



THE LifeLight

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

November 2005

IF...

If you have never experienced the loneliness of prison, the pangs of hunger...you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

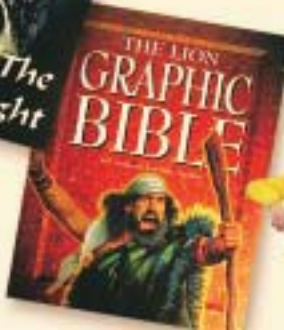
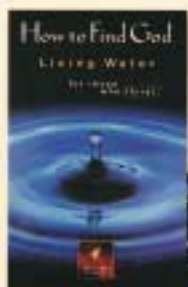
If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep...you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank or in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere ...you are among the 8% of the world's wealthy.

This Christmas let's reach out to the less fortunate with the hope that Jesus brings.

In this issue read about ministries that are bringing this hope to others day by day:

- Serenity House
- Salvation Army
- Pregnancy Crisis Centres
- Prison Ministries
- Food Banks

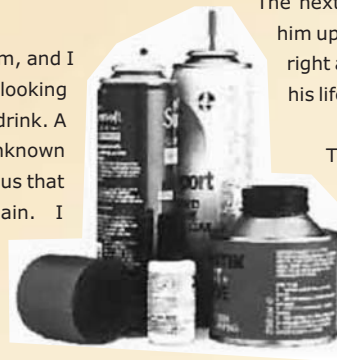


A HOME FOR HOMELESS JACK

Isabelle Fiola

Jack* was accepted in our support-housing program. His workers told me that he suffered from a combination of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and substance abuse (drugs, alcohol and sniffing toxic chemicals). Jack arrived tired, hungry and in need of a bath. He had fallen through the cracks of our society's system. During his childhood he had been moved from place to place. He spent the better part of his adult life in jail, but he no longer belonged there.

Jack spent a lot of time in the bathroom, and I became suspicious that he might be looking for something he could use to sniff or drink. A wet facecloth smelling of an unknown substance was found, and it was obvious that Jack had attempted to sniff again. I immediately went through the house to lock up all the solvents, cleaners and anything else I could find that he could use for sniffing.



He had difficulty concentrating, was noisy and paid no attention to the rules of the house. Basic tasks were confusing to him: He put hot chocolate powder in the coffee maker and anti-static sheets in the wash load rather than the dryer. (Fortunately he slept soundly at night.)

When I took him to church, the first thing I did was move all the cleaning products from the men's washroom to the ladies washroom. As predicted, the first place Jack headed was the bathroom to hunt for substances but, much to his disappointment, found the usual areas bare.

When the pastor came to greet me, I burst into tears. "I'm exhausted," I exclaimed. "Our ministry cannot afford to pay staff, and Jack needs around-the-clock

supervision; I have no choice but to send him back."

The oddest thing happened that evening: nobody else showed up for the service, so the pastor was able to give his full attention to Jack. With Jack's permission, we laid hands on him and prayed. The pastor and I were hoping for an instant miracle, but Jack seemed to have had no change.

The next day Jack's workers were contacted to pick him up. As we waited, Jack requested to be baptized right away. He confirmed that Jesus was the Lord of his life, and his request for baptism was granted.

The Scripture passage printed on his baptism certificate was from John 14: *Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also Me. In my Father's house are many mansions [dwellings]...I go to prepare a place for you.* How fitting for a homeless person!

While Jack was packing his things I noticed an open Bible from LifeLight Ministries, *Men of Integrity*, on his bed, I asked him whether he knew what the word "integrity" meant. His answer was "No," so I explained to him that it meant honesty. Upon hearing that, he unzipped his backpack, took out three items he had stolen from me, and laid them on the bed. He then lifted his Bible, closed it, kissed the cover and placed it in his backpack. A few minutes later, his workers arrived and took him away.

*not his real name

Isabelle Fiola is the founder and director of Serenity House, a facility that works hand in hand with other community resources specializing in addiction recovery.

LifeLight Ministries, Box 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5



God's Word for this Generation

Oozing the Love of Christ



In May 2004, when I went into Winnipeg Remand on my normal visit, I saw a tall, blonde woman who looked very distraught. Her eyes were wells of water and misery. When she saw me, with a pile of Bibles and copies of *Prisoners of Hope* from LifeLight Ministries, she came right to me and said, "God sent you here to find me."

In all my years of working in Remand I have not had that happen to me before or since. One would think I introduced her to Christ, she accepted Him, and that was that. No, she was very overwhelmed with shame, guilt and unworthiness and wanted to clean herself up for God.

