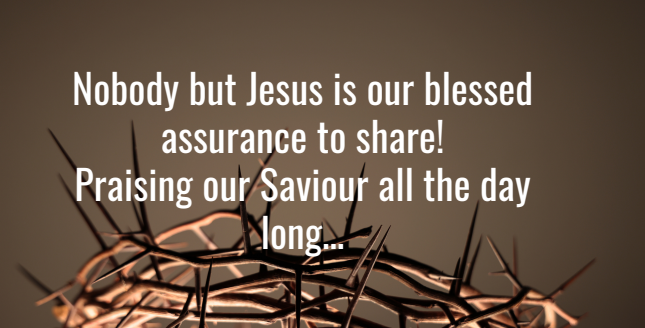


MAY-JULY, 2024

VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

Official Newsletter from Union Gospel Mission



Nobody but Jesus is our blessed
assurance to share!
Praising our Saviour all the day
long...

Thank You God

BY FRANK ULRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On March 2nd Union Gospel Mission held its Annual General Meeting. Corporation members, including Board members and Managers, made up most of the 33 people that were in attendance. Prior to the meeting we enjoyed breakfast together made lovingly by a gentleman in our addiction recovery program. The meeting consisted of: singing a hymn together (Blessed Assurance), followed by a devotional, reports from our chairman, treasurer, myself and then our Managers.

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS



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(‘THANK YOU GOD’ CONTINUED.)

We then moved into items involving the composition of the new Board and approving Board motions from the previous year.

As I reflect on the meeting, I am very thankful to God for the Corporation members who provide oversight to the ministry, the missionaries and volunteers who serve people struggling with poverty and addictions and our donors who contribute to the Lord’s work.

I am thankful to God for our financial situation and that every day in our seven ministries, in four buildings, we can freely share the gospel message with those using our services.

My prayer is that through the Holy Spirit men, women and children would invite Jesus into their hearts and surrender their lives to Him and then spend forever with their Creator in heaven.

Thank you God for Your Hand on the ministry of Union Gospel Mission. To You be all the honor and glory – Amen!

“Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

EPHESIANS 5:20



My Easter Story

BY KERRY

So many years of hurt, turmoil, pain, shortcomings and trials. Why was I left alone at such a young age? Why was I abandoned? Why did I have to suffer the multiple types of abuse by people who said they loved me? I was only 5 when they took my mother away and my dad wanted nothing to do with me. My mom was the only one that truly loved me and then God took her away 3 years later. Passed from home to home; neglected by everyone taking care of me. Grew up on my own bestowing my own morals, ideals and beliefs, comforted by my own sense of self-worthiness. I was only a child; it wasn’t fair. Where was my white picket fence with a mommy and daddy; the dog and cat waiting for me to come from school? Where was the loving embrace that all the kids around me had? Why did the world hate me so much?

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

(‘MY EASTER STORY’ CONTINUED.)

The teenage years were not the greatest either. Being passed through so many homes and multiple schools, I didn’t even get to have a proper education, let alone childhood friends. No one wanted or could understand the hurt and loneliness that was devouring my inner soul like a wolf. Too many broken promises and too many false intents. There was nothing to quench the pain and hurt in the blazing fire of despair. Self-pity was my only companion so many moments as time passed.

Later on, I was introduced to beer. It became my number one companion. It helped me to forget the pain and become someone else. When others didn’t accept me, beer was my comfort. It numbed the pain and made me feel invincible. It became my best friend. Soon beer introduced me to pot...then the good times started. I was even making friends with others that had the anguish and despair that hid so deep inside of us. I finally was accepted into a clique where we could all numb the pain of our realities. We had a good time together. They even introduced me to more mind and soul numbing substances; and I made even more friends.

My early adulthood was a free-for-all. I did what I wanted; wherever, however, whenever and whatever. Consequences were just a damper

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

PSALM 34:8

in my conquests. I had new dreams of being a rock star, aspirations of being a big time drug dealer; maybe join the mafia and become a hitman for some Don or God-Father...”wait till people get a load of me!” Everything was as it should be. My life finally had purpose. As I got older, a ‘man’ was thrown into the mix; slowly he started taking my fun away and crushing my future goals. My past pain and new regrets started to surface. I used more and more in an attempt to drown out and stop this nagging voice in my head. Soon even my new friends started abandoning me.

