

Threshold **TODAY**



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A Message from our **National Director**



I am really humbled at what God is doing through Threshold Ministries from coast to coast to coast. We are rooted in Christ and sharing hope everyday. The stories in this edition of Threshold Today are an inspiration to what is possible with God. I pray that like me you are blessed by what you read.

Every person wants to be seen, heard, and valued, no matter where or who they are. We come across so many people in our daily life and do not have the time to stop and hear their stories. Unfortunately, many people are so used to being ignored they have stopped caring.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

Luke 4:18 (NIV)

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.”

2 Corinthians 8:9 (NIV)

Jesus was not like this. He used his power in a positive way as he showed compassion for all sorts of needs. At Threshold, we try to follow Jesus in this way, and we show compassion for those in prison, on the streets and those who struggle with addiction. We want to be known as those who stop for the least of these. We believe God as Creator is already at work in people’s lives; they just don’t know it yet.

As His Son’s and Daughters, they deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. One of the steps of Celebrate Recovery is, “Having had a spiritual experience as a result of these steps; we try to carry this message to others and practice these principles in all our affairs”. Jesus has made such a difference in my life; the challenge

is to tell and serve others. We are so thankful to our volunteers and supporters, without whom we could not do this. Our work is a direct result of your generosity. We would love to serve every community in Canada and see lives changed, hope shared and people restored to community. Would you support us in this?

God Bless,



Jonathan Clarke
National Director

Thank you for helping us share hope through the love of Jesus Christ.



Street Hope

Saint John

The vision of Street Hope Saint John reflects that of our founder, Wilson Carlile, who sought to develop an army of “hope bringers” into a world that so much needs hope - to bring the hope of Jesus to others. The niche of Threshold House is to serve men who have discovered hope over lives of addiction. Threshold House is a Christian community of support and discipleship with the goal of supporting individuals in Saint John to build a network of support around them as they live at Threshold House for one year.

We recognize that we live in an addiction-riddled society but when a Threshold client spends one year in our program, we engage together, empower them to effectively live and share hope with others. At the end of their year, we will welcome the next cohort and begin the process again. We call this “The Year of the Lord’s Favour” (Luke 4:19).

A favourite verse for Threshold House is Hebrews 4:15 (ESV), **“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.”** Few people may understand the challenges and temptations associated with addiction, but this verse assures us

that Jesus understands. As we run to Jesus for strength and comfort, He meets us with understanding, forgiveness, and power.



Reed Flemming

Reed Flemming
Director



It has been a wonderfully steep learning curve as we have seen our prayers for a safe and sober Christian community become a reality. We all come with our own baggage and finding our way together is a messy process. We have seen some men return to their addictions and it is heartbreaking. But we also see men determined to follow Jesus and work hard with our support to successfully build new, productive lives.



Stephen

It has been amazing to watch the growth in our Program Director, Stephen. He came to us having completed a course on Drug and Alcohol Treatment and

though he had experienced God, he was not initially comfortable in sharing the things of God. Over time he has grown tremendously in his own spiritual life and shares Jesus with the residents of Threshold House.

The initial vision was that of our founder Wilson Carlisle, to develop an army of “hope bringers” into a world needs hope. We praise God that He is working in the lives of our staff to empower them to speak about this shareable hope that we have in Jesus.

Each week, Threshold House residents cook and serve a meal at an inner-city Celebrate Recovery meeting and a local Salvation Army outreach. We have begun a weekly Overcomers program, in partnership with the Canadian Bible Society. We also host a weekly Narcotics Anonymous group. Please pray for the residents of Threshold House as we support them with the hope of living a sober life with strength in Jesus Christ.





Street Hope Peterborough

Street Hope Peterborough (SHP) was established in 2008 under Threshold Ministries as a front-line evangelistic initiative that offers both spiritual and practical support as a chaplaincy outreach to people coming out of prison and the marginalized living in our community.

Our chaplaincy ministry responds to individuals battling addiction, emotional and mental and self-esteem battles and those facing homelessness, poverty, and many forms of brokenness in their lives. SHP has been engaged in the process of helping people to rebuild their lives by helping people to understand and respond to the love that Jesus has for their life. We are rooted in Christ and sharing hope.

The foundation of SHP is built on building meaningful friendships with hurting people while pointing them to Jesus who can forgive, restore and transform the course and direction of our lives. Luke 19:10 (TPT) expresses the purpose of this ministry: “The Son of Man has come to seek out and to give life to those who are lost.”

Ministry has been extremely busy with great opportunities for sharing the love of Jesus with many broken people. We have had an opportunity to maintain established relationships and to build new connections with our community. We have the privilege of working alongside compassionate and caring volunteers who are central to helping us bring hope and love to those who are hurting.

