



LAZARUS RISING NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

Vol. 3, Issue 3

Upcoming Events

Lazarus Rising Street Walks:
October 17, November 21 and December 19 (meet at Sanctuary)

Celebration and Fund-raiser:
November 22 (see first page of Newsletter for more details)

Praises & Intercessions

by Stan Butcher

After a time in hospital, **Gabriel** tried to continue living on the streets, but two years ago he came again to Sanctuary and confessed that he was as low as he could get; "I've tried things my way, and it's just not working... I'll try things your guy's way..." Gabe is now living in an apartment and Doug continues to meet him regularly as he heads up Gabe's support team. Praise for Gabe's considerable success in adjusting to a more sustainable life-style and pray for the support team.

Doug, sporting an Angels ballcap, returned from a family trip to California, during which there was a 5.6 magnitude tremor. In July, **Jodie** completed her comprehensive exams towards her Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the U of T; this coming spring she will be teaching a course on Religion and Film. Please continue to pray for our Street Pastor and family - **Johanna** and **Simeon** are growing apace - as they seek to balance the demands of home life, study and Doug's tireless outreach to the homeless on the street.

Simeonee sold his soapstone carving of an owl which we showed in the summer issue. He and a chronically homeless Circles of Support and Accountability member, whom Doug continues to work with, are now housed. Simeonee recently moved from the dilapidated apartments he lived in throughout the winter to a nicer place in a twenty-five story high rise. Pray for their adjustment to the restrictions and blessings of living in sheltered accommodation.

Praise for the folk from a handful of churches who have been participating in the **Lazarus Rising Street Walks** on the third Friday of each month. Pray for this ministry to continue and for arrangements being made for the **Out-of-the-Cold** program through the coming winter.

In partnership with



Celebrating an Expanded Vision: Fund-raising for the Ministry

Saturday 22nd November 2008
6.00 - 9.00 p.m.

Join us for an evening of Dinner,
Story-telling, Music and Presenting
our expanded ministry

with

Doug Johnson Hatlem, Lazarus
Rising Street Pastor

and

Greg Paul, Author, Founder and
Pastor of SANCTUARY

Toronto United Mennonite Church
1774 Queen Street East
(between Kingston and Woodbine)

*RSVP to MCC Toronto office
416-423-9229*

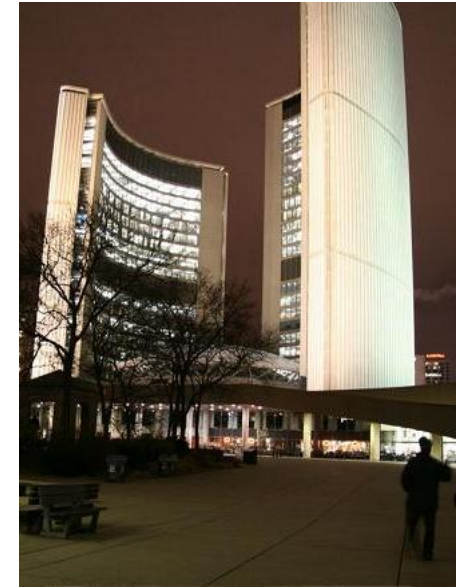


Photo by Joanie Peters, MCC Canada

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Street Pastor, Doug Johnson Hatlem:
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cell: 416-420-2113

Prayer Requests, Jane Pritchard:
jane.pritchard@utoronto.ca

Out of the Cold program, Eunice Yantzi:
416-964-3308

Sanctuary, meeting place for Street Walks:
27 Charles St. E.

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My hurried life... slowed down

by Steven Bisset

About 6 years I decided to take up marathon running. Why would I do this you ask? At first it was the challenge of bettering myself. I really wasn't an athlete in my youth and actually was in the "out-of -shape" group in my high school phys-ed class. Really, I was lazy. So I started to run. Then I pushed myself further and would run for longer distances, then I would go for faster times. I saw progress; this was great! I have now changed up marathon running for triathlons. Yes, that is swimming, cycling and then running in one race. The distances can vary per race, but the goal is the same; go as fast as you can and pass the next guy. It definitely can become a self-centered pursuit always trying to better yourself and to be better than others.

This is almost a stark contrast to what Jesus calls us to be. The great commandment is to Love God and to Love our Neighbour. So how do I do this if I am focused on "me". I think this is an issue many of us can resonate with in a variety of different ways. I knew I had to change this behaviour by practicing something else. What a better way to do this than to seek out those who society has shunned. To deliberately "walk" (not run or be hurried) the streets seeking out "the least of these" who may need a friend.

Most of my outings are very

rewarding when I come out for the Lazarus walk every 3rd Friday of the month. I am actually quite disappointed when we don't get to meet anyone or to have any meaningful conversations. I have been blessed to have had many encounters with many different people. Each person has their own story for why they are on the street at that moment. I am touched when someone is very thankful for the time spent in conversation. Who knows how many hurried people have walked passed this person today focusing on their next destination.

One Friday evening that stands out, my group and I had at least three quality interactions with people on Bloor / Yorkville. First there was a lady panhandling for money for her kids. She was a lot of fun to talk with. As we engaged in conversation, another woman walking by was captivated by this and she felt she needed to share her story of a recent loss. And then a friend of our first woman came by and we were all in conversation for a few minutes blocking the street in this surreal experience. Moments later we were in Yorkville where we learned about a man's life experience, about him being formerly employed but then his services not being needed. He and his friends now live in a ravine. Then there was Gavin on Bloor, who believes he is called by God to be out on Bloor every night to be a witness. His sight has deteriorated but he has great faith that God will heal him.

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Gavin also has a great knowledge of the Bible which serves him well as he is now unable to read. I was thankful how God used us, and blessed us for being out that night.

I wonder why we focus so much on ourselves as this is much more

stressful than an other-centered view. A simple change of mind reaps great blessings when you can see sincere smiles from those you meet. So in a pursuit of running this race of life for God, I am thankful for letting Him slow me down and take the time to appreciate the diversity of all of us in this world.

Margie Hoover has been representing Wideman Mennonite Church helping out with Lazarus Rising at Sanctuary. She continues to volunteer at Sanctuary after completing her Human Service Counsellor, Durham College placement. Margie is featured here with a friend, Darci, at the Ladies Drop-in. This program is held at Sanctuary on Tuesdays and is a time for woman to share and enjoy a safe social time with crafts and activities as well as a delicious meal. Darci was baptized on Sunday, October 5th at Sanctuary and invited Margie to attend the celebration. Pray for all of our community friends and the ladies drop-in program as people like Darci draw closer to Christ and the reign of God.



Giving and Financial Update

While we currently have our necessary goal of 6 months' reserve, the increased donations that we reported with joy in our last newsletter was primarily from a few individuals and churches along with MCC. We need your increased support to maintain and grow this crucial ministry among the most vulnerable and marginalized of our city. Thank you for considering an additional gift to Lazarus Rising.

Yes! I'd like to support Lazarus Rising in reaching out to those experiencing homelessness and marginalization in Toronto. I will contribute:

- \$10
- \$20
- \$50
- \$100
- \$500
- Other: \$ _____

Please enclose this portion of the newsletter with your name and address for a tax receipt. **Make sure to issue your cheque payable to: Toronto United Mennonite Church**, our trustee congregation, and **designate to Lazarus Rising**.

Please send donations to:

Lazarus Rising c/o MCCO
1038 Woodbine Ave.
Toronto, Ontario
M4C 4C4

Thank you for your support!