

THE GATE

Oshawa's Outreach Centre

2021 Summer Newsletter

1990 – 2021

From the President's Desk

Isn't it great to have some of our freedom back in being able to connect with each other face to face? It is time to now enjoy our families and give each other those hugs we have been missing. For people at The Gate, it isn't quite the same support system that we have. The Gate is their home—a place they can come together with each other and find support through us and to learn about the hope that only Jesus can give in this uncertain world. Please continue to support us as we continually be the eyes, hands, feet and ears of our friends who seek compassion and hope.

On another note, we have an opportunity to try offering a Food Bank for our welcomed street family. It will be one more opportunity to help families whose income does not stretch far enough for groceries. So, if you used to support our meal ticket program, this would be a great alternative until the St. Vincent Kitchen gets up and running once again. If you choose to support this program then just indicate this to us .

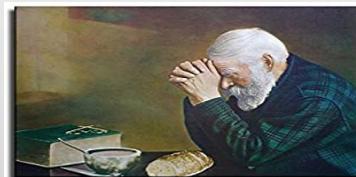
We are avidly searching for a new home, so please pray with us as our lease does expire on October 15 2022. We would ultimately like to purchase a property that would be suitable to our needs and number of people we serve.

As we go forward through this pandemic we strongly encourage your prayers for its total end.
Betty Mann

FUNDRAISING DRAW
For all donations received between May 1 and August 31 2021 , you have a chance to win one random draw of \$500.00 (five hundred dollars). Thank you for all that you do.



FOOD FANCY PROGRAM
Thank you to all those who join us in our Food Fancy program to be honoured all year round For those unknown to this program, you receive for \$100.00 donation; an income tax receipt for \$75.00 and a gift card of \$25.00.



OUR CUPBOARDS

Thank you for your ongoing support of food gift cards and donations.. They certainly are a blessing for our suffering and poor in the community .

Donations

As our Centre needs fluctuate throughout the year, we request that you call our centre at 905-432-5316

OUR PROGRAMS

Food Fancy is now including MacDonald's Gift Cards. Please indicate on your form if you wish one..

MEAL TICKET PROGRAM

This program is currently on hold due to St Vincent's Kitchen temporary closure.

TRANSPORTATION FUND Your donations can help our clients attend job interviews, medical appointments and other obligations. A one way Durham Region bus fare is now \$3.75. or you may provide preloaded DRT passes. (\$15.00)

IN ORDER TO RESPECT OUR CLOSE NEIGHBOURS, PROTECT OUR PATRONS AND FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR BUILDING AND STAFF, WE HAVE ENGAGED PROTECTION SECURITY SERVICES 24/7. WE ARE BLESSED TO HAVE ALSO INCLUDED SNIFF DOG PATROL . NO DRUG USAGE, VERBAL OR PHYSICAL ABUSES PERMITTED.

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On our Streets

It was the walk that first attracted my attention. Not so much a walk as a hobble, dragging one leg painfully after the other. Dusk had descended on the streets and the chill of winter had finally given way to the promise of spring, although it was still far too cold for the many people scattered around the neighboring homeless shelters.

I quickened my step to catch up with the man, and as I approached, I could see that he had one pantleg rolled up, exposing a severely disfigured leg. As I caught up with him, he turned and said, "Hello Pastor, what are you doing on these streets?" I explained the ministry on the street and said to him, "More importantly, what happened to you? It looks like you have a serious leg problem."

"Ah this," he said, "I came here from Guyana quite a few years ago looking for a better life and things were going well. And then a year ago I got beat up on the street, just down the road from here, and they left me with my leg like this. Now I am in a shelter because I can't look after myself anymore."

I need the support I can get there."

He spoke with no tone of self-pity or vengefulness as we chatted and as we parted company he said, "Praise God that I have all the support I need. I just pray to God. Jesus is the Lord. Thank you for walking with me and listening." I was left to ponder if my faith would remain as strong if adversity hit me.

My self-reflection was quickly shattered as a young man emerged from an apartment building shouting to nobody in particular. He ran past me up the street and lunged at a 12-foot-high wire fence surrounding the remains of a derelict house. He hit the fence with a thud and fell back spreadeagled on the ground. Undaunted, he made another attempt with the exact same result, but this time he did not get up. He lay there, and as I started to make my way towards him, he leaped to his feet, shadow-boxed an imaginary opponent and then sauntered up the road to the same shelter as my friend.

Such is the life on the street, as I move from one who is an oasis of calm, to one seemingly possessed by some internal demons.

It was not long until I bumped into a young lady I mentioned in a previous column who seemed to me to be just starting out on her life as a prostitute. I had hoped I could meet her again so that perhaps she would have second thoughts on embarking on such a morally and emotionally dangerous practice. Her face lit up when I remembered her name and she was excited to enter into conversation.

I mentioned my concern for her wellbeing, and suggested that she was too young to be on the streets like this. "I'm not on the streets," she said, and immediately crossed the street to proposition another man.

I have met her several times now, but each time as soon as I say I have no money for her, she turns and walks away. The wisdom of experience is that I have seen others like her in the past and if I keep showing up, then perhaps someday she will be ready to talk.

A block away I met Scarlett, who is on the other end of the experience spectrum. We have met often, and she is a veteran of the streets. "I am worried about you, Scarlett, how are you doing in these COVID days? Have you never thought of giving this up?"

"Well," she laughed, "business is slow I have to say, but I manage and I just have to be careful. Why would I give it up? I have to do something and it's OK out here."

I looked at her intensely and said, "I keep praying for you Scarlett, you are a beautiful person and I just don't want to see you hurt." "I'll pray for you too," she said, and with that she crossed the road to talk to a man eyeing her from his car.

Recently I heard a speaker say that we beg Jesus for mercy, but the truth is that Jesus reverses these roles, and through the poor and powerless it is He who begs us for mercy. As I turned to go home after a long evening, I was reminded that in the life on the street sometimes it is easier than others to recognize this truth.. D.K. May 2021



If you have certain prayer requests, please let them known to us via letter, email or phone, and our team and Board of Directors would love to pray for you. Each person is a gift to us and we are His disciples here on earth.

DROP OFF DONATIONS CAN BE DONE DURING OUR OPEN HOURS.

THE GATE IS OPEN. We respect all Public Health rulings at this time

.Electronic Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email instead of by regular mail, please email office@gate316.org.

From our friends in Christ...We are not only one but many facing the many struggles of home, hunger, abandonment, loss, depression, warmth and lack of tenderness