The voice in my head was getting louder and a new feeling of self worth was filling my inner being and getting stronger. He was patiently waiting for me, nagging and bugging me until I finally questioned the source of this new insanity that was enveloping me. What did he want? Why me? What was this new feeling of love and acceptance? What was happening to me? Who was this guy?

I read one day in this big, ‘boring’ black book that some guy named



('MY EASTER STORY' CONTINUED.)

Jesus, perfect in all His ways, was sent by His Father to forgive me and take away my suffering by loving me. Yeah right! I guess He didn't know the real me or see the things I did. This book had to be a joke. As I read on, looking for a catch or some fine print to disprove this story, it told me not only He loved me but also died for my sins. I couldn't stop thinking about Him. Maybe I was being brainwashed.

But this overwhelming love and comfort entered into my whole being. More questions and even more answers flowed out of this book. I finally gave in and invited Jesus into my life. Although I didn't change over-night, His love and comfort followed me through the good times and bad. I finally found someone; actually three persons who showed me what love is and how I should live.

God sent His Son Jesus into the world and gave Him the Holy Spirit to take away not only my sins, but the sins of others to die on a cross as a sacrifice so we may have a relationship with them for all of eternity. By His example, we are taught how to live and love in this

taught how to live and love in this world and to understand why we were created.

Placed into a manger, born in a shack, He went through hard times, blameless, rejected by His peers, while by example teaching us how to live. He healed the sick, the blind got their sight back, He raised people from the dead and countless other miracles for undeserving people; while knowing what He would face later on. All we had to do was believe that God sent Him and the Holy Spirit to atone for our sins so that we may gain our inheritance for those He loved and loved Him. He endured the worst death of them all followed by torture and disgrace and died a horrible painful death for us. To boot, He gave us the Holy Spirit as a guide and comforter when He rose from the grave 3 days after His crucifixion... an assurance that when He comes back to this world, He will take us, His children home.

What did the Easter bunny ever do...even the chocolate disappeared after 3 days.

A Life Of Miracles

BY DAVID, RESIDENT IN MEN'S
ADDICTION RECOVERY

Hello, my name is David. I am 61 years old. I am here to show you that God is absolutely real. In speaking these words, I give all glory to God.

I was born into a true Christian home. At 2 years old, I fell into a large metal spike and cracked my skull open. I did not die, miracle # 1. Also, when I was just a toddler, I got into my dad's hydromorphone medicine. I thought that they were candy and ate a whole bunch. I stopped breathing for 20 minutes. I did not die, miracle # 2. At 6 years old, I fell into a human size vat of boiling water and got a body full of 3rd degree burns with absolutely no scarring. I did not die, miracle #3

At this point, I knew without a shadow of a doubt that there was a God and through my parents' teachings what Jesus had done for me. I became a Christian at 7 years old. Years later, a large truck went through a red light and pushed me through the back window of a car. I broke my neck and was in a coma for 3 days. I did not die, yet another miracle (#4). When a foolish teenager, I slid off a small cliff at 90 miles per hour, flipped forwards and then sideways, crushing the Honda Civic I was driving, on all sides. No one was hurt, not even a



scratch. Yet another miracle (#5), and so that has been my life with even more death defying miracles that followed.

**“ For I know the plans I
have for you, says the
LORD.” .**

JEREMIAH 29:11

I was physically abused as a child. I have been married twice, both marriages with psychological and physical abuse and adultery done to me by my wives. When they left me, I was more hurt than words can express, but I knew that God knew my depth of pain. Don't ever get divorced, it is the worst pain you could experience. Far, far worse than any physical pain that you could endure.

Soon after, I was downsized and lost my long-time career as a branch operations manager and could not find comparable

('A LIFE OF MIRACLES' CONTINUED.)

employment. I then went bankrupt and lost my house of 18 years. A friend introduced me to crack cocaine and I started using it regularly to take away all of the pain. It took only using it one time to get me addicted, so do not even try it!

This continued for a great many years, but I then remembered that God is in control, and that Jeremiah 29:11 says that, "For I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not disaster, to give you a future and a hope." So, if something that I perceive as a tribulation is occurring, I can truly be at peace knowing that it is for my good and even more importantly God's glory sooner or later. Philippians 4:11 says, "I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

"I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances."

