



THE LifeLight

The Newsletter of Canadian LifeLight Ministries

March 2006

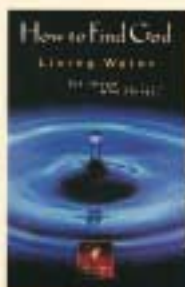
Easter Outreach Booklet



Everybody loves a dramatic comeback, but nothing in history is more significant than Easter morning. *The World's Greatest Comeback* booklet sets the stage for the Easter story and then presents it through the NIV Scripture account. Ideal for first-time or occasional church attendees. Includes evangelism plan. 16 colour pages.

We have a limited supply of these booklets available so get your orders in now. Once these are gone, they are no longer available.

Suggested donation:
\$1.00



The elderly man was still very much in pain and grieving the loss of his beloved wife of many years. We sat in my office, and he shared about his anger at God. Before he left I offered him a *How to Find God* New Testament to take home and read. He stated that he owned an older family Bible that had rarely been opened. He grudgingly took the book with him.

A month or so later I saw him pushing his way through a crowd at a social function, and I became concerned that perhaps he was angry with me, since he looked very emotional. When he reached me he thanked me in a broken voice for sharing God's Word with him through the Bible I had given him. He once again had joy in his life, knowing the hope of seeing his beloved wife in heaven.

The purpose of LifeLight Ministries is to give away Bibles. This is very simplistic, but our primary mission is changed lives through Scripture distribution.

We have three distinctly different beneficiaries of our Bibles:

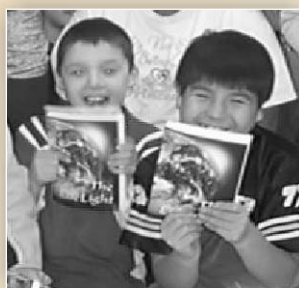
- 1) Bulk distribution in communities in northern Canada and in inner cities where we reach out, with your help, into schools and communities who can't get God's Word in an easy-to-read translation and eagerly await the arrival of our "Bible man."
- 2) Individuals, such as myself, who get Scriptures in small quantities for personal distribution. We all come across people, like the elderly man I encountered, who do not have easy access to or can't afford to buy easy-to-read Scriptures.
- 3) Other charities, ministries and churches that distribute Scriptures to individuals. These Partners are informed of the costs, including shipping, and are encouraged to consider a donation (in any amount) to be

used to provide free Scriptures for the next individual or group to give away free.

We have been lax, though, in showing the full amount of our costs. Our supporters need to know that costs to operate LifeLight Ministries are more than just the actual purchase cost of Scriptures and shipping. Therefore, after significant soul searching, we are prayerfully asking those who are able to consider adding 30 percent to the regular suggested donation amount. This will help cover costs associated with their requisition. Only then can we provide more Scriptures to those who cannot afford them.

Many northern communities have been turned right side up by the FREE distribution of *The LifeLight* New Testament. When Peter Loewen asked one school principal for permission to distribute Bibles in the school, he requested enough Scriptures for every home in the community and promised to start weekly Bible studies. A year later there is a thriving church led by one of the community elders! One community has seen suicides almost completely disappear! In another community there has been a significant decline in youth crime. One church recently had more than seventy teenagers making a public confession for Christ!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! To those of you who regularly receive Bibles from us, please keep our new policy of an additional donation in mind. We can only provide free Scriptures if we have enough funds.



Ernie Brosowsky and his wife, Lil, live in Winnipeg and have been with LifeLight Ministries for a number of years. They have three grown children and attend The Lighthouse church in Winnipeg.



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



God's Word for this Generation

A Big Hug from José

Beryl Johnson



I took twenty Spanish New Testaments and other literature to give to a Christian Mexican couple, José and María, whom I met last year in Cozumel. Because of the extreme hurricane damage in Cozumel, it was a bit difficult to find them again; a lot of the landmarks have been damaged or destroyed.

When we pulled up in front of their home

(where José sells ceramics, T-shirts, blankets, etc.) and got out of the van, José recognized me immediately. He said, "I remember you! You're from Canada." He came over and gave me a big hug.