We visited through June and July, and it was the same every time: She desperately wanted the peace that comes from accepting the gift of salvation, but she couldn't get it. Others she met during the week would tell her, "Yes, you must fix yourself." She literally cried for all those weeks and sought God and His peace.

The Merry-Go-Round Versus Truth

A drug addiction keeps you in bondage. It is doubly troubling when you seek a more positive lifestyle but do not have a long-term support system in place. A female addict in Winnipeg's inner city often finds herself on a continuous merry-go-round. Living between crack houses, working the street, losing one's children to custody and doing prison time is the norm rather than the exception. Female addicts with a mental illness sometimes stay on the merry-go-round their whole (usually short) life.

The truth is that many women in this predicament want to change. Susan is one such woman. I met Susan at a chapel service. She stayed behind after the service to ask questions and for prayer after the other inmates had returned to their cells. A few weeks after this Susan was released.

She shared with me her fears of going into a secular treatment centre. We prayed together, and I presented her with a *Free on the Inside* Bible (from LifeLight Ministries). Susan was very grateful, and the next time we met she asked for a copy for her son.

Hearts are yearning for God's Word in prisons and inner cities across Canada. Thank you, LifeLight, for obeying God's call in providing easy-to-read, attractive Bibles.

Shon McLaren

Shon is involved in inner-city women's ministries in Winnipeg.

In August a verse came to her: *Cease striving and know that I am God*. She quieted her spirit to listen to God. While reading the parable of the lost sheep, her eyes were opened to the truth, and she simply accepted Christ's blood in faith to cleanse her.

What a work of the grace of God she is! She got out of jail in August 2004, and was baptized in January 2005. Her testimony is solid, and she has grown by leaps and bounds. She is straightening out her family relationships and is now working in the inner city. She is a blessing and has an impact on everyone she meets, as she oozes the love of Christ from every fibre of her being. Praise the Lord!

Bernice Goertzen

Prisoners of Hope is a powerful evangelism booklet designed for outreach to women in prison. It features stories of four women from the Gospels whose lives were changed by Jesus. *Suggested donation: \$1.50.*

In Prison...You Visited Me

Jesus said, *...I was in prison, and you came to me*. Thank you, LifeLight, for coming into the prison via the Bibles and other Scriptures you provide.

I am a chaplain for approximately 95 women, most of them mothers and most of them young. It is a privilege to walk beside these hurting women. (I call them "my girls.") I'm glad I can offer them hope in Christ Jesus, the hope that He can heal their hearts and change their lives.



It is exciting when the women get into the Bible and start a Bible correspondence course, but it is even more rewarding when they complete their studies and receive their award Bible. What is most rewarding is to see and hear how God has changed their hearts and attitudes.

Chapel services, Bible studies and the "Healing Hearts" programs are all well attended. The girls come because they *choose* to participate; it is not a "captive audience." My prayer is that they will choose to walk with Jesus while serving time and also after their release.

Chaplain Mrs. R.

Hope for the Future

At the Lindsay Pregnancy Centre we give the *Hope for the Future* New Testament to young women who have had a positive pregnancy test and are unsure whether they will continue the pregnancy.



Recently a young girl (age 15) refused the offer of the New Testament; she said she wasn't going to read the Bible. However, her mother, who had accompanied her to the appointment, asked if she could have one. Someone had given her a copy of Proverbs. She had read it, and now she wanted to read more of the Bible. We had the opportunity to give a NT to a family who had never had a Bible.

Susan Somers, Director

LIGHT FOR KIDS

What did the innkeeper tell Joseph? To find the answer discover which letter of the alphabet is missing from each line and write in on the line below.



A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 A B C D E F G H I J K L N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z



2 WORDS _____ Read the story in Luke 2.

CHRISTMAS JOY FOR TRUCKERS

- ★ *Oh boy, thank you very much! I heard that people from Saskatchewan and Manitoba are the friendliest in Canada. If the rest of the world were like that it would be a better place to live.*
- ★ *It has been eight years since I have received a parcel on Christmas Day.*
- ★ *We thought we would not get a Christmas present. You made our day!*

These are just a few of the comments Pieter and Maria Vlaming received from truckers last Christmas. For a number of years they have been distributing Christmas packages to truckers in Manitoba on Christmas Day. Their church helps them with the packages (socks, candies, cookies, chocolate bars, mitts, etc.), and LifeLight Ministries has been providing them with copies of *The Road Home*, a New Testament for truckers, to be included with the packages. They would like to include these Scriptures again this year and would appreciate your help in making this possible.



