



# In-Touch

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FEBRUARY 2005

## *If Just a Cup of Coffee ....*

It's so easy to judge by appearances and so hard to see past them. Jesus knew that the scribes and Pharisees were watching him, and he ate with sinners anyway.

His behaviour scandalized the religious leaders, and they fanned their annoyance by grumbling about it among themselves. They complained that Jesus actually welcomed these types. In their view, such people were morally inferior, unworthy of the attention of good people such as themselves – or even, apparently, as Jesus. Whatever else they may have thought of Him, the scribes and Pharisees seemed sure that Jesus was spending time with people who were beneath him.

Throughout the centuries, sharing food has been a mark of community. Relaxing around a table or picnic blanket, or whatever, people share stories and begin to feel comfortable together. Jesus must have heard many colourful tales as he ate with “tax collectors and sinners”. (Luke 15:1, NIV)

To answer his critics, Jesus tells three stories of his own: A shepherd discovers that one of his hundred sheep has strayed from the safety of the fold, and immediately goes out to find it; when he does, he hosts a party for his friends. A woman, on discovering that she has lost one of ten coins, lights a lamp and keeps searching through her house until she discovers it; then, she invites the neighbours in to celebrate. A father of two sons accedes to the younger's request for his inheritance, and must watch him depart to squander it; as the prodigal returns poor and ashamed, his father sees him from a long way off, runs to embrace him, and plans a grand party to celebrate the return of this son who “was lost and is found”.

A straying sheep, a misplaced coin, a prodigal son: With each recovery the joy is so great that it cannot be contained. And this, Jesus tells the people gathered around to hear his stories, is what happens in Heaven whenever a wayward person turns to God.

Such was the magnetism of Jesus that no matter how deviant or dishonest they may have been, His marginalised listeners were interested in what the fellow who shared a meal with them had to say. They themselves must have been as shocked as the Pharisees to discover that “this man receives sinners”. Yet more astonishing still was the message his stories imparted: no matter what circumstances or choices had got them to the place they had reached in life, God valued them. In fact, this God was *searching* for them, prepared to bring them from the margins of life to the centre of a divine party.

At CCM, living out our mission to share Christ's love usually starts with hospitality — the offer of a cup of coffee or a bowl of soup and a sandwich. Our invitation to come and eat is an invitation to share community, to experience acceptance.

Everyone who enters CCM comes with a story, sometimes shared, often not. Some guests are only too aware of the pharisaical voices within society that judge them to be unworthy, and have come to believe those voices themselves. Others are angry and resentful, seeing themselves as victims of what the world has done to them. There are those who make it easy for staff and volunteers to see why God values them so highly; others seem almost to invite judgment. Some guests eventually feel safe enough to share more openly, and to reach out for help in their emotional and spiritual struggles. Often, though, we never know how our hospitality plays into their ongoing personal stories.

*But God does.* And we pray that each hospitable gesture to our guests will be a step towards their discovery that God is here, knows who they are, and *not in spite of, but because of their stories*, is seeking to bring them home to a celebration. Home – where they are known not by their failures but by their essential value.

## Remembering Bill Stevens

Bill Stevens was a wonderful friend to all of us at CCM. Everyone who met him, guests and staff alike, enjoyed the privilege of knowing a man who lived his life to show others that they mattered.

May his family experience God's comforting grace as they mourn the loss of a wonderful father and friend.

The reflection below was a favourite of Bill. It expresses what he saw as his mandate and the vision statement of his life.

*Come Home* was written by Daniel, a friend of Bill at CCM.

### The Other Side of the Road

The other side of the road  
will get you into Jericho in a hurry —  
The Samaritan side of the road will  
get you into trouble in a hurry.  
The other side of the road is all  
pavement and promises —  
The Samaritan side of the road is full  
of problems and potholes.  
The other side of the road circles the  
city —  
The Samaritan side of the road cuts  
right through the slums.  
The other side of the road is lined  
with hotels —  
The Samaritan side is lined with  
hospitals.  
The other side of the road calls for  
"charisma" —  
The Samaritan side calls for  
commitment.  
The other side of the road is an  
invitation to success —  
The Samaritan side is an invitation to  
sacrifice.  
The other side of the road looks for  
fame —  
The Samaritan side looks out for  
family.  
The other side of the road holds  
charismatic conventions —

The Samaritan side builds  
covenant  
commitment.



On the other side of the road  
one seeks God's power —  
On the Samaritan side one  
seeks God's purpose.  
On the other side of the road  
you claim your rights —  
On the Samaritan side you  
accept your responsibilities.  
On the other side of the road  
you seek to be led —  
On the Samaritan side you  
seek to be ruled.  
On the other side of the road  
you learn about faith —  
On the Samaritan side you  
learn about forgiveness.

