



**“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**

WINTER 2011

**“Come unto me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” Matthew 11:28**

**by Ron Robertson**  
**FLC Ministries Manager**

## THE FAMILY LIFE CENTRE

has a burden for the sponsored families in our school, and we pray for them regularly. Sometimes we see no results for long periods of time, but God sees more perfectly than we do. Our desire is God’s desire; that they would know Jesus in a personal way.

Just before Christmas, one of the mothers that we had been praying for came to the door of the Family Life Centre. She was one who would not normally come for help. The situation cried out for God’s intervention. Her abusive partner had been in the penal system, and shortly he was going to be released. As often is the case, these individuals come back into the homes, and the families

live in a state of fear. This mom had finally come to the realization that this could not continue, but she needed encouragement and direction on how to deal with the situation. I believe this was possible only because of prayer for God’s touch for her to be strong. Some difficult choices were made, and she and her children moved into a shelter to find safety.

Please join us in prayer for her and her precious children, as well as other families we support each day, as they face similar situations, and must make decisions regarding their families.



Christian School children with teacher

**CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**



Students with teacher  
in computer room

## Discovering Youth in Jesus

by Nelson Gonzalez  
Principal, Faith Learning Centre

**THERE IS LIFE** in the person of Jesus Christ. Just this week a sweet lady, who is older than 90 years of age, registered for our Computer Use Basics class. She said that she does not want to be left behind, that she knows, she has heard, technology nowadays helps you connect with people all over the world in minutes.

She was hesitant to say that in her youth she taught Sunday School, but after a while she commented on the importance

of keeping the Bible in school for children. She wanted to do a tour of the Faith Learning Centre building, and was excited to discover how we help in the ministry of Jesus, by reaching out to the poor in Manitoba.

We closed with a handshake, and many wishes for her to realize her dream of learning how to use a computer and connect it to the world. Her words of advice were, “Not to ever get old, to keep busy, and never let anyone clean up after you”.

“Wisdom is with the aged, and with length of days understanding.” – Job 12:12

“Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone. – James 2:17

by Cyril DeCoursey  
Acting Senior Chaplain

AT THE MISSION, during December, two groups who partner with us put on events that showed they were ready to put action to their beliefs.

Each Sunday, “Hear About Jesus” offers a worship service at UGM where people put action to their beliefs. On Sunday, December 5th, all those attending the church service here at the Mission were treated to a delicious Christmas dinner, with all the trimmings. Moreover, all were given a Christmas treat bag. The people heard about Jesus, and then were shown how it works.

Another group, “Love Lives Here”, take their message to the streets each week with support from UGM. They want people to

know that they are believers, and that Christ is the answer for all. On December 9th, they invited all to their “Chili Fest”. For an hour they worshiped God in song and Word, then they fed the hungry, just like Christ did. They offered gifts, and served those in need.

It was a delight to see faith with works bubbling over from these two groups. We thank them, and the numerous others, who quietly practice their faith each week at UGM.

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Street guests visiting  
our Drop-In

“...for the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year, even unto the end of the year”. – Deuteronomy 11:11-12

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By Ramona Lee  
Women's Ministry Leader

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## ON THIS SIDE OF ETERNITY

I sometimes get to witness the seriousness of day to day rescue work.

I walk to work each day, and recently a woman approached me on the street. As she came closer I could see her face, and knew immediately there was something not right. For a moment I looked into the eyes of this woman, and saw darkness and evil. In that instant my heart said, “Lord protect me”. Though we had never met or seen each other before, she knew who I was and to Whom I belonged. In that juncture of passing, as both of us maintained our walking stride from opposite directions, I can't repeat the foul words she shouted at me, finishing with,

“Leave us alone”. At the same time, she put all her weight into her shoulders and shoved me. I did not say a word to her. I knew exactly what this was all about; it's a battle of territory and lives. The battle is the Lord's, and the victory is His.

During the holidays we received many cards from the ladies we serve with expressions of gratitude for what the Family Life Centre represents. One lady wrote, “Thank you for supporting our transition into God's Kingdom”. It is encouraging words like these that remind me of the good things that come out of battle.

I am eager for the new year, anticipating what God will do, knowing it's His battle, and He is in control of it all!

**Ladies Day at the Family Life Centre**





Charis Centre Ladies in Lounge

by Susan Kukkonen  
Recovery Counselor – Charis Centre

**PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME** what it's like to work at the Charis Centre. I would love to offer a pat answer, but that is impossible, because each day brings it's own set of variables, twists and turns. Like snowflakes, each day is unique as each woman residing here.

