

# AGAPE STREET MINISTRY

*Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12*

## He lights the pathways of the dark forest

Yesterday I received a phone call from a mother who had not seen or heard from her daughter, Wendy, for 3 months. We met because Wendy, who comes from a loving Catholic family, has worked the streets down here for many years and when her family heard of Agape Street Ministry, through the BC Catholic Newspaper, they contacted us to reach her. We have maintained a friendship for the past 4 years and are usually able to alleviate the fears

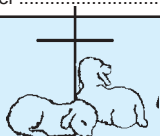
**Why do we open our hearts and prayers and hugs to the drug addicts and prostitutes on the street?**

**Matthew 25: 40**

And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.'

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### AGAPE STREET MINISTRY

#### AGAPE HOUSE

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agapest@vcn.bc.ca • www.agapestreetministry.org

Agape Street Ministry is a project of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of St. Paul's Province

#### HOPE-FAITH HOUSE (604) 584-4674

#### PAT AND VICKI CONROY

887 Keefer Street, Vancouver V6A 1Y8 604-255-4118

of the family when they haven't heard from her for awhile.

This call was to inform me that Wendy had finally telephoned them. The news was not good though as she was suicidal, not seeing any sense in continuing to live with HIV and Hepatitis C. She had been kicked out of yet another shelter and felt hopeless.

We had not been able to deliver her Birthday Bag during her absence and would use that to bring 'Light' into her life. The Street Team prepared a special gift for her, signed the card, and set out to deliver it to a shelter in the core of the worst drug area on this continent. They arrived late as most of the 120 women they encountered on the way had wanted prayer. When they tried to get into the shelter to deliver the gift an unfriendly and unmoving guard met them. After explaining why they were there and giving Wendy's name and still making no progress with the unsympathetic doorperson, they were about to walk away when suddenly Wendy stepped off the elevator! They called her name and sang Happy Birthday to her. She was overwhelmed and so grateful! After chatting and praying with her they left her clutching the Teddy Bear from the bag and happily going to her room to open the rest of the gift. She called her family to tell them how much the surprise visit meant to her and to describe in detail the treasures she received.

This scenario repeats itself often and is a perfect example of the spirit of Agape Street Ministry.

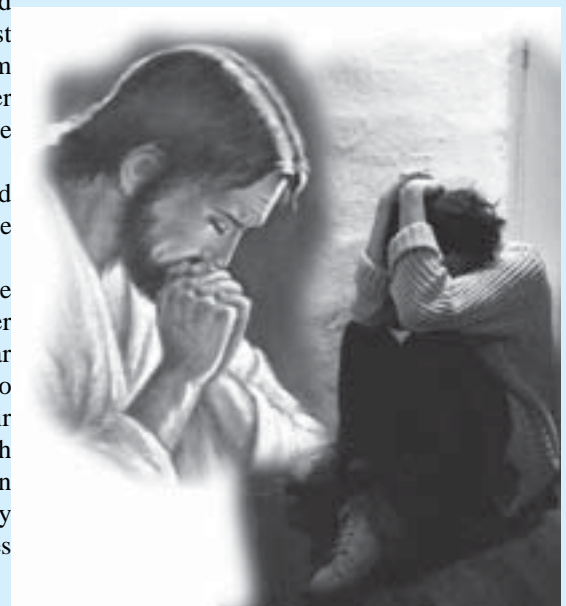
The growth of this ministry reminds me of clearing a path in dense forest in order to access an area. Pat & I began to clear that path 6 years ago. Others responded to God's call to follow that path, doing their own clearing as they went and the path became smoother and wider. Each person traveling the path leaves their mark as they toil over ground where weeds and obstacles

continually appear, threatening to impede progress. Under the constant care of these dedicated laborers led by the Holy Spirit, the path has become a road, the road has become more passable, and Light is able to enter. Seeds are being planted and the flowers are able to grow.

There are now well over 100 volunteers that give up their own pursuits to respond to God's call to serve the women who work as prostitutes in the downtown Eastside of Vancouver. As these volunteers labor for the Kingdom of God, lives are changed, Light shines in the darkness and the Will of God is accomplished.

While writing this, two of our women called. One wanted to share her decision to go into Treatment and give us the address so we could visit her there. The other just phoned to say she loves us, say hi to specific volunteers, and pass her thanks on to everyone, she now "has Hope". Pat and I feel so humbled and blessed to witness God working in the dense, dark forest of this area.

