

FEB-APR, 2024

VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

Official Newsletter from Union Gospel Mission

Blessed Beyond Measure

At UGM, we are privileged to witness Jesus at work daily. We regale our supporters, our family of believers, with wonderful testimonies, answers to prayers and exciting news. In this article though, we want to thank each one of you for the encouragement you are!

Thank you to the prayer warriors among you. Better than any man-made fuel, your prayers allow for comfort, encouragement, excitement, motivation and healing as our Lord Jesus responds. Thank you!

Thank you to those of you who donate provisions. Food; vegetables in season, baking treats, breads, meats and juices. (Cont. on page 2)



PASSERS-BY SNOW ART

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

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('BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE' CONTINUED.)

The support is overwhelming at times, but so gratefully received by the people we serve. Thank you. Thank you also to the knitters and stitchers!

Thank you to those of you who donate financially. Your giving heart, your sacrifices are immeasurable and our Lord's multiplication factor is extraordinary. Jesus takes the wheel. He drives us forward and we are so grateful for every cent received. Thank you!

Thank you to all who have taken a tour of our (His!) 7 ministries. It is thrilling for our missionaries to see your interest and to interact face to face. We have

toured busloads (and served lunch) of guests (up to 24 per visit) and carloads (3 or 4 at a time). We never tire of boasting of Jesus and His work and we do not tire of meeting with each one of you. (Inquire about tours by calling Rosanne at 204-943-9904 ext. 226.) Thank you.

Thank you to every single volunteer, including church groups and lay preachers and musicians. This past year we recorded over 12,000 hours of 'free, gracious and heart warming labour'. Whether serving and prepping food, washing floors, walls, dining tables and chairs, our appreciation is high. Whether sharing the gospel in chapel or one on one, singing praises to our King, or sorting clothing that we would not be ashamed to give to Jesus, volunteers are very special and highly valued. Some of you drive an hour or two, in all weather. We are humbled by you all. Thank you!

Thank you to all the churches and businesses who faithfully support us in a combination of the above, and/or helping us

"O how abundant is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you and worked for those who take refuge in you, in the sight of the children of mankind!"

PSALM 31:19



('BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE' CONTINUED.)

host a banquet, dessert evening, or new last year, a small 'tea party'! We thrive on sharing Jesus and we love to share Him in fellowship with you. Thank you. We are truly 'blessed beyond measure'!

Above all – thank you, Jesus, for blessing us beyond measure!

Dumpster Diving

BY FRANK ULRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to the kindness of YFC, I am able to park my vehicle in their parking lot as our lot on the corner of Higgins and Princess has limited parking spots.

Recently when I was walking from where I park into UGM's building, I noticed a gentleman climbing into a dumpster adjacent to a building across the street from our building. My heart went out to this person and I felt sorry for him that he would have to humble himself to the point of diving into a dumpster in hopes of finding food that had been discarded in order to meet his need for hunger.

Thanks to our supporters, we are able to provide warm nutritious meals to the poor that we have the privilege to serve, so that people don't need to resort to dumpster diving. Thanks be to God for giving His Son Jesus to this world that we can share the gospel message with men, women and children every day in our seven ministries throughout four buildings.

"For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.'"

DEUTERONOMY
15:11

Prayer Line

We have a brother in Christ, by the name of Bill Lennox. Many of you reading this may recognize the name. For many years now, Bill voluntarily reaches out in deep gratitude to our many donors. He is our voice of 'thanks' and a provider of the prayer requests he often collects from telephone conversations.

At UGM, we have the enormous privilege of bringing our donor's praises and prayer needs before the Lord, five days a week, 12:15-12:40pm, prior to lunch. Thank you for entrusting us with this!

Recently an exciting thing happened just before Christmas. Bill took a call on our rarely used prayer-line. A woman was in distress as a result of painful family matters. Bill listened and then in a moment of discernment, asked the lady if she had heard the Good News. She had not! Bill went on to share the gospel and she responded to Jesus. She repented and gave her life to the Lord and Saviour.

Praise the Lord!!