Most days we are a contented bunch, missionaries and ladies alike, as the Charis ship gently rolls on the waves of recovery. Did I say most days? Thankfully, most days are semi-routine, and that means our programming runs smoothly and our child visits go well. We proceed with new admissions, and with the incessant extinguishing of the little fires that erupt from time to time.

Then there are those days, few and far between, that weigh heavy on our hearts, and cause us to ask the question, "What just happened"? One of those days is when a resident leaves our program prematurely, and that is heart wrenching. It's a sad day for all of us at the Charis Centre, and we grieve the loss of one that we have called a friend.

We hope while she was here she felt loved by us, but more importantly, that she now knows God loves her. We trust that God spoke into her heart and soul in some distinct way, and that one day recovery will be hers.

So if you were to ask me today, "What is it like to work at the Charis Centre?" I would tell you, "To have answered God's calling to this ministry is a blessing, each and every day.

**"The labour of the righteous tendeth to life."**

**—Proverbs 10:16**

“...put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness & true holiness.”  
– Ephesians 4:24

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by Cyril DeCoursey  
Acting Senior Chaplain

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**THIS SCRIPTURE VERSE** is how we describe our residential program for men. It was designed for those who have lost hope, direction, and the resources necessary for recovery. Recovery from an addiction depends on the individual's relationship with God. It goes far and beyond just abstaining from the use of harmful drugs.

Does this approach work? Is this program successful? Success depends on one's desire to get better and willingness to allow God to take control. Can the person surrender their life and recovery to God? These things don't happen automatically, or because we realize

it must happen. We come to program with a history of bad habits, of relying on our own powers, and making our own decisions.

Changing is the difficult task of recovery. Am I willing to comply with rules and authority? Can I submit to the requirements of the mission program? Will I pay the price? To recover I need to believe that no matter what it looks like, this is God's plan for my life and recovery. I must believe that in each situation and circumstance, God is leading me. To recover, I need to follow. I need to move beyond questions, denial, and getting my own way. Recovery means knowing God through faith in Christ, and doing it His way.



Chaplain Cyril  
with former  
Resident Larry



**Kids Club Kids with Volunteer**

by **Jordan Penner**  
**Children & Youth Ministry Leader**

**TRAGEDY, CRISIS AND CATASTROPHE**, are words often used to describe rare events of adversity and sorrow. However, living and ministering in Winnipeg's North End for the last two years, my wife and I have realized that these types of events are not all that rare.

**“Jesus looked at him and loved him.”**

**– Mark 10:21**

Addiction, abuse, gang violence and intimidation, accidental death, suicide, abandonment, and incarceration are all regular seasons of life for many families. I'm sure many people who meet us or hear about the children and youth ministry at the Family Life

Centre ask, “why?”

Centre ask, “why?”

There are many reasons why, but a better question may be, “Why do we care?” The answer is, “Because of Jesus.” Jesus came to be Emmanuel, God with us. He touched those no one else would touch, and talked to those who were ignored. When we walk with hurting people we realize that we do so because of the love and abandon that Jesus showed when He was born, and took His first steps towards the cross. For those faced with tragedy, crisis and catastrophe, Jesus brings faith, hope and love. In light of this truth, why wouldn't we abandon ourselves to experience the joy of seeing Jesus continue to walk with those who He misses most, and longs to start a relationship with?



Calling 777 to  
**Erase the Debt**  
at the Charis Centre

We are 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.



Calling 333 to  
**Transform a Life**  
at the Charis Centre

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.

- **Missionary Employment Opportunities:** Adult Ed Teachers, Female Recovery Counsellors, Shift Supervisors & Cooks.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Receptionists, Kitchen Help, Drop-in Helpers.
- **Capital Project Needs at the Charis Centre:** Windows (\$50,000), Shower Rooms (\$10,000), Play Structure (\$10,000), Air Exchange Units (\$25,000 each).
- **Food Needs:** Milk, Apple Juice, Chicken.

There is a critical need for a 24 passenger bus for the Charis Centre.

We need a warehouse in Winnipeg to use as a clothing processing center.

Praise the Lord for 16 guests saved at our special New Year's Day meal!

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

<b>CFAM</b> Radio 950 Altona	<b>AM 1250</b> RADIO Steinbach	<b>CJRB</b> Radio 1220 Boissevain
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[www.gospelmission.ca](http://www.gospelmission.ca)