*God Bless You. Pat and Vicki Conroy*



By listening to Jesus, she stood in the gap

# Jesus' meeting place

by Elaine Matzek

On October 22nd, 2002, Tuesday night I had the privilege of being part of the Agape street ministry team and walking the streets of the downtown eastside of Vancouver with them. I had the experience of going to "Jesus' meeting place". To explain what I mean by this is that I had gone to a listening prayer seminar back in Spring of 2002 where the speaker shared that we all know of the places where we go to meet Jesus, ie: driving in the car, having a morning cup of coffee, journaling, going on a hike to a mountaintop, lake, etc. The speaker challenged us to ask Jesus to show us His meeting place. The place in my mind that Jesus showed me was the downtown eastside of Vancouver. The speaker then challenged us to ask Jesus what He wanted to show us by taking us to His meeting place. The thoughts that came into my mind were that I as I was touching these people, who were so cold and without hope they started to warm and experience the light, love and hope of Jesus. That experience was a confirmation to me that God wanted me working in Celebrate Recovery, a 12 step program helping people recovering from any hurt, habit or hangup in their lives. However, in the back of my mind, I have always wanted to actually go to the actual meeting place that He showed me.

This fall, when Pat and Vicky Conroy came to talk about Agape street ministry and what they do — bringing the love, hope and light of Jesus to these girls and women on the streets of eastside Vancouver, it struck a cord in my heart. It was like God was giving me a boot in the pants by saying, "I've already provided a ministry for you to experience the things I want to show you at the meeting place I showed you in your mind. It's just up to you to take action." I talked with Pat and Vicky afterwards and got all the info needed to do this.

As I drove downtown to the place where I would meet the other team

members, I was alone and fear and doubt set in. "What in the world am I doing? Am I nuts or what?" The verse that popped into my head was that God's perfect love casts out fear. That was the only time that I experienced real fear that evening. As I walked the streets, God's love was greater than my fears.

In Agape's office, they have two walls plastered with all the pictures of the girls and women that they meet. I was just awestruck by all those faces of these women. Gary, Vida and I prayed together and then went out. (Gary and Vida live in Squamish and have come down every Tuesday night for the past 6 yrs. to volunteer and walk the streets). Vida would introduce me to the girls and some of them wouldn't even look me in the eyes. I just wanted them to see Your eyes of love and compassion thru me. It was as though they felt too ashamed or unworthy to look at a person. "Lord, You see these girls and love every one of them. I pray that they would realize that You love them deeply, that You value them as precious in Your sight and that Your grace, love, acceptance, mercy, compassion and forgiveness is open to them. I pray that You would give them the willpower to invite You into their hearts."

After the candy bags were distributed, Vida asked the girls if they needed prayer for anything. Many of the girls asked, said that they were OK or that they were fine and would walk off. I sensed their nervousness and I felt that inside, they were everything but fine. A few of the girls asked for prayer for their safety and protection. Deep down, they are probably very fearful of potentially "bad dates", who knows what abuses of beatings, words, torture and even death these women face from the men that they're with as well as pimps, drug dealers and all the other evils and dangers of being alone on the streets. Some of the girls that we came up to, said that they were cold or hungry. One woman we met was laying on the grass, in just her clothes, sweater and tuque, no blanket, pillow or sleeping bag.

She was feeling sick. My heart went out to her. As I shared that I had chocolate chip cookies for her, she brightened up with a smile and eagerly accepted them and tore open the package. Some women were dressed in sandals, no socks on a cold, clear night in October. Some women asked for gloves.

Some women and girls looked like they had just come down to the streets while others looked like they had been there for a long time with all the age and hard knocks that comes from living on the hard cold streets. It was like the streets came alive at night with these women. They seemed to be at every street corner. Some who would see us but from across the street, would call out to us as they recognized us. They came over and got their candy bag and hug. As I was the "new kid", I was hesitant if they would accept me or want a hug from me. At the beginning, I just shook their hands more often but as time went by, I asked them if I could give them a hug and none of them refused. Some women just came up and hugged me, a stranger. Some of the hugs that I received from them were like receiving a hug from a long, lost friend that you hadn't seen for 20 years. Sometimes it was hard to tell who was getting the greater blessing, them or me.

One woman, named Audrey, stood out in my mind and made it all worthwhile coming to share the love of Jesus. She opened up and poured out her heart to us. She talked of losing her husband 10 years ago and not having living parents anymore. Those things pushed her to the brink of despair. She showed us the scars on her arm of her trying to end her life by committing suicide. In tears, she shared that God hadn't allowed her to end her life, He still had something for her to do. She shared that she so desperately wanted to get out of this lifestyle, pleading that she wanted to change but felt like she was trapped. Gary shared that it was not enough to want to get out but that she had to take action to her words ie. Go to detox, etc. I

asked if I could pray for her and she said yes. I prayed that the enemy would not have control over her life, Jn. 10:10 where the thief wants to kill, steal and destroy, but Jesus came that they may have life. I invited her to invite Jesus into the pain of her struggles and addictions. She hugged me afterwards like that long, lost friend and I whispered into her ear that she is special and that Jesus loves her. She thanked us as a team for just allowing her to talk and we just listen. She shared of how appreciative she was of our support. This woman's words and hugs made it worth it all!

We came to a woman named Angel. Vida said to me, "Doesn't she just look like an angel?" The thoughts that were running thru my mind were so different

from what I had envisioned angels to look like, the flowing white dress, face beaming, golden hair and a halo to boot. My answer to Vida in her question was "Yes!" As I said yes the thoughts that started to flow thru my mind were, that if God sees past the outward appearance and looks at the inside, she really is angel, precious and loved thru the eyes of Jesus. If Jesus sees her that way, then I can look past the outward appearance see her thru Jesus' eyes too.

