



CAPITAL CITY MISSION

NEWSLETTER

Christmas Greetings

DROP-IN: 505 Rideau Street PHONE: 613-241-2407 EMAIL: capitalcitymission@sympatico.ca
Mail: 390 Rideau St. Box 20183 Ottawa, On K1N 9P4 Director: Rev. Timothy Meisenheimer

Is There Room in Our Inns Today?

Early November. Winter winds seem clearly near.

On this day, I am sharing some time with Sylvan, a friend who lives in one of 20 rooms in a 1500 square-foot rooming house. His room, 10 feet by 12, is clean. Although in the basement where the light is dim, it is bright with Sylvan's joy. He has been asking me to come for weeks. Now, as an old fridge chugs in the corner, we sit chatting at a 24-inch square table. The only other articles in Sylvan's tiny home are a single bed and his 12-speed bike. A beaming host, Sylvan offers to make me a cup of coffee. As we talk, I see that in all this cramped poverty, while most of his neighbours are home self-medicating with drugs, or simply existing through another lonely day, my dear friend Sylvan has made room in his heart for Jesus. And he has made room in his inn for me.

When I look at Sylvan's life, I see Christmas. I see a child who came into the world to be homeless, into a world stinking like a barn, surrounded by animals, to parents who didn't fully understand how precious he was, or how great a plan God had for His life. Then, threatened by a decree that all babies like Him should be destroyed, Jesus and his family endured the trauma of living as fugitives. And Jesus, like Sylvan, lived in obscurity; working with his hands. His larger family rejected him. His townsmen looked down upon him, and showed no respect. He was hungry, and disappointed many times, but He learned that the Father's will was more important than His was.

What makes living my life with those who live in complete poverty so rewarding is how they bless me with their Christlikeness. You see, folks like Sylvan don't twist the word of God. For him, "To live is Christ and to die is gain."

"To live is Christ and to die is gain." The apostle Paul wrote these words in the tension of living and wondering about life much as my very misunderstood friend Sylvan wonders. Having made room in his inn, knowing that Jesus and His Kingdom had come into

his life, Paul carried on living for Christ and waiting for his eternal gain.

As I think about all the Sylvan's I have met, I ask myself how many times the poor must say about the rich, "Forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

And I wonder how often we fail to invite Jesus into our inns by not making space for the poor in our personal worlds. I wonder why this happens, even to well-meaning Christians. Is it because too many today have Paul's process reversed, living to gain and viewing death as our door to finally being with Jesus?

This Christmas, the money that many of us will spend to show that we love each other may shut out Jesus again. While we sit and treat ourselves to the finest of everything, He knocks at doors and asks, "Is there no room for me?"

And when we ask, "When did we see you, Jesus?" He answers as He did once before, "Lonely, naked, poor, sick, rejected, in prison, hungry."

This Christmas, will you make some room for our Lord in your inn? Why not participate in the kingdom of God today, and for the rest of your life, by choosing to live like Christ -- simpler, less selfishly, strategically so that others may see His grace and mercy, and beam with the welcome of my friend Sylvan? Not looking to death as the only means to see Jesus, but also sharing Him as we live and walk more like Him.

Thanks Sylvan for being Jesus for Me!

Merry Christmas,
Timothy

On Saturday, Nov. 20, 10a.m till noon, CCM is holding our first *Reality Breakfast*. We invite you to share food and fellowship with guests and staff at the centre, 505 Rideau St.

In-Honour Christmas Donations

As Christmas approaches, many of us face the “problem” of choosing a suitable gift for someone who doesn’t need anything in particular. If you are in this situation, please consider an **In-Honour Gift Donation to CCM**, a gift that will bless the recipient as well as those whom we serve. Below is a coupon on which you can write the name of your chosen recipient and then mail it in to CCM with your donation. We will send out a letter, informing the person(s) whom you are honouring of your gift. Specific amounts will not be stated.