Bill is a Roman Catholic deacon who has been a great blessing to Street Hope Peterborough. He faithfully meets with Catholic men coming to our community from prison as well as others who need a faithful friend. Stan and Andy invest their time in the lives of men who need a helping hand; Gay and Victoria

support our ministry at a retirement home where we offer a monthly chapel service; and Joe and Ian assist us in our food distribution outreach every second week.

SHP also has a large group of church volunteers who assist in our sandwich ministry to people in our city’s tent community and with our Victoria Park events during the summer months. SHP is richly blessed by our faithful volunteer support that reaches into the hearts of those we are supporting in Peterborough, Ontario.



Jack, who we have been supporting since 2018 has been touched by Jesus in a special way in the last few months. Jack has served over 40 years in many federal prisons in North America and although he is now nearing 80 years old, he is embracing the forgiveness of Jesus. He has also been experiencing a special touch of God's healing love the past few months as he has been giving his burdens to Jesus in a new way.



in Christ and he made a decision never to go back to prison. He is an inspiration of how Jesus can change a person's life when they trust Him! Jack continues to live a life that demonstrates his determination and commitment to never give up and to turn to God and to find new life in Jesus. He made a decision when he came out of prison never to hurt anyone again through crime and he is living up to that promise.

Jack was removed from his home at a very young age for his own safety and was placed into a training school where he continued to be abused. This trauma led to Jack choosing a life of crime. Since 2018, Jack has started a new life

As a chaplain, Jack has shown me how God is all powerful to change a life that surrenders to Him. I praise Jesus that Jack now lives the rest of his life for good and he is an inspiration to others who are coming out of prison. Please pray that Jesus will continue to give us His grace as we reach out to many hurting people in our community with the shareable hope of Jesus. We want to see people surrender to Jesus, embrace His love and to be transformed by His love!



Darrin Gaudreau
Director

***“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and go and pray to me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek me and find me, when you search for me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NKJV)***

This verse gives tremendous hope for everyone who puts their faith and trust in Jesus. He will take the mess in our lives and turn them into a message for His glory!



Street Hope Victoria

Street Hope Victoria (SHV) is a volunteer-driven ministry that builds personal relationships with people who face multiple barriers and marginalization and encourages them to seek wholeness in all aspects of their lives. Those we serve may be facing poverty, a lack of supportive community, homelessness, addictions or mental health issues.

SHV operates out of wagons as volunteers walk up and down a block of Pandora Avenue serving homemade soup, sandwiches, drinks, cookies and also providing other essentials such as warm clothing. It is SHV's hope to establish and nurture meaningful connections with folks living their lives on or around Pandora Avenue, listening, talking, and praying with people when we get the chance. We hope in our words and actions to point people to Jesus, the one who loves them and knows their every need.



Recently, Andrew, a SHV volunteer met Rose*. "After handing Rose some socks and bottled water I said, "May God Bless you!" as I started to leave, she stopped me and told me she had a question. She asked, "What does 'God Bless you' mean?". She said, "I heard someone else say that a few days ago but I don't know what it means." It caught me off guard a bit, but I said that it was like a short prayer asking the creator God to reveal his goodness and love to her; to help her know how wonderfully precious

she is to Him. She paused, gave a beautiful smile, and said "Thank you so much. Now if someone asks me, I can tell them what it means." My prayer is that I will meet her again and be given an opportunity where I can share more about God's love and grace."

Every Tuesday evening, we encounter wonderful people like Rose. Our faithful group of volunteers continue to go up and down Pandora Avenue giving out over 100 sandwiches, 18 litres of soup as well as numerous bottles of water, juice boxes, cookies, liquorice, socks, and gloves. We love to stop and chat with those we meet a long the way. We exchange how our weeks have been. Sometimes we're given the privilege to listen to people's stories, many filled with struggle and sorrow but also a strength which keeps them persevering. There are times we have the opportunity to pray with someone.



Sometimes we hear poems, sometimes, like Andrew and Rose we're asked questions and a lot of the time we just have fun, things like talking about our favourite childhood food. I was told recently I must try 'Elephant Ears' - a North American delicacy! If anyone knows where I can find them in Victoria let me know please!

A long time SHV friend, Norm, shared a poem he wrote about his experience of homelessness:

"I'm walking alone into the city wandering around without a destination.

Unto loneliness, I fell, the desolation unto the self. I was living like a desert within myself... Dignity shouldn't be, shouldn't be put down; as we are all the children of God on the earth."

This passage I believe tells us what our family trade is as followers of Jesus. To proclaim and invite people to experience the freedom, wholeness, love and salvation that Jesus offers.

