



**"To open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me." Acts 26:18**

# Voices FROM THE STREET CHRISTMAS 2010

## "For God so loved the world..." Jn.3:16

by Nelson Gonzalez  
Principal, Faith Learning Centre

**THREE WEEKS AGO** a young lady walked into my office wanting to register in senior courses. In the process of registration, I asked her if she was saved. She responded, "Saved from what"? I took the time to present to her the plan of salvation. When I mentioned that Jesus Christ had willingly accepted to die on a cross, and that with the shedding of His blood had paid the price for our sins, the nineteen year old broke into tears. She said that when she was only seven years of age she had heard the story of the Lord, but had not understood what it was that she was supposed to do. With

sobs she received Him into her heart, and was glad that she had made that decision.

I said to her, "Now go and share this wonderful, loving Jesus, with your friends". She responded joyfully, she would do just that.

During the month of October seven adult education students at the UGM Faith Learning Centre have given their lives to the Lord. We are glad that a difference can be made through the Lord Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

**Adult Education students with teacher**



**ADULT EDUCATION**



Christian School children with teacher

## “...Pray without ceasing.” 1 Thessalonians 5:17

by Ron Robertson,  
FLC Ministries Manager

**WE ARE ENCOURAGED** in Scripture to pray without ceasing. Someone once said that prayer moves the hand of God. The new school year has begun and already we can see that much prayer is needed for our school families. The children have had the summer off and some are finding it hard to settle down into a structured environment. The hand of God is so needed in these situations to quiet the children, and for wisdom for the teachers. We are thankful that most are intently working at their studies.

In my role as attendance officer for the Pritchard school, I

have had daily contact with a few families, and numerous family visits to encourage parents. One morning I woke up a whole family just to get their son Kevin off to school. Last week Jane was actually sick, and it turned into a great opportunity to talk and pray with her family, and show we really care for all of them. I am happy to report that through these visits we have seen increased attendance and greater family responsibility.

A number of our sponsored families attend evangelical churches, and welcome our prayer support as well. Should God be calling you to help in this area, we are always in need of prayer and sponsorship funds.

“He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.” Psalm 147:4

by Susan Kukkonen  
Charis Centre Recovery Counselor

**CHRISTMAS IS THE** ethereal moment in time when the glistening decorations captivate and delight our imagination. Lights dazzle us and evergreens are adorned, as we celebrate the birthday of our King.

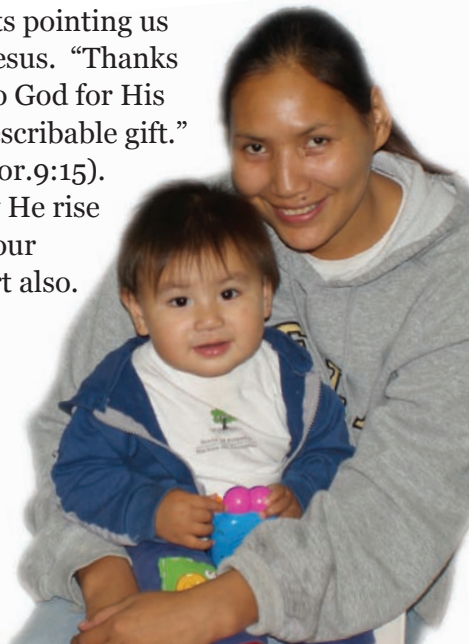
The first Christmas trees had candles, delicately placed, to reflect the starlight of heaven. Modern day trees have stars in the form of twinkling strands or strings of white glittering orbs.

The Bible refers to stars in several references. Our ladies at the Charis Centre are guided by their addictions to this place where they will learn about Jesus, “the Bright and Morning Star.” (Rev. 22:16). Since we last chatted, there are 20 ladies and 2 beautiful babies residing here. 2 Peter 1:19 refers to the “Morning Star that rises in our hearts.” Our desire is that He will rise in each woman’s heart and heal her addiction.

Why are there so many stars at Christmas time; stars on our streets, in our homes, on our

cards and gift wrap? Wise men of long ago followed a star to a place of worship where they met the Perfect Light of the world. We point our ladies to Jesus, the only star worth following.

