



MISSION MISSIVE NEWSLETTER

WINTER ISSUE 2014

NEWS TO KEEP YOU ON TOP OF OUR MISSIONS OUTREACH

MISSION STATEMENT

Dear Friends In Christ....

Welcome to our Winter 2014 Edition of the Mission Missive Newsletter. In this issue we have several articles from near and far, all of which illustrate the generosity of our Parish Family. We have a very interesting article from Sheila, our own Office Administrator, who has been involved in the "Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service" since 2010, and is the Founding Director of the Canadian branch of this mission. We have two articles from our very active St. Mark's Community Outreach including a description of "Souper Sunday" and what outreach programs this supports. We also have a brief description of the Protein Project, and a summary of our very successful "Son Treasure Island" Vacation Bible School in August, with 75 children attending.

Now that winter seems to have surprised us with an early appearance on "Holly Berry Fair" weekend, please remember that while we have warm shelter, clothing and food, that there are many who do not. Please continue to support St. Mark's Community Outreach, which provides Christmas Gift and Food Hampers, lunch basket donations, and monthly dinners at The Front Room.

Please also contribute to the Nightshift box for clothing at the church driveway, and the ACW Bales for the North.

The Youth Group wishes to thank the parish for their support of the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Box program again this year, where 78 boxes were delivered.

Mission Missive Coordinators:

The Mission Missive is coordinated by
Toni Wallis 604-541-9533;
Brian & Barb Walks 604-538-3568.
We welcome any contributions on any missions or outreach related topics.

St. Mark's Community Outreach Ministry

You can support outreach activities of this group by sending donations in envelopes marked "Community Outreach" to St. Mark-Ocean Park.

Contact Barb Grantham at 604-531-3726 for more information.

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
NIV Matthew 28:19-20

Mission & Community Events:

- Dec 14th - 5 PM - 9:30 PM Journey of Christmas Opens and continues until its closing night of Wed. Dec. 24th
- Dec 21st - 10 AM Service: Lessons and Carols
- Dec 24th - Christmas Eve Services
5PM Family Service
7 & 11 PM Candle Light Communion
- Dec 25th - 10AM Christmas Day (No 8AM Service)
- Dec. 28th - 8 & 10AM Services (no Sunday School this date.)
- Jan. 9th - Epiphany Party (Fri.)



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AHOY MATES! WE HAD A BLAST!

The St. Mark's annual Vacation Bible School with the theme "Son Treasure Island" was held August 18-22, 2014, and was, as always, a resounding success.

The vibrant personalities of the 3 Junior, 9 Youth and 21 Adult Leader volunteers combined with the enthusiasm of the 75 registered children was exciting to watch.

The "Treasure Island" theme days were embraced with great enthusiasm and the connection of the story, bible verse game, recreation game, crafts and yes, even the snacks, were all well received. Our Pirate Bay area was a big hit with the children; lots of dress up and climbing in and out of a shipwrecked boat. The positive comments received from children and parents alike was extremely encouraging.

A very big thank you goes out to all involved for your commitment to a very worthwhile outreach program.



Overall, the combination of vibrant and energetic volunteer leaders, children connecting with each other, and the program, was the amazing work of our Lord working in each and every one of us.

See you next year for another exciting program – **"Son Sparks Lab"!!**

Linda Zeal

VBS Director

'THE PROTEIN PROJECT'

**An Outreach program offered
by St. Mark's Community
Outreach**

The Protein Project was originated to provide extra protein to the Single Mothers and children who participate in the Lunch Basket for Hungry Children.

Stan Hodgson, a long time parishioner at St. Mark's was concerned that with limited funds families would not have the ability to add more protein to their daily diets. Meat, chicken and fish were costly, and so Stan began 'The Protein Fund' which is administered through the Community Outreach Ministry.

The first week of every month each of those families who participate in the Lunch Basket program are provided with a variety package of high protein foods purchased by a member of the Community Outreach Ministry and delivered to Women's Place.

This project, as with all of the programs that the Community Outreach Ministry organizes and administers, is funded directly by donations from St. Mark's parishioners.

Without the continued support of the various groups, bible studies and individuals, your Community Outreach Ministry would not be able to help so many in our community.

If you are interested in more information on 'the Protein Project' of the Community Outreach Ministry please contact Barbara Grantham.

An Insight into India – in Kolkata

I had waited my whole life to travel to India – a destination I thought would forever elude me. An exciting opportunity presented itself and in September of 2010 my husband Simon and I travelled to Kolkata, in the north-east state of West Bengal.

There are many enticing attractions in Kolkata and the one we yearned to see was St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, an oasis of calm in a city of 15+ million people. On a hot and humid afternoon we gazed at the bright white cathedral that sits in the centre of a cool patch of groomed green grass. The sacred structure was consecrated in 1847.

While charmed by the architecture, I was especially taken by a young woman who works on the site for the NGO "Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service" (CCRS). After I had purchased a few bangles from her she informed me that they were made by women who live and work in one of the slums – or "bustees" – that sprawl throughout the city. Certainly in our four days in the city we had seen mile after mile of slum communities. It was distressing in the extreme. It was heart-breaking. I'd never seen anything like it. The scale of the poverty is overwhelming. What we hadn't seen, with our "Western eyes" was all the development work that goes on in the bustees - development projects that give rise to human rights, decent work, financial empowerment, and a measure of dignity to Kolkata's millions of desperately poor and marginalized people.