PHILIPPIANS 4:11

I still was doing crack, I could not stop on my own and I needed God's help. I was focussed on religious pathways to God's favour. I would sin, confess, ask for forgiveness and repent and then

repeat this process over and over, after each time I did crack. I did not rely on the amazing grace of God in that He has already forgiven me (past tense) of all of my sins, past, present and future and made me righteous in His eyes. I try now not to be focussed on my sin but rather the grace of which God has shown me. I am so hugely grateful! The strength to repent comes from God, I realized. Now I no longer rely on myself, but 100% on God's continuing grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to not sin further. Currently, I have absolutely no cravings or desires to do crack again. Yet another miracle (#6)! In pushing through the religious add-ons and returning to the original pure gospel, I no longer underestimate God's love and mercy that He continues to supply and I stopped acting religiously. Remember, religion only teaches us to behave, but grace teaches us to believe and it is not sin that humbles us, but grace. For me, to follow Jesus is to enter the unknown, to relinquish security, and to exchange certainty for confidence in Him.

Not doing drugs for many months now, creates in me a desire not to just exist anymore, but to actually live my life. To take risks and live dangerously for Jesus. To live life as an adventure. My goal is no longer how long I live, but rather

('A LIFE OF MIRACLES' CONTINUED.)

that I truly live, not just exist. I will no longer settle for a life of mediocrity.

So I say, give your life away passionately and through the magnetism of your own life, move hearts that have long gone still. God, through His Son Jesus has started a revolution and is inviting you to join. No observers invited, no spectators necessary, only revolutionaries, only radicals need apply. People are longing to be a part of something that is making a difference. This different life that we are called to live requires us to become different. I became different through the Holy Spirit's workings, not on my own effort. Praise God for UGM and my family here! In this place, I have been given much time for Bible studies and alone time to pray and read, plus the advantage of fellowship with other Christians.

I was going to stop here, but just about a few months ago, something happened to me that I would like to share with you. For many months now, I have owed a drug dealer thousands of dollars and they had been threatening to harm me. I had prayed a lot about this and so I decided to meet with them and give them what little money I had. One, they did not kill or even hurt me. Two, I did not buy or use any of their crack. Three, and this is a big one – they said stop using drugs forever and congratulated me for staying sober for over 4 months at the time. They then forgave me thousands of dollars of drug debt! I truly am blessed, yet another fantastic miracle (#7).

God is with me always and He can be for you too. Surely you too can trust God to more than compensate for anything you must give up for Him. Please pray for me. Thank you.

“In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

JOHN 16:33



“When a man’s ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”

PROVERBS 16:7

Five Souls Who Desperately Need Jesus

It is a privilege that on any given day, many visitors frequent our front door at 320 Princess Street. Sometimes they come solo, other times in two's or three's, but nearly always wanting help of some kind. The privilege is in serving these image bearers of God, irrespective of how awful their circumstances might be.

This past Monday morning, five individuals became indelibly etched on my mind. First there was *Shawn. Tattoos on his cheeks. Just two teeth protruding from his bottom gums. He was psychotic, dirty and likely demonized. The things he said were vile and the imagery he painted was beyond any imagination that I wanted to engage. Talking simultaneously was *Ken. Clearly high, he was speaking at the speed of an auctioneer about all the tracts he had collected from the Mission and how his friends need more tracts. (He cleverly procured three additional snacks/pastries for his friends, which he proceeded to devour in front of me, having assured me they were for those friends!). Shawn meanwhile was getting ever louder, claiming he had tried to end his own life a total of 13 times. Tragically sad. Deep in pain.

Enter into this picture *Dorian & *Danielle. Dorian was high and unaware that his nose was running all over his face. He was anxious for something sweet to eat. Danielle was inappropriately dressed and quite incoherent. One of our female staff members was called to help Danielle with clothing, but sadly was unable to break



“For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.”

PROVERBS 16:7



‘FIVE SOULS’ CONTINUED.)

through the grip of the demons we discerned that had a control of her. Danielle refused help, but did take a snack and tract.

Finally, the face of *Mark joined the scene at the front door. He accepted prayer. He had recently failed to remain at detox and was wanting help to overcome the urge to give into crystal meth. Amidst all the other noise, there was peace, hope and expectation in prayer.

Five people, five souls all in the grip of satanic forces, all addicted to drugs (the psychosis and demeanour of each bore witness to

this). Five creations of Jesus. Five knitted together in their mother’s womb by our amazing God.

Can you please fervently pray for Shawn, Ken, Dorian, Mark and Danielle’s deliverance and salvation? Pray that they become eternally heaven-bound and that Satan loses more souls from his roadway to hell.