A year has unfolded since our doors opened to the women and children of our city. Life changing transformation has resulted when lives are surrendered to the Lordship of Jesus. Like the Magi who found Jesus, that story also resonates in our hallways. So to answer the question of why there are so many stars at Christmas time, I think that God has sprinkled them generously as indicator lights pointing us to Jesus. “Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.” (2 Cor.9:15). May He rise in your heart also.



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,  
and lean not on your own understanding....”

Proverbs 3:5



**MY NAME IS LARRY,** and I grew up in Portage la Prairie with my parents and four sisters.

Both my parents were heavy drinkers, and I still recall their many house parties and arguments.

I followed the same pattern and started drinking with my friends on the weekends when I was 16 years old. I never imagined that alcohol would be a problem for me until I was in my late 30's. For the next dozen years I spent many times in hospitals and institutions because of my drinking problem. I also attended AA support groups, and spent time in different treatment centers, only to slide back to my drinking after a short time.

It wasn't until 2008, when I came to know Christ as my Lord and Saviour, that I experienced victory over alcohol. I had heard about the UGM's recovery program, and decided to give it a try. In the program I met many friends who had the same problem as I had, and many were worse. I saw many come and go, who did not fully commit their lives to Christ.

During my stay I attended Bible studies and recovery classes, as well as ALFA 1 & 2, at a local evangelical church. While in the program I also started going to a Christian support group called Finding Freedom, and I still continue to go today.

Now, thanks to the UGM Recovery Program, and the Christian support groups I have, praying and trusting in Jesus is automatically a part of every day, and I have never had to take a drink since.

**THE SPIRIT OF GIVING** and helping those less fortunate shows up strongly at Thanksgiving time of year. But the poor need love and care all year long. THEM enables the poor and needy to benefit from this spirit of giving all year long, as churches choose their own “Thanksgiving” month.

This program is all about THEM, the least, the last and the lost. And it is all about YOU, the people in your church, who want to help THEM.

Over 30 churches already participate, but there is a great need for more churches to join with UGM. When you pick a month of the year to be your own special “Thanksgiving” month,

this becomes a highlight for your church every year. It is a special time allotted to care for the poor.

In larger churches, a Youth Group, Senior’s Group or some other group may select THEM as their special project.

All food is given out by UGM in the name of Jesus, and He is glorified.

This is clearly different than secular food programs. We appeal to Churches to support THEM, and grow the kingdom of God.

Please contact  
Len McKelvey at  
943-9904 x227 or  
len@gospelmission.ca  
to discuss this important  
opportunity.  
Thank you.



# Calling 777 to Erase the Debt at the Charis Centre

∞ Last year, Christians across Manitoba adopted all 60 rooms at the Charis Centre, providing the funds to renovate and furnish each room at a low cost of \$3,000 per room. We are amazed and thankful to God and to His people for this overwhelming response to help women with addictions.

The replacement cost for the Charis Centre is \$4.5 million dollars. The remaining mortgage is \$777,000. This 38,000 square foot building has truly been provided by God to help women with addictions (along with their children). Over the past year, new furniture was provided at a low cost. New high efficiency boilers were donated and installed. Roof work was donated. Commercial kitchen equipment was donated. Over \$60,000 was donated to 'finish the kitchen'. All 114 windows are being replaced at a low cost of \$50,000. And soon new insulation and siding will be installed as a gift to the Lord's work (\$300,000 value). Hundreds of volunteers have donated thousands of hours for vital renovations. We rejoice in the Lord's goodness and praise Him for each person who has helped.

We are now praying for 777 special people whose heart God has burdened to help needy women – 777 people who will each give \$1,000 to Erase the Debt. This will truly be a lasting gift as Jesus rescues many souls and **erases their debt of sin** in the years to come.

## To be one of 777, contact us





# Calling 333 to Transform a Life at the Charis Centre

∞ Helena is the first graduate from our H.E.A.R.T. program at the Charis Centre (see picture below). She joined us at the very beginning, and was saved after one week! She was baptized in February, and continued on to graduate after one year with us. What is the worth of this one soul?! And many others are following in her footsteps. A total of 5 women were baptized in the first year! God is saving and transforming lives.

Right now there are 20 women and 2 children in the Charis Centre, which makes it one of the largest programs for addicted women in Manitoba. And we expect to grow to 50 women and a dozen children over this next year. This cannot happen without adding more missionaries and resources. In spite of the obvious need and UGM's clear success, neither the government nor other secular agencies will help us because we look to Jesus as the answer. We are depending solely on the grace of God expressed through the Christian community – and we give God all the glory for the great things He is doing at the Charis Centre. **Jesus has already begun to wash away a million tears.**

Charis is the Greek word for Grace. We are praying for 333 special people who, moved by God's grace, will share the burden of ministering to these needy women – 333 people who will each give \$1,000 to help Transform a Life at the Charis Centre. Many are waiting to find new life in Christ.

## To be one of 333, contact us





Please contact  
Len McKelvey at  
943-9904 x227 or  
[len@gospelmission.ca](mailto:len@gospelmission.ca)  
to discuss this significant  
opportunity.  
Thank you.

**DO YOU CARE** about reaching your neighbours? Do you care about feeding the hungry? Now there is a simple yet powerful way to do both ... meet your neighbors while canning hunger.

Through 'Canning Hunger', church members get to know their neighbours in a natural and friendly way. These friendships grow to where neighbours are open to hearing about God's love for them, and His wonderful plan of salvation. All the while, hungry children and their families are being fed in the name of Jesus.

Where neighbours already know each other, 'Canning Hunger' becomes a great way for neighbours to work together to help the poor.

UGM introduced 'Canning Hunger' last year to the churches of Manitoba, after leaning of it from a local church. A few have now begun. We invite many more churches to join with us to impact the province of Manitoba for Jesus Christ.

## “...My house is a house of prayer,” Luke 19:46

by Cyril DeCoursey  
Acting Senior Chaplain

### CELEBRATING THANKSGIVING

at UGM always means a full turkey dinner with all the “fixins” for our close to 400 guests. No one leaves hungry. As part of our Thanksgiving we had a chapel service prior to each meal sitting, and people were asked for prayer requests. We had a prayer room where volunteers were prepared to pray for the people’s intentions.

Sometimes we may forget that all these people have concerns similar to yours and mine. On their own they pray. They pray because they are lonely; they pray because of their fears; they pray for their families, friends and relatives. They thank God for keeping them safe and protecting them from the violence and destruction of the street and their surroundings.

**Over 50 volunteers helped make our Thanksgiving meal a blessing to hundreds.**

Some of the prayer requests were: pray for my family to come to know Jesus; pray that my children in care would know that I love them; pray for my healing from addictions.

God has placed in the heart of each one a sense of His reality; that God does exist. They have also heard God say to them, “Ask and you shall receive”, and so they ask.

But part of our Thanksgiving Day offering was a message of Salvation, a feeding of the soul with God’s Word, a call to receive Christ. Twelve people responded, and the angels in heaven rejoiced.

Your gifts of food and money allow us to offer physical nourishment. To that we add the Word of God, and the feeding becomes complete.

God bless all who helped out, and all who contributed in any way.





## “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” Acts 16:9

by **Ramona Lee**  
**Women's Ministry Leader**

**HERE AT THE FAMILY** Life Centre I am privileged to know, brush shoulders with, and labour with such an extraordinary group of volunteers. With eternity in mind, each one brings their own gifting and talents.

All our volunteers give everything for Jesus, and are very dear to me, but there is one who has been on my heart, Edna Barth. Last night as I folded the kitchen laundry, I couldn't help but admire the many aprons she had made, and thought of the countless pairs of slippers she had knit for our ladies. For many years she has joyfully prepared beautiful and delicious lunches for our ladies on our Wednesday chapel day. Today, as I think about the cup she has been asked to bear, I know – “Give her the fruit of her hands,

and let her own works praise her in the gates.”

We are very much a family here, and what grieves me is the reality that many of our guests have not entered the “Family of God”, even as He has been inviting them to come.

A number of the ladies don't know the Saviour, and don't realize that they need Him. They struggle in quiet desperation with addictions, and sorrowful family situations. The enemy of this world has beaten them down in every way possible, and many feel like there is no hope in sight, and are apprehensive to trust in anything again. Our prayer is for them to see and know Jesus is the only way.

Dear Sisters, I can't help but express in a small way, we too have a kind of Macedonian call, and would you consider; “Come over to Macedonia (Family Life Centre), and help us.”