**“Follow the
prompting of
the Holy Spirit.
It can save
lives.”**

Prayer - A Testimony

Follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit. It can save lives.

Recently a fellow missionary shared with me that he felt compelled to reach out to a colleague and pray for protection over a journey he was about to

undertake. Sure enough, shortly thereafter, that colleague lost control of his vehicle on the road. Scary as it was, the Lord kept the vehicle on road and kept it away from other vehicles. The miracle of prayer was not lost and both the one who prayed and the one who was delivered from harm were able to rejoice together!

Pray for Her - Adopt a Student Program

BY GILBERT PLANTE,
FAMILY MINISTRIES MANAGER

The Lord put a student that left the school program this year on my heart to pray for. This young beautiful image bearer of Christ has fallen to the schemes of the world. She had been in Faith Academy since Kindergarten and has heard the Gospel message of our Saviour. She is being raised by Christian folks who love her dearly. Over the years, I have fervently prayed for this student as life always seems to be a struggle for her even at a young age. She has visitation with her biological mother from time to time, which always creates more hardship due to the fact that mom suffers with addiction and is not living a lifestyle conducive to raising children.

A short while ago I received an "Alert" that she was missing. My heart sank as I called the Christian caregivers to see if she indeed is missing. I was told she ran away and is mixed up with a crowd of people that she should stay away from. It is so easy to be enticed off the narrow gate, "for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction", Matthew 7:13

The world can be pleasing to a

**"Do not be deceived:
'Evil company
corrupts good
habits'."**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:33

young naïve mind searching for inner peace. While penning this article I recall telling her a few years ago that the peace she is searching for can only be found through our Saviour Jesus. 'He will give you a peace that surpasses all understanding'. I remember grabbing her hand and telling her that the free gift is there for the taking; however, she needs to reach out and receive it. I'm not sure if she has returned home, but regardless, I will continue to pray for her as the Lord leads. I'm thankful for the eight years of Christian schooling she received, because I know that will never part from her!!

**"For the Son of
Man has come to
seek and to save
that which was
lost."**

LUKE 19:10

Children's Ministry

BY CASSIE PEARSON,
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

It is a privilege to serve the Lord at Family Life Centre and such a joy to work with the children of the neighbourhood! However, there are times where serving Him is challenging and in children's ministry, it often happens that our hearts break for the brokenness we see in the children.

A few weeks ago, at the start of club time, one of the girls stopped in at FLC to talk for a bit. I asked her if she planned on going to club, then she just shrugged and replied "I don't know." She then mentioned that when she got home from school, there were 'cops' at her house and her mother was crying. I looked out the window towards her house and sure enough, there were a couple of police cars and another emergency vehicle outside of her home. In this child's home, there is often drug activity and she witnesses all sorts of violence, so frequently that for her, these horrors are just part of everyday life. She casually recalled stories of when her front door had been kicked in, or windows were broken after something was thrown into the house, completely numb to the fact that she lives in turmoil. At just 12 years old, this precious child often is responsible for taking care of her two younger brothers and is slowly

becoming less like the happy young girl I first met.

As much as we are able, we share the Lord's truths with her and the other children who attend club. On this particular day, we were able to bring her a little bit of comfort and spend some time with her one on one, just chatting and getting her mind off of the chaos that awaited her at home. She went to get another friend and I brought the two of them across to the school for kid's club, where they stayed for a little while.

Please pray for this child and the many others like her who live in homes that are not always safe. The enemy has infiltrated many homes of children. We must stand against his attacks on these young lives.

Please pray that the truths we share with these children will settle in their hearts, take root and that they may realize their worth, so they can strive for more than the brokenness they have grown to know. Most importantly, please pray that these young ones will put their faith in Christ and accept His gift of salvation.