Back in Canada I researched the work done by CCRS, a secular charitable entity that, in 1974, registered under the West Bengal Societies Act. I learned that one Canadian dollar goes far when it is converted into an Indian Rupee (INR). At today's rate \$1 Cdn. = 55 INR. Further research turned up information on the "U.K. Friends of the CCRS" charity. This organization is in Derbyshire England, and is supported by the Anglican Church there. The "U.K. Friends" annually raises

tens of thousands of British pounds. When sent to CCRS in Kolkata the funds support an impressive variety of CCRS programs – programs that empower women and children and educate the illiterate.

The more I thought about CCRS and about the "U.K. Friends", the more it made sense to me to create the "Canadian Friends of the CCRS". In January of 2013, after filing all the paperwork with the B.C. Government my small, low-key, grassroots charitable Society was incorporated. It feels good to be official.



Students at the CCRS school, in the impoverished Dum Dum neighbourhood, near the Kolkata International Airport. Standing on the left is Rig David, Executive Director of CCRS. He asked the students to show off their Bank Account Pass Books. These books provide coveted official identification to children and families who have no I.D.

Working alongside fellow Board Members - Sara Badyal, Keith Bunnell, David Swan and Roma Palmer – we have attracted 70+ committed donors. Each year we collect small donations – pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies – and send them off to the Executive Director and Board of Directors of CCRS in Kolkata. They are the experts. They know best how to expend our donations. Our most recent donation supported the "Labouring Children" project. By law in India children under the age of 14 are permitted to work, just not in hazardous environments. In many places this law is not upheld. In India 12.6 million minors – aged 5 to 14 – are in the workforce. 90% of domestic workers, or servants, are

girls. If a child is working, it is likely that that child is illiterate and will remain ignorant of their rights. There is no time for school when a family relies heavily on the income of a labouring child. And the young workers do labour in hazardous environments, such as factories that produce fireworks, leather goods, light-bulbs, and garments. CCRS uses Canadian dollars to educate labouring children.

When Sara and I spoke to the Men's Club last year, it came on board as a donor. When I spoke to the Evening Guild, it came on board as a donor. When I spoke to the ACW it came on board as a donor. Please accept our sincere gratitude. As our Society's constitution outlines and guarantees, 100% of donations goes overseas to the CCRS. We five Directors of the "Cdn. Friends" personally underwrite the few costs we incur running the Society.

Next time I'll write about my 2013 return to Kolkata, a visit undertaken for the sole purpose of visiting CCRS schools and women empowerment centres in the "bustees" of that astounding City. –

--Sheila Johnston, Founding Director, The Canadian Friends of the Calcutta Cathedral Relief Service



I'm pictured on the right, shaking the hand of 4-year-old Samina. She suffers from polio. Wearing her school uniform, she was among the boys and girls educated at the one-room school house in the Topsia neighbourhood.

COVER PHOTO: Taken at the Women's Empowerment Centre, in the Pally Mangal neighbourhood, where women learn skills and trades, earn certification, and help financially support their family.

St. Mark's Community Outreach Ministry

The newest initiative started by your Community Outreach Ministry is one of both Outreach and Fellowship. All of the income from the soup sales is donated to organizations in our immediate area.



During the cooler months the Outreach Ministry members meet on Saturday morning to make the soup of the month. This is sold after the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services the following day. We are blessed to have so many skilled shoppers, choppers and sellers!

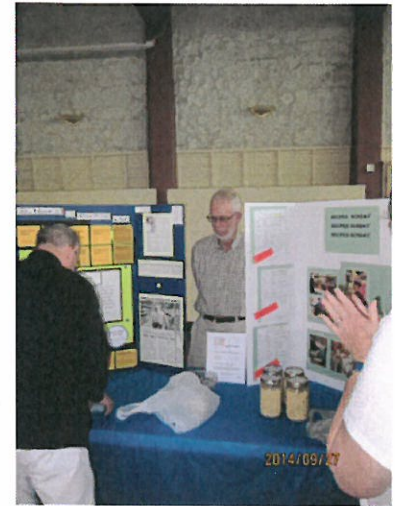


The goal for the soup sales was to provide 'extras' for local groups and organizations.

Our mandate is to give items that are needed -- which most of the time their budgets just don't allow for. There are three main recipients of these funds.

AMA Transition House is a home accessible to women 55+ who are experiencing abuse -- AMA serves this community -- where the senior population is so much in need of emergency support. Often women escape with nothing but the clothes they are wearing. St. Mark's was able to assist by purchasing a good supply of pyjamas and slippers and then a large quantity of high protein drinks -- such as 'Boost' along with some personal items.

The Launching Pad, a non profit society provides room and board for up to 28 young men with alcohol and drug addiction issues. The Launching Pad will assist these young men to return to productive and healthy lifestyles. Help is also offered to their families and friends to participate in the recovery process, to create a positive and supportive community response for recovery. "Souper Sunday" proceeds have



provided kitchen items such as soup pots and cooking trays for the kitchen at the Launching Pad. We were also able to supply some additional vegetables.

Our local **Food Bank** is the third recipient of the proceeds from Souper Sunday. Although during the holidays, food bank donations increase -- there are the quiet months when donations decrease dramatically. This is when our donation is made to assist the Food Bank. During January and February the sales are donated to the Food Bank.

If you are interested in more information on 'Souper Sunday' Community Outreach Ministry please contact Barbara Grantham.