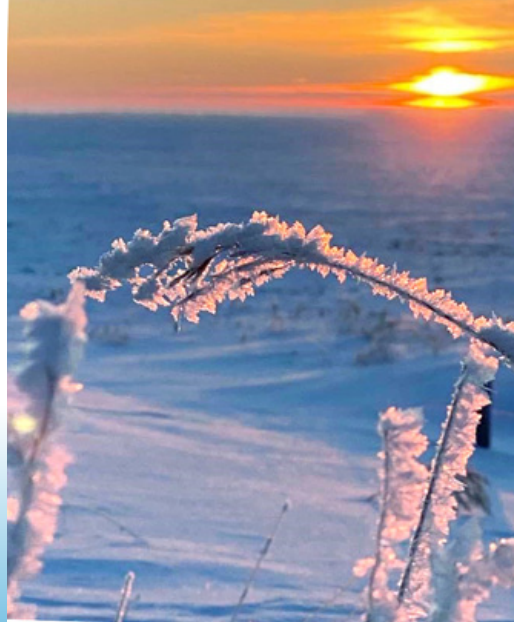


# Voices & Prayer Warriors

## Winter 2023



## Our Eternal Home

BY FRANK ULRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**“In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.” (John 14:2)**

A number of weeks ago as I drove to work on Higgins Avenue, I witnessed city crews cleaning up tents and different kinds of temporary dwellings on an open field. The previous week there was a fire in which one of the structures was ablaze. Due to the fire, the city issued eviction notices and then followed through.

A number of days ago, it was -26c degrees with the wind chill when I drove to work and I was informed that an individual sleeps outside each night near one of our buildings on Higgins and Princess. There are various reasons why people sleep outside during these extremely cold nights. Sometimes when I go to bed at night, I think about these people, compared to the bed that I have just laid down in.

I am thankful that the people we serve who receive the free gift of eternal life will have an eternal home, even though they may not have a comfortable warm room here on earth.



*You may be wondering at the choice of front cover pictures. The sheer beauty and intricacy of the hoar frost plus the purity of the white light gives testimony to our God of detail, delight and wonder. Those same Creator’s hands are preparing our eternal home. Contrast this with the ramshackle, makeshift, poorly constructed shelter of a stubborn-hearted addicted person on a street near UGM. Pray the occupants’ eyes open soon to the glorious gospel of Jesus and thereby securing their eternal home!*

## Jesus has the Victory!

A couple of months ago on a Saturday, one of our missionary brothers took one of his daughters and an Intern on a road trip to Dauphin. The destination was a thrift store that UGM has a relationship with, to collect a truck full of clothing and return home with our 5 tonne truck.

Marcel was the driver, his daughter Mystery and intern, Kirby were his passengers. Both Marcel and Kirby have been through the addiction recovery program that we run on Princess Street, and both men shine Jesus.

On their journey, they would talk of the amazing change Jesus has made to their lives. Here were two former drug operators/ enforcers/ dealers, who had known each other in a former life, now transformed and sharing the excitement a walk with Jesus looks like. What a beautiful and heart-warming journey was taking place.

On arrival at the thrift store, the two men were loading bags and bags of clothing, working hard and efficiently so they would have time to embrace another stop in Dauphin. The former Dauphin Mackay Residential School was where Kirby later found himself, as he stood outside and walked into the building that held sad and painful memories for him. What he did there was so meaningful. He forgave the perpetrators of the injustices he received in his past at that school. Marcel was moved to see this man,

his friend, his former accomplice in dealings, now expressing the kind of behaviour the Lord Jesus asks of all of us. For those of us who love the Lord, we are humbled and overjoyed at the picture such action conjures up in our minds. What special brothers in Christ these two men are! Examples of grace and mercy. Examples of forgiveness, repentance and joy in the Lord. Wow!

Now as you can imagine the enemy was not pleased at this trip. Marcel got a call from our Princess Street location to say that a street person had set fire to his car, which was behind our building. Severe damage was done but the fire was put out, so there was no need to hurry home.

