

“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

SPRING 2010

O Magnify the Lord With Me!

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

MY HEART REJOICES in the steps of faith that a few of our ladies have taken! One woman told me, “I just wanted to attend the Bible studies here, (Family Life Centre), – not go to church, but just be here.” Amazingly, the Lord has begun to change her thinking about church attendance, and at times she attends the same fellowship as I do.

Recently, another one of our ladies, together with her husband, attended an evangelical church near their home. Last year at Easter this dear couple accepted the Lord as their Saviour. She shared with me that the church members took time to pray for them and their children. In the face of struggles, this family wants to trust God.

“Let all those rejoice who put their trust in You...”

It brought to my mind David's cry to God: “In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him, even to His ears.” Psalm 18:6.

I rejoice and wonder in anticipation at what amazing things the Lord will do, and what He has in store for our lives “...to give them a future and a hope...”

Rejoice and pray with me...

Ladies Day at the FLC



FAMILY MINISTRY



Staff & Residents

Spring Has Sprung

by Susan Kukkonen, Case Worker
Women's Addiction Recovery Centre

MARCH HAS FOUND us in good stead at the Women's Addiction Recovery Centre. We currently house 10 ladies, with 2 more waiting in the wings, and 9 more ladies booked for upcoming assessments. As well, our main floor renovations are almost complete and we are eagerly anticipating the finishing touches to our kitchen and dining room. As you may have guessed, we are still in the early stages of growth, in more ways than one. Perhaps of paramount interest to you is the spiritual growth of the ladies.

When a new girl arrives, she feels apprehension, even fear, and always the notable fatigue which accompanies addiction. This is only the beginning for her as the HEART recovery program

offers life, healing and opportunities for healthy growth.

March is the onset of spring when many of us think about which seeds to plant in our gardens. At the

Women's Addiction Recovery Centre seeds are planted here as well – seeds of hope, and seeds of faith, but especially God's Word. Luke 8:11 says, "the seed is the Word of God." We scatter these seeds liberally throughout the day at our devotion times, chapels, OverComer meetings, Finding Freedom groups and the many other classes that happen here. We are excited about our ladies receiving these seeds. We then pray, watch and wait for the growth that will result. This growth shows itself in concern for each other, positive attitudes and a keen desire to learn God's word.

So you see, spring has sprung at 271 Archibald Street because seeds of life are planted year round. How blessed we are to toil in His garden and watch God "grow our girls" into the beautiful godly women He created them to be.

"A sower went out to sow his seeds."

The Power of God's Word

by Jordan Penner
Children and Youth Ministry Leader

THINGS CONTINUE TO move forward with the clubs here at the FLC. Running four clubs a week can make things busy, but every week we can see God at work. I also know that for all the glimpses of God's work that we do see, there is much more that we don't see.

This is best exemplified when I hear stories of how God is working outside of our club times. During our devotional times with the youth, the interaction with, and responses to the Word of God are at times less enthusiastic than I would hope for. My questions are often met with silence or a shrug of the shoulders, and I sometimes wonder if there is something I should be doing differently. But I consistently hold on to the promise that God's Word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). The spirit of God is at work on hearts long after I am done for the day.

I was reminded of this the other night

when I received a call from one of our youth. With excitement in his voice, he shared with me how he had just recommitted his life to Christ. Aside from those with him at the time, I was the first he told. I felt honoured, but yet was also humbled by the reminder that it is not me, but the Spirit of God that brings life and growth to the children of God.

“So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

3



Jordan with youth club



“Dinner is served”

Ministering to the Disadvantaged

by Cyril DeCoursey
Acting Senior Chaplain

EACH DAY, Monday to Friday at noon hour, we have a 15 minute church service for the people, and then invite them to partake in a full dinner. This is repeated in the evening 7 days a week, when we have a 30 minute service, and then serve our patrons a hot bowl of soup, which is more the consistency of a stew. Each time as they leave we offer them bread, pastries, fruits and vegetables, and a variety of other food stuffs that have come in during the day.

In conversation with these people we discover different reasons why they come. Some really need the food. For whatever the reason, they often have not eaten for awhile. There are also other reasons that some have for coming, and here is a sampling of why people come to UGM:

“I don’t just come to eat, but to get something to think about and change my heart. I don’t drink or smoke, but I need to keep my thoughts on track.”

“I like to reflect on the singing. I hear good messages and get to fellowship with others.”

“There is food and people. It gives me something to look forward to.”

“I get good food, and spiritually I get fed too.”

“The variety of church services is interesting. Even without the meal I would still come.”

Many of the people who attend UGM services do so because they are trying to grow spiritually, and a number take advantage of the opportunities to speak with a chaplain. Here they can get answers to questions that bother them, or inquire about subjects they don’t understand.

Of course, we are never sure why some people walk through our doors. God works in mysterious ways, and He brings people along different paths. We do know that no one is here by accident. They are responding to a call from God. Pray that we, your missionaries, will be discerning as we interact with those we meet on a daily basis.