On the other side of the road you  
attend someone's crusade —  
On the Samaritan side you carry  
someone's cross.  
On the other side of the road you  
embrace the Christian who succeeds —  
On the Samaritan side you hug the  
Christian who fails.  
On the other side of the road you  
count the offering —  
On the Samaritan side of the road you  
count the cost.  
On the other side of the road you  
share your testimony —  
On the Samaritan side of the road you  
share your bank account.  
On the other side you share the  
blessings —  
On the Samaritan side you share the  
blame.  
On the other side of the road you take  
up your ministry —  
On the Samaritan side you lay down  
your life.  
On this basis, on the other side of the  
road you really touch God's people.  
But if you get involved on the  
Samaritan side, you touch the very  
heart of God.

*Don Basham*

## Come Home

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Today is your day, Bill—  
It's your turn—I'd like  
you to come home  
There will be a big "pair  
of shoes" to fill  
At Capital City Mission,  
where you volunteered  
for almost a year—  
Where you were expected  
this morning....  
  
Although it's starting to snow,  
you won't see it  
Because I have a more  
important assignment—

I'm taking you home.  
  
You lived a full life, Bill,  
not without challenge  
But you persevered, and  
overcame temptation  
Not once, but many times  
As your faith became  
stronger

Your life touched the lives of  
many during your 86 years  
You made a difference—to  
your family, friends, co-  
workers,  
and complete strangers—

Like the folks who drop into  
Capital City Mission  
  
Many will miss your gentle smile  
The "crinkles" around your eyes  
Your cheery greeting, and  
offer of a cuppa "joe,"  
a sandwich, or cookies  
Perhaps just a little time  
to chat, or share fellowship  
  
Now it's your turn, Bill—  
It's time to come home  
to your heavenly reward  
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🎵🎵🎵 **Benefit Concert** 🎵🎵🎵 **Friday, March 11** 🎵🎵🎵 **7:00 p.m.** 🎵🎵🎵

**On Friday, March 11, 7:00 p.m., Matthew Dellaforesta and his band will perform to benefit CCM. At BETHEL PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, 500 VIEWMOUNT DR, NEPEAN, the concert will be followed by a time of fellowship and light food. Freewill offering.**

## ☀️ **Thank You Community Foundation of Ottawa** ☀️

In November of 2004, the Community Foundation of Ottawa approved a grant to Capital City Mission, to cover costs of opening weekend hours during winter months.

Since 1987, the Foundation has been enabling generous citizens to enhance the quality of life in their community and to achieve their own charitable objectives through permanent, well-managed endowments.

This grant income has allowed us to open our doors on Saturdays and Sundays from 12:00 to 4:00pm, and bring on some wonderful new volunteers in the process.

Join us in welcoming Jamie Turiff, Todd Carrigan, and Melissa Cummings, who work alongside Mark Graham during our new open hours.

***Capital City Mission wishes to thank the Community Foundation of Ottawa for their support, and commitment to our community***

## ☀️ **Neighbours with a Heart for Community** ☀️

Just up the road from CCM, right at the corner of Cobourg, there is a beautiful old Victorian brick home that's been renovated into a fine food shop called *A Culinary Conspiracy*. It's a welcoming shop offering the finest in delicious food on-the-go, and a variety of accessories. Owner/chef Robert Jutras has a passion and flair for fabulous food, and a neighborly desire to share his wares! There have been many occasions over the past year when a few of our regular visitors, who happen to be employed by Mr. Jutras, show up with trays full of delicious pastries to share. We just wanted to take this opportunity to say "Thanks neighbour"!

## ☀ Youth Group Lends a Helping Hand ☀



An energetic bunch of youth from Almonte Reformed Presbyterian Church, along with their group leaders, got busy in January and refinished all of the metal chairs at CCM. It was a great service activity for a cold winter evening, and the youth were just as pleased with the results as our staff and guests are!

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### **The Prayer Corner**

*“When thou saidst, **Seek ye my face**; my heart said unto thee, **Thy face, Lord, will I seek.**” Psalm 27:8*

#### ***Intercession***

##### *Staff and Volunteers*

Our great and glorious Heavenly Father desires that we “*seek His face*” in all things. At Capital City Mission, we desire to glorify God in all that we do, and are committed to seeking His face through prayer.

The prayer team functions to provide prayer ministry in support of the CCM ministry and staff.

Staff and support prayer times are held at 9:00am, on the second Saturday mornings of each month at Capital City Mission.

Our newsletter prayer corner as well as the prayer link on our web page serves as a guide for prayer in other meetings, such as home or cell groups.

On Thursday night, we meet for The Gathering at CCM. For most of our guests, this is the only church they attend, and more and more are coming to share in this precious time of ministry. We depend on your prayer support for this vital aspect of our ministry.

Pray for protection for staff and volunteers.

Pray that the Lord of the harvest would send out more workers.

Pray for wisdom for CCM board members as they seek to glorify God through this ministry and find a larger “home” in which to realize our vision

Many of our guests and friends have poorly heated dwellings, and some fall ill because of the cold. Please pray for warmth, daily provisions, and healing.

Joe is in hospital

Robert has a broken leg

#### ***Thanksgiving***

For our extra staffers who cover the new Saturday and Sunday open hours.

That some of our guests have been blessed with regular work. For new volunteers.

For God's provision through His people and other contributors.

***Heartfelt thanks to all who support us with prayer, finances, food and clothing.***