



THE LifeLight

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

January 2006

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MissionFest

Winnipeg

February 3-5

Missions Fest

Edmonton

February 24-26

MissionFest

Toronto

March 23-25

Are the Scriptures Being Fulfilled?

Greg Armstrong

It's time for all of us to have a fresh look this New Year at the pages of Scripture through the eyes of Jesus as He described His mission and the work He has commissioned us to continue.

He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue as was His custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

"The Spirit of God the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them,

"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

I've heard it stated that the church exists for those who are outside her walls. If this

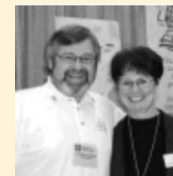
is true (and I am convinced that it is), then we need to be equipped and Spirit-driven and, unashamedly, engaged in a world of unbelief, pain, loneliness and suffering. A senior pastor is quoted in the Salvation Army *Israel Gathers*: "You can tell we've lost our passion when we are more interested in our comfort over confrontation." When we are hesitant to name and shame evil, it is a sure sign that we need to urgently heed this warning.



As we go about our lives in the New Year, in a world of cynicism, science and sin,

I challenge us all to think of what this world would look like if we were authentically Spirit-driven and if this "Scripture [were] fulfilled in your hearing." What would this world look like if we would take our celebrations of teaching and joy from the temples we have constructed, out into the marketplace; into our homes, marriages, friends, neighbourhoods; into our work, sporting events, hospitals, prisons, etc.?

Canadian LifeLight Ministries has been called to a great mission to lavishly distribute the Scriptures in reader-friendly translations to this generation. We cannot do this without the prayers and generosity of God's people. Let's continue to work together to make a way for Jesus in this world...a world He loved so much that he did not withhold His only Son, but sent Him to die that we could be saved. What a gift!



Greg Armstrong is the LifeLight Ministries rep in Winnipeg. He and his wife, Janet, have two sons and attend the Eastview Community Church in Winnipeg.

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



God's Word for this Generation

Bill Thornton



locations over the past two centuries to the present. In the process, the main character (a skeptical art dealer) discovers the true meaning of Christmas.

Following the performance, attendees were invited to pick up a Guest Packet, which included a *How to Find God* New Testament, a Christmas tract, and a letter listing church programs for seekers.

Our church put on a Christmas musical in December, which drew more than 1000 attendees to the three productions. *Journey to the Manger* traces some expressions of Christmas through selected

We chose the *How to Find God* NTs for several reasons: 1) The cover title and design are contemporary and inviting. 2) The language of the New Living Translation is inclusive. 3) The suggested donation is very

reasonable. (The prompt delivery of these Bibles was a bonus!)

We plan to use this appealing translation for future outreach services and to encourage individuals to distribute them to interested colleagues, neighbours and relatives. The response has propelled our evangelism committee to consider other venues where these Scriptures might be used to advance the cause of Christ. We are optimistic about what God will do.

Bill Thornton is the Associate Pastor at the Springvale Baptist Church in Stouffville, Ontario.

Bibles for Christmas

Esther Clark

We have seen quite an influx of immigrants, many of them Spanish-speaking people from South America. Many come to the Food Bank at Christmas time for assistance.

Many of the immigrants are studying English and working very hard to become self-sufficient. We hear a lot of horrific stories of why they had to leave their homeland and what they left behind.

We always have Bibles available at the Christmas Centre. When word spread that I had Spanish/English NTs, our Outreach Worker dropped in to see me. She works with homeless people, who are placed in motels or transitional apartments. One such family, a woman from South America with seven children, lives in one of these apartments, and the worker was so happy that she was able to give her one of these Bibles as a Christmas gift.

One woman commented how much she enjoyed reading the New Testament and, together with her English dictionary, she is gaining a better understanding of the English language. She was hugging the NT to herself as she spoke, showing how precious the Word is to her. Her English is broken and halting, but with the faith in Jesus Christ, which we have in common, we did not seem to have any differences.

It is an honour and a privilege to serve in the name of the Lord. Thank you, LifeLight, for enabling us to spread the Good News in this way.