**"Oh, taste and see
that the Lord is good;
blessed is the man
who trusts in Him!"**



Men's Addiction Program

BY MARK KELM, SENIOR CHAPLAIN

Ken came into the men's recovery program in 2021. When he first came to UGM he was struggling with anxiety and addiction that was linked to traumatic memories from the past. He had been stuck in a vicious cycle that had torn his life apart. He came to UGM hoping that the healing and peace he had heard about in Christ, and a Christ-centered recovery program, would be the answer to his pain. Ken struggled at first, not wanting to address the pain he struggled with. But slowly he began to trust the chaplains, and most importantly, the Lord Jesus Christ. He began to discover that God did not want to focus on punishing him. God, in Christ, wanted to focus on healing him and letting him know that real peace and healing is found only in Jesus.

Ken held on to John 14:27 where Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." Ken had tried what the world had to offer and it either did not help, or made things worse. He was finding that what Jesus said was true, He did not offer something from this world, but something much better in the gospel. Ken has found this to be true and as a result, he is a different person today. If you need this same peace and hope, place your trust in Jesus as Ken did, and find that He offers something different from this world. Something eternally better!

Please pray for the women in the program:

Jaqueline, Angel, Noella, Karen, Delima, Lindsay, Jillian, Tanya, Jodi, Amber, Emily, Shannon, Ann, Daphne, Samantha, Danielle, Vanessa, Erin, Angelina & Jirah

Please pray for the men in the program:

Ken, Kelly, Phil, Tyler, Jordan, Joshua, Dale, Clark, Matt, Richard, Kerry, John, Jason, Chris, Kirby, Luke, Raymond, Adam, Cory, Abram, Joe, Justin, Matthew & David

God gathers people around Jesus - I love that

BY GERALD DAHL, PRINCIPAL,
FAITH LEARNING CENTRE

Mary & Joseph were drawn to Bethlehem where He was humanly introduced to them and the heavenly host! Shepherds were drawn to the manger to adore Him. Wise men were led to share their best with Him.

Less directly, in 1 Samuel 22:2 a mixed group meets a man after God's own heart:

And all who were distressed or indebted or discontented rallied around him, and he became their leader.

Faith (Adult) Learning Centre also wants to promote nearness to God – to be a place where people are drawn into contact with Jesus.

In addition to dealing with the ebb and flow of life, many students also deal with strong tides and currents of distraction. As we help their brains, may God heal and grow their hearts. Oh Lord, please give them Luke 19:37-40 lips rather than Matthew 15:8 lips.

Please pray for our students:



RS (who lives with her husband and mother-in-law) works from 4 to midnight, awakes, commutes 45 minutes and then studies from 9 to noon – her two children miss her.



AM is recovering from a concussion and needs winter apparel for herself and other adults/children she lives with.



DP would come more regularly except for bus fare – bureaucratic barriers seem to stand in the way of necessary funding.



PTL – AH's conversational English is improving. On top of daily FLC classes, he attends 3 evening newcomer sessions weekly. But he can't pay rent and may need to rely on other Christian agencies for food and shelter this winter.

“As we help their brains, may God heal and grow their hearts.”



DS welcomes the inner work of God's spirit to build her up, but, her external body breaks down due to asthma exacerbated by cold – mobility/joint conditions are also debilitating.



DN has received a second chance to work at family re-unification – please pray for her as she begins parenting again and that at the same time her studies would help rather than hinder.

Ten other students also have needs and barriers. We humbly offer our support and know that God is not done with them or with us. Life moves quickly and the moment for decision can vanish as programs of study are ignored, crowded out or abandoned. Please pray for FLC staff – we want to be doing the right thing in the right way at the right time and place (Matthew 25:13).

Thank you for reading and for praying. I'm sure the handful of fall prayer requests from the last edition were brought before God and I faithfully believe that in response to these prayers all things will work together for good!!! The government was not ready at this time to approve our course application for January; however other very meaningful grade 12 subject offerings have been faithfully prepared by teachers. By His grace, various other projects continue to successfully develop.

Again, it's not about the projects. It's about Jesus and being part of His family: May you always be doing those good, kind things that show you are a child of God, for this will bring much praise and glory to the Lord. (Philippians 1:11 TLB).

Thank you!