Marcel was not deterred. The weather was pleasant. His good friend was with him. His lovely daughter was with them. On the drive home, Marcel recalled he had promised Mystery to make time to stop at a derelict old homestead and barn and enjoy a little exploration. Despite his bad news from Winnipeg, Marcel made the time for the three of them to enjoy laughter and make memories of the time spent, imagining and exploring the past. For Marcel, it was important to show Mystery that she mattered and the news of the car was not going to get in the way. Satan however was determined. On the arrival back in Winnipeg, a vehicle loaded with three adults drove too close to our truck and caught their fender and side mirror in our box truck. By pulling over and maneuvering expertly, Marcel was able to help free this car. However, the driver, possibly under some influence, then proceeded to yell and scream at

Marcel. It was not pretty. Marcel recounts that he was very aware of where the attack was coming from and for the need to show Mystery how a God filled person should respond under the most severe of tests. A gentle answer, an assured response and no fear demonstrated, soon had the perpetrator of the accident back in his car. Marcel had the information needed for Autopac. Mystery and Kirby had the information needed that Jesus was victorious!

*Dear reader, I think you will understand our wish to have witnessed this day, first hand. We have the privilege of fellowship with Kirby and Marcel almost daily. They are an integral part of the work at the Mission and a testimony to the redemptive love of Jesus.*



## WOMEN'S ADDICTIONS

### "Smiles" of Jesus

BY LORIANN TULK, CHARIS CENTRE MANAGER

A new year is upon us and we can look back and see how God has blessed and carried us through 2022. Here at Charis we have many things to thank Him for including many women who have been baptized in 2022, multiple graduations, new babies born to mom's staying at Charis (our newest addition born Jan 2, 2023) and many dedicated volunteers who help us consistently.

The work that we do on a daily basis is covered in prayer and is not done in our own strength. We look forward to a new year of growth, stretching and seeing God do what is impossible for us.

Please pray for our residents; that they come to know Christ in a real and personal way, our staff as we need wisdom and discernment in our day to day interactions, new mom's as they begin the most important job of their lives raising their little ones, and the health of all at Charis.

**"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."**  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NKJV

#### Please pray for the Women in the Addiction Program:

Martha, Danielle, Amanda, Melanie, Darlene, Margaret, Tara, Natalie (& baby Eli), Jillian, Nicole, Ashley, Rayne, Amber, Daphne, Delima, Angelica, Jacqueline, Marlene, Angelinea (& baby Jireh ), & Renee.



## MEN'S MINISTRY

### Kelly's Story

BY MARK KELM SENIOR CHAPLAIN

There are men in the UGM recovery program who consider UGM to be like family. Kelly is one of those individuals. He has been in the recovery program a few times but his latest stay with UGM has reinforced for him that he has brothers and sisters in Christ who care for him. He has struggled with drug and alcohol addictions for most of his life but he is experiencing a relationship with Jesus that he has not experienced before. He had a bad year last year with a relapse and an accident, which left him with a badly broken arm. He came back to UGM with a humble heart and a sincere desire to find freedom from the addictions that have held him in bondage for so long. Kelly is doing well in his recovery now and looks forward to being able to help serve others who come to UGM.

In Luke 4:18, Jesus quotes from Isaiah 61 when beginning his public ministry. In Isaiah 61:1 *the prophet Isaiah says that the messiah has come, "To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound."* Kelly is being set free from the prison of addiction he found himself bondage to. The same Jesus who quoted this passage in Luke 4 to proclaim what His ministry would be about, is still carrying out this ministry for those like Kelly who need to be set free to new life with Him.

## Please pray for the Men in the Addiction Program:

Greg, Kelly, Matt, Steven, Arthur, Paul, Raymond, Ken, Marc, Brenden, Kirby, Shaun, Rob, Dennis, Joe, Gerald & John

## FLC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

### Cry for Help to Overcome

BY MARLENE WIEBE, FLC WOMEN'S MINISTRY

I first met Shirl in 2019. Her pattern is to attend FLC programming for three weeks in a row, then she's gone for two to six months, then attends for three weeks, etc. She didn't come at all in 2021. In 2022 she returned from July to August, and again now in December.

