

FEB.-APRIL 2025

VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

Official Newsletter from Union Gospel Mission

He Is More Than Sufficient

BY FRANK ULRICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thank you Heavenly Father for giving us your only Son Jesus, who came to this world to live, die and then rise again, in order that our sins could be forgiven and we could have the hope of eternal life.



Thank you God for sustaining the ministry of UGM for 91 years. Thank you for the Corporation and Board members who provide governance. Thank you for the missionaries and volunteers who faithfully serve people struggling with

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

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This issue:

He Is More Than Sufficient PAGES 01-02

More Of His Sufficiency PAGES 02-03

The Light Sings PAGES 03-06

A Hunger For The Word PAGES 06-08

Men's Addiction Recovery PAGE 09

Adult Education PAGES 10-11

Adopt-A-Student PAGES 11-12

Women's Ministry PAGES 13-14

Children's Ministry PAGES 15-16

From The Heart PAGE 16-18

Volunteer Update PAGES 18-19

> Please Pray PAGE 19

Upcoming Events PAGE 20 "NOT THAT WE ARE SUFFICIENT IN OURSELVES TO CLAIM ANYTHING AS COMING FROM US, BUT OUR SUFFICIENCY IS FROM GOD."

2 CORINTH. 3:5

('HE IS MORE' CONTINUED.)

poverty and addiction. Thank you for providing donors with health, strength and income in order that they can give to support Your work in the seven ministries, out of four buildings.

Thank you Holy Spirit for moving in the hearts and minds of the people that we serve so that people can invite You into their hearts and surrender their lives to You.

At UGM, we pray a lot and we trust in our Lord and Saviour to lead the ministry and move and work in powerful ways. To Him be all the glory!

More Of His Spectacular Sufficiency! (Yet more cause for thanks!)

At Union Gospel Mission, we are constantly amazed at how our Heavenly Father provides for the needs of His Seven Ministries. We have just come through what is traditionally our most important giving season. A season that by worldly standards was potentially compromised by a postal strike that impacted us with no mail for over four weeks! But there is the Jesus factor.

Many of you will be familiar with Paul's letter to the Philippians. In chapter 4 verses 18 & 19, Paul writes, **"I have received full payment and more. I am well supplied**,

('MORE OF HIS SUFFICIENCY' CONTINUED.)

having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

The beauty of the Church, the heart of you all, our brothers and sisters, finding different ways to financially give funds, meant we barely skipped a dollar in the budget the Lord had led us to for December 2024!

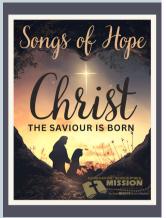
Jesus is extraordinarily generous and you, His people, are remarkably kind! Thank you all so much for your contributions. We are humbled by your love and generosity. We are blessed by your prayers!

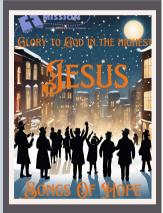
The Light Sings In The Darkness And The Darkness Has Not Overcome It

BY JUSTIN LANGE

On December 19th, about 25 people set out onto the dark streets of downtown Winnipeg, heavy laden with gifts and goodies, ready to sing songs of light and joy. The sun had not gone down yet when we left the UGM building at 320 Princess Street. Yet the word 'dark' still very much applied. There is a spiritual "AND MY GOD WILL SUPPLY EVERY NEED OF YOURS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY IN JESUS CHRIST."

PHILL. 4:18-19







darkness on these streets. There are many precious image-bearers of God who are held in chains of bondage to addiction, who are suffering in poverty, and who do not know the fullness of joy they could experience in God's Son.

Multiple Board members, staff, volunteers, and even residents in the addictions recovery programs came together to carol in the streets of Winnipeg. We held large banners which boldly declared Christ's birth and that the Lord has come. We held candles, a physical picture of the spiritual light we sought to bring. Following the example James sets out in the 2nd chapter of his epistle, we brought far more than just spiritual nourishment. Over one hundred bags full of food and snacks were brought along, as were blankets for those in desperate need of warmth. A massive container of hot apple cider was wheeled along in a wagon and offered to all who we came across. In addition to all this. invitations to UGM's Christmas Dinner (which occurred on January 4th) were given to each person, along with information on the programs and chapels UGM offers for those in need. Paired with the tracts containing the treasure of the Gospel message inside, there was a great deal of goodness being handed out.