A gift of \$5.00 will provide one NT for a trucker. Would you like to help bring some joy to truckers on Christmas Day? Send your cheque, together with the Reply Form, to LifeLight Ministries. Thank you.

Christmas Booklets





Perfect as stocking stuffers, party favours, spontaneous "thank you" gifts...the possibilities are endless! Featuring Scripture, carol lyrics, quotations, recipes, and more, these festive books will brighten anyone's holiday! Hardcover. 12 different titles. Suggested donation: \$1.00 each



In Search of the Perfect Christmas

An excellent give-away to people who don't usually attend church or think about Christianity except during Christmas. Suggested donation: \$1.00.

Call us (204-320-9676) for more information on these and other Christmas booklets. Get your orders in soon to avoid disappointment.

Have a Joyous Christmas!

Reply Form

Enclosed is my donation:

Trucker's NTs \$ _____ General Fund \$ _____ Staff support for _____ \$ _____

Other _____ \$ _____ Scripture Order _____

Name _____ Address _____

PC _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Credit card donations may be made at www.donatebibles.net.

November 2005

Dear Friends of LifeLight:

Christmas is coming up very quickly and, as we look around us, we see so many people in need, not knowing which way to turn, people who have lost hope.

We need your help so we can bring hope—God's Word—to this generation by lavishly distributing Scriptures. You can help to equip others who are faithful to the call to go, those who place the light of His Word into areas of darkness. Your gift also makes it possible for us to give Bibles to those who call or write the LifeLight office requesting them. For some it may mean the first Bible they have ever had.

Your generosity helps to ensure that we have an ongoing supply of Scriptures available to ministries and individuals who don't have the funds to purchase them.

Please send your year-end gift to LifeLight Ministries, together with the enclosed Reply Form. Thank you.

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

*The LifeLight Board
& Directors*

Norfolk COUNTY FAIR and Horse Show

John & Marilyn Van Essen

This is the second year that we have had a booth at the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show, which took place in Simcoe, Ontario, from October 4-10. The attendance varies each year, depending on the weather. This year the first three days were crowded, but the rest of the week the turnout was very low. Likely the high price of gas also affected the attendance, with fewer people coming from a distance.

An average day ran from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thanks to the fourteen volunteers from the community who helped us, we did have time for ourselves. We certainly appreciated them and others who helped us in transporting boxes of materials in and out of the building. Each one helped to further the Kingdom of God.

A woman who came to the booth on the second day commented, "You are the most important people in this place. You're doing a good work." She did not mean we were the most important, since there were a number of other booths from local churches and parachurch organizations. Our focus was on giving the Word of God to the people, among the many who were trying to sell all kinds of other products.

Throughout the week we had a draw for *Path to Victory* New Testaments, resulting in 106 new names to be added to our mailing list

The following weekend, Marilyn had a table of LifeLight Scriptures at a local women's conference. It was fairly well attended, and many stopped at the booth. One of the women had received a copy of *How to Find God* the week before at the Fair.

John and Marilyn Van Essen are the LifeLight reps in Ontario. They live in Simcoe.

Looking Back 2005 Fundraising Golf Tournament



A Healing Weekend

Gerry Loewen is the founder of Silver Lion Ministries. He wrote: *I have been looking for a source for Bibles for our ministry. We do healing retreat weekends for women and men who have lost a child due to abortion. This is a weekend healing encounter with Christ, and part of the "aftercare" is to give them a New Testament. Most participants come to Christ during the weekend, and a number have never been introduced to the Scriptures. We would need approximately 25 New Testaments each year. No doubt this number would grow as this ministry grows.*

Tracey attended one of these retreats (Rachel's Vineyard) and wrote about her experience:

I couldn't understand my inability to maintain true intimate relationships. I would hook up with guys, desiring a committed relationship, but I'd act as if it didn't really matter, or as if it was their fault that these relationships did not work. I had no idea that my problem was directly linked to my children.

During my early twenties, I had a miscarriage, without even realizing that I was pregnant. I was not a Christian, but something in me believed that God's hand was at work.



About a year later I was pregnant again. Believing that there was no way that I could handle the responsibility of being a single parent, I consulted my OBGYN. He suggested some options, with abortion being the one that was discussed most. I rationalized that it was "only a medical procedure," and life didn't seem to be an option.

After the abortion I stuffed all my feelings and thoughts deep inside. My lifestyle was totally unhealthy, and I

believed that since I had sabotaged my children's relationships with me, all other relationships would suffer also.