A Time of Transition

by Cyril DeCoursey
Acting Senior Chaplain

AS A RESIDENT, the thought of leaving the Mission following treatment can be a scary time. Suddenly everything looks different: Concerns about money, a job, housing, relationships, support systems, and on and on. However, the Mission does

offer options. Rather than tackle all the problems at once, some residents choose to live at the Mission while exploring educational

“In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

opportunities, a job, or even working on other health issues.

So how does it feel?

Brian says: “Staying at the Mission for a time while being gainfully employed is a comfortable arrangement. I don’t

have to worry about peer pressure, being alone, or the influence that comes from T.V. or other media. I also have a positive support system when I come home.”

Glen, on the other hand, wanted to complete his education. He never thought it could happen. Then he discovered he could go to school while still in the program. He never experienced such positive results. “Everyone should try it,” he exclaims. “I’m passing with high marks. It sure makes you feel good.”

Richard discovered he had other problems that required medical attention. He is able to be cared for, and always has a place to call home. When he needs special care, or a hospital stay, he can return when the crisis passes. His peers are always awaiting his return to health, and to the Mission.

In all situations there are options that God provides, as the residents transition into their new life in Christ.

Residents with Chaplains Don and Cyril



Building Stronger Families

by Ron Robertson
 FLC Ministries Manager

FOR MOST OF US, our fondest memory of family time together was the time spent around the dinner table. It was a chance to sit and catch up with all the activities of the day. Each one had facts to share that were important to them. This wonderful time of growing close as a family is no longer a part of the lives of many.

For this reason, once each week, staff at the Family Life Centre invite one or two families to spend an evening with us. We eat, play and learn together. To date, we have had six families with us. They all say what a wonderful time it is to spend an evening together. Fathers, mothers and children share what is on their hearts as each one

listens intently. Our ministry team has been able to reach out to a family in crisis, encourage another facing challenges, and meet needs in a time of prayer for each family.

Eating with a person in eastern countries is regarded as making a covenant of friendship which must not be broken.

Jesus said in John 6:58, “This is the bread that came down from heaven. He that eats of this bread shall live forever”. Our desire for these families is that they may know Jesus and live with Him forever.

“...That you may have fellowship with us and truly our fellowship is with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.”

Students in class



Sponsored students are in every grade as follows:

Kindergarten – 4 students

Gr. 1 – 8	Gr. 7 – 8
Gr. 2 – 6	Gr. 8 – 5
Gr. 3 – 8	Gr. 9 – 7
Gr. 4 – 5	Gr. 10 – 5
Gr. 5 – 9	Gr. 11 – 2
Gr. 6 – 12	Gr. 12 – 2

Please pray they will progress through to graduation

Bread of Life

by Nelson Gonzalez
Principal-Faith Learning Centre

IT IS IMPORTANT to hear the Word of God regularly. We at Faith Learning Centre have devotionals with our students twice a week. Other missionaries at Union Gospel Mission help us with this endeavor. The chaplains and managers come over on a regular basis, and teach our students from the Bible.

The impact that their teaching creates in the students is transcendental. Our students tell us how hearing God's word gives them hope, solutions to their problems, and inner peace. Often times the students don't know how much God loves and cares for them. They discover



Adult Education Class

these truths when someone shares with them from the Holy Scriptures.

I have heard testimonies from students healed of depression just by hearing and meditating on the Word of God. May our Lord bless the efforts of the precious staff, who willingly volunteer extra time to come to Faith Learning Centre to share the Gospel of Salvation, and the teachings of the Bible.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another...’.

PLEASE PRAY

for 6 students who are hoping to graduate this year. They need to complete assignments and be diligent in their studies.

TEACHERS ARE NEEDED

for this fall at the Faith Learning Centre, both full and part time. If you are qualified, and feel led to this ministry, please call Nelson at 986-1416.

OUR SPRING BANQUETS are coming soon. This is a time to enjoy a complimentary meal, with great music, warm fellowship, and an update on how God is working through Union Gospel Mission. Please join us and bring a friend. Tickets are available by calling the churches, or the Mission at 943-9904. Locations and dates are as follows:



- Blumenort Evangelical Mennonite Church, Ph.326-1644
Friday, April 16th at 6:30pm
- Winkler Maranatha Christian Fellowship, Ph.325-0892
Friday, April 30th at 6:30pm

EASTER DINNER – Saturday, April 3

Needs: ham, potatoes, pasta, mixed frozen vegetables, raisins and **VOLUNTEERS**.

ADOPT-A-ROOM UPDATE – Praise the Lord for 51 rooms adopted! Pray for 9 more.

GRAND OPENING OF WOMEN'S ADDICTION CENTRE –

The new women's addiction centre will officially be opened on May 1st, 2010. Due to space limitations, the opening ceremonies will be by invitation only. Then all are invited to the Open House from 4pm to 6pm. The new name will be announced at this time. Please come and see what God has done through many volunteers and supporters.

VAN/BUS

We now are in need of a 15 passenger van or small bus. If you can help, please call Jeff at 943-9904.

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

CFAM
Radio 950
Altona

AM 1250
RADIO
Steinbach

CJRB
Radio 1220
Boissevain

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www.gospelmission.ca



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