When I told him that I had brought him some NTs, his eyes lit up. He really liked the *Cinco Pasos a la Vida* (similar to "The Four Spiritual Laws"). And he just couldn't get over the fact that I had actually kept my promise about bringing him Scriptures! He kept smiling, giggling and shaking his head.

He told us that he and a few other Christians were leading a Bible study with several non-Christians. He was excited that he could now give them New Testaments. They are also very involved in evangelism outreach. He said that the

Mexican people are typically very resistant to the gospel. I assured him that we would be praying for them.

José and María were determined to give both my husband and me a T-shirt and, because we did not want to hurt their feelings, we accepted. I also bought some ceramics from them.

Overall, this was a highlight of my holiday. I believe that God's Word never returns void, so I will be taking more New Testaments, and possibly some complete Bibles, next year. I plan to ask my care group, as well as the music ministry that I am involved in, to help me so that I can take more next year.

Blessings to your great ministry, which enables people like me to share God's Word with the lost!

**The cornerstone of the Christian faith is the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
Without Christ's resurrection we have no hope.**

Gabriel, the Gardener

Leighton & Nita Wiebe

Thank you for providing us with Scriptures as we celebrated our 20th anniversary in Cuba. This was our first trip abroad, so we weren't sure what to expect.



We stayed mostly at the resort, so our contact with the locals, besides the staff, was limited. We distributed our literature to the people who served us so graciously all week.

In every case the Scriptures were well received, but none had a smile as wide as the gardener, Gabriel. He was a small man, fairly shy, but he possessed a quiet contentment, often

whistling as he worked around our rooms before the sun rose.

The morning we left, we gave him a gift bag of some Spanish books and a Bible. His face could barely contain his glee.

We were amazed at how the Scriptures were so special to those who had little or no access to God's Word, something we take for granted in Canada. We will be back for more Scriptures next time we take a trip.

From the Mailbox

- I have several Spanish-speaking friends; some have recently come from Columbia and speak very little English. I am interested in the Spanish/English New Testaments, with Spanish and English side by side that were mentioned in the last newsletter. Enclosed is a donation for your ministry. – Len*
- We love to distribute Scriptures and have done so in Cuba and in the Dominican Republic. It thrills me to see people's appreciation as their faces light up and they start reading. A big thrill for us has been to go to Bolivia to distribute Low German Bibles. In some churches in Bolivia people are excommunicated for having Bible study in their home. Let's pray for Christians around the world who face persecution for their faith. – Alvin & Katherine*

The Cookie Seller

Janine & Peter Wieler

Before we left on a vacation to Mexico in December, I stopped at LifeLight Ministries to pick up Spanish Bibles to hand out while there.

One day we took a boat tour to see different places along the coast. Before we left I took a few Bibles to hand out during our stops and asked the Holy Spirit to let us know whom we were to give them to. At one stop, where we ate lunch on the beach, my husband noticed a young man sitting behind the restaurant selling homemade cookies and reading a Bible. Instantly we knew that he was to receive the Bibles.



When we returned to where he was, his mother (we assume) was there, and we gave her a Bible and some Spanish kids booklets, *The Story of Jesus*. She and I hugged, and we both pointed toward heaven. What a moment to meet believers in Christ, even though we didn't understand a word of Spanish, and to be able to equip them with the Word!

She Waited for 47 Years!

Before we left for Cuba in January we picked up some Spanish Bibles at LifeLight Ministries. We had prayed for safety and guidance, but did not know what to anticipate at the Cuban airport.



One of our suitcases, the one with the Bibles, was held back. It was scanned, and the officer wanted it to be opened and checked. Without them noticing, we put the other suitcase on the table; they checked it, and it was no problem. We walked through with the all of the Bibles. PTL!

Elmer & Anne Brandt

We took a number of Spanish Scriptures and children's booklets with us to Cuba. We drove 4½ hours from the place where we stayed to meet some friends who had been in a firefighting course that Henry taught in Brandon. We gave a Bible to the mother of one of the firefighters. She said she had waited 47 years for a Bible, and she was very happy to finally have her own copy.

In one place we were warned to be careful about distributing Scriptures because someone was always watching, and the people could get into trouble if they accepted Bibles.

Some of the people who received Bibles said that they now could take their own Bibles to church. Other Scriptures were left with friends to distribute.