(*The names used may or may not be real, as we are often told ‘anything’ that comes to mind as a response to the question, ‘may I know your name?’. The point is, Jesus will know exactly who you/we are praying for.)

Adopt A Student Program

BY GILBERT PLANTE,
FAMILY MINISTRIES MANAGER

As I sit in my office pondering what I should pen for our quarterly publication of “Voices & Prayer Warriors”, I have a sense of gratitude for our Lord. “For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.” Romans 8:28.

It is always His faithfulness that helps me to overcome in times of uncertainty. So many times I would enter a home for visitation not knowing what I’m stepping into. Many of the families of the sponsored students in the

“For we know that all things work together for good to those who love God.”

ROMANS 8:28

Christian School Program do not know who our Lord is. Over the years, I have had many awkward visits with families who really were not interested in hearing about Jesus. Then in those awkward moments of silence is when I hear the gentle voice of our Lord tell me to “tell them who you are, where you have been, then tell them who I am and what I have done for you!” Usually after sharing a brief testimony, people realise that we are not all that different.

('ADOPT A STUDENT' CONTINUED.)

My go-to scripture at this point is 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." After I explain this beautiful piece of scripture, barriers come down and the relationship building process begins. Sharing the Word of God is never done in our own strength, however, what an incredible privilege it is. Over the years there have been awkward visits, painful visits, fruitful visits, and there is always one that remains the same, it's all about the Father's business. To God be the glory now and forever Amen!

**"They are new every morning; Great and beyond measure is Your faithfulness.
"The LORD is my portion and my inheritance," says my soul; "Therefore I have hope in Him and wait expectantly for Him."**

LAMENTATIONS 3:23-24

Children's Ministry

BY CASSIE PEARSON, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

We praise the Lord for all He continues to do at Family Life Centre! We have a volunteer, Karen, who developed a heart for the girls who attend children's club through a ministry at FLC. She has a desire to help the girls learn kitchen skills so that when they are older, they will be able to cook for themselves.

Every Wednesday, after club, Karen shows up with all the necessary ingredients and tools required to prepare the scheduled food for the day. The girls are eager to help and

take part in each step required to make the food on the menu for that particular day. We've witnessed the girls learn how to properly chop vegetables, how to cook meat thoroughly, how to properly measure dry ingredients for baking and how to add spices and seasonings to the food they cook, among other skills. While baking, one of the girls accidentally added twice the amount of a specific ingredient and for a moment, thought the recipe was ruined. Karen was encouraging and showed the girls that if they just doubled the recipe, all would work out well. It is our prayer that the girls will take these learned skills home with

('CHILDREN'S MINISTRY' CONTINUED.)

them and use them so that they can develop good habits for cooking in the future.

While the food is cooking / baking and does not need to be attended to, Karen sits with the girls at the tables and shares a Bible lesson with them. She also takes that opportunity to have conversations with them that are applicable to what is going on in their lives. One thing that I found encouraging that she shared with the girls was how everything that is good belongs to the Lord. Any good thing that we can imagine, we have only because of Him and He deserves the glory and praise. She also touched on things that are not good, such as fighting with other children. It was during this part of the conversation that some of the girls got uncomfortable due to some recent events where they had physically fought with other children and the videos ended up on social media. Karen knew nothing of the social media videos, but was able to provide the girls with wise council against fighting. Praise the Lord for how He led Karen's heart to share those words with the girls!

Please pray for Karen's ministry to the girls here at FLC and pray that the girls will not only learn proper kitchen skills, but that they will also learn more about how deep their need for Jesus is and that they may all seek Christ's salvation.

Prayer Requests from children:

Angel: for her dad, who is a drug addict

Sofia: for her mom's health to continue to improve

Faith Learning Centre

BY VOLUNTEER

I was helping a student in his efforts to understand what makes a complete sentence and he was having some problems trying to grasp the concept. As this was my first time tutoring at the Faith Learning Centre, I wanted to come up with a way that would help him understand. From what I could see, the issue seemed to be where the subject and verb were located in the sentence.

From his answers to the exercise, it was apparent he could easily spot which was a complete sentence and which was a fragment, as long as the subject and verb were at the beginning of the sentence. This was where he expected it to be.

This makes perfect sense to someone new to Canada and trying



(‘FAITH LEARNING CENTRE’ CONTINUED.)

to learn the English language. From what I have been told by others who went through the same experience, English can be a very difficult language to learn with its arbitrary rules. I could tell from his expression the difficulty he was having at grasping the idea that a subject and verb could pop up in just any odd place in a sentence.