As Gary, Vida and I finished up and walked back to Keefer street, I shared that the candy bags were lighter and the cookies were all gone but my heart was very heavy. I had gone out light-hearted but came back with a heavy heart from all that I saw, heard, felt and experi-

enced on the downtown eastside of Vancouver. I believe that God brought me to see His meeting place because He wanted me to see the things that break His heart, He wanted me to share the light, hope and love of a relationship with Jesus to people that are so lost and desperately need Him, He wanted to show me how I can better pray for and chose to stand in the gap at the foot of the cross interceding on behalf of these women. If Jesus were here today living on this earth, my gut feeling is that He would be right beside us, walking those streets with us.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?** Volunteer, candy, socks, chapstick, cough drops, samples of shampoo, conditioner, home-made chocolate chip cookies

## VOLUNTEER INVOLVEMENT

Jesus has no hands, but yours, no feet but yours, no smile, but yours



**Bridget Clarke**  
Director of Volunteers  
604 228-8773

When was the last time you had an opportunity to share the GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST? When was the last time you could share your faith journey with someone? Can you imagine what it would be like to really share this hope and love that Jesus offers to someone who wants to hear it so badly? IT'S AN INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE!

### STREET MINISTRY

Every night, established teams of 3-4 people walk a specific route from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. or so, and bring the message of Jesus' love to the ladies of the street, by listening, praying and being a friendly face for them.

### AGAPE WEDNESDAY MORNING DROP-IN

At the "Agape House" at 411 Hawks Avenue on weekday mornings, volunteers are involved with Agape Street activities, and ministering to the women in prayer and activities. Here you will have an opportunity to sit and talk one-on-one with the girls, in a safe, quiet environment. It's an amazing opportunity to serve Jesus, and to serve his little ones, to pray or be a shoulder to cry on.

**CANDY BAG PACKAGING @ 887 Keefer**  
Like St. Therese, the "little flower", who while in cloister, prayed for missionaries everywhere, your efforts behind the scenes make a huge difference. As you sit and pray, packaging your little gifts of love (candy bags with scripture cards), you are the first line of our Lord's defense on these streets. All the other aspects of Agape Street Ministry depend on your helpful obedience. The women look so forward to the candy and scripture cards. Most collect the cards, and the messages of hope and Good News are pinned up all around their room. We distribute an estimated 30,000 candy bags each year.

**BIRTHDAY BAG ASSEMBLY @ 887 Keefer**  
Francis and Kim Watson 922-7752

**OFFICE HELP @ 411 Hawks Avenue**  
Contact: Rhonda (604) 944-6367. Computer work. Mostly typing and office organization.

### HOPE-FAITH HOUSE/AGAPE HOUSE

- Do you have some "ora et labore" (prayer and work) ideas?
- Or willing to volunteer for prayer or bible study, teaching the rosary?
- Do you belong to a worship music ministry?
- Do you have skills that you would like to share (sewing, knitting, crafts, breadmaking?)
- Drivers (doctors visits, etc.)
- Removal of waste
- Taking to mass
- Painters
- Gas furnace technician

**AGAPE HOUSE** - Rhonda 604-944-6367

**HOSPITAL VISITATION** - Maria Fe 604-435-0297, Barb Wyse 872-2682

**PRISON MINISTRY** - One on one. Contact Pat and Vicki Conroy 604-215-4115

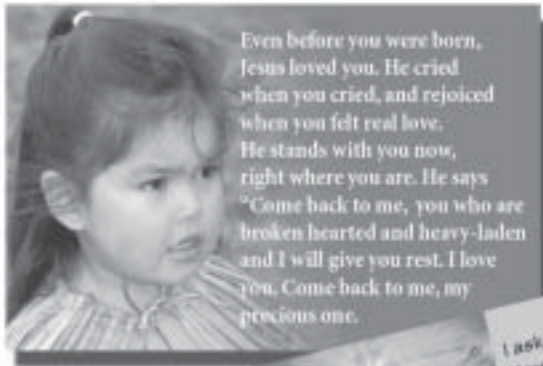
## VOLUNTEERS CORNER

Here's just a few 'rules' to remember as a street minister. Remember, that Jesus is a God of order, not disorder, and for the sake of our ministry, and for the sake of the girls that we serve, these rules are important. God Bless your obedience!

1. Contact Bridget prior to walking if you can't make it; or have someone new walking. All new volunteers must talk to Bridget, volunteer coordinator prior to walking.
2. If a new person wants to become a permanent volunteer, she/he must fill out the volunteer form.
3. **Remember to attend the Days of Reflection.** Part of your volunteer activity must include a prayerful or spirit-filled life, which includes at least weekly-mass or church attendance and attendance at every Day of Reflection.