Whenever she returns, she is so hungry for the Word of God and joyfully receives it and fellowshipping with us. She longs to live her life following Jesus - but when her addiction roars, she is overcome by it.

Please pray with us for Shirl, that she will overcome this addiction by wholly trusting Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord. In addition, that she becomes a faithful attender of our fellowship, to be loved and encouraged in her walk with God.

**"For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world - our faith." 1 John 5:4 (ESV)**

## Trust in the Lord Always

BY GERALD DAHL

**"Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him." Psalm 40:3**

I believe learning makes the most sense and develops most quickly when our efforts focus on awareness of and trust in God. God's Word is lovingly shared clearly and often at Faith (Adult) Learning Centre as pure and holy light that outshines pervasive shadows of denial and doubt. I give thanks for the great ministry of former



Principal Nelson Gonzalez who served through August 2022. Several of his former students have detailed how he impacted them for the Lord. I also believe that the fields are 'white unto harvest' (John 4:35) and trust that I will walk faithfully in this role to help many hampered by poverty and other effects.

I began full time in October 2022. Please pray for favor and more, not only with huge amounts of government reporting due in January and February, but also for Faith Learning Centre to grow in its ability to support each student as they engage 2023 with determination.

Please pray for Leah and Lisa as they continue in their teaching roles, as well as for Richard, who began January 5 as a paraprofessional support for our Science program. Richard brings a wealth of experience, including work with NASA and will use his skills to support celebration of God's handiwork in every dimension.

### Urgent student prayer is vital:

Ahmed's rooming house is cold and funds are limited.

An answer to prayer is that public transit is now available for Marcus to use daily. Please pray for his desire to enter college/university classes in 2023 along with the competitive requirements that are part the entry process.

**Please remember also these students: Mandy, Tyleah, Chris, Felicia, Jeremy, Amber, Victoria, Chantel**

## Homelessness and Addiction

A recent Winnipeg Free Press article (Dec 22) quoted an addicted and homeless man saying that drugs help him endure “long, lonely and boring” days of homelessness. Our observations say drugs keep you in addiction, with the same individual reported as saying he fears “drug use will kill him, as it has many of his friends”.

Our Chaplain Ed reports how he met a very pleasant lady in her 50s at our afternoon Drop-In, on his first day at UGM, back in January, 2022. She was recently widowed and not sure how she would make ends meet, relying on a walker to get around. For about 6 months, the two would share pleasantries and Ed was happy to be a face for Jesus and care that the lady would get physical and spiritual sustenance in her time of great need. She frequently voiced her appreciation.

Then one day, nothing. For approximately 5 months, this friendly, sociable and amicable but needy person was not seen. Until, that is, recently. The walker clutches had gone. The gentle demeanor had vanished. In place was a person

sold out wholly to drugs and alcohol addiction. Now homeless, her behaviour included completely disrobing, screaming, and shouting obscenities and thereby disturbing other street guests looking for help. We love her and want her to know the deliverance and freedom in Jesus, but we see the damage alcohol and drug addiction is doing to her. We hate the cause of the damage to this lady and to the precious countless others seeking help.

We pray that the many sources of addiction will dry up. We fear that our world today is facilitating more addiction than ever before, but we trust in the name of Jesus to have victory in the lives of those we serve. (Please pray for the two addicts in this note. The Lord knows them so well.)