***In Luke 4 Jesus stands in the synagogue and speaks
"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."***

Instead of loneliness may those we meet know his friendship. Instead of desolation may they know his deep-rooted joy. Instead of living like a desert, may they know the one who brings life in all its fullness. And just as Norm said, may all know they are endowed with dignity because all people are made in the image of God, the one who runs to his children to welcome them home.

Please pray for us at SHV that in the strength of the Holy Spirit we'd be able to live out our family trade here in Victoria, in word and action, especially among those who are marginalised, vulnerable, unhoused or in difficult circumstances for whatever reason. At SHV we are so grateful to be able to join in the work of Jesus in our city. May we have open eyes to see where he's at work, to others to him and be welcomed by him through others.

**name changed for privacy purposes*

Deborah

Debs Moyo
Director



Norm





Threshold's Toronto Chaplaincy ministry exists to build relationships and serve individuals who are making the transition from incarceration to life outside of prison. Our goal is to build relationships and help connect individuals to faith communities. We work in the Keele Community Correctional Centre. This includes having office space to ensure our presence is consistent and visible. This diverse ministry involves:

Care Packages including toiletries and clothing for new arrivals at the Keele Centre. This is a wonderful way to connect with men who have been incarcerated. We get to hear their stories, build relationships and pray with them.

The arena of criminal justice is one in which it takes time to establish trust with chaplains, inmates, parole officers, government contractor organizations and more. We continue to knock on doors, send texts and emails, go to meetings and share time over coffee in order to gain credibility with all stakeholders. We are grateful and humbled that doors are increasingly open! Parole officers are calling for help, inmates are calling from inside institutions and half-way houses are asking me to connect with their residents.

One man, Sirius* lost his grandmother and wanted to attend the funeral but did not have any dress clothes and was flat broke. It has been difficult for him to hold a job due to serious mental health issues and he only receives \$85/week to cover food and

Building Community Connections

as we strive to make bridges between "justice-system-involved" individuals and volunteers in the faith communities who want to engage in this type of ministry. We network with parole officers, community volunteers and chaplains.

Community Dinners as a beautiful chance to create a family environment in an otherwise institutional-feeling location. We are grateful for the many volunteers who help us with this ministry!



all other costs. When I took him to Tip Top to purchase a cheap suit, it was as if I had saved his life. He took a picture and sent it to me to show what he looked like all dressed up! I've grown increasingly close to Sirius since this and we regularly exchange scriptures by text. He even lets me pray with him at times as well as read scripture together.

My understanding of God's patient, unconditional love has become less theoretical and more practical. God truly loves all those He created and is grieved when we reject him, try to get along without him or hurt others in pursuit of our own agendas. I feel as though my motives are being purified and my sense of entitlement is being lovingly stripped away. Sirius owes me nothing and I owe the Lord

everything. Keeping that in perspective puts me in a good space to care and help those who are feeling hopeless in whatever way the Lord leads.

We are blessed with incredible volunteers at Toronto Chaplaincy. Rita loves volunteering especially when bringing food to residents of the halfway house. She has secured a relationship with a fancy bread company that is willing to give away end-of-day bread products for free. Her donations are very popular and play a key role in combating food insecurity for newly-released prisoners.

Drew volunteers by building one on one relationships. He retired early for the express purpose of giving more of his time to helping others who do not have the means to do so. Drew helps men do their taxes and manage money, drives people to appointments, helps people move and much more! He gets great satisfaction from these interactions and is a life-long learner.

**name changed for privacy*



Pray for the blinders of fear, comfort, shame, pride come off people's eyes. Pray that the spiritual strongholds that exist in the jails and hearts of people will be destroyed so that Christ may take His place. Pray that we have the strength to share the hope that we have in Jesus.

Jonathan McMurray
Director

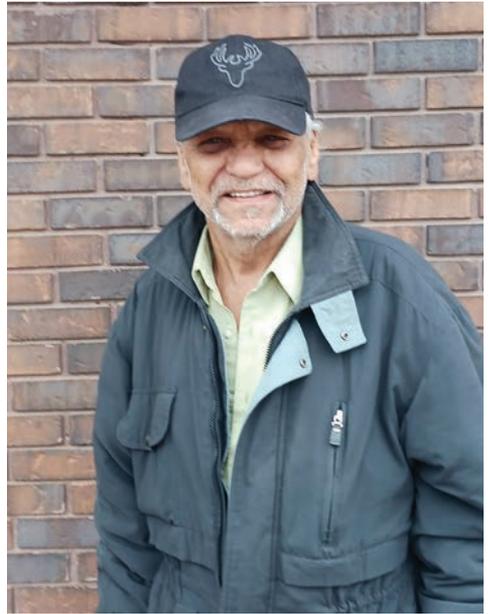
1 John 4:7-8 9 (NIV) “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” It’s all about love. The Lord Himself is love and the more we connect to Him and move in His will, the more we will be like Him in our day to day.