*Anne D'Cruz putting up pictures at Agape House Drop-In*



## What goes into the “candy bag”?

Scripture cards are an important item of the candy bags! Although initially a “new girl!” is really interested in the candy, and it’s that candy that opens the door to conversation and fellowship, we get a lot of positive feedback from the ladies about the cards that we give out. They keep the cards, and sometimes even their mirrors in their rooms are decorated with all the various pictures with scriptures. It’s the card that many of the girls really look forward to now!

The cards contain scripture, or prayers that’s main purpose is to open the heart to Jesus. On the back of the card are local detox numbers and our drop-in phone number.

**DETOX NUMBERS**  
 Vancouver (604) 660-6656 Cordova: (604) 646-6808  
 Maple Cottage (604) 660-9787 Youth: (604) 251-7615

**AGAPE STREET MINISTRY**  
 A Catholic Christian Outreach  
 411 Hawks Street, Vancouver, B.C 604-215-4115  
**Jesus Loves You!** and so do we

We’re looking for volunteers to help print out, paste back pages and cut cards. If you have a computer, (with Acrobat 5 installed) inkjet printer and a paper cutter, and want to help from home, give Agape House a call at (604) 215-4115. We currently go through 900 cards a week, so every little bit helps!

(Back)

# Miracles Take Place Every Day

Agape Street Ministry began six years ago. This ministry, mainly to the prostitutes, began in the downtown Vancouver Eastside and has now expanded to Surrey. The Lord gave us a three phase vision.

### 1) Agape House:

-Street ministry to the prostitutes.  
-Referral control for Detox, Recovery, shelter, pregnancy, visitations and many other aspects.

### 2) Hope-Faith House:

A house of healing for women with addictions. For a transition period.

### 3) Emmaus House:

A life skills farm and long term healing for women and their families.  
To this date, Agape House and Hope-Faith House are in operation and Emmaus House is being explored.  
We knew that the Lord wanted us to rely on Divine Providence and not to deviate from the Christian values. (1 Timothy 1:5) **“The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith.”**

Another word of knowledge was that Jesus wanted an army of volunteers that embrace His divine love (Agape) and step out in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit to live as servants of His love. It was apparent from the beginning that He wanted

His servants to tell the prostitutes that **“He loves them and has a better life for them.”**

Of course, the Lord doesn’t reveal everything at once, but allows us to experience His life step by step. We never expected to amass such a missionary minded, on fire, group of volunteers. And some of the directions we’ve been led in is amazing. (Acts 2:3-4) **“Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”**

We have approximately 100 plus volunteers and need 100 more. The volunteers, besides showing great dedication and service, have a thirst to know more about and draw closer to Jesus. For this reason we provide four days of reflection a year; A formation night at Hope-Faith House every 2nd Friday; Start all meetings, walks, visits or other activities with prayer and end with prayer. All those we serve are invited to prayer whether on the streets, in our houses, in prison, in hospitals, in detoxes, in their rooms or wherever. Of course, when we participate in these spiritual activities, a spiritual bonding occurs!

Miracles take place all of the time in Agape! With the people we serve and with the volunteers. Many volunteers who said that they could not be a part of this ministry and especially on the streets – find themselves totally embracing the ministry. Some have gone into religious life and two are giving up their vocations in the world and are going to serve full time in the Kingdom, as house parents at Hope-Faith House. (Matthew 28:18b-20) Jesus said, **“All power in Heaven and Earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**

Sometimes we feel tired and overwhelmed – but these miracles revitalize and impels us to call out as Jabez in (1 Chronicles 4) said, **“Oh, that you would truly bless me and expand my territory!”** Then you say to yourself, **“Did my lips really say that?”**

Oh, well, what else is there, Lord; You are the Messiah!

Peace of Christ, Pat Conroy



# Walk for the Women of the Street

**Sunday, July 20, 2003**

(Feast of St. Mary Magdalene)

(Starting from)

**All Saints Church Coquitlam**

821 Fairfax Street Coquitlam, BC V3J 5K7

ending at Main St. and Hastings, Vancouver

ST<sup>A</sup> MARIA MAGDALENA



## **Agenda:**

- 9:00 AM Mass at All Saints Church  
10:00 AM Leave Coquitlam (All Saints Parish)  
(Walking west on Como Lake to Gaglardi to Lougheed, west to Victoria Drive, north to Hastings.  
West on Hastings to Carnegie Centre downtown eastside.

The walk is approximately five hours long.

We walk to celebrate the sanctity of life and is dedicated to prayer for the women of the street.

Please wear comfortable shoes and bring water for drinking.

All are welcome to walk with us!

Feel free to join us at 9:00, at the beginning or at any part throughout the walk!