### Prayer Requests from our Street Ministry

**We had the pleasure to pray for the guests who came to our Community Christmas Dinner with request for prayer. Please continue to lift up each one in prayer. The Lord knows each need.**

**Glen, Kyle, Irene, Bruce, Lana, Raymond, Pat, R. S. Wells, Jasmine, Christopher, Gunter, Marla, Ron, Morgan, Grace, Faith, Vik, Marshal, Ron, Eugene, Calvin, Steve & Mary.**



*Christmas Chapel service - Mark speaking*



*Gifts to each guest*



*Plating food at Christmas dinner*

## May the God of Hope Fill You!

BY JO-ANNE SCOTT, OFFICE MANAGER

Normal. After two plus years of a pandemic, what does normal mean? For Living Bible Explorers (LBE), an inner city ministry to children, teens and families, which began more than 50 years ago by university Christians when they saw some Westend boys getting into trouble, ‘normal’ meant they could run weekend camps again this fall. Week day programs are wonderful, but overnight camps allow children and teens to get away from the difficult situations at home, play, play, play and receive constant attention, affirmation, love and teaching from God’s Word. “I don’t want to go home”, is the children’s cry as they board the bus to return home. I love camp and was grateful for the opportunity to serve the Lord and be a cabin leader at these elementary and middle year’s camps this past summer. These experiences are well known to Union Gospel Mission with our own Bible Camp ministry which we work closely with those of like mind. Normal, it seems, is also a shortage of volunteers and staff. A scour of social media and other ministry’s websites will illustrate the need for staff and volunteers.

One Friday this past December, the middle years teens of LBE answered UGM’s call for volunteers. I had the opportunity to direct them into groups to create Christmas cards to hand out at our Christmas meal. They also helped feed UGM’s chapel guests, organize and clean the kitchen



shelves, sort clothes, sort produce and dry goods and even do dishes. Actually, only Tommy did the dishes. Tommy, who struggles to stand still, never mind sit still, was unable to focus on the tasks assigned to the other LBE teens so he started to wander around. So, I brought him to the kitchen to meet Alvin, the evening cook and Ken, the resident intern helper. Both greeted Tommy with warmth and value and proceeded to show him the different parts of the kitchen. When Ken brought Tommy into the dish pit and showed him the rinsing gun, Tommy's eyes lit up. "I do dishes at home", he told us, and proceeded to rinse and sanitize ALL the dishes, including the pots used to cook the daytime and chapel meals. Even when his peers took a break to eat popsicles, Tommy just looked at them, asked them where they got the popsicles and turned back to work on the dishes. It was a gift and a joy to step back and watch Ken, a man recovering from addictions, gently teach Tommy the different tasks in the dish pit. It was a gift and a joy to step back and watch Ken, a man recovering from addictions, gently teach Tommy the different tasks in the dish pit, and Tommy, a teen, exposed to many negative influences, willing to learn and respond positively, working in harmony, one with the other!

Tommy did end up getting a popsicle and at the end of the evening when Shaun, another resident intern, shared his testimony, Tommy sat still and listened. As he was leaving, Tommy asked one of LBE's faithful volunteers, "When can we come back?"

Our prayer at UGM, is that a shortage of staff and volunteers will not be the new "normal" for our ministries, called by God to bring His message of love, hope, healing and a future to a broken and confused world. The needs were great before the pandemic and they continue to grow. Please pray with us.

**"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13**

*Note: After Jo-Anne penned this, we were overwhelmed by volunteers looking to serve at UGM's Community Christmas Dinner. Over 70 requests to serve the lunch to our guests. Thank you each one!*



Tommy in the dish pit

## Serving out of Pain and Hurt

Faithfully serving the needy of our city through his regular night shift as a missionary at UGM on Princess Street, Sophonie Baatwenga has his own remarkable and traumatic story to share. In human terms, it is a story worthy of a book, but it is to 5 verses from the Word of God that we turn. Psalm 40 verses 1-5 drew Sophonie to know his need for Jesus and in 1976, he surrendered his life to the Saviour.

**Psalm 40:1-5 reads: "I waited patiently for the Lord; He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in Him. Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. Many, Lord my God, are the wonders You have done, the things You planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare."**

Sophonie is from Burundi, one of the poorest and smallest countries in the world. Land-locked in East Africa, Burundi is south of Rwanda. The two countries were once united as a colony of Germany and then Belgium; Ruanda-Urundi. It is a region of genocide and civil war and of on-going

tensions and threats of more violence. Sophonie writes: "In 1972, by God's mercy, I escaped the selective killings of thousands of Burundi Hutus, but the ever-present threat of violent death stayed. The horrible genocide of 1993, after a democratically Hutu president was killed savagely by the Tutsi army, thousands were left dead, Hutu and some Tutsi."

