

NEWSLETTER

December 2010

VOLUME 27



"You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither
do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl.
Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to
everyone in the house. In the same way, let
your light shine before men, that they may
see your good deeds and praise
your father in heaven."

Matthew 5: 14 - 16

Kids Club - a program geared to the downtown neighbourhood children. Runs after school, 3:45pm until about 5:45pm every Wednesday. These children, ranging from 5 to 10 yrs old, are taught a Bible story by a trained Streetlight story leader and then join together to participate in a snack and crafts or outdoor games.

Kingdom Seekers - runs every Thursday from 7:00-8:30pm, a program geared for girls aged 11 and up. The purpose of this program is to involve young girls in interactive learning focused on Bible knowledge. The girls also learn life skills, and enjoy crafts, activities and singing.

Kids Korner - runs every Sunday from 6:30-7:45pm (during the Streetlight evening Sunday Service). Each week the children are told a Bible story to correspond with the evening message, recite the Lord's Prayer, Apostle's Creed and learn some Bible texts. The program ends with a snack and some time to play games.

Calvinist Cadets - runs every Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00pm - a program geared toward local boys aged 11 and up. The goal of this program is to help boys grow spiritually in all areas of life (devotional, mental, physical, and social) by providing a program uniquely designed so that Christian men can mentor boys effectively.

Youth Ignited - every other Friday evening from 7:00-9:00pm, neighbourhood teens are offered a place to hang out, listen to live bands, play games and mingle with other Christian youth. We also learn about the Bible through video-clips, movies and discussion.

Mentoring Program - Many of the children in the Streetlight programs would benefit from having a big brother/sister type of relationship with mature Christians. We can set you up in a group of mentors so that each week 2 mentors can spend time with the child. A great way to make a positive difference in a child's life! This could also be an opportunity for a family, couples and grandparents to show God's love to a young child.

Sunlight Life Skills Club - runs every Wednesday from 12:00-3:00pm, where we teach each other basic life skills. Some of the topics covered are: healthy diet, budget choices, hygiene, and social skills.

Daylight Ladies Thursday Bible Study - runs every Thursday 12:30-2:30pm, Leaders are asked to help out with reading and snacks. Leaders may also be encouraged to lead small groups or lead devotions. We would love to have musical accompaniment, and would love to have a willing driver and/or wheelchair pusher.

BOARD MEMBERS

Ed Aasman
chair

Henry Nienhuis
vice chair

Katie VanGrootheest
treasurer

Henry Alkema
member

Kevin Eigenbrood
transportation

John Hordyk
board relations

Doug DeBoer
secretary

Christina Vandenberg
corres. secretary

Dave Koning
member

John Vander Heiden
member

Adrian Vanderlaan
liaison (Providence)

Rev. John Ludwig
liaison (Ancaster)

Eric Hart
liaison (Ancaster)

Jeff Harsevoort
*liaison
(Rehoboth URC)*

BOARD REPORT *Ed Aasman, Chair*

With December upon us, there is much to be thankful for. For us as Christians our thankfulness is celebrated in the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. What a blessing that the promise God made to Adam became flesh and that this is proclaimed and celebrated around the world. Here at Streetlight, this word is also proclaimed and we may celebrate the birth of our saviour with worship and singing.

The board has been busy with many activities over the last few months. Besides our regular board meetings, we held our annual Delegates meeting in September where we could welcome many members from surrounding Canadian and United Reformed churches. It was good to see many people there and to be able to bring everyone up to date on our activities over the past year. We could also highlight what is coming up in the next year. In November we held our annual meeting with Ancaster council. It is always a good opportunity for the board along with Pastor Paul and Hilco to share information, seek advice or answer questions so that we are all on the same page. Our treasurer has also been busy with preparing the budget for the upcoming year. We always stand amazed at how the Lord continues to provide for the needs of this mission work.

At our next board meeting in January we will have a proposal from our fundraising committee on how they see us moving forward with funding a new building. Once we have this plan and it is approved by the board, we will be able to make our presentation to the Ancaster council seeking their approval to move forward with a building plan.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the annual PV&V and Meester Insurance Centre family skate night at Copps. This is always a well attended and very much appreciated fundraising event.