**For more information please contact Blaise MacNeil at [blaise@telus.net](mailto:blaise@telus.net)**

**COMMISSIONING MASS** with Fr. Bob Douglas, Sunday May 4th, 2003. A day of blessings!

*Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Harvest and the Holy Spirit brings conviction to the souls we speak to. We ask the Lord of the Harvest to go before us and prepare the way. It is so beautiful to see Him change a heart. Remember to pray for those that have been won to Christ that He would keep them and that the enemy would be bound from operating in their lives. Pray for those who have said their simple "yes" to the Lord.*



Board Members: Back, Rina Teo, Grahame Osborne, Rhonda, Pat Conroy, Vicki Conroy, front: Brenda Buhat, Mildred Moy, Bridget Clarke, Anne D'Cruz, Sharon Dobin, Marla Poirier. Missing:



St. Jude's teachers



*Hallelujah  
Night*

Hallelujah Night, June 13th, brought together old friends and new and share great testimonies. Sue (at right) received her one year cake and gave her testimony along with Jennifer, Verne Robertson, and Sherrie (all shown below). This is a wonderful opportunity for all our brothers and sisters in Christ, the street ministry and our friends on the street to get together and share coffee, goodies, prayer, song and praise and worship. Please feel free to come next time and bring lots of friends!



# Here I am, Lord

The wonderful hymn, "Here I am, Lord", truly speaks to us in the pictures of the people who have donated their time and efforts. There are many people however, who are not pictured here who have blessed us with their prayers, monetary donations, phone calls of confirmation, kindness, compassion, elbow-grease, patience, and perseverance. Your response to God's call, in whatever way He has called you to help, has blessed this ministry but especially the women it serves. We thank you (and you know who you are!) from the bottom of our hearts, and may you trust that you are always remembered in the prayers of the volunteers of Agape Street Ministry. God Bless You!



I-right (back row) Maureen Leclerc, Stephanie Thompson, mom Carolyn, and Dad Greg. I-r (front) Joel Leclerc, and Etiene Leclerc and cousins Scott and Chelsea Thompson

**ST. ANN'S - OSOYOOS.** Grade Seven Catechism Class. Catechism Teachers and parents along with 10 teenagers stayed at St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver and were involved with candy-bagging, sandwich making at Agape House Drop-in and walking with the street volunteers in the evening.



Mary Stanyers, and her children, Olivia (left) and Kathleen made candy bags up at home and delivered them to Agape House!



Patrick Gilesie (right) and the young people are a wonderful help at Agape House! The Youth are from the Archdiocesan Youth Office as a Justice and Service project.



The "White Tornados" Marian and John Andrews and Sr. Celene clean up the offices that were 'converted' into Agape House, the drop in at 411 Hawks Avenue.



Vida and Gary Giroux (left) with St. Thomas Aquinas students and teachers (street ministry walking)

# Deepen your faith with Agape Formation Evenings

by Graham Osborne

The Agape Formation Evenings are currently focusing on deepening our faith, particularly by increasing our understanding of what Jesus taught (the Catechism calls this, faith seeking

understanding, in Section 158). We are examining what the Church teaches and why, with a special focus on Sacred Scripture and the teachings of the early church fathers. We also look at how best to share, explain and defend our faith, addressing such questions as: Why should I listen to the Church? Why don't we follow the bible alone? What does infallibility of the Pope really mean? Why should I go to confession? What about the Blessed Mother? How are we saved?

Many have left the Church or refuse to join Her over misunderstandings regarding just such issues. They believe what the Church teaches in their heart, but may lack confidence or are unsure about sharing their faith.

They believe what the Church teaches

in their heart, but may lack confidence or are unsure how to best or fully explain things. St. Peter tells us that we must always have a defense or explanation for the hope that is in us (1 Peter 3:15-16), and Jesus commands us to "Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them..., teaching them to observe all that I have commanded (Matthew 28: 18-20). The Gospel is about Jesus, the Eucharist, Baptism, Salvation and many other things - it is all Good News!

Come join us in deepening our faith and becoming better evangelizers. The next meetings are on Friday, June 20, and July 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Hope-Faith House (phone for address). All are welcome, so bring a friend! If you need more info, call Graham Osborne at (604) 535-9060.

From the Editor

## The power of prayer

It's really true, that when you are in an accident things seem to be in slow motion. I still see the wide open eyes of the young man who pulled his car right out in front of our motorcycle. I remember my husband turning the bike on a sideways slide to avoid hitting the car at a 90 degree angle, in order for the impact to be less. I remember trying as hard as I could to hold on to him, but losing grip on impact and flying back, back, back until I hit the roadway onto my back. I could feel the crunch in my ribcage. It wasn't immediately painful, but as I twisted my leg around to try to rise, and then to try to breathe, I knew I was in trouble. There wasn't much air coming into my lungs. At this point, I focused as much as I could on prayer. I really didn't know at this point whether or not I would live. I could hear my husband's voice, talking to one of the witnesses, so I knew he was alive, and by the sound of his voice, he wasn't in extreme pain at that point. (That came after).

And so, I returned to the prayer, asking God for forgiveness as much as I was able to, and I was so sorry for anything that separated myself from Him. I wanted to be prepared to die and meet my Master.

The funny thing was, a gentleman who had his arm around me, trying to help me to breathe, was telling me, "damn girl, get mad at that guy, at what he did to you! You'll be fine, you'll be fine..."