Through all this, Sophonie was working in various hospitals as an anesthetist nurse and providing for his family. He takes up the story from when he worked with the general surgeon at Kibuye Hospital. "The soldiers came to my home and when they missed me, they slaughtered my parents. They took my beloved wife, who was a nurse at Kibuye maternity to my 'kiosk' at Kibuye Mission near the hospital. After she gave the soldiers money, they stabbed her in her left chest side, in the area of her heart and broke her left lower mandible. They also severely broke her left forearm and left her in critical condition in front of my kiosk. A few minutes after their departure, some good Samaritans took her to hospital. When I heard that information, I tried to reach the hospital with many fears."

"I found my wife in horrible condition with severe pulmonary hemorrhage. I tried to resuscitate her with some IV solution containing antibiotics, providing to her oxygen through the Boyle Machine. One hour after, she recognized me; she told me and I quote: 'Honey, I was killed instead of you.' I cried. Then after 3 hours she passed away in my hands."

Sophonie experienced further painful loss and hardship, including the tragic loss of his second wife, the pain of three daughters' physical suffering and months and months at a refugee camp. He knows what it is to lose his home, loved ones and to go hungry, but in all this, he stayed true to his God and his Saviour, Jesus Christ. (Watch for more of his story in a later publication of our newsletter.)

How remarkable that Sophonie is driven to serve the despairing and hurting men and women of Winnipeg. It is only Jesus that can produce such beauty in serving others, despite men's diabolical and brutal wickedness. Sophonie – thank you brother for such a heart! To God be the glory!

## ADULT EDUCATION

### Journey to Teaching at UGM Adult Education Program

BY LISA SCHAU, ADULT EDUCATION TEACHER

I left teaching high school math when our first child was born back in 2005 and stayed a full-time mom for the next 17 years. For the last several years of those 17, I spent my Friday mornings volunteering in the kitchen at 320 Princess St. I had a great time working with “Chef Jeff” and then “Chef Andrew”, chopping vegetables and making salads and soups for the guests who would come for the noon meal. If there were extra volunteers, I would sometimes be able to leave

the kitchen for 20 minutes to join the daily prayer time downstairs, where staff and volunteers pray for the Mission and its people. After the guests had been served and the dining room cleaned and set up again to serve the second sitting, I loved the reward of enjoying the lunch I had helped prepare in the company of staff, volunteers and residents. As we gathered around tables, I would have the opportunity to meet someone new, or have a chance to catch up with ‘the regulars’. There might be news to share or encouragement to give, teasing and laughter, sometimes tears and comforting words or hugs as we each walk through the ups and downs of life. I always looked forward to my Fridays at the Mission.

When it seemed that it was time to re-enter the workforce, I went back to the Christian school I had taught at previously, this time as a substitute teacher. It was great to be back in the classroom again, spending time with high school students and with colleagues, many of whom I had worked with before. It was really easy too: no prep work or marking, just show up in the morning and follow the plan set out by the teacher. What a great job! However, I made sure to arrange with the school that I would not sub on Fridays so that I could still serve at the Mission.

A few months in, however, I realized that while the pay was good and the job was easy, it was perhaps too easy. I was missing the challenge of preparing lesson plans, evaluating student progress, and walking alongside students as they start with

what they know and then add to their understanding and math skills concept by concept, exercise by exercise. I missed developing relationships, getting to know students as individuals and finding ways to help them apply what we do in class with day-to-day life.

This fall, during lunch in the Princess Street dining room, Frank asked me if I would consider applying for the teaching position at the Faith Learning Center. Long story short, here I am, teaching Math in a half-time position. I get to do all those things I had been missing – lesson plans and relationship-building with students – AND I also get to add to this the joy of praying with and reading the Bible with my students during morning devotion time, or discussing what was presented in our Tues/Thurs chapel times. I just found out this last week that some of my students have never actually read out of a Bible before and did not know the story of Jesus being born. What a privilege to be the one who gets to tell them this good news!