Perhaps the most obvious thing our group did, however, was sing. Although not a trained and practiced choir by any means,

('THE LIGHT SINGS' CONTINUED.)

we each sang with the joy and the ability given us by God. We sang in the drop-in centre of Siloam Mission to scores of men and women, and then made our way down Logan Avenue, singing about the joy Jesus brought to the world as we went. Singing outside both Main Street Project and the Salvation Army, we warmed up quickly at Millar College of the Bible before continuing north up Main Street, singing at bus stops and intersections all the wav until we reached the Family Life Centre on Pritchard Ave. Wherever we went, we sang about Jesus, the reason for the Christmas season. We sang about this Child who was truly God in the flesh, this Anointed One whom the Jews had waited for for thousands of years, this King who came to die and redeem sinners forever.

We carollers sang of this Baby who was actually God come down, born that man no more may die, while some people right in front of us injected their bodies with drugs of death and destruction. We held up our signs and sang while some who are living in the grips of addiction and sin continued to walk by. Yet, they were outdone by the numbers who stopped to listen, and by the sounds of vehicle horns, sounding their encouragement. The light shone in the darkness: many were encouraged and drew hope from our brief interactions with them. In our two hours on the streets we did not encounter a single angry or



"THE LIGHT SHONE IN THE DARKNESS: MANY WERE ENCOURAGED AND DREW HOPE."



UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

('THE LIGHT SINGS' CONTINUED.)

scornful word! Praise Jesus!

As we boldly sang these Christmas songs in the darkness, we displayed the truth that God uses the weak or foolish things of the world to accomplish His purposes (1 Cor. 1:27-28). In fact, the very God we sang about became the weakest of all: a helpless baby, born to poor parents in first century Judea. It was this baby who was actually the Creator and Saviour of all. Who held all reality in His hands. This Jesus which we sang of really is the only way to God, and the only way to freedom from the chains of addiction. The residents in UGM's recovery program testified to this as they too sang and enthusiastically participated. One resident shared that he was now helping others and singing about Jesus on the very streets where he sold drugs for many years. What power there is in Jesus!

A Hunger For The Word

BY KARIS MEIKLE, CHARIS SUPPORT WORKER

I am Karis Meikle and I have been with UGM at the Charis Centre as a Resident Support Worker for a little over a year now. I came as an intern with Millar College of the Bible and then was hired on as full-time staff when I graduated at Millar.



Over the past few months I have been teaching a new class to the ladies in our program, called Biblical Foundations I had a passion to teach a class like this because at the Charis Centre and UGM we believe that Christ and His Word is the foundation and completely sufficient to recovery and healing, and I love learning God's Word and being able to teach it! I would get so many questions from the residents throughout the day about the Bible and I saw that there was an eagerness to learn about this God who we follow and serve, and the best way to learn about this God is through His Word. I started coming up with a curriculum and then began teaching the foundations of the

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

PAGE 06

('A HUNGER' CONTINUED.)

Bible and how the Bible works together as a whole. I wanted the ladies to learn how Jesus' story is woven all throughout the Old and New Testament; how the Bible is relevant to us today; the cultural context of the Bible and fitting all the pieces of things the ladies already knew about the Bible into the whole context of the Bible.

It has been so cool seeing the ladies come to a greater understanding of the Bible and about this God that we serve. Their questions are insightful and genuine; there have been questions about: What is salvation? Why did Jesus have to ascend into heaven? What does it mean to be godly? How were the dinosaurs destroyed? What does it mean that Jesus conquered death? What is the difference between our own fleshly desires and what Satan wants? What did Jesus mean when he said "My God My God why have You forsaken me?" So many questions that have challenged me and encouraged me to dig deep into God's Word. I have been especially encouraged by one resident,

Annette. This lady has a hunger for God's Word that inspires me. She is not afraid to ask the hard questions and together we have researched and dug into God's Word to find the answers that we can. I pray that this lady will never give up her curiosity for God and His Word and that she never stops seeking Him out and searching His Word.