**“May you
always be
doing those
good, kind
things that
show you are
a child of
God.”**

PHILIPPIANS 1:11

From the Classroom

BY LISA SCHAU,
TEACHER: FAITH LEARNING CENTRE

I shared with a student last week that the reason I became a teacher was so that I could stay in school for the rest of my career. He didn't exactly share my enthusiasm for school and he is not alone. Many of our students did not love school (though some enjoyed aspects of it). But, each of our students has come to Faith Learning Centre because they hope that education might help them create a better future for themselves and for their families. Their desire to learn and get new skills makes me eager to learn to be a better teacher.



STAFF MEAL WITH GERALD, LISA & LEAH

Since starting at Faith Learning Centre last year, I have come to see just how much I don't know about teaching Math Upgrading. Having been a high school math teacher before, I was prepared to teach high school math courses,

but helping students learn the math skills they need to get started in High School is new to me.

Apparently, it is not enough for me to know how to subtract 9 from 27, or to know how many 8s go into 56! I need to know how to help each student learn to do this on their own. The process sometimes feels really hard and really slow, especially for students who have 'always struggled with math'.

I'm trying to learn how to build bridges from what a student already understands to the next thing they need to understand. I'm trying to learn the pace and learning activities that would be interesting and just challenging enough without being overwhelming or discouraging. But my learning to do this well is a slow process, and meanwhile, my students are at the mercy of my trial-and-error!

So please pray for our students, and the whole team here, that our Teacher – Jesus – will continue to patiently lead us, the students and teachers, from what we know now, to the things we need to know. Pray that we will not give up when the learning seems so slow and painful. May He shape us into fruitful, joyful, peace-making people for the good of our families, our community in the North End, and wherever He sends us.



Waiting for WHO to take away WHAT?

BY DANIEL GLAWATZKI, OPERATIONS MANAGER

At the Mission, once in a while, we hear people say: “Somebody took this away from me!” Or “somebody stole this from me!” Sometimes we can gladly help and restore what was taken away, but sometimes, we are limited. God is not limited and HE can certainly restore a greater need we all have. In HIS wisdom, He prepared a way for salvation and restoration, but how did it happen? One of the last words of God spoken in the Old Testament to his beloved people was this: “See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts...” (Malachi 4:5-6a). It has been 400 years now and nothing else happened!

“Behold, the
Lamb of God
who takes away
the sin of the
world!”

JOHN 1:29

Since then, no more words of God were spoken to His people. So when will God speak again? When will this Elijah come to turn the hearts? Again, we have been waiting for 400 years! Where is God? When is HE finally rescuing His beloved people? Well, I guess we are to keep waiting for a man called Elijah...

Then something amazing happened. An elderly lady miraculously bore a child. This child grew up living in the wilderness. He also had a weird menu: locusts dipped in honey. However, he was a great man of God who called people to repentance. The people were amazed and wondered if he could be the long-awaited Messiah. He said: “I am not the Christ!” “Well, are you Elijah?” “No, I am not!” “Then who are you?” The answer is found in John 1:29. “The next day he (John the Baptizer) saw Jesus coming toward him and said: ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’”

The answer was clear! The “WHO” was not John but Jesus, the Son of

('WAITING FOR WHO' CONTINUED.)

God! The Lamb of God! The question to "TAKE AWAY WHAT" was answered as well! But why take away the sins? Are we really in need of it? Are we not Abraham's children, they asked? Free us from Rome. That is our need, right? NO! In Jesus we find our WHO and WHAT! The only one WHO can take away the WHAT?; our sins!

At UGM, let us keep praying that God would open the eyes and

hearts of the broken souls searching for satisfaction in the "WHO". Let us keep praying that it is 'Nobody but Jesus' who has dealt with our WHAT, the sin! Let us pray that the next time somebody proclaims: "He took this away from me", it would be meant in the biblical, spiritual sense – HE, Jesus, TOOK AWAY my sins from me! That would be the GREATEST GIFT of all time!

Contagious love & joy in Jesus

From the day I first met this man four years ago, his love and joy at his relationship with Jesus is contagious.