Moncton Chaplaincy

Threshold's Moncton chaplaincy ministry, Fire Watch exists to build relationships and assist those impacted by addiction, incarceration, poverty and violence. We desire to help bring hope to individuals who are making the transition from incarceration to life outside of prison. Fire Watch is devoted to walk beside ex-offenders who want Christian support in their lives.

Bryant is originally from Nova Scotia, but Moncton is now his home. He has been out of jail and on his best behaviour for the past eight years, overcoming addiction and avoiding the crimes often associated with addiction. Bryant's crimes and addiction began when he was just a teenager. Since connecting with Fire Watch, we have been able to be a supportive friend to Bryant, not judging him or measuring him by his past and helping him concentrate on his future. It has been a joy to welcome him into our faith family. Bryant is a very spiritual man who loves the Bible, devotions and prayer.



Eden McAuley
Moncton Community Chaplain





Women's Faith Integration

Women's Faith Integration is a new ministry project for Threshold that aims to serve women coming out of incarceration. While I await my security clearance, I have been able to build relationships across Toronto with churches, organizations and individuals who desire to meet the needs of the marginalized women who are starting their lives over after incarceration. I have already seen the excitement and readiness for receiving the women from the churches and organizations that want to be involved.



Emily Truax

This verse talks about humanity's belief that we are alone, small, or insufficient to battle the great wars in our lives. But God reveals to the servant in this passage that there is a great and powerful army able to help. I hope in my own fears and in the fears of those I serve, we can recall God's mighty army that stands beside us as we face trouble. God is with us!

Emily Truax
Project Coordinator

The individual volunteers and those involved in the local support system look forward to minister to and build community with these women. Serving can look like phone calls, sending faith based resources, providing life checkins, accompanying women to faith community events and much more. Please pray for this new ministry as we work to provide hope to women who have been incarcerated.

2 Kings 6:15-16 (ESV) "When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them."



Ripple of Us

Ripple of Us is a call to meaningful community with an understated but far-reaching impact for men who have been incarcerated. We provide the framework for small, manageable actions that ripple beyond our view. This is the mission statement and call to action that is the core of this ministry.

We all love to hear a great story. As soon as I walk through the door, my granddaughter Lennon has all kinds of stories! She adds every little detail, and she insists that you hear every bit, and if you lose focus, she will quickly pull you back on track. If my wife is with me, she then tells each story all over again.

I have learned that many are not as eager as Lennon to share their stories. There are some details of one's story that may be difficult to speak aloud, or maybe they, like Lennon, have tried to tell their story, and those around them may not have been focused. Not

all have Lennon's determination to be heard. Sometimes people grow quiet as they simply fear no one truly hears the details of their story. I have sought to be intentional, to sit and listen and be present in the stories of those around me.

One man that I am in contact through our federal reintegration program, Bob*, has been sharing bits and pieces of his story for the past several months. Over time, as Bob became more trusting, he shared more and more. Some of his stories are entertaining, but most speak of great pain and suffering: the loss of relationships and the shame created by the consequences of life choices, interwoven with the use of drugs and alcohol as a means to escape pain, only to create more shame. He began to allow me to share with him about the One who can forever change the direction of one's story. He has come with me to church and we often share a coffee at a local community coffee house. He has given his life to Jesus and is intentional about digging deep into his faith. He now excitedly shares his stories with me! He will tell me with great delight about an aspect of faith that he recently learned of. His fresh "faith find" gives me renewed hope. It is



Mark and Karen Cooney

fun to see his excitement and be excited with him. And deeper still it reminds me of how amazing God's goodness is and how I take for granted the things that I have known for a long time.

The same way that John the Baptist approached his ministry to make Jesus more visible and pointed people to Jesus, that is how I want to approach the ministry that God has given me. It is my passion that whatever I do would be a clear lens through which people would see Jesus.



**name changed for privacy*

Mark Cooney
Director



John 3:30 (NIV) "He must become greater; I must become less."

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Threshold Ministries

Give a gift of hope today!

Thank you for your support of Threshold Ministries! We could not share the love of Jesus and His hope with people across Canada without your prayers and financial support. Together we are rooted in Christ and sharing hope.

Threshold Ministries exists to bring anyone, no matter what their background, into a living relationship with Jesus and his people.

Would you join us as we continue to share the hope of Jesus, meeting people where they are at, and telling them about God's love for them?

Give to Threshold's Fund of Hope today.

Threshold's Fund of Hope exists to:

- Strengthen our current programs across Canada
- Explore new ways to live out our mission across Canada
- Build the capacity of our leadership to grow and expand as God opens doors



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