I also love seeing the dots connect when the ladies are in my class. When we got to the book of Daniel we had learned the whole context leading up to the famous "Daniel in the Lion's Den" story and one resident said "whoa! I never knew that is where that story fit into the Bible!" I have witnessed some of the ladies hearing these stories



for the first time as well, which has been so neat. Their curiosity and total fascination with God's "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

PSALM 119:103-105



('A HUNGER' CONTINUED.)

Word humbles me and reminds of the attitude I need to have with the Bible. I am reminded that God's Word is enough to transform lives and hearts; it is not me that does the transforming.

I am reminded of Psalm 119 which is full of reminders of how much we are to love God's commands, laws, and precepts: "Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth (vs.12-13)" "I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word (vs.16)" "Behold, I long for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life! (vs.40)" "If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction. I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life." (Vs. 92-93) "Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." (vs.97) "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Vs. 103-105).

May each and every one of us never cease to be amazed at God's Word and the answers He provides for all of life's questions. God's Word is all sufficient!

Men's Addiction Recovery Program

Can I talk to you for a few minutes? This is a common question that I hear all day every day as a chaplain here at Union Gospel Mission. I love to hear that question because it means that our residents have been thinking about something and they want to share it with someone.

Jerry (not his real name) has been with us for over a year now. His love for God and his understanding of the gospel message has been growing by leaps and bounds. When Jerry knocks on my door and asks if he can talk with me, I know I am in for a treat. His excitement is contagious, as he relates a particular insight he had or a dream that was meaningful to him. The new life that Jerry is experiencing is truly a miracle, especially in light of the fact that he was a child of the foster care system. Being bounced around from home to home during his adolescent years took its toll on him, and he spent most of his adult life in and out of addictions. Life as he knew it was not sustainable and he decided to come to UGM for help. Jerry is currently employed as a chef for Living Bible Explorers and for Bruce Oak Recovery Center. He is a phenomenal example of what the power of God's amazing love can do in a person's life!

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"This new life is truly a miracle"

Adult Education

BY GERALD DAHL, PRINCIPAL

Recently a guest at Faith (Adult) Learning Centre said, "I can't believe how much you do with nothing." While there is always a need for more resources and volunteers, it's also appropriate to pause in gratitude, even as one looks and trusts faithfully with respect to the future.

"YOU'RE BLESSED WHEN YOU STAY ON COURSE, WALKING STEADILY ON THE ROAD REVEALED BY GOD."

PSALM 119:1-4

Reliance on God's grace and trusting in Him is also important during setbacks. Lately I've been reviewing guarterly fiscal reports. I'm grateful too that some budget subcategories are within margin; prayer is also needed around overruns on account of a flood and a break-in recently. Thankfully the frustrated thieves left in less than two minutes, very much empty handed. Please pray for security, increased funding and for wisdom to effectively spend what we do have. (Our current grant request is being

reviewed by the province this spring.)

Grace is also very much required and in evidence as Faith Learning Centre staff bring family situations before the Lord, having to do with important 'non-school' issues that could get in the way of teaching students. Instead of seeing the 'weight' of life grinding staff down, God's grace reveals itself in the form of unexpected help from a family member or good news for a spouse at work, or appointments that bring understanding, openness, acceptance trust and hope with respect to whatever God has.

I believe this steadfast reliance of God's goodness trickles down to students in real time too. This week, for instance, on the day that our provincial site inspector came, 10 students showed up by 10 am. (Five of the eight days we've had ten too! This impressed the inspector!) Our expectation is that we can very much help some 12 or 13 of our current students to truly identify and act as regular attenders with real hopes of completion and, for a handful more to join the pack

('ADULT ED' CONTINUED.)

even as we move into and through the winter months.