I am so grateful for this new work I get to do. Even though it meant giving up Fridays in the kitchen, I still get to be a part of the work that the LORD is doing through UGM to serve the people of our city. We get to declare the good news of the gospel and its relevance for all of life, we get to hold out the scriptures as the trustworthy guide for living life in this world, and I get to do it in the context of helping students get better at adding fractions or calculating surface area! I love this job!!

Please pray for our students as they begin a new semester. Many struggle to attend regularly, some are challenged with the ability to focus and learn well while they are here, and some just get discouraged when the road to graduation seems so long. Thank God for the joys that also attend our days, good conversations, evidence of positive changes happening, and the laughter and singing that sometimes ring out from a classroom that remind us of why we love to do what we do here at the Faith Learning Center.

## The Bigger Family

BY DANIEL GLAWATZKI

**I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Psalm 40: 1-5**

I wanted to thank the Lord for the privilege of calling UGM my spiritual family! Even though God gave me the privilege of growing up across the ocean with “only” five lovely sisters, I found it humorous on HIS part to provide me with a wife who had the privilege of growing up with “only” five brothers. I can’t thank HIM enough for the UGM family! The glory of lifting someone out of the pit in Psalm 40, of course, goes to the Lord! HE is the ONE who daily encourages, disciplines us with His loving hands and sets our feet on a firm place in HIM. How is the Lord doing it ever so

often? Through scripture, through the Holy Spirit and many times as well through brothers and sisters around us!

When I was down, the Lord sent someone to help me up. Have you not experienced the same? Here at UGM, I have the privilege of being part of a larger family with thousands of brothers and sisters! Wow, what a gift! I cannot express in words the prayers, love, encouragement and support I have received from my UGM family! God is so good! I have experienced it again and again! This ONE BIG family includes supporters, prayer warriors, staff, board members, volunteers, residents, bakers, givers, cooks, occasional helpers and so many more! If you need encouragement, come to UGM! Here is a family, not a perfect one, but one who is seeking the Lord and HIS glory! HE is able to put a new song into your mouth, a hymn of praise to our God! Thank you and blessings.

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### God's First

BY RON ALBO

Sin is more than just disobeying God's rules. If we place anything at all, other than God, as the most meaningful thing in our lives, then that is sin. This is the most prevalent sin on Earth. After all, if God was number one in everyone's lives, the other sins would massively diminish. Anything we place above God is a false god. Bringing children to this realization is difficult. The tendency from the time

of birth is to put ourselves first. Just as little ones learn to walk, a child's spiritual development is most likely taken in "baby steps." So, when a child learns a Bible verse, it is a joyous occasion. When a child understands Biblical concepts, such as the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ, then it is cause for celebration. These are not small things. These are progressive steps of the heart turning away from false gods, and instead, (hopefully) towards a trust in Jesus. Tiny spiritual steps may eventually lead a child to walk boldly in faith.

**"Many will see and hear, and put their trust in the LORD." Psalm 40:3**

## The Greatest of These is Love

BY LENA BRAUN, EVENING COOK

Hello, my name is Lena and I work at the Princess location as a cook. I love to work with the Lord Jesus! I'm married for 40 years, had ups and downs, but God in His amazing Grace poured His Love in me every day. I can't thank Him enough, oh how often the enemy has tried to snuff out that love, but He carried me through.

I love Christmas, but it seemed like every year someone close would try to ruin that Christmas joy, but God poured out so much love which overcomes and that holy faith that He gives everyone who believes in Him is in me. In John 10:10 it says **"The enemy comes to steal kill and destroy but Jesus came to give life in its fullness and overflowing."**

By loving others you gain more love. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 **"Love is patient and kind, not jealous, not boastful, not proud, rude or selfish, not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs."** Love does not float over other people's sins but takes its delight in the truth. Love always bears up, always trusts, always hopes, always endures." I will not write the whole chapter, but Love is the greatest!