I kept on saying to him, "No, no no, I'm not mad at him! (I didn't want to have any unforgiveness in my heart, at the point where I might leave this earth, and this guy was getting in my way!)

In minutes we were at the hospital, and while waiting for the x-ray technician to be

ready for me all I could do was look up at the ceiling tiles and say, "Jesus, I Trust in You". I couldn't honestly think of anything else, because that truly is my personal prayer, my personal conversation with Him. More than even the Lord's Prayer, this simple prayer has brought me through the toughest of times, as I know that He loves me, and wants the best for me, even in the worst of times. I'm not afraid of pain, or suffering, if I know He is with me. As we laid in the ER, my husband quickly phoned my mother-in-law, who immediately phoned her strongest prayer warriors for prayer.

Then the pain started to become worse. The poor nurse tried to move me just a bit to get my into a hospital gown. Just moving made me almost pass out, but I didn't want to be unconscious. Even with the pain, I wanted to be able to pray. Finally in the x-ray room, I realized that I wasn't alone. I could feel my Lord's presence with me, a warmth that could only be described as that feeling you could have as a child nestled in the arms of a loving parent. I knew that the prayers that were rising to heaven for me were being heard and I was not alone. I was able to endure the movement of the x-ray machines.

The technician told me I had four badly broken ribs.

In the time spent in the hospital I found out that I have wonderful family and wonderful precious friends who prayed for my husband and I. My little nieces prayed rosaries, there were masses given for my husband and my recovery, the St. Clare sisters prayed for us, and the wonderful priest from St. Luke's Fr. Abundo came to give me communion, which gave me great comfort.

Through the pain came many blessings and many interesting lessons. As I was on morphine for a while, I learned how much the drug's lessening of pain became important, albeit temporarily. I could equate my physical pain with the pain of the girls on the street, how much pain they must endure, living with the nightmares of their lifestyle. I could try to understand that those drugs that temporarily take away the pain and the shame must seem like an oasis in a desert of self-loathing. The drugs must seem like an answer to them, especially if they are not aware of the consolation and healing power of our Lord. They may not be able to say "Jesus, I trust in You". Especially if they do not know how to trust, yet.

One night, thinking and praying for the girls, I talked to Anne D'Cruz, the Monday street minister and told her when the women are "dope-sick" and crave the drugs really badly, ask the woman if she wants prayer for healing. When we are in pain, the presence of our Lord is very tangible.

In my recovery I have been able to rest. This appears to be my time to "be still" and know and feel God's presence. I've been working on the scripture cards that we give out on the street, and of course this newsletter.

I will return to work next week, after six-weeks at home. I am ready, much to the surprise of the doctors and physiotherapists, until I witness to them about the prayers that have been said for my husband and I. They are not unaware of the power of prayer. Praise God.

*I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me* Phillipians 4:13

God bless you and keep you...Marla



# Words of Hope

Every night, the Agape Street Ministers write a few words in our journal, primarily to inform upcoming "walkers" of some of the needs of the women, whether it be prayer, or a visit to detox. Walking the streets has joys, heartaches, sorrows and victories. Here are a few excerpts from the month of June, 2003. Names have been changed to protect the girls anonymity, but feel free to pray for them anyway. God knows who they are!

## **June 3rd (day team)**

...prayed with Rally who is trying to get into recovery but needs detox. She wants everyone to pray for her... Carli is a new girl who just wants to go home.

## **June 4rd (day team)**

...Victoria phoned from prison. Please pray for her. She's getting out on June 7th. We will try to help her get into recovery. Please pray for Jo - she's going to the cancer clinic to have a lung removed in 5 weeks.

## **June 7th**

...100 bags given out tonight. Much heaviness felt tonight as Vonnie witnessed an accident of a working girl named Ali being hit by a car. Heather asked for prayer for visiting rights for her 2 month old daughter that was taken away by CFS.

## **June 9th**

...102 bags given out tonight. Talked and prayed with B\_\_. She wants to be clean and has booked to get into a rehab centre. She just found out she is pregnant and wants to have an abortion. Date for abortion set for July 9th. Please, Please Pray for her. We left her with a plastic baby. She says she is not ready to have this baby, and wants a clean start. We hugged her and she was crying. She took a rosary from us.

## **June 10th**

...Thank you Lord, for saving that girl on the bike. It was a busy evening tonight with 127 candy bags given out. Rolly told us that her sister, 30 years old, was found dead in Surrey, leaving only Rolly left in the family. Please pray for her comfort and healing. She's feeling very lonely. Talked

to Bella for a while and she told us that if not for Agape Street Ministry, she would have committed suicide a long time ago. Steph (19 years old) is going home to England on Friday, June 13 after being on the street for four years. Praise the Lord!

## **June 11th**

...91 candy bags given out. Lots of people on the street. Many people wanted prayer. C-C wants visitors and everyone to pray for her as she enters detox tomorrow.