Please direct donations and correspondence to:

Streetlight Ministries
82 Ferguson Avenue North
Hamilton, Ontario
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Pastor Paul Aasman
Mission Worker Hilco de Haan
Youth Workers Tracy Lynn Hoeksema
& Mieke Zwaan

T 905.523.7697
E streetlightministries@bellnet.ca
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A ministry of the Canadian and United Reformed Churches

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As always, we are thankful to the Lord for blessing the work of everyone associated with Streetlight Ministries. Continue to remember the work of the staff at Streetlight both prayerfully as well as financially. On behalf of the entire Streetlight board, we wish every one a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.



Spreading Christmas Cheer:

Pastor Paul Aasman, Missionary

It is good to share with others, whether it is the gospel or food in our cupboard. Christmas is a unique time for sharing both. Streetlight does so through a hamper program. We have given out more than 30 hampers to families, about 100 gift bags to individuals living on their own, and \$1500.00 worth of gifts.

How does it all happen? A team of three ladies organize it all. The local Christian high school, Guido de Bres raises much of the funds. Different churches collect toiletry items. The Streetlight staff spend November

filling in profiles for people who desire to receive a hamper so that they might receive one that is suitable for their family. Individuals call to fill in a hamper profile and deliver it (if possible) on a day closer to Christmas. Gift bags are prepared and handed out by volunteers and what is left gets handed out by staff.

It's a lot of work.

Is it worth it? Well, consider this response from one partner in this ministry:

Hi Paul,

Thanks again for the gift baskets that were provided for the residents at Townsview. It was a great hit. I came with 15 young people to help distribute and then we had a sing-song for them. Some of them were visibly moved by the singing as well as the gifts. Bob was just so taken back that you would give him a gift that he asked me to take him to church. He didn't commit to when so I told him we would discuss it more this Sunday.

Thanks again.

We have gotten many cards thanking Streetlight for "putting a human face to Christianity". We have renewed old connections and made stronger old ones, and even made a few new ones. A couple neighbours have recently sought us out to help them in one way or another.

At Streetlight we hear a lot of praise for the gift baskets and hampers. I often think we don't deserve it. Thanks belongs to our many partners who have made the hampers possible. So thank you all! Praise God for sharing in this ministry, and we for our part pledge to make the most of the contacts that have been made and renewed.



Street Beat *Mieke Zwaan, Youth Worker*

Recently I had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Youth Worker Convention in Toronto and among many good speakers; Dr. Kara Powell asked us an important question: "Are you feeding the machine or feeding kids?"

As youth workers we spend so much time building, developing and running programs (or as Kara called it, "feeding the machine"), that we sometimes neglect actually feeding the youth we are creating those programs for.

We tend to get caught up in explaining faith like a list of Do's and Don'ts. This leads to youth thinking faith is just behaviour. Kara reminded us that is always starts with grace. Our lives are a big thank-you note to God.

It was refreshing to be reminded of this. We have been very blessed at Streetlight with a great number of youth attending our programs. It is beautiful opportunity to be able to have time with these youth, to listen to their stories, to encourage; teaching and explaining how rich it is to have a relationship with our Father in Heaven.

We ask that you continue to pray for the children and teens that we get to meet. Please pray that we feed the youth not with "empty calories" but with a message of hope and revolutionary love.

We hope that we can also proclaim that same message this Christmas. Jesus birth is a story of promise and hope for a broken world. There are many ways that we can share this message with others and one of them is by sharing our blessings. We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the Christmas hamper program at Streetlight. Many families are blessed by your generosity. Also, a big thank you to all the students who donated money, time and effort into the Christmas program for the children and teens!

This Christmas may your heart be lifted in praise for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Have a wonderful Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Streetlight Skate 2010 *Chris Vandenberg*

On November 22, PV&V and Meester Insurance Centre, put on another successful skate night as a fundraiser for Streetlight Mission. Sinterklaas even turned up there; thanks to Derek Vanderhorst!

We are so thankful that PV&V again put the effort and energy into doing this for Streetlight once more. This time around the money raised was the highest yet! At \$3,526.00 (last year's amount was \$2,915.33) this was a fantastic sum of money, and it will be used for Streetlight's Christmas season. Any left-over money will be used in the day-to-day running of programs, counseling, and care of Streetlight members.