Esther Clark works in Community & Family Services, an outreach ministry of The Salvation Army in Burlington, Ontario



James Ulrich

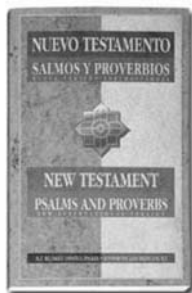
On Sunday, December 11, the Rowandale Baptist Church in Winnipeg held their annual Christmas children's production. The church was packed to the rafters. Under the direction of Mic Martens, the performance, *Just Believe*, received great reviews.

Just Believe is an extremely fun and different Christmas production, with a compelling story: A children's choir prepares to leave for a big city convention centre, but when their bus breaks down, they end up performing at the Heavenly Peace Retirement Centre and find out that the true meaning of Christmas is more than glitz and glamour.

As part of the production, our outreach ministry partnered with production leadership to add to the outreach emphasis of the event. *The Abundant Life* and *How to Find God* New Testaments from LifeLight Ministries, as well as *The Case for Christmas* by Lee Strobel, were made available to newcomers. The books were wrapped, complete with a bow, and displayed on gift tables, accompanied by a card advertising our Christmas services and thanking the guests for coming. The response to the give-away was phenomenal!

Thank you to LifeLight Ministries for partnering with Rowandale Baptist Church to reach the lost for Jesus!

Bilingual Scriptures



The Spanish/English New Testament is a great evangelism tool in both languages. Ideal for travelers, evangelism and newcomers to either language. Take a few with you when you go on vacation to a Spanish-speaking country. *Suggested donation: \$6.00*

The bilingual Bible contains a side-by-side treatment of the English and Spanish NIV translations. Leather-look cover. An ideal gift for a Spanish-speaking pastor or other Christian worker. *Suggested donation: \$20.00*

Call us for more information on Spanish Scriptures, tracts and children's leaflets

SATURATE—Life-Changing Event

Susan Penner

Café 232

Janet Sellick

In Search of the Perfect Christmas was a perfect parting gift for the crowd of more than a hundred who turned out for an evening of Christmas Jazz on December 4.



Café 232 is a jazz club, hosted by the Gospel Mennonite Church (GMC) in Winnipeg, featuring Walle Larsson, a well-known saxophonist, and his band. The club is an outreach of GMC, where music fans can begin to consider their own spiritual journey. Issues of faith are presented as a natural part of the evening through personal stories.

Excellent cheesecakes and a range of gourmet coffees, steamers and cappuccinos are served at the café for a modest price. The club usually meets on the first Sunday night of the month.

We were glad to have access to such an attractive thought-provoking booklet for our Christmas event, and received positive comments from our guests.

For further information about Café 232, check out our website: www.cafe232.com.

The lights go down, the music starts, and hundreds of young adults pour into the church sanctuary. Young adults from different denominations, different churches and different towns unite for an awesome evening of worship. Many have a personal relationship with Jesus; many don't. The work of the Holy Spirit is drawing believers to an event so life changing that people are regularly experiencing healing and freedom from bondage. This event is SATURATE.

SATURATE is a monthly worship event at Southland Community Church in Steinbach, Manitoba. What started off as a College & Career group of fifty people in 2003 has exploded into a young adults ministry, with seven hundred worshipers at SATURATE in November.

SATURATE is only one component of the Young Adults Ministry. It is a celebration of what God is doing throughout the month in cell groups, "Encounter God" retreat weekends and discipleship training. Our desire is to see each young adult connected through a small group that meets weekly, to receive freedom in Christ and to become a minister. Our motto is "Win Souls, Make Ministers, Love God Passionately."

Many young adults have begun a personal relationship with Jesus, and many have rededicated their lives as a result of God's work at SATURATE and the Young Adults Ministry. We've seen drug dealers repent. We've seen young men freed from pornography addictions and young women freed from cutting.

However, we noticed that there was a significant need for God's Word to be easily available to those beginning or continuing their walk with Him. For the past six months we have been offering *How to Find God* NTs from LifeLight Ministries free to anyone at SATURATE. We have given away a hundred of these Bibles to young adults who are at different places in their spiritual journey. We love the way this NT explains scripture in a direct and encouraging way. We are grateful to LifeLight for assisting us in advancing God's kingdom.