## **June 12th**

...Many ladies asked for prayers. One lady was gang-raped by 17 men. She was crying as we prayed for her. Kevin made some cookies for the ladies. Prayed for a guy named Chris. She's an alcoholic and a drug addict. He also prayed for us.

## **June 13th**

...Ashley got her birthday bag. Michelle is five months pregnant. She showed us her ultrasound picture. Her boy is due in October. Caroline's boyfriend beat her up. She's asked us all to pray for her safety.

## **June 17th**

...Marnie is going to a house for pregnant mothers tomorrow. We told her we would pray for her and her baby. Lily is going back to Toronto. She is pregnant with twins.

## **June 18th**

...Pray for Collette She's very young, very stoned and "owned" by a very angry man who tried to intimidate us, and was verbally aggres-

sive. Pray for Collette to break free of him. We delivered a birthday bag to Lydia and prayed for her and her deaf boyfriend. We also met Sylan in her wheelchair. She was hit by a bus.

## **June 19th**

...Everyone we met today was happy! Many wanted prayers, we left a birthday present for Deanna at WISH. 93 candy bags given out. Several girls ran to us from one block away. Angie a new girl walked with us for a long time, talking to Didding.

## **June 22th**

...Didi asked us to pray for her friend Lori (21) who had a miscarriage. Donny asked for prayer for a headache and after the prayers were offered she became happy.

## **June 24th**

...Alice needs prayers. She's been in Vancouver only three weeks and she just started using; she left a job and a life in Edmonton.

## **June 26th**

...prayer requests from the girls: Crystal for her mom; Jenny to get off drugs; Crissie for her safety; Tamila to get off the streets and not to be hard on herself and want to stand up on her feet; Charly for Safety; Therese for happiness; Eva for family and safety; Michy to get off the street; Shar to keep praying for her; Kiki for her 20 year marriage; Lynsy for her daughter; Georgie for forgiveness, understanding and strength in temptation; Alfie was in a fight; Jonnie for babies; Rindy and her mom Yva for strength. Ava for the world.

The website is up and running! Check it out!

## WHAT YOU WILL FIND

- Upcoming Agape Events
- Reflections of Street Ministers (Street Testimonies)
- Volunteer Opportunities (How can you help?)
- Hope Faith House
- Prayer List
- Download the newsletter in a printable format
- Wish List
- Join our mailing list (You will receive our newsletters by email quarterly) This will save us printing costs.

SUMMER IS A VERY BUSY TIME for everybody, and it's also very busy for Agape Street Ministries. An average of 100-120 ladies are met with each night! It is also traditionally our lowest time of year for donations. The last six months have been a wonderful period of growth for the ministry, especially at Hope-Faith House and the drop-in and we need your help especially through this season. Can you help?

## Make an ONLINE DONATION!

Go to **canadahelps.org**

Search for "Agape Street Ministry" and follow the directions for "make donation"

AGAPE CATHOLIC OUTREACH STREET MINISTRY -  
(charitable business number 863760856RR0001)  
887 KEEFER STREET, VANCOUVER, BC, V6A1Y8

### What is CanadaHelps.org?


CanadaHelps.org (CHO) is a not-for-profit charity portal that serves as an information resource about charities in Canada and seeks to promote and facilitate philanthropy through online giving. CanadaHelps.org offers its services at no cost to the charity or the donor.

### How do I make a donation?

All the donor has to do is click the 'donate' button and follow the simple instructions. You will be asked to enter your name and mailing information, your email address, some directional details about the donation you are making and your credit card information. All information entered is strictly confidential, and donor information is only provided to the charity to which the donation has been made.

### How do I get a tax receipt?


Within minutes of making a donation, you will receive an electronic tax receipt mailed to the email address you provided in the donation process. You can save and print this receipt at any time to use for income tax purposes. Because CanadaHelps.org is a charity (Charitable Business Number 896568417RR0001), you will be receipted for your donation by CanadaHelps.org.



## Agape Street Ministry

A Catholic Christian Lay Ministry  
A project of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of St. Paul's Province

411 Hawks Avenue, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6A 3H7  
Phone & Fax: (604) 215-4115 (Phone First for Fax)  
e-mail: [inquiries@agapestreetministry.org](mailto:inquiries@agapestreetministry.org)




Every night in Vancouver, A group of four people meet, pray, gather up bags of candy, bibles, and birthday presents and walk the streets of Hastings and Main.

Their goal...  
to bring the love of Jesus to the working women of the streets

Find out how YOU can make a difference!

[About Agape](#)  
[Upcoming Events](#)  
[Reflections of Street Ministers](#) (Street Testimonials)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)



[Hope-Faith House](#) (pdf Brochure)

[Prayer List](#) (Please Pray for these Women)  
[The Newsletter](#) (in downloadable pdf format)  
[Wish List](#) (Current Needs)  
[Resources](#) (Links to Other Organizations)

Join our **Mailing List!**  
You'll receive the Newsletters by e-mail quarterly.  
Enter your email address below.

www.agapestreetministry.org

**COPY, CUT, AND KEEP ON YOUR FRIDGE**  
**AS A REMINDER, SAINTS!**

## Calendar of Events

### DAYS OF REFLECTION

Days Of Reflection (RSVP) are Mandatory for all volunteers!