A former gang enforcer, drug dealer and user, orphan and 'bad dude', has been redeemed. The labels of his past no longer apply. Jesus has removed and forgotten them. His redemption, his transformation is for real. He has been adopted as a son and heir through God. (Galatians 4:1-7)

He is a witness, ambassador and follower of Jesus. He is my brother; he is brother to all who know Jesus as Lord and Saviour. I would totally trust him to be responsible to look after my home. He is the epitome of a man sold out to Jesus. He is Marcel. He is the fruit of the work of Jesus through UGM.

This Christmas, Marcel put me to shame. Restored to the lives of all five of his children, this father had two of them with

"You are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

GALATIANS 4:7



MARCEL

('CONTAGIOUS LOVE' CONTINUED.)

him on Christmas day; Mystery and Marcel Junior. Rather than shower gifts on his kids, he involved them in giving gifts to others. The people who call the streets of Winnipeg home. The people who mask the pain of living, with needles and the bottle. To my brother, they are not unseen. Each one matters. "They need to know they are not alone".

With a great deal of thought and preparation; shirts, toiletries and healthy snacks were purchased. Juice boxes bought. Christmas cards were handwritten and personalized by the two children. Verses were penned. Psalm 34:9-10 is one example, "oh, fear the Lord, you His saints, for those who fear Him have no lack! The young lions suffer want and hunger; but those who seek the Lord, lack no good thing." The other reference was Psalm 34:17-19: "The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all."

Armed with gift bags and scriptures (not drugs and needles), this 'dealer' in everlasting life, is filled with the Spirit. Christmas Day arrived. Father and two children drove to the 'rough' part of town looking to bless the lonely, maligned and hurting people on the streets. Son was instructed to give to the men he felt led to give to and the daughter likewise, was to give to the women she felt led to.

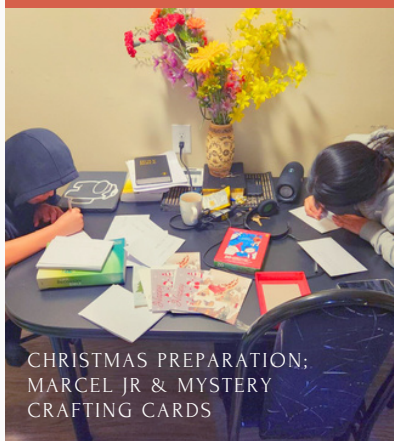
Over 40 recipients were blessed, including some who sobbed with delight.



THE SIBLINGS SHARE THE BLESSING OF GIVING

"The LORD is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."

PSALM 34:17-18



CHRISTMAS PREPARATION:
MARCEL JR & MYSTERY
CRAFTING CARDS

('CONTAGIOUS LOVE' CONTINUED.)

Both Marcel Jr & Mystery were instructed to read out loud, the Christmas greetings, notes and verses ("in case any recipients were illiterate"); yet further testimony to my brother's heart and his Father's love for His kids!

All my brother's resources went into giving for 'strangers' and not buying his kids affection. This brother is a humble man who seeks only to bring glory to God. He shuns publicity, but is rich in his relationship with Jesus; so much so, that I feel compelled to boast in the Lord what a remarkable work He is doing.

