



"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

FALL 2009

Meet Your Neighbour ... while 'Canning Hunger'

For our culture; for our generation



YOU CARE ABOUT reaching your neighbours. You also care about feeding the hungry. Now there is a simple yet powerful way to do both ... meet your neighbors while feeding the hungry.

You will come to know your neighbours in a natural and friendly way. After a year, you will know them well enough to invite them to neighbourhood Bible studies, Christianity Explored, Alpha, etc. All the while, hungry children and their families across Manitoba will be fed.

UGM is introducing 'Canning Hunger' to the churches of Manitoba. We have piloted 'Canning Hunger' with one Winnipeg church, and it has been exciting to see the church members ignited with a new vision for reaching others with the Gospel, along with caring for the poor.

UGM is inviting all evangelical churches in Manitoba to join

with us and impact the province of Manitoba for Jesus Christ. Churches will be seen by our communities to be helping the poor - which is what they expect churches to be doing. This will create goodwill for the Gospel, and draw people to Jesus. It could even help plant new Bible believing churches in towns where none exist.

The Church is commanded to preach the Gospel. The Church is also commanded to demonstrate the love of God. 'Canning Hunger' is an effective way to accomplish both of these objectives in a way designed for this culture and this generation. The power of the Gospel is released in an amazing way.

The Mission has mailed letters inviting church pastors and leaders to one of two identical informational meetings in September. We hope your church will join with us, for the Gospel, for the poor, and for the people of Manitoba.

HOPE has arrived & His name is Jesus

Send us your addicted women (with their children)

- Union Gospel Mission is opening its doors to addicted women and their children.
- Up to 30 women and 60 children will be accepted during Phase 1, and this capacity will be doubled in Phase 2.
- This is the first Christian program of its kind in Manitoba.
- With the opening of this fourth location, Union Gospel Mission continues to grow to meet the ever growing needs of the inner city of Winnipeg.
- This new program is comprehensive, and integrated with many of UGM's other ministries. Women will attend our Adult Education program, as well as our ladies' Bible studies. Children will attend our Christian school program, as well as our Bible clubs, and we will sponsor them to Bible camps. And of course, all food and clothing will be provided by the Mission.

2



"A million tears" have become tears of joy. Now the work begins.

Will you stand with us in prayer and support?

Call 943-9904 or visit gospelmission.ca

“But whoever drinks of the water
that I shall give Him will never thirst ...”

by Adele Plett-Bartell
Women's Addictions Centre Manager

IT HAS BEEN A THRILL to have a front row seat to see how God is answering the prayers of His people in the birth of a recovery program for women with addictions and their children. A building that is ideal for housing a recovery program has been leased, with the option to purchase. Walking through the rooms and hallways, it is easy to picture what it will look like when it is full of women and their children – living in community, experiencing God's grace in tangible ways through the ministry of spirit-filled volunteers and workers, children feeling nourished and growing

not only physically, but also spiritually and emotionally.

I have a real sense that light is moving into darkness. Many prayers have been prayed for protection, wisdom and guidance as UGM moves into this new area of ministry. While there is much work to be done to set up the program and run it physically, the real work is sharing Christ with women whose lives have been shattered by addictions. We invite all to pray for the women, their children and the ministry. Many volunteer opportunities will develop as the program grows, and the adopt-a-room program is a practical way that a group can share with a woman and her children, who are opening up to God's love.

At the heart of this ministry is a passion to see women become what God created them to be; loving mothers to their children; sisters and wives that bring life to their family. Audrey Jongstra, the UGM Board secretary, having personally experienced what it is to live in addiction to alcohol, and living now in the freedom of Christ, has been one of those who has prayed and worked to see this ministry begin. Many others who have loved and shared Christ with women with addictions over the years are praising God for how they see Him answering prayers in the birth of this new ministry. It is the only Christian recovery program of it's kind in Manitoba.



Kevin (on right) with Mel, our men's supervisor

Victory Comes by Trusting

MY NAME IS KEVIN. I grew up in the Maritimes in a family of seven. Both my parents had to work to provide for us, and due to the lack of parental involvement in my life I became very rebellious, and was continually in trouble. I started drinking at age 15, and dropped out of school. Addicted to alcohol, I joined the military at age 18. I spent 5 years posted in western Canada, and then was released. In the next 15 years my substance abuse escalated to marijuana and cocaine.

I first entered the Men's Addiction Recovery Program at Union Gospel Mission ten years ago. I became aware very quickly that drugs and alcohol were not the problem, but it was a spiritual problem. What was

being taught about Jesus by the chaplains was very captivating and beautiful, but I had such a distorted view of who God was, and what He was like, I was just so scared to trust him. I left the program within 70 days thinking I was okay now. I had new information that

I didn't have before, but there was no change in my heart. My addictions very shortly picked up where I had left off, the only difference being that I somehow knew that God wanted me back at the UGM. After 2 years I re-entered the program. I asked the Lord into my life, and at that point I knew that I would never be the same again. I left the program and stayed clean for almost a year, but then relapsed again. I came back into the program 3 more times, only to repeat the same old pattern.

I finally realized that I had to stop trying to recover in my own power, and trust in the Lord. I have now been back in the UGM program for 10 months, and my relationship with God is growing every day. It is my prayer that people who struggle in addiction will come to the saving grace of the Lord, and walk in victory, by trusting totally in Him.

“If you abide in My Word ... you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

by Cyril DeCoursey
Acting Senior Chaplain

IT'S TUESDAY at 11am, and the doors open for our regular chapel service. But on Tuesday we also offer a Bible study, where about a dozen of our visitors prefer to attend. Out of curiosity, I questioned some of the participants as to why they chose to attend the Bible study.

There were different answers: Steve is not a Christian, but he wants to learn more about Jesus. “I want to know who He is,” he states.

On the other hand, Terry acknowledges he is a Christian, and wants to know how to better “walk the walk.” He finds the Word brings him closer to God each week he attends.

Cyril (standing) teaching a resident Bible class

Will says it's a good place to ask questions and talk about things that are important to him. “It is not just about God or church” he states, “but about relating.”

It appears this Tuesday morning's “spiritual offering” helps a lot of different people, and for different reasons. God speaks to His people where they are, just as they are. We have people inquiring ahead of time about the study, and what Scripture will be read, or which text will be used. They are people really interested in the Lord, and especially interested in His truth, so the questions are timely and meaningful. The interaction is personal, producing a place where people can find answers and direction from God's Word.





ADOPT-A-

ADOPT-A-ROOM is one of our uniquely-designed programs at our new Women's Addictions Recovery Facility that allows you to be a part of the transformation in the lives of women and children whose lives have been devastated by addictions.

Churches or groups can adopt and sponsor a room that will give a woman and her children a place to call their own and a chance for a changed life. There are two commitments we request.

THE FIRST provide ongoing your room.

THE SECOND physically equip and bedding. For

- 2 Bunk beds
- Dresser
- Bedding
- Alarm clock
- Laundry basket

This is covered b

OPTIONAL SUPPORT MAY ALSO BE GIVEN B

#1 providing the women and children with more than just a place to stay. We want them to have a place that feels like home where they know they are safe and comfortable. You may choose to put the finishing touches of welcome on the room such as inspiring wall hangings, teddy bears for the children, and decorative pillows.

#2 providing mentoring or support to the family as they look to become free of the devastation of addictions. You may want to provide birthday presents or Christmas presents. You might even want to take the family on outings, or to your church if you are in the area.

A-ROOM

COMMITMENT is to
prayer support for the family in

D COMMITMENT is to
the room with needed furniture
for each room this includes:

- Crib
- Lamp
- Couch
- Paint
- Desk
- Drapery
- Chair
- Waste basket

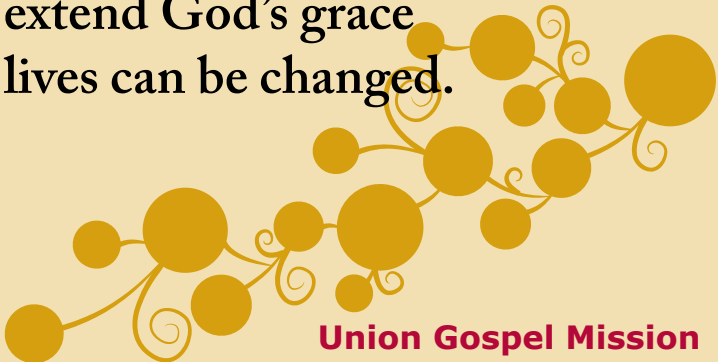
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by a \$3000 donation*

*To ensure a standard room setup, UGM has arranged with a Christian furniture company to provide all of the high quality furniture at a low cost. When you donate \$3000 to UGM, we will order everything needed for your room.

BY:

Working together to
extend God's grace
... lives can be changed.



Union Gospel Mission
www.gospelmission.ca

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The Impact of Christian Education

by Nelson Gonzalez-Principal
Faith Learning Centre

UNION GOSPEL MISSION'S

Faith Learning Centre is located in Winnipeg's inner city. The Center reaches out to adult learners in the area who want to finish grade twelve. God's love through teachers and volunteers is manifested in the classrooms, providing the knowledge and the guidance for men and women who, because of negative life experiences, thought their lives had no purpose or hope for the future.

Last year a lady in her forties

completed credits at the Centre. She was hired by a local business, and in a short time became manager in the company. She recalls living and growing up in the north end. Her memories as a child go back to a lovely time when she and other kids from the area attended the Family Life Centre, one of the ministries of the Union Gospel Mission. She says, "It's amazing as a child how the Family Life Centre was my refuge from the misery I lived in at home, and now Faith Learning Centre has given me, as an adult, hope in God, and a future through education."

Nelson with 11 of this year's 12 graduates



“In My Father’s house are many mansions ... I go to prepare a place for you.”

by Ramona Lee
Women’s Ministry Leader

IN ONE WAY I FEEL so new in this position at Family Life Centre, and at the same time like I was meant to be here, and very much at home. ---HOME.

Yesterday I spoke to a woman who not long ago began to attend our Bible studies, and said to her “Wow, it’s great you keep coming back to Family Life Centre,” and her response to me was “I feel comfortable here...at home”. It is that kind of response that warms my heart and compels me to serve.

Other times, God reveals to me other things. Not long ago, on my way into the building I noticed something under the wheelchair ramp of the Family Life Centre; there lined up on the ground lay dirty sofa cushions. Someone was using this spot



as a place to sleep. As I stared at the squalid bed I couldn’t help but think “that person is someone’s child, who grew up believing the lies of the enemy. What happened to bring them to this point?” This was not God’s original plan for them. God wants to bestow so much more to all of us, and in His loving kindness bids us to “Come unto Me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

“I have prepared a dinner ... and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”

Bible Study Report

There are 3 Bible studies for women every week. About a dozen women come on Tuesdays and Thursdays, while 30 join us on Wednesdays. Many more women come for food and clothing, and we ask the Lord to draw all of them towards these Bible studies. We are now planning a men’s Bible study and possibly one for couples. As the Seed is sown, God will not let it return void.

“Train up a child in the way he should go, and
and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

by **Ron Robertson,**
FLC Ministries Manager

WITHIN THE MINISTRY of Rescue is a unique blending between the ministries of Faith Academy and Union Gospel Mission. Both have a desire to reach out to the North End of Winnipeg with the gospel of Jesus Christ. There is opportunity for up to 100 children to receive quality education in a caring environment. Thirty of these children attend school right in their own community. The beautiful school building at 220 Prichard Avenue accommodates students between kindergarten and grade four. A quote from one of the faithful teachers says it all; “It’s great to have a Christian school like this and the Lord blesses me richly as I minister here.”