Henry & Justina Thiessen

A Bonus Book

Warren & Wanda Grose

We just returned from our second holiday aboard a cruise ship. On our first cruise two years ago, we had really enjoyed our visits with our room stewards and dining room staff. Since most of the staff were Spanish speakers, trying to learn English, we decided to take along Spanish Scriptures on this second cruise.

At first we were a little disappointed to discover that most of the staff on the ship were from the Philippines. However, our conversations with them were delightful. We learned that one of our servers in the dining room knew some Spanish and was struggling to retain it. We presented him with a Spanish/English New Testament, our favourite LifeLight product. He was delighted beyond expectation and treated the gift like the treasure that it truly is. We consider this NT to be a bonus book - the Word of God and language acquisition all in one book.



Pilky, the Shopkeeper

Anne & Vern Kroeker

On January 10, my husband, Vern, and I left for the Dominican Republic on a long-awaited holiday. We took a number of Spanish *How to Find God* NTs from LifeLight Ministries with us.

On our first evening there we met a shopkeeper who had a well-used New Testament on her counter. We started talking to her and found out that she was our sister in the Lord. How exciting! We gave her one of the NTs, and the beam on her face and the hugs when we saw her again a few days later told us how much she appreciated it.

We had another opportunity to give away one of the Scriptures to a shopkeeper at the beach flea market. In our conversation we found out that he was also a believer, and he was very happy to receive a NT as well. He said he would read it every day.

The highlight of our two-week vacation was getting to know Pilky, a young fellow who worked at a shop on the beach. He offered to be our tour guide into town for shopping. A few days later he wanted us to meet his family - his wife, daughter, parents, grandma, aunts, uncles and cousins. His wife, parents, and grandma were also Christians. Although Pilky was the only one in the family who spoke English, we felt a bond with them.

We had given Pilky a Bible, and the day we were at his home, I saw his mother reading it, so I gave her one as well. When we were ready to leave I went to say goodbye to her and found her sitting on the bed, together with her sleeping granddaughter, under the mosquito net, reading the Bible I had just given her. A priceless picture that brought tears of joy to my eyes!

We also attended a Spanish church with this family, where we gave three New Testaments to the pastor to give to people who needed them. He told us, with Pilky interpreting, that he would give two away and keep one for himself.

The house Pilky lives in is poor, but the look of contentment and joy on his mother's face tells us what we too often forget. Knowing Jesus is what matters most!

The privilege of sharing the Good News with others made our holiday so much more special.



He Is Risen

Christmas Cheer

Maria Vlaming

We left at 7:30 a.m. on Christmas Day to again distribute packages to truckers. We hoped that they would be driving on Christmas Day, since it was a Sunday, but we were able to distribute forty parcels. We thanked God for the beautiful weather – 4 above rather than 30 below!

We saw many surprised and happy faces again. One trucker said to Pieter, "There is still a little humanity left. Thanks for what you are doing."

One driver was so touched she had tears in her eyes and could hardly speak. She had come from Vancouver, a three-day trip, and had to stay in Winnipeg for Christmas Day. She was on her way to Toronto,

another two-day drive. Later she came to our van and thanked us for the parcel. She was very happy with the Bible and told us that she loved Jesus. She said, "I started to drive truck in 1999 and have never before seen what you are doing." (She had emigrated from Romania.)

She asked me whether I would like to see how truckers live. I went with her, and she showed me her bedroom/living room/kitchen, entertainment room – all packed into a 6' x 6' space. I was happy to be outside in the wide world again. I thanked God for the "palace" we live in.

Pieter asked her what she would do on Christmas Day. We thought about taking

her home, but she did not want to come. She said she would rest and phone friends.

I asked one trucker whether he was ever lonely. He said, "I am never alone. I always have Someone with me, and that is my Lord!" What a faith!

We thanked God again for His blessings for the truckers, for the forty Bibles inside the packages, and for the opportunity that we again had to do this for Him. Thank you to all those who helped with donations and for those who helped put the packages together, as well as those who prayed for us.

The Extreme Team

The Living Out LOUD Ministries Extreme Team was met by cheers and applause after six days of hard labour and fun restoring homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. The team members, after a 23-hour bus ride, had mixed feelings about being home, happy to see family but also knowing that a great amount of work still needed to be done in that south coast region.