<p style="text-align: center;">In- Honour Christmas Donation</p> <p>Please accept my donation to Capital City Mission in honour of NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Mail to: Capital City Mission 390 Rideau St., Box 20183, Ottawa. ON. K1N 9P4</p>
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Grace Notes

This Fall, CCM has experienced God’s grace in action through the faithfulness of two church communities and another charitable organisation, PC for Kids.

❖ **In September, Grace Fellowship, a fairly young church plant in Richmond Village, organized and took part in their second annual shoe drive for the ministries in Ottawa’s inner city.**

During the month prior to the annual Richmond Fair parade, Grace’s Pastor, Jim McInnis and church members circulated fliers throughout their community, asking for donations of shoes, socks, and old pill bottles. Those with donations were asked to bring them to the parade route and hand them to the people manning their float, a large blue shoe.

Parade-watchers donated over eighty pairs of shoes, and an abundance of offerings continued to pour in for weeks after the parade.

Pastor Jim faithfully continues to raise awareness of the needs of the poor to his fellowship, and the Lord has watered the seeds that he has planted. This congregation is truly Grace in action! From everyone at CCM, thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

❖ **On Thanksgiving Day, CCM opened our doors to 120 guests who enjoyed hot turkey sandwiches, provided and served by our faithful supporters at Centre de Vie.** We join our guests in thanking you, Centre de Vie, for yet another act of love.

❖ **This month, we received a donation of 4 computers from Renfrew-based charity, PC for Kids.** which receives and refurbishes government computers in order to donate them to organisations working with children. From all of us at CCM, our heartfelt thanks.

The Prayer Corner

The prayer ministry at Capital City Mission plays a vital role in all we do in Lower Town. We encourage you to take the prayer needs of this ministry to your church prayer groups, cell groups, and families, and faithfully partner with us in prayer.

The book of Matthew speaks to us of the time *when “Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching...preaching...and healing... When he saw the crowd, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.’ ”*

Please pray that the Lord would send out labourers to work alongside us at CCM. Our labourers are few, and as the winter comes, we would love to open our doors for extended hours to serve our guests.

Pray as well for protection and wisdom for workers at CCM.

Pray for our guests, and friends at CCM. Pray for their salvation, protection, health, and happiness.

Pray that the Body of Christ would understand the needs of the poor in Ottawa, and respond faithfully, as those called and redeemed in Him.

Coming Up at CCM

- **Reality Breakfast - On Saturday, November 20, from 10 a.m. till noon, CCM is holding our first Reality Breakfast.** We invite you to share food and fellowship with guests and staff at the centre, 505 Rideau St. For more information, please call Timothy or Matthew at 241-2407.
- **Christmas Backpacks - Again this year, we will be hosting Christmas dinner for our guests.** We will hold sittings on two evenings in December. As in the past, each guest will receive as a gift a backpack filled with useful items and a few small treats. For some, this may be the only gift this Christmas.

To give this gift, we rely on donations, from groups and individuals, of the following items:

- ◆ Durable backpacks
- ◆ Warm gloves
- ◆ Heavy socks
- ◆ Toques
- ◆ Scarves
- ◆ Toiletries – toothpaste, soap, shampoo, razors, shaving cream, deodorant
- ◆ candies

If you would like to make a donation of any of these items, or know of a group who would be interested, please contact Timothy or Matthew at 241-2407

For Our Meditation at Christmas

Across the purple-patterned snow

Luci Shaw

*Across the purple-patterned snow
laced with light of lantern-glow,
dappled with dark,
comes Christ, the Child born
from the skies.*

Those are stars that are his eyes.

His baby face is wise

seen by my candle spark.

*But is he cold from the wind's
cold blow?*

Where will he go?

I'll wrap him warm with love,

well as I'm able,

in my heart's stable

Where God is there is love; and where there is love, there is always an openness to serve.

Mother Teresa

A Prayer for Understanding

Heavenly Father, Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do the laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job!) is a slave to addictions that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savouring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity. Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love. Amen

To all of you who support us through prayer, financial gifts, and service, the staff and volunteers at CCM extend our gratitude and best wishes for a blessed Christmas season.