Van Essen 2005 Ventures

LifeLight Ministries Banquet

This amazing event was very well attended. All the donations went towards the cost of our booth at the Norfolk County Fair.

Our special speaker was Len Reimer, a chaplain with Transport for Christ, a ministry to truckers. Several truckers gather at his transport trailer each week for a service. *Men of Integrity*, a men's devotional Bible, is used tremendously at this truck stop.

Pregnancy Crisis Centres

A local Pregnancy Crisis Centre asked for booklets and Scriptures, including *Mommy Dreams* and *Women of Faith* to give to 25 other crisis centres across southwestern Ontario. Pray that all these Scriptures will be read and that the readers will grow spiritually.

Our Partners

Thank you to you, our partners, who are faithful in your financial giving and prayers.

John & Marilyn Van Essen
Ontario Reps

Email: j.m.vanessen@sympatico.ca
Ph: 519-426-0066

From the Mailbox

- Thank you for your interest, your visit and your delivery of the Bibles. They will be used by the children and, as staff find responsible recipients, they will go to the children's homes. Manitoba House was started in 1998 by a group of people with a common interest and a dream of making a difference for the children (ages 5-12) in the North End of Winnipeg. There are many sad stories, and there is much abuse and neglect of the children in this community.
- Thank you to all those who so generously responded to our plea for Bibles. The Bibles have arrived and continue to be in great demand. These gifts mean so much to those whom the Lord is touching in this place. — Philip Durant, Headingley Correctional Centre

Reply Form

Enclosed is my donation:

Staff support for _____ \$ _____

General Fund \$ _____ Other _____ \$ _____

Scripture order \$ _____ Please send the following Scriptures:

Name _____ Address _____

_____ PC _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

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



Heart of the Outdoors Bible

Heart of the Outdoors, with its rugged camouflage paperback cover, is designed especially for hunting and fishing enthusiasts. Features stories of noted sportsmen and includes a clear gospel presentation.

Suggested donation: \$8.00

Just for Men

The men's ministry of the Evangelical Free Church in Steinbach held an outreach men's breakfast on November 28. Forty-seven men of all ages enjoyed a breakfast of French toast, farmer sausage and fruit.

John Neufeld spoke on "The Laughing Jesus." He emphasized that impacting our community is not a program but something God does through us as individuals. People should be attracted to us, not the program.

Since this was an outreach breakfast, we made *How to Find God* New Testaments available to our visitors. These gifts were well received. Everyone enjoyed the morning, and we were touched by the message.

Trappers Receive Bibles

Peter Loewen

Trappers from all over northern Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ontario gather each December to sell their furs at a fur auction in Thompson, Manitoba. Fur buyers are on hand, each with their own table, to offer bids on these furs. How exciting to be invited to set up a LifeLight Scripture display at this event!

By 8 a.m. on December 16, my helper, Del Brandt, and I were at the large parish hall where the fur auction took place. We put copies of *Indian Life* (a Christian magazine) at each table, hoping that this would help trappers to accept what we had to offer. After we set up our display, some trappers, who had perhaps had no Christian contact for years, came up and asked for Scriptures.

A trapper from South Indian Lake said the New Testaments we had left there are being read in the school. On the intercom, one of the teachers reads two chapters each morning and has a prayer. The trapper said the Scriptures have helped him personally to live a better life.

Another trapper, from Cross Lake, thanked us for the *The LifeLight* NT he had received when I was there three years ago. He said he had read through it two times. A trapper who used to be a teacher in the Cormorant School said it was uplifting to have the Bible read over the intercom to the students.

On Friday Del and I had lunch at Continental Mission's soup kitchen, next door to the fur auction, where we met seventy hungry local people happy to get a free meal. We noticed the LifeLight literature stand, with NTs which are available to the people coming for meals.

Del Brandt is a farmer who also likes to trap, and the trappers responded well to him, leading to good discussions and a willingness to accept a New Testament. On the way home, Del asked, "When can we go again?"

"We are keeping LifeLight and Scripture distribution in our prayers," Curt Bork told us when we stopped at his house for coffee on our way North. Thank you, Curt and the church in Moosehorn.



**TRY THIS NEW YEAR RESOLUTION!
TELL SOMEBODY ABOUT JESUS!**



x 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5