Living Out Loud Ministries is a youth camp, located in Dunville, Ontario. They sent a team to Mobile, Alabama, in December, to help rebuild and to witness to the people there.

The Extreme Team, made up of sixty percent teenagers, accomplished a great deal – drywalling, electrical work, framing, replacing insulation, plumbing, shingling..... All the teams worked together and integrated their skills to accomplish all this work.

The Bibles from LifeLight Ministries were given to people at the homes we worked on. The one we liked best was *How to Find God*, living water for those who thirst. Most of the people we worked with did not know Jesus, so it was a blessing to share the love of Jesus with them.

Lost Bibles Replaced

Within days of Hurricane Katrina at the end of August, the American Bible Society had already begun calling for donations to its Hope Fund to ensure that the many Bibles lost by churches and individuals could be replaced. Within just a few weeks it had 750,000 Bibles ready for distribution to the victims, along with Scripture portions and publications for children and young people.

The Society's efforts initially focused on Houston, Texas, where many refugees fled in the immediate aftermath of the hurricane. In temporary shelters across the city, volunteers helped to distribute food and clothing and also made available Bibles and Scripture portions in both English and

Spanish to those who wished to receive them. One volunteer said, "Most of these people lost their Bibles, and they will treasure these new Bibles as a sign of a fresh start."

As the days went by ABS began to distribute more widely across the affected region. Many people who had lost everything eagerly accepted the offer of a Scripture portion and took comfort from the passages they found there.



Photo: ABS/David Singer

A Place of Healing

Stephen Murphy

On behalf of Spiritual Care Services at Concordia Hospital, I want to thank you for supplying us with these wonderful copies of Scripture. "The LifeLight" New Testament is an easy-to-read and understand version of God's Word and will add encouragement and light to the lives of those who read it at Concordia. Sometimes people come to the hospital without their own Bibles and it's good to be able to minister to them in this way. We also make them available to each patient who desires a copy. They often have time to read.

Concordia seeks to be a place of healing for the body, and we know that by also addressing spiritual needs we help in that process. Scriptures are an important part of the work of chaplains and volunteers as they minister to the spiritual needs of patients. The promises of God in the Bible are an important part of encouraging the minds, hearts and souls of patients who are with us for short or longer stays. The Psalms are especially wonderful prayers that we all can pray, especially during times of difficulties.

We appreciate LifeLight Ministries for providing these New Testaments, especially during this time of budget restrictions. Including plastic bags to reduce infections is a welcome practical touch. Our prayer is that God's people will be generous in supporting the work you do.

Stephen Murphy is the Spiritual Services Chaplain at the Concordia Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba.



March 2006

Dear Ministry Partner:

Thank you for your prayers and support. Because of you, thousands of people are reading the Word of the Living God for themselves today.

A school principal in one of our northern communities recently told Peter that he used to hate going to school in the morning while it was still dark. Too many times he was the one to find one of his students hanging in a tree. After in-school distribution of *The LifeLight* New Testament, the community was turned right side up.

Hospital chaplains in Manitoba rely on *The LifeLight* as their ministry tool, leaving one copy at each bedside in the hospital.

Prison chaplains depend on LifeLight Ministries to supply them with *How to Find God* New Testaments. These Scriptures are changing lives every day, week after week. Prisoners respond with gratitude and joy when they receive this easy-to-read study Scripture.

Your support enables us to carry Spanish Scriptures in our warehouse so Canadian Christian tourists can impact the world they go to visit.

After forty-seven years of waiting a woman in Cuba finally got her own Bible in contemporary Spanish!

When Jose got Scriptures from his Canadian friends he kept on "smiling, giggling and shaking his head" for the joy of having a few copies of God's Word to share with the unsaved!

What a joy to meet believers in Christ, even though we didn't understand a word of Spanish, and to be able to equip them with the Word!

God's Word is the Book of the Millennium! The availability of the Bible in the everyday language of the people has had an impact on our world like nothing else! No other book, person, or event has had anywhere near that impact. The Protestant work ethic comes from there. Democracy and political freedom were born in its pages. Kindness, decency, and individual freedoms are rooted in the Word. Crime decreases when people read the Word. Juvenile delinquency rates go down where police give out the Word!