I love when God shows up when we pray, so many have been encouraged and many healings have taken place. Praise God for He is working through us, He is as close as our breath, thank you Jesus, hallelujah! All Glory to God, praise His Holy Name! Please pray for strength and wisdom, joy and peace. Thank you for praying!

## ADOPT-A-STUDENT

### Beautiful Bonds

BY GILBERT PLANTE, FAMILY MINISTRIES MANAGER

Early on in the school year, we go to each of the Faith Academy campuses to take a photo of every sponsored student and collect prayer requests from them. These photos and prayer requests are then mailed to their sponsors of the Adopt-a-Student Program, so that the sponsors can know how to pray for the children specifically and see what the child looks like.

The morning I walked into the Kindergarten / Grade 1 / Grade 2 classroom on Pritchard Avenue, I came upon a situation where one of the students was having a rough day. This young

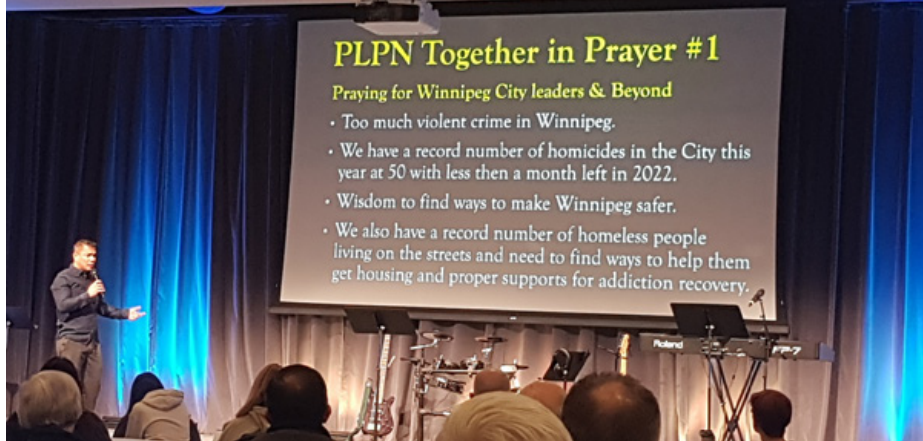
man was upset and throwing books all over the classroom and was unable to calm down. The teacher was able to escort him out of the classroom and I stayed to supervise the rest of class.

Immediately after the teacher was able to get the distraught child out of the classroom, three boys from kindergarten started to clean up the disaster that was left behind. They went around the room, gathering all of the books from the floor and then put them in a pile so they could sort them as best as they could into the bins they belonged in. It was truly inspiring to see these three young boys show complete selflessness and compassion for their fellow peer. Understanding that their friend was having a bad day, they took it upon themselves to clean up his mess. After cleaning up all of the books, these three young boys began to hug each other, displaying pure love for each other. After just a few short months of knowing each other, they have formed an incredible bond that we hope will only continue to grow stronger.

*Children tidying up*







## UGM is Prayer Focused

Every first Tuesday of the month, the gracious hosting of Church of the Rock allows pastors and leaders of ministries to gather, praise, pray and fellowship as we seek to serve the Lord in our fair city. The picture is one of the last of 2022 and serves to demonstrate some of life's burdens that are on the hearts of those who love and serve Jesus. UGM values and covets prayers like these. Thank you Jesus!

Our prayer warriors are so vital to the Lord's Mission and so integral to ALL we do in His mighty Name.



*Special Announcement.*  
*It has been brought to our attention, recently, that some unidentified callers have been misrepresenting our Mission by randomly asking supporters for donations. Please be aware that UGM does not solicit funds in this manner. The only telephone soliciting we do is to ask for your prayers and to ask how we may pray for you! Otherwise, it is to Jesus we turn and in Him we trust for the funds He wishes us to receive. Thank you.*

## What's in a Bag?

BY JO-ANNE SCOTT, OFFICE MANAGER

Occasionally I am called down to help the drop-in chaplains and interns with a female who is not co-operating. Many women, because of the abuse they have received from men, become defensive and even violent to the authority of men, even when it's for their good. Every time I receive the call and before I even hang up, I start to pray. Much wisdom and love is needed for these situations! On this day, there were two difficult women; one who insisted on drinking in the drop-in and another who (see Ed's story) was disrobing and yelling in

people's faces, causing them to be agitated. After a short discussion, the first woman left quietly but the second woman continued to rant and rave. It took three of us: Chaplain Ed, resident intern Shaun and myself, to corral her. I gently spoke with her, asking her name and tried to help her dress while the men kept her from moving to other areas of the drop-in and together, we slowly moved her towards the exit.