As applications are considered, I am pleasantly surprised that many families tell us they are attending churches in the area, and are looking for a school that supports their values. Others come from broken or blended homes. These families need the healing that comes from knowing Jesus in a personal way. Contact is maintained by outreach activities designed to support the whole family. Through the ministries of the Family Life Centre, parents and children continue to hear about Jesus, and have the opportunity to respond.

We ask for your prayers for more families to register for the coming term, and for more sponsors to support this vital program. Just \$50.00 a month (and regular prayer) is all it takes. Individuals, groups and churches may want to sponsor a child. To those who are already involved, thank you! We are helping these children now, before the enemy can destroy their lives.

Faith Academy is in great need of a bus driver to drive a 15 passenger bus for our Pritchard School. Can you help? Please call the Family Life Centre at 586-7790.



Summer Kid's Clubs

by Jordan Penner
Youth Ministry Leader

THIS PAST SUMMER has been a busy season for the Family Life Centre children's ministry. We ran two kids clubs a day, and youth clubs twice a week. A lot of work was done to turn the FLC basement into a jungle, with palm trees, flowers and many fun animals. The kids loved it! They have had fun playing games and doing crafts, but most importantly, during the story time, they have been learning about Jesus.

We enjoyed some fun outings with the youth, as well as continued with our Bible studies. The youth are being challenged to begin a meaningful relationship with God, and grow deeper in it.



We are excited about the Fall, but are in need of prayer as we plan programs and look for new volunteers. A new staff member is also joining. We trust God to continue doing great things, and are confident of His faithfulness. "For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting, and His truth endures to all generations."

Summer Camp Report by Laura Wiens – Camp Ministry Co-ordinator

Because of the generosity of a Christian businessman, we have been able to partner with 60 local Christian churches and sponsor over 1200 disadvantaged children for a week at one of 9 different Christian Bible camps. The camps we partnered with this summer are; Winkler Bible Camp-Mission Point, Gimli Bible Camp, Bird River Bible Camp, Valley View Bible Camp, Circle Square Ranch, Faith Bible Camp, Camp Nutimik, Eagle Bay Bible Camp, and Lakeshore Bible Camp. Each of these camps have caring staff, but most importantly, they clearly share the Gospel message with the children, and 88 made decisions or re-dedications of their lives to Christ in July. Final report to come.

Harvest Banquets

Selkirk Friday, October 2, 6:30 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Tickets: Bethel Chapel (482-5482); Grace Baptist Church (482-5464);
Selkirk Community Church (482-6808)

Altona Friday, October 9, 6:30 pm at Rhineland Pioneer Centre/MEC Centre
Tickets: Bill & Kathy (324-8149); Pete & Martha (324-8329);
Herman Martens (324-8121); Prairie Insurance (324-5579)

Carman Friday, October 16, 6:30 pm at Carman Seniors Active Living Centre
Tickets: Friends Community Church (745-3737);
Carman Pentecostal Church (745-3787); Carman Mennonite Church (745-3837)

Gladstone Friday, October 23, 6:30 pm at Gladstone Christian Fellowship Church
Tickets: Gladstone Christian Fellowship (385-2915); Peter & Helen Fehr (386-2745)

Winnipeg Friday, November 6, 12 pm & 6:30 pm at North Kildonan M.B.Church
Tickets: Union Gospel Mission (943-9904)

The new women's addiction centre is being prepared for service. Instead of government funding, we are depending on our supporters to stand with us. We need volunteers who can patch, paint and repair. We also need contractors who can donate work on the roof, siding, windows, kitchen or fencing. Please call Jeff at 943-9904.

Volunteers and 25 turkeys are needed for our Thanksgiving Meal on Saturday, October 10th.

Listen to program of hymns
Monday - Friday 3:00-4:00 pm
Listen to "Unshackled" Sunday at 5:00 pm

CFAM
Radio 950
Altona

AM 1250
RADIO
Steinbach

CJRB
Radio 1220
Boissevain

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SPENDING OF FUNDS is confined to Board Approved Programs and Purchases. Each gift 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 received with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

www.gospelmission.ca



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