I believe that God's Word never returns void, so I will be taking more New Testaments, and possibly some complete Bibles, next year. I plan to ask my care group, as well as the music ministry that I am involved in, to help me so that I can take more next year. Blessings to your great ministry, which enables people like me to share God's Word with the lost!

God's Word for this Generation

To continue this life-changing ministry we need your help. We need a new supply of *The LifeLight New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs*. This publication has impacted Canada's northern communities like nothing else! Thousands of homes have been turned right side up! Our first printing was 22,000 copies, our second printing 16,000 copies, and we are ready to order 30,000 more. This full-colour, fine-quality New Testament costs less than \$4.00 each. We have funds on hand to place the order, but we need your help to make the final payment.



This NT is based on the NIrV, a simplified NIV, and it is written at a Grade 3 reading level for maximum comprehension for anyone whose first language is not English, for ESL students, and inner city ministries. Many of these ministries find that the demands of their ministry give them very little room to purchase Scriptures. With your help we can come alongside them and provide them with the life-changing Word!

Please consider how God would have you help with this.

May God bless you in whatever He gives you to do!

Raymond Dueck

Raymond Dueck, President
Canadian LifeLight Ministries

I want to help. Enclosed is \$_____ for *The LifeLight NT* publication project.

I want to help with a monthly donation of \$_____.

I will pray for LifeLight Ministries regularly.

I feel God calling me to get involved in LifeLight.

Please send me a free copy of *The LifeLight NT*.

I have enclosed a cheque: \$_____.

I would like to order the following Scriptures: _____

_____ Donation enclosed: \$_____

Please charge this donation to my credit card through www.CanadaHelps.org.

Card # (___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Amex) _____ Expiry _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Prov. _____ PC _____

Email _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Well Equipped

Henry Penner

We left for Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, for a week of holidays on January 24. We were well equipped with 65 Spanish Gospels of John and 30 Spanish *Daily Bread* booklets.

When we met local people we would often greet them with *Amigo* or *Hello*. If it seemed as though they wanted to talk, we might say *iglesia* (church) and show them a Gospel of John. We then told them they could have one if they would **try** to read the whole booklet.

Several of our waiters requested one for each of their children.

On Sunday we went to a nearby Catholic church. We came early and, through an interpreter, we asked the priest whether he wanted to hand out some gifts to the poor people. He said "Yes" several times. So we gave him a bag containing several packages of pens and perhaps a dozen of the *Daily Bread*.

At the airport, on the way home, we had two Gospels left. We gave them to the attendants in two different washrooms; they seemed very interested. When we went back to the washrooms a second time, one of the attendants was still reading.

In this way about a hundred pieces of Christian literature were spread into almost as many homes. Aren't you glad the Mexican people gladly took the literature? I am. "*Not by might nor by power, but my Spirit,*" says the Lord Almighty (Zechariah 4:6).



My wife and I had always wanted to take our three daughters on a "hot" vacation. It all came together just before Christmas, and we decided on Playa del Carmen in the Mayan Riviera in Mexico. The trip was booked, and we were even joined by another family.

I began to think about what we could take with us to share with the people. Items such as baseball cards, clothing and school supplies came to mind. Then the thought of taking Spanish Bibles was on my heart. I remembered hearing a story at one of the LifeLight brunches from someone who had done so. I then contacted my good friend Greg Armstrong, who put together a package of Spanish Scriptures.

Once we arrived at our resort, I always made sure the Scriptures were laid out and visible in our room. I handed out some of the booklets to the employees

at the resort. Now and then I put some of the literature in a visible and busy area of the hotel. By this time I was becoming a little disappointed because no one would take a Bible, even though they were receptive to the booklets.

On our third day at the beach there was a young woman selling bracelets and necklaces. My wife and daughter called her over after she completed her last sale. As she was showing them the different styles, my wife saw what appeared to be a picture of Jesus on the backside of her mirror, which she used to show people how the necklaces looked on them. My wife asked her if that was Jesus, and in her broken English the woman explained that it was one of the disciples.

But it did not matter! This was God's way of opening the door for us to share our faith in Jesus Christ. Her name was

An Amazing Man of God

Deryk & Kris Thulien

Last December our pastor announced that an opportunity had arisen for thirty people to go Ensenada, Mexico, to build a house for a poor Mexican family, in conjunction with YUGO* Ministries. There would also be an opportunity to be a part of a clothing distribution program. My husband and I jumped at the chance and signed up immediately.