On average, I make about 20 attendance inquiries each week. Teachers reach out to absent students as well. Often no one picks up or replies. I wonder whether the message gets through or is appropriate, or if we'll ever get to the point where the need to coax attendance won't be necessary. I never question the impact and sufficiency of God's grace, however. In agreement with this, will you please pray for a dozen or more committed students/ disciples who've caught the vision of their divine calling and superabundant sufficiency from God to equip them along their way. Please also pray for substitute teachers and that students would complete a record number of courses this academic year. Pray especially that Holy Spirit enthusiasm would inspire three students to graduate, not just with a Mature Student Diploma, but with an authentic testimony as well.

Finally, sometimes God's grace comes with cake. Thanks to a

recent newsletter reader who organized some friends to drop off snacks. Here's a text I sent students around that time: "Please come today for your report card AND please call every day during business hours when away, AND please read Psalm 119:1-4 (paraphrased) - **'You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God.'** (PLUS there's CAKE today!)"



Adopt-A-Student-Program

BY GILBERT PLANTE, FAMILY MINISTRIES MANAGER

The Christmas celebrations are over, we have brought in the New Year, and students are back in class. I'm always concerned for some of our students during lengthy breaks away from school. For some of the students in the Christian School Program, Faith Academy is the only place where they receive any type of Bible training and learn how to live the Christian life. It's a sad reality that some homes are not "THE FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILS MUCH"

JAMES 5:16



conducive to Christian living. The Christmas break is not always a time of celebration for some of the families that are struggling with poverty and addictions.

I had a visit with one student during the break and she was concerned that Christmas time was always a time when relatives would come over and party to early hours in the morning. She would find herself in her room crving over the fact that no one cared that the reason for the season, is Jesus. She would try and talk about our Lord and they would laugh and tell her to go away. I tried to encourage her that she should continue to speak to her family about things of eternal value. I reminded her of Romans 10:17 that reads, "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." I also reminded her about how our Saviour is listening to our petitions and takes them very seriously. We are to fervently pray because "The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails **much.**" (James 5:16)

We talked a little about my own salvation, and the miracle that the Lord preformed in my life. We chatted a little more and she seemed to be encouraged by how all things are possible with our Lord. After leaving the home, I couldn't help but think of the eternal value that the Christian School Program has. The many lost souls that have come to know Jesus in a personal way because of Faith Academy and a representative from UGM that are willing to open the scriptures. To God be the Glory!.

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS

Women's Ministry

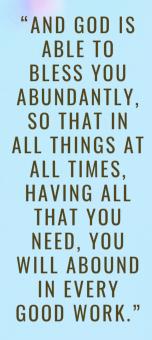
BY MEG VALE, WOMEN'S MINSTRY LEADER

Yesterday was one of the coldest days of the year so far and we wondered how many women would make it across the icy streets to our Wednesday 'Ladies Day'. Of course the Lord laughed at that! When the doors opened at 10am, there was a jolly stampede as a merry train of bundled up women squeezed inside to get out of the cold – the pull of community, good food and gospel truth are much stronger than any inclement weather.

In the end, a total of 58 ladies gathered together with staff and volunteers to pack the Family Life Centre to the brim and what a special time we had! It's always a very precious thing to worship with people who are so grateful for their salvation and yesterday was no exception as we joined together and enjoyed celebrating the Lord.

After singing loudly, we heard from a couple of different speakers and the Lord moved profoundly in the hearts of 5 ladies to give their lives over to Christ and pray the salvation prayer. What an extraordinary, gracious God we serve as these 5 lives change course and begin a new journey with Him!

There were other moments for ministry also as the Lord brought different women into our midst who needed prayer, comfort and encouragement for challenging situations in their lives – for crippling depression, for



2 CORINTH. 9:8



('WOMEN'S MINISTRY' CONTINUED.)

chronically sick husbands, for estranged children and current custody battles. It's a genuine privilege that we are able to be here for them and the Lord in His kindness has brought them to a place where they can be cared for and encouraged in Biblical truth.

A fun way to end the day was the makeshift 'toy store' that we had set up downstairs so that all our visitors could choose from a range of brand new kids toys, stuffed animals, books and treats (free of charge) to take home for their loved ones. Some of these ladies have no spare money of their own and were so grateful to be able to choose a toy to give to a muchloved child to show them how much they are cherished this Christmas. Truly the Lord provides for all our needs!