I am sure many of us of a certain generation can sympathize. I still remember the classic rule “i before e except after c”. I recall thinking to myself at the time, in my grade seven English class, why the letter c in particular? Then there are all those many exceptions to this and other rules.

Expanding this conundrum to my walk as a Christian, I can remember times when I am too wrapped up in the “rules” of what makes a good Christian. It would get to the point where I found myself focusing more on them and not on “the Author and Perfecter of our faith”.

Gaining Wisdom

BY LISA BETTCHER,
TEACHER: FAITH LEARNING CENTRE

In my seven years as a missionary teaching at Faith Learning Centre, I can say that God blesses the people of this ministry with stronger faith, real friendship, true joy and closer



In an effort to simplify things, I told the student to look for the subject and the verb anywhere in the sentence and not just at the beginning. It is a good place to start. I said to him, but if you do not find it there, keep looking. This seemed to help him in his understanding.

I am not a grammar expert by any means, which is why I ask for your prayers of support and guidance when it comes to helping students at the Faith Learning Centre. I pray for ways to help the students I work with to understand and to learn.

Please also pray especially for the students, as their life circumstances can often throw up roadblocks to their learning and the chance to learn about the greatest teacher of all!

connection with God. It is a privilege to be part of this ministry, where we not only teach knowledge to our students, but most importantly, we share wisdom through learning God’s word, praying together and giving testimonies.

(‘GAINING WISDOM’ CONTINUED.)

Starting the day with acknowledging the presence of the Lord through staff prayers in the office and teacher’s prayer and devotion in the class rejuvenates and encourages everyone. The chapel, which Gerald leads every Wednesday, elevates our relationship with God. Students and teachers are encouraged to speak and to pray, drawing us closer to each other as a family.

It is truly a joy to be used by God to give comfort and prayer to those students who are struggling with problems and challenges. For the students to realize that they have family in Faith Learning Centre that listen and cry with them uplifts our spirit too.

Just recently, one of my female students came in low-spirits, and I felt she was carrying a heavy burden. She decided not to open up at first, but there was an urge in me to embrace her and to pray for, her which she agreed to. After that, she confessed she needed a hug and prayer for comfort. I was glad God worked in our midst.

There are times when students ask spiritual questions and if these are not answered correctly, harmful notions and wrong beliefs will persist. I thank God that Faith Learning Centre is a Bible-based centre where students are

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!”

PSALMS 111:10

consistently encouraged to become rooted in God’s word, the source of truth.

It is truly inspiring to see that students are earning credits on their courses in spite of having to struggle with problems that none of us would wish for. What a joy to see several students finally gain credits in English, Social Studies, and Math. We pray that each student would experience greater peace and stability and that in turn their attendance would improve. We want them to see graduation as a reward that is getting closer and easier – for them to see God’s plan for every aspect of life.

A new course for me to teach this term is Psychology. To align this course biblically is truly exciting and I learn a lot about the personality and temperament of people in the Bible and how God directed them. Please include this new course in prayer, that God will use this for the students to become effective in dealing with themselves and with other people, in general.

‘GAINING WISDOM’ CONTINUED.)

Another enjoyable part of the day that I always look forward to is meeting Gerald and Lisa for our midday break, the only time of the day when we not only get to share a laugh and chat but also discuss fruitful life topics. What an amazing family I have here!

Attendance in adult education is unpredictable. Please continue to



pray for our students as most of them are starting their new courses – that God continuously gives them patience, determination and motivation to pursue their studies with success. Please pray that the Lord enlightens their minds with the importance of His guidance and for them to see that education is a gift from God that He wants them to use to better their situation in life. Please also include us, the team, with prayers for the Lord to bless abundantly us with good health, caring hearts and active minds.

Together with our students, may we all follow the Bible like a compass. It requires our attention and practice but will always point us in the right direction.

Volunteers

BY MUNYA RUSERE, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The body of Christ is not just a group of Christians gathered in one place. Its members are like different parts that work together. 1 Corinthians 12:27, “Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” Though they are different from each other, there is oneness of purpose and oneness of heart. It presents itself as a complete unit. Christ’s body, the church, is made up of many



“Now you are the
body of Christ, and
each one of you is a
part of it.”