Since we were driving down, we were limited in what we could take with us, but we wanted to make sure that we had some Bibles and other literature to leave in Mexico. My sister-in-law recommended LifeLight Ministries, so I called and ordered Spanish Bibles and kids' booklets. No one in our group spoke Spanish, and but we wanted to clearly spread the Gospel.



The foreman for our building crew was a pastor of a small church in the area. It was an extremely poverty-stricken area, and he works hard to keep the little church afloat, mostly on his own. He was an amazing man of God; he went door to door on his lunch break sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. He had such a heart for people and for the Lord. We left most of our Bibles and booklets with the church since they would know better than we how to distribute them. (The language barrier was a huge issue!)

We also left some Bibles and booklets with the family that we built the house for as part of a house-warming gift. It was a life-changing experience which we will never forget.

We can learn a lot from the Mexican people. They place such a high value on people rather than on material things. They are always happy, even when they literally have nothing. We hope to go again next year and plan to take more Scriptures with us.

*YUGO is an acronym for Youth Unlimited Gospel Outreach. In Mexico, YUGO's resident missionaries work to evangelize, plant churches and train pastors.

Antonia

Greg & Laurie Payne

Antonia, and she told us that she has a boy and a girl under the age of four. She sells bracelets during the day and works in a retail store at night. We told her that we had Spanish Bibles with us and arranged for her to meet us the next day. She was overjoyed!

For the next two days we kept missing her on the beach. Then finally, on our last day, we saw her. She had tears in her eyes, gave us all big hugs and told us to come back next year. She filled her backpack with the Scriptures. We also gave her a copy of *The LifeLight* newsletter and showed her how to get in touch with them if she needed more Bibles and/or had a story she wanted to submit.

I encourage those of you who travel to other countries to listen to your heart and take God's Word with you. The Holy Spirit will bring people into your path.



ATTENTION: Bible Camps!

It's time to get your Scripture orders in for your summer camps.

Suggestions:

The Pathlight



The Pathlight Bible gives campers a map to salvation. Features include a gospel presentation, answers to FAQs about the Christian life, and testimonies from personalities they can relate to.

Suggested donation: \$9.00

The LifeLight



A New Testament in the easy-to-read NIrV translation.

Suggested donation: \$5.00

Maria, the Cleaning Lady

Martha Kroeker

Puerto Morelos, wedged between the bustling cities of Cancun and Playa del Carmen, has maintained the peaceful atmosphere of a charming Mexican fishing village. I had the privilege of spending two weeks in this "Jewel of the Caribbean" in February!

I had taken quite a bit of Spanish literature with me and the Lord gave me many opportunities to distribute it.

One day we met a man and his young son on the beach, anxious to sell us *elotes* (a green corn dish). I had only children's literature with me at the time, so I gave a small colouring booklet about creation to the boy. The father asked whether I had something for him too. I



told him that I didn't really have anything for adults. He looked very sad and, pointing to his eyes, he said, "Then I'm going to cry." I gave him a leaflet with a very simple explanation of the way of salvation. With a big smile, he said, "Now I'm smiling. Thank you very much."

Maria was the maid at our condominium (Playa Sol). She told us that her husband had taken off

with another woman, leaving her to raise her nine-year-old son by herself. (She said her husband was "muy loco"!)

We gave her a copy of the Spanish *How to Find God* New Testament, as well as some children's leaflets for her son.



We were nearing the end of our vacation, and I still had quite a bit of children's literature left, so I decided to go to the Plaza, which also included a playground. The kids were just on their way home from school, and many of them stopped there to play.

In a short time all the booklets were gone. It was a joy to see many of the children, on the swings and seesaws, reading them!

One of the boys asked, "Are you staying at Playa Sol?" It kind of took me by surprise, and I wondered how he would know that. He responded, "My mother does the cleaning there." His mom happened to be Maria, our cleaning lady!

My prayer is that the many people who received the Good News will come to a clear understanding of who Jesus is and receive the gift of salvation He is longing to give them.



JESUS is not here.

He is Risen!



x 4904, Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 1R5