Street Ministry - Rest in Him

BY MARK KELM, SENIOR CHAPLAIN

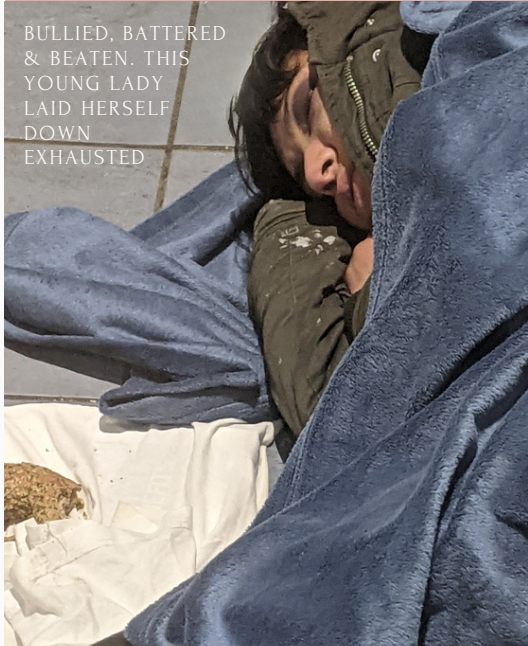
Larry was a street guest who came to the UGM drop-in last week. He was someone who was usually angry and bitter. People would often avoid him because of the anger and bitterness that he would express. Larry is in his 60's, has lost a dangerous amount of weight and has trouble walking for long periods of time due to the complications from severe frost bite to his feet. In drop-in last week, he asked to speak with a chaplain as he was very distressed about something.

My/our brother's love and joy at his relationship with Jesus is contagious!

Please pray that Marcel and his children go from strength to strength as they continue to serve Jesus by serving others!

Thank you.

BULLIED, BATTERED
& BEATEN. THIS
YOUNG LADY
LAID HERSELF
DOWN
EXHAUSTED



**“Come to me all
you who labour
and are heavy-
laden, and I will
give you rest.”**

MATTHEW

11:28

Once I got talking with him, he started crying and said that he is so tired of having to be mean and cantankerous. He said that he tries to stay mean so that he can survive on the street. He's scared because of how dangerous life on the street can be, so he tries to hide by being mean. But he said that staying mean all the time is exhausting and eats away at his soul.

Larry was also tired of his feet hurting him. He felt overwhelmed and needed someone to sit with him while he cried. He asked me to pray for him and as I did so, he held my hands tightly and continued to cry. This man who everyone thought was naturally mean, cantankerous and rude, was

someone who hated being that way and was desperate for peace. I prayed that the Lord would give him that peace. That he would be able to know Jesus, the Prince of Peace, and rely on Him instead of trying to find peace in being someone he was not. He thanked me for giving him the time he needed to let out his pain and for praying with him. He said it was the moment of peace and hope that he needed. It was like gold to him. Jesus did for Larry what He says He will do in Matthew 11:28, **"Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."**

May Larry find more of that rest, along with all those who come to the Mission.

UGM Christmas Meal

The day started with a constant flow of 50 volunteers coming through our doors. Volunteers quickly got to work preparing buns, cutting pies, cleaning, and sanitizing the main floor. It was evident that all the volunteers we had were there to 'serve one another in love' (Galatians 5:13).

About 150 guests arrived at our Princess Street location for the annual UGM Christmas meal on the 30th of December. We had a group of volunteers handing out prayer

SOMEONE SPENDS A NOVEMBER NIGHT IN THIS CONTRAPTION OUTSIDE OUR DOORS



"Serve one another in love"

GALATIANS 5:13

('UGM CHRISTMAS MEAL' CONTINUED.)

cards and praying with guests as they waited for the chapel service to begin. In the basement, we had a team of prayer warriors led by our office manager Jo-Anne They covered the event in prayer and prayed for the 55 prayer requests from our guests.

One of our board members, Cynthia, was able to connect with two young ladies who came in without proper footwear, she was able to find them some socks and boots. Having proper shoes can help prevent them from getting frostbite and having to deal with life-altering complications as a result. It's a small gesture, but it made a huge difference for the ladies and it showed that someone cares and the Lord cares about them.

Walter, one of our faithful chapel speakers shared a message with the guests and he also blessed them in song. There were eight people who gave their lives to the Lord in response to the Gospel.

Chef Andrew and his kitchen team assembled a wonderful meal that included mashed potatoes, stuffing, salad, and what was called 'one of the best turkeys I've had' by one of the volunteers. Andrew listened to sermons and podcasts while preparing the turkey so I think that played a part in the final flavor.

We give God all the glory for a successful event! We thank all the volunteers and donors who continue to partner with us and serve alongside the staff.

We look forward to the next event, the UGM Easter meal on March 30th.



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Union Gospel Mission Winnipeg



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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.

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UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS