



CAPITAL CITY MISSION NEWSLETTER

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Touching our Community

New beginnings breed hope. This winter, we at CCM have experienced loss and suffering as some dear friends have left our community. Nevertheless, as Spring arrives, we can look back and see God's hand in protection and provision during times of difficulty.

In this issue, I will share real-life stories about two of our friends, Joseph and Trudy: two very different stories, two very different endings. But in each situation, Capital City Mission was a part of extending help and influencing how others responded to both lives. And through each life, we were touched by God's grace.

TRUDY

Early each afternoon, Trudy, who lived four blocks away from CCM, would walk in, leaning on her cane for support. She came for "café au lait" and conversation. Then, one day this winter, she stopped coming. No one had seen her and people worried.

Finally, on a Tuesday evening five days after Trudy's last visit to CCM, some of her friends convinced Don, a volunteer staff member, that something was wrong. Don called Ottawa Police and, with some guests, went to her house to meet two officers.

To investigate, the police had to break down the door. Inside, they found Trudy on the floor. She had fallen and had been lying there for three days. Trudy said that she had asked Jesus to "do a miracle" and help her walk, just as He had walked on water. "And He did. He sent you," she said.

Yes, through one of our volunteers and a

caring community, God preserved Trudy's life. She spent a good time in hospital and is now living in a nursing home. To her, as to us, amazing grace

Equally amazing to me was to hear from the other guests involved how much it meant to be part of caring and reaching out to save one of their friends. Without CCM as a place of community, some of these folks would never have had this relationship of care. It was encouraging to hear Don say, "It makes it all worthwhile when something like that happens."

JOSEPH

He was Dutch and very proud of it. An avid reader, Joseph had worked at many used bookstores over the years and treasured his own books. In particular, he enjoyed theology and found inspiration in the writings of Jean Vanier and fellow Dutchman Henri Nouwen.

Joseph and I enjoyed many good talks and he shared with some of the volunteers his experience and his desire to see community shared the way Jesus would have it. Yet, despite his sincere and searching faith, Joseph suffered for years with addiction, depression and loneliness. Though his struggle was intense, it was a quiet struggle and his concern for others who suffered was profound.

This winter, depression and other contributing factors ended his visit here with us and sent him on. It was amazing to hear our community talk about him once he was gone. When we held his memorial service, a few friends shared specific memories but

'respect' is the word that lingers around most of the community's memories.

Joseph's life spoke to us all of God's grace & mercy to the marginalised people of society; for those who, while struggling themselves against despair, can see beyond earthly pain to the dignity and eternal value of each man and women created in God's image. As a tribute to Joseph, we share a reading from Henri Nouwen:

Timothy

COMING TOGETHER IN POVERTY

There are many forms of poverty: economic poverty, physical poverty, emotional poverty, mental poverty, and spiritual poverty. As long as we relate primarily to one another's wealth, health, stability, intelligence, and strength, we cannot develop true community. Community is not a talent show in which we dazzle the world with our combined gifts. Community is the place where our poverty is acknowledged and accepted, not as something we have to learn to cope with as best we can but as a true source of new life.

Living community in whatever form - family, Church, twelve-step program or intentional community - challenges us to come together at the place of our poverty, believing that there we can reveal our riches. (*Henri Nouwen :Bread for the Journey*)

SHARING THE MISSION

No matter where we live, there are people like Trudy waiting for someone to come in love so they can see Jesus help them in their need. There are people like Joseph who won't get everything solved the way you or I may think they should. But by sharing in their lives, we can learn from them and invest in the kingdom of the Creator and lover of each soul. When you support our ministry at Capital City

Mission, either through prayer, financial donations, or the preparation and donation of snacks and lunches, you are participating in a missionary endeavour. Caregivers show people something of God's Kingdom community and we thank each of you.

Prayer Request: Please continue to pray that we will be able to find in our current neighbourhood a larger facility.

Prayer partners. Without prayer, our ministry will be futile. If you would like to join our prayer team please contact us by phone at (613)241-2407 or by e-mail at www.capitalcitymission.com.

Financial Donations: CCM is a registered charity. To donate by cheque or money order, mail to Capital City Mission
390 Rideau St., Box 20183
Ottawa, ON K1N 9P4

To donate by credit card, go to our website.

<p>CCM Annual General Meeting 7 30 p.m., June 2, 2003 at Heartwood House Corner of Rideau St. and Chapel</p>

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

We are looking forward to summer BBQ's with other ministries and churches, reaching together into the inner city community. We will continue with coffee-houses on two Thursday and Saturday evenings each month. Sandwiches are always welcome!

NEEDS – Running shoes, bottled water

<p>Farewell to Susan Brandt, director of Ottawa Inner-city Ministries, a pioneer in extending mercy to the inner-city and a prophetic voice to the church. God bless you, Susan, as you move on in His will for your life.</p>