After the second woman left, my attention was drawn to a quiet couple who asked me for a bag. It was evident by the bike carrier and number of bags, that they were homeless. I went to get them a bag, but UGM was out of bags. I returned to help the woman put on her many layers of winter clothes and the man pack the bags securely into the broken carrier. My heart was broken while I prayed with them and helped them out the door. It was very cold outside and UGM was out of bags. The world has recognized the damage that plastic bags have on our environment and are moving in the right direction to remove them. But, to a homeless person, whose every possession is in a bag, the cost of reducing bags is great. Even handing out food: a bottle of water, some fruit and a sandwich, without a bag means the recipient walks away, juggling these items in their open hands.

I don't know the answer on how to balance the need to eliminate plastic bags and plastic bottles with the needs of those in poverty. Please pray with me that the decisions made keep the needs of the most vulnerable in mind.

## DROP-IN MINISTRY

### He Matters

He has a name: Trevor  
 He lives on the streets by choice.  
 Gaol didn't teach him  
 Loss hasn't beaten him  
 Cold cannot defeat him  
 This is Trevor's voice.

He has a name: Trevor  
 He stays awake all night  
 Crystal meth to aid his fight.  
 Showed me his hands, no frost bite  
 "It's a match, a cardboard box and a five-minute flame  
 That helps me survive and keeps me sane"  
 This is Trevor's voice.  
 He has a name: Trevor  
 The activity at night entertains him  
 The 'cast' call the streets their home.  
 "I want to be an advocate  
 To protect our right to live and play here."  
 So what happened to his choice?  
 It's drugs that compromise his voice.

Please pray for this man. It was clear from discussion that he is well read. What happened to his life that it became deluded by addiction? His potential is limitless if he was committed to following Jesus. Pray that we see Trevor again and/or that he finds Jesus through the witness of others.

Footnote: The meth can cause internal heat of the body and the addict loses their sense of danger in extreme cold. Then no match will be lit, no cardboard and no five-minute flame will save him. Trevor matters!



**UGM is pleased to announce our own Winter Walk-a-Thon Fundraiser and Community Awareness Event - our Inaugural**

## **“Walk of Light”**

**Special Date: February 20, 2023 (Family day & New Moon)**

### **What we ask of you:**

1. Select a safe route in your neighborhood or park (even indoor complexes)
2. Seek sponsors for each participant
3. Walk any time between February 13 to March 6
4. Submit photos to us for publication considerations
5. Pray as you walk and share any special needs the wider UGM family can join in prayer with you – before, during or after the event
6. Send sponsorship donations directly to Union Gospel Mission

### **What we will do:**

1. Provide UGM Toques to all walkers/fundraisers
2. Archive your submissions; publish some of the stories and pictures you share with us.
3. Apply any funds raised to where it is needed most among our 7 ministries.

**We love partnering with our church family in Manitoba! We care deeply about our community and can give testimony to the value of prayer. To God be the glory!**

**For any questions and sponsorship forms, contact:  
rosanne.mclellan@gospelmission.ca or 204-943-9904 ext. 226.**

## **Upcoming Event:**

### **Missionfest Conference 2023**

**February 3-5, 2023**

**Church of the Rock in Winnipeg**

More details: <https://www.missionfestmanitoba.org>

Come and say hello at UGM's Display!

**Follow UGM on social media:**

 **Union Gospel Mission Winnipeg**

 **ugmwinnipeg**

 **UGM Winnipeg**

 **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.**