“...But those who wait on the Lord shall  
renew their strength, They shall mount  
up with wings like eagles...” Isaiah 40:31

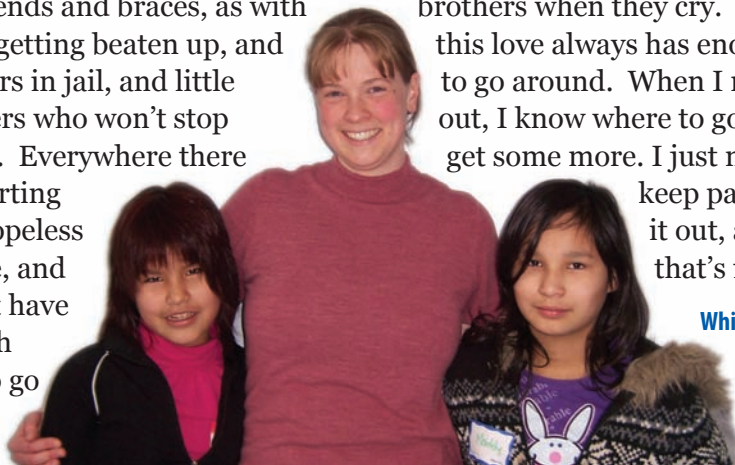
By Whitney Hoekstra  
Children's Ministry Worker

“EVERYTHINGS'S FINE.” It's the accepted ritual of conversation in our society. “How's it going?” “Fine.” For me that question is often followed by, “How are the kids' clubs going?” “Fine.” It's the easy answer, but if I stop and think about it, it's not always so fine.

One of our kids is still grieving for her father who committed suicide last Christmas. The other kids think she's lucky to have known him at all. Last week we met another girl carefully walking her intoxicated guardian home. The prayer requests from my older girls at Bible study aren't concerned so much with boyfriends and braces, as with aunts getting beaten up, and mothers in jail, and little brothers who won't stop crying. Everywhere there are hurting and hopeless people, and I don't have enough love to go

around. Everything's not fine.

A couple of weeks ago I was teaching the kindergarten/Grade 1 Bible study lesson. We had spent a few weeks talking about Jesus, and how everything He did kept God's law and showed love for others. When I told the children how this perfect Man was lied about, betrayed, deserted and killed, I was surprised by soft gasps of shock. From five year olds! They understood that the death of Christ was a travesty of justice. It was not fine. But it was love. Love that can heal the family that lost a husband and father. Love that can fill an empty heart better than alcohol. Love that can turn selfish men into gentle husbands, and keep kids out of jail, and comfort little brothers when they cry. And this love always has enough to go around. When I run out, I know where to go and get some more. I just need to keep passing it out, and that's fine.



Whitney with  
Kids Club  
children



### CHARIS CENTRE PROJECTS:

Building Windows & Exterior	\$50,000
Renovations to the Basement	\$15,000
Showers	\$15,000
Building Air Exchange Units	\$75,000
Play Structure	\$10,000
Landscaping	\$10,000
Hallway Carpet-2nd Floor	\$30,000

We are still in need of Volunteer Groups this winter to help finish off the inside of the Charis Centre. We are almost there and need help with the final push (painting, dry walling, furniture assembly, and general labour & cleaning).

**GENERAL FOOD NEEDS** We are in need of the following food items: eggs, milk, bacon, breakfast sausage, fish, chicken, and laundry detergent.

**UGM GIFT BAGS** Each Christmas season we have the privilege of sharing the Good News of Christ's birth with those who participate in our various programs. This year we will be distributing over 500 Gift Bags to needy men, women & children. Please consider dropping off a Gift Bag for someone in need. We ask you to label the Gift Bag Male, Female or Child (include age).

Some ideas for Gift Bag items include:

**ADULTS** razors, shaving cream, shampoo, winter gloves, Bible, Christian book or CD.

**CHILDREN** new unwrapped toy, new teddy bear, Bible, winter mitts, Christian book or CD.



If you can help with any of these needs please contact Jeff Gilfillan at 943-9904

Listen to program of hymns  
Monday - Friday 3:00-4:00 pm

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[www.gospelmission.ca](http://www.gospelmission.ca)



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