1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

(‘VOLUNTEERS’ CONTINUED.)

members that form one body that works together. This image is depicted daily in our ministries at UGM, especially through our volunteers. We are blessed to have a group of volunteers of all ages from all over the world. Our drop-in centre has received many volunteers from Africa. Last October, a group of missionaries from Africa came for a tour and some of them have become regular volunteers. They help with serving meals, organizing the drop-in centre, and training new volunteers. One of our brothers, Tex, who is from Nigeria, said that he kept coming back to serve because he found his family here at UGM.

Every second week, a class from Faith Academy joins us at our location at 320 Princess St. They tour our building and help us set up for lunch, chapel and drop-in. The students are very enthusiastic and eager to serve with all their hearts, which is very encouraging for us. *We have also been blessed with over 60 youths serving with us during spring break. They have made care packages for men and women in our recovery programs, led chapel services, and gone out on the streets to pray for people and share God’s love with those in our community. It is very encouraging for us to see the students step up and be Christ’s hands and feet.

*Anecdote: There was one team of 15 youth who served throughout our Mission for four straight days. During this time, they good-naturedly dreamed up nicknames for themselves and some of our missionaries. Ray-Ban, Tin-Can, Hertz and Marmalade are some examples! The occasion duly arose when ‘Marmalade’ introduced this ‘fruit preserve, marmalade’ to the 15 youth at lunch. The question was then asked, ‘How many new converts to marmalade do we have?’ The response was overwhelming – almost unanimous! The Lord then reminded us of Psalm 34:8, “Taste and see that the Lord is good.” At UGM, we are confident that the “taste and see’ how good the Lord is, will yield unanimous responses of ‘YES’, we want more of Him!

“Taste and see that the Lord is good.”

PSALM 34:8



Street Ministry

BY ED BULLER, CENTRE MANAGER

Every day between 2pm and 4pm, Union Gospel Mission opens its doors to anyone on the street who would like to come in for tea, water, milk, a Christian message/movie, counselling and so much more. It is our busiest time of the day where we see between 100 and 200 guests daily. These men and women are facing homelessness, food insecurity, addiction and poverty. We literally become a small island in the midst of their storm.

What I have seen and worked with these past years during that time we affectionately call our drop-in would shock any normal human being. However, what I have seen and worked with these past years during drop-in would also bless you and bring you to tears of Joy. Jesus quite simply and powerfully is the only answer!

Let me tell you about Paul and JP. The two men are friends facing poverty and food insecurity. I see them every day at drop-in. I love these guys. At the end of drop-in when it is time to leave they REFUSE to leave until... they clean the entire drop-in centre. You see, many people leave behind garbage, clogged toilets, parts of their shattered lives. Paul and JP serve

Jesus by helping our staff make the building clean again.

These two men model true service, a true model of Jesus, if you will, to me and to everyone who sees what they do. They don't do it to get paid. They do it because they love to serve. With the daily battles they must face, these two men truly humble me and model Christ likeness.

Thank you JP! Thank you Paul!



**“Serve one another
in love”**

GALATIANS 5:13

Women's Ministry

BY GILBERT PLANTE, FAMILY
MINISTRIES MANAGER

We are very blessed at the Family Life Centre with all our volunteers that continue to come and serve our Lord and guests every week. The North End is riddled with poverty and everything associated with it. Regardless of the troubled souls coming through the doors, our guests are always met with warmth and a smile. Many of the guests we serve have stories that will break your heart. The stories we hear about the atrocities of Residential Schools and the 60's scoop are terrifying. The countless troubled and lost souls that come through our doors is never ending. We simply can't serve as we should to the orphans and widows without our faithful volunteers.

Once in a while, one of our faithful servants comes to terms with the fact that they can't serve with the tenacity that they once did. We recently had a volunteer retire from serving at the Family Centre. After 38 years of serving, Mary-Anne made the very difficult decision to retire from serving at FLC. In her years of service she has worked with 5 different managers and has many fond memories. Mary-Anne told me about the first time she made meatloaf for the Ladies Day meal and when it was to be served,



it wasn't cooked all the way through. Mary-Anne recalls how they had to scramble and use the microwave to get it ready to be plated. With all the panic that happened that day, all ended well and the women in the kitchen served a wonderful meal.

I was told about how Mary-Anne would bring her toddlers to FLC on Ladies Day to teach them how to become faithful servants in the future. These toddlers are now grown, married with children of their own, serving the Lord in some capacity. Every time Mary-Anne came to serve, she was the living example of "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven", Matthew 5:16.