PLEASE PRAY FOR: *(NAMES CHANGED FOR PRIVACY)

Mary - Healing for neighbour with cancer and boldness in the Lord.
Lucy - Re-building relationship with adult daughter.
Rebecca - A job for her partner, sobriety and someone to share Jesus with him.
Karen - Freedom from addiction for her daughter and opportunities to see her grandbaby.
Angela - Healing from depression, to be a good mom to her baby girl and make good Christian friends.
Kiera - Help following Jesus.
Lisa - Healing for her sores
Cynthia - Comfort as she grieves her husband who has dementia and adjusts to a new life.
Leanne - For the Lord to remove fear.

Children's Ministry

BY CASSIE KIMBALL, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADER

2024 has been a wonderful year at Family Life Centre. We are blessed to be able to serve in the North End, particularly with the children. There is much to be thankful for as we have the honor of serving the Lord in the Children's Ministry. We've recently had the pleasure of a new volunteer, Jared, joining us for children's club once a week. The children love running around the gym, playing tag or some other game with him. As staff, we appreciate his high energy and the positive male influence he has on the children. Many times, the children we minister to do not have the presence of a strong male influence in their homes, due to dads not being present or they have a revolving door of men in their homes. We often notice that the children will gravitate towards the men who volunteer at club, craving whatever attention they have to offer

While we are grateful that they appreciate the men who volunteer here, there is a level of concern, especially for the girls. As they grow older, the fear is that they will also gravitate towards any man who gives them the slightest bit of attention that feels positive, but really will lead to destruction. During our prayer time, we always ask the children how we can be praying for them and one girl consistently requests that we pray that she could see her dad. At seven years "Our main goal will always remain to show Christ's love to each of the children we minister to."

3. F.

"FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO EAT, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME SOMETHING TO DRINK."

> MATTHEW 25:35

('CHILDREN'S MINISTRY' CONTINUED.)

old, she craves that love she is missing in his absence, and our prayer is that she will turn to Christ so He can fill the empty space in her heart. Our main goal will always remain to show Christ's love to each of the children we have the privilege to minister to, and that they will learn to prefer His love over the love that anyone else tries to offer them.

Please pray for the children we encounter, that they will seek out the true love of Jesus and that they won't be swayed by anything the world has to offer.

From The Heart Of Christmas: Serving Those In Need

BY MUNYA RUSERE, VOLUNTEER CARE COORDINATOR

When I think of Christmas, I think of the warmth of a church service, followed by a beautifully prepared Christmas dinner shared with loved ones. We gather around the table, exchange gifts, and bask in the joy of being cared for. For most of us, this is the heart of our Christmas tradition, a time to reflect on the birth of Christ and all that it means for our salvation.

But for many in our community, particularly the homeless, Christmas looks very different. The weather is frigid, and they face the harsh

('FROM THE HEART' CONTINUED.)

reality of loneliness, hunger, and despair, feeling isolated, unloved, and hopeless. Yet, in the midst of this, we are reminded of the words of Christ: **"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in"** (Matthew 25:35, NIV). These words challenge us to see the face of Christ in those who suffer and to respond with compassion.

At UGM, we are blessed with the privilege of bringing the true meaning of Christmas to those who are homeless and marginalized. Our mission goes beyond providing a warm meal; it is about offering hope to those who have none, reminding them that they are valued as image- bearers of Christ. As Scripture affirms: **"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done"** (Proverbs 19:17, NIV). It is through our actions that we reflect God's love, making His presence felt in tangible ways.

On January 4th, we had the honor of hosting approximately 130 people in our building, with the support of around 30 volunteers. These dedicated individuals preached the Gospel, prayed with our guests, served meals, handed out Christmas presents, and helped create an atmosphere of warmth and care. It was a beautiful sight to behold—people united in love, sharing the hope of Christ. Every act of "WHOEVER IS KIND TO THE POOR LENDS TO THE LORD, AND HE WILL REWARD THEM FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE."