Over a decade later, I became a Christian. Five years later, at a Rachel's Vineyard Retreat, I realized I had nearly 20 years of intense emotional pain, which literally weighed me down. In 2½ days God did many miracles.

When I first became a Christian I had begun to re-evaluate my life, and memories of the abortion came up. Through healing prayer I knew that God had forgiven me and that Christ had died for the decisions I had made, but I could not forgive myself. There was so much regret! God met me at the retreat, and through His living Word I was released from all self-condemnation. Jesus showed me that my children had also forgiven me and loved me deeply! I named the child I had miscarried, as well as the one I aborted.

Jesus is my Redeemer, and He has done more for me than I can express. My heart sings for my children, Rebecca and Joshua!

A Bible for this Generation



We here at the Salvation Army in the Comox Valley (BC) meet many interesting people through a variety of programs. From our Family Services offices we distribute much-needed clothing and food and provide shelter to needy clients. Often we are able to help with the tangibles, but on occasions when

we simply cannot help with a hydro bill or a rent payment, we look for other ways to add value to people's lives.

One way is through prayer and another is the offer of a Bible – not just any Bible, but one that the average, unchurched individual can read. *How to Find God* (HTFG) is such a Bible. With its many contextual tools and reference aids, learning about God and of His love for each one of us is made easy.

Sometime ago we shared with a woman in her late thirties how different HTFG is from the King James Version she had grown up and struggled with. Her experience in her childhood

church and the "Shakespearian" KJV had left her feeling distanced and disconnected from God and His plan for her life. That experience led to many years away from church and viewing Christianity as irrelevant. HTFG has improved that perception, and we look forward to supporting her as she begins to delve into God's Word and, for the first time, with excitement.

When I saw the HTFG New Testament at the Nanaimo Salvation Army offices I immediately inquired about getting some for our offices too. The KJV has done a great service for generations, but this generation cries for simplicity and relevance. HTFG can be a significant tool in helping connect people with God, and that's the most important part of what we do here.

Shawn Wilson
Director of Community Services

Hope for the Future New Testament

If your ministry touches women in crisis pregnancies, this New Testament can guide them toward the hope they need through the truth of God's Word. A 70-page help section offers biblical insight. *Suggested donation: \$2.50*

Hear My Prayer

*Gracious God, hear my prayer;
may your mercy make me more merciful;
your love make me more loving;
your peace make me more peaceful;
and may your power make me more willing
to help the powerless;
your bounty empower me to help the needy;
and your kindness inspire me to aid those who suffer.
In Christ's name I pray.*

Jorge A. Genzdalez



HOW CAN I GET TO HEAVEN?

Going South?

Whether you are going South on vacation or on a missions trip to a Spanish-speaking country this winter, don't forget to pack some Bibles to distribute.

Bibles and New Testaments



Booklets for Kids



Call us about these and many other Spanish Scriptures.

Ernie wanted to know how to get to heaven. He had asked various people, but no one had given him a satisfactory answer or an answer he could understand. Now he approached me in the food line. I was handing out Christian literature, including LifeLight Bibles and New Testaments.



said he wanted all his friends to be converted too. He wanted nine or ten Bibles – one for each of his friends who needed salvation.

Now I never see Ernie anymore. He wasn't young anymore, and he was pretty shaky. We may never see Ernie again in this world.

How can I get to heaven for sure when I die? He wanted a simple answer. After telling him the way of salvation, I gave him a Bible, which he promised to try to read. A bookmark had been placed in an appropriate place in the NT section, where he could start reading.

I'm glad he asked all those questions. I'm glad he took those Bibles. Aren't you?

Henry Penner

Henry Penner volunteers with Winnipeg Harvest Food Bank.

The next week he came back for more food. He

FROM THE MAILBOX

- We have recently received your latest shipment of Bibles for use and distribution by our Community Services Program. We sincerely appreciate this worthwhile and beneficial service you provide and the opportunity it gives us to share the Good News with those we work with in this community. – Nanaimo Salvation Army
- We are serving a huge population of marginalized individuals who suffer from homelessness, poverty, chronic addiction, HIV/AIDS, mental illness, etc. We have constant requests for Scriptures. Can you provide us with options for ordering 200-300 NTs with Psalms and Proverbs? – Salvation Army Harbour Light Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre, Vancouver
- Thank you for your recent gift of Bibles. Throughout the book of Proverbs we are encouraged to grow in the wisdom of God. Thank you for helping us pass on this wisdom to the people who come to the Mission. – Union Gospel Mission, Winnipeg

Christmas Wishes from LifeLight Ministries

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the ALL of Christmas, which is Christ.



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