('WOMEN'S MINISTRY' CONTINUED.)

Mary-Anne told me that what she will miss the most, are the many women she had the privilege of serving. Well done, good and faithful servant!

“Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.”

MATTHEW 5:16

Inaugural, Annual 24 Hour Prayer

Close to 3 dozen prayer warriors physically came to our 'home' base on Princess Street. It was a beautiful and meaningful time. Sweet fellowship and new friendships evolved in the presence of our Lord. Praise, petition and gratitude to our Father.

Scripture was read aloud by all. One of our staff had suggested reading through Psalms and taking it one chapter at a time. From doing this, we managed to read over 50 chapters. From each chapter, the Holy Spirit inspired the direction of our prayers, for the Mission, for churches or for families and friends of those present, including personal prayers.

One immediate answer to prayer was for a young man who suffered anxiety in speaking publicly. He duly received prayer and then proceeded to read aloud and pray aloud, not only for the two hours we thought he and his wife were

staying for, but for the next three and a half hours they remained! He and his wife were a source of blessings and encouragement.

Never have 24 hours gone by so quickly! We even got a head start when a real keen supporter showed up 30 minutes early, making it 24 ½ hours!



I would also like to give a shout out to two Millar College of the Bible students who arrived at 3:15 am and stayed to pray until 5:30 am. So special!

Other prayer warriors had to be encouraged to leave when they had stayed beyond the time their loved ones at home were expecting.

(‘ANNUAL 24 HOUR PRAYER’ CONTINUED.)

Two such warriors left at 2:15 am. One had been present since 8 pm, the other returned at 7 am. Such was the delight being experienced in the presence of the Lord.

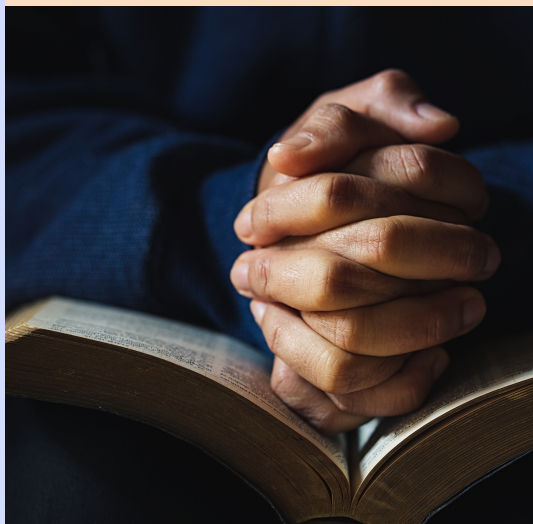
Finally, we were blessed by those people who make up our Board of Directors. Several of them led prayer times at Princess Street. So encouraging to be supported by many wonderful followers of Jesus! We would also be remiss if we did not thank those of you praying from home during the 24 hours. Thank you!

Yet More To Praise The Lord For!

We are thankful to the Lord that He has heard our prayers and answered them in His time, according to His will. We prayed that the Lord would bring us people to serve at UGM as missionaries and He sure did! We have been blessed with the following additions to our team: Munya (Volunteer Care Coordinator), Justin (Finance Assistant), Jaymie (children’s worker), Autumn (children’s worker), Leticia (children’s worker), Angie (Case Manager), Christine (Counselor) and Monica (Women’s Ministry leader).

“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.”

JOHN 5:14-15



PRAISE
THE
LORD



WANTED:

Preachers, Teachers, Retired Pastors or others desiring to mentor and disciple the homeless, the maligned, the poor, the unchurched and the formerly addicted recovering people we serve.

OPPORTUNITIES AROUND:

By volunteering at UGM, consider teaching a class. Disciple or mentor the homeless or recovering addict. Preaching the gospel. Sharing Christ one on one. Encourage and instruct. Counsel and pray.

www.gospelmission.ca will allow you to find our volunteer qualifications and statement of faith.

The need is great. The harvest is ripe but the workers are few. At UGM we have adopted the phrase “Nobody but Jesus”. He alone is the guaranteed answer!



SAVE THE DATE:

Youth Event, October 18, 2024, NKMB, “Now I Can See!”

WATCH OUT FOR:

“UGM on the Road” – This Summer. Coming to a place near you – we trust!

FOLLOW UGM ON SOCIAL MEDIA:



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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.

Registered Charity # 119275758 RR0001