PROVERBS 19:17



"I PLAN TO SHOW AS MUCH LOVE AS I CAN TO HIM TO SHOW HIM CHRIST THROUGH ME."

('FROM THE HEART' CONTINUED.)

kindness that day was a reflection of Christ's love, bringing glory to God. A special mention must go to our remarkable guests, who, despite their circumstances, carried themselves with dignity and grace. It was a privilege to serve these wonderful individuals, who reminded us that every person, no matter their situation, is worthy of respect and compassion.

I am deeply grateful to everyone who prayed for and supported this event. Your kindness and generosity made this meal a true blessing to all involved.

Volunteer Update

BY JARED MAGLALANG

For the past month and a half, I've volunteered every Wednesday for the Family Life Centre, and I'm writing this with an update on my experience. So far, I've gotten to know 3 of the staff members, and 3 of the kids. One of my friends actually volunteers in the building next door. Keeping the kids entertained isn't much of a problem, in fact, I'm rather fond of seeing the kids engage in creative arts or physical activity. They also have very bright personalities that make them a joy to speak with. Attendance isn't very high

('VOLUNTEER UPDATE ' CONTINUED.)

so with me and two other staff members, it's easy to manage.

I pray for these kids often, especially one that I met just last Wednesday. I got to play with him, and he opened up a little about his home life. He reminds me a lot of my current and former foster siblings. Because of this, I understand what he may be going through to act in the way he does, and so far, I feel like I've handled the matter well due to my experience. I plan to show as much love as I can to him; to show him Christ through me.

Talking with the staff is a real pleasure, especially sharing my aforementioned experience with foster care, getting to know more about the kids and their methods of caring for them. Also talking about my school, which one of them had graduated from years ago. I feel very accomplished in what I'm doing, and I even feel at rest doing what Christ has placed me in for today.

For the men in the addiction program:

FAS

KEN, KELLY, ELI, ABRAM, HENRY, LUKE, ADRIAN, MICHAEL, KERRY, RAYMOND, JOHN, EDWARD, BRIAN, MATTHEW, DAVID AND LAWRENCE

For the women in the addiction program:

ALANA, NICOLE, THERESA, JACQUELINE, CAROLINE, MALLORY, KAREN, DELIMA, CADENCE, JENNIFER, DANIELA, JILLIAN, CHRISTINE, MARIA, RITA, TYANA, TARA, AMBER, EMILY, SARAH, DAPHNE, SAMANTHA, ROCHELLE, CHLOE, ANNETTE, DANIELLE, CARMEN, CALLI, TARA, ANNETTE

For these students in the sponsorship program:

AIDEN, GLORIA, SUKHPREET, CIARA, TANIS, KASIYAN, KINGSTON, KADENCE, LEXIE, THOMAS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! comina Éve

Missionfest

Feb 7th - 9th: Church of the Rock, 1397 Buffalo PI, Winnipeg Please come and visit UGM's booth

24 Hour Prayer

Friday, Feb 28th, 6 pm- Saturday, March 1st, 6pm: 320 Princess Street in Prayer Room Come join staff and volunteers for a time of Prayer & Praise to our God **RSVP with available time:** Contact Rosanne at 204-943-9904 ext. 226

UGM on the Road - Selkirk

Tuesday, March 11th, 10 am-3 pm (Come and Go) Canalta Hotel Selkirk - 1061 Manitoba Ave, Selkirk, MB Sharing, testimonies, coffee and fellowship

UGM Spring Supper – Steinbach Saturday, March 29th, at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm Mennonite Heritage Village - 231 PTH 12 N, Steinbach, MB Catered meal, testimonies and UGM update **RSVP:** Contact Rosanne at 204-943-9904 ext. 226

UGM Community Easter Dinner Saturday, April 19 th To volunteer, call Munya at 204-943-9904 ext. 224

Contact us @gospelmission.ca



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Donations to Union Gospel Mission can be mailed to:

P.O. Box 1073, STN Main Winnipeg, MB R3C 2X4 204-943-9904

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

PAGE 20

UGM VOICES & PRAYER WARRIORS