2 Timothy 3: 16-17: All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching in reflection, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work!

**Mass:** 9:30 am Sacred Heart Parish

**Reflection:** 10 am - 2 pm

887 Keefer Street

Volunteers: Bring your lunch and bible and a friend! Anyone is welcome to these events. RVSP Info 604-215-4115

**2003 Days of Reflection:**

Sept 13, 2003, November 29, 2003

**Days of Reflection Facilitators:**

September 13: Rev. George Varghese Edattukaran (*From Holy Spirit*)

November 29: Rev. Jim O'Neil (*St.*

*Mark's College*)

### Sunday May 20 -

"Walk for Life" from 10am on. Meet at All Saints Parish 821 Fairfax, Coquitlam and walk to Main and Hastings. Wear good shoes, dress for the weather and bring water and rosary.

# Responding to God's Call

by Sharon Dobin

In mid December Dan and I started walking in Surrey one night a week endeavouring to answer God's mandate to Agape Street Ministry to "TELL THE PROSTITUTES THAT I LOVE THEM." Sharing this message with the women in this area has been a blessing for us. Here also, many of the women suffer from the hurt and pain that surrounds those caught in the trap of drug & alcohol addictions and prostitution. It was exactly 3 months to the day when our first hugs were shared and when the first woman opened up and allowed us to pray with her.

Somehow we had experienced a breakthrough and the women seemed to relax, and soon began to look for their candy bags with delight. We have come to discover that many of the women know the Lord and are encouraged as we share the scriptural message on their little prayer card inside the candy bag. We are still meeting new women nightly who for the first time experience the love, respect and caring attitude that God has asked the Agape Street Ministry to share with them.

We praise and thank the Lord for the very special faith-filled volunteers that he is calling to serve in this area. We have another core team trained beside Dan and myself and another team in training. Little by little God's will is unfolding. We would like to thank you for all your prayers and ask that you kindly continue to pray for the needs of the Agape Street Surrey Extension. If you love the Lord and His work would you consider answering His call to "TELL THE PROSTITUTES THAT I LOVE THEM."

Call Bridget @604-228-8773 for information.



(left) Sue and Sam (right) Sharon and Sue

**AGAPE STREET MINISTRY, AGAPE HOUSE AND HOPE FAITH HOUSE** does not actively fundraise or have any major foundation support in order to perform their ministry. We must always depend and trust on the providence of our Father in heaven, and so we are very grateful for the generous donations of people who are led, and feel that in their heart that what we do is in the Father's will, and want to help. We truly appreciate any support that you can give, especially by your prayers, or donation of materials, supplies, money or your own personal time. God Bless You! Tax deductible receipts are available. You may now also donate online at [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org)

**RENOVATIONS AT HOPE-FAITH HOUSE**

- Renovate Prayer Room
- Renovate Garage to rec/crafts room, storage room and office
- Renovate outside shed for storage
- Install 2 new door sills
- Fence repair and paint
- Painting deck and house trim
- Repair cement work
- Repair asphalt driveways
- Repair eavestrough and awning
- Supply and install electric fireplace
- Service 2 gas furnaces
- Landscaping and pruning trees

**INTERIOR FURNISHINGS:**

- Washable throw rugs
- Decorator cushions
- Christian or good moral videos
- Video camera/camcorder
- Outdoor mats
- 1 single futon frame
- 3 wardrobes to hang clothing
- 6 folding chairs
- Clothing racks
- 1 electric fireplace insert
- 1 electric freestanding fireplace
- Outdoor statues of Jesus & Mary
- Lawn or deck furniture
- Portable sewing machines, crafts
- Yard maintenance: tools/ladder
- Office equipment, i.e. copier, computers etc., also expertise in operating office equipment, setting up e-mail, web sites., etc.)
- laminator
- paper shredder
- small copier
- newer model computers/laptops

**HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES at HOPE FAITH HOUSE:**

- Toilet tissue / paper towels
- Kleenex
- Feminine hygiene items (pads, tampons, etc.)
- New underwear (bras, briefs, and half slips)
- Notebooks, journals
- Catholic edition of the New American Bible
- Christian music cds / tapes or videos!
- GED Books
- New tires/Insurance for van (1991 Dodge Caravan)

**FOOD:**

- Meat, produce and other groceries
- Sundries - paper/cleaning products, etc.
- Salad dressings and sauces, ie catsup, sweet and sour, tabasco

- Dairy products
- Condiments
- Spices
- Sugar - brown and white
- Coffee creamer
- Honey / Jams
- De-caffeinated coffee and tea

**SPECIAL ITEMS:**

Gift certificates to ABC Restaurant, the Pantry, or other family restaurant, bowling certificates, or other family-oriented entertainment outings are gratefully appreciated, pre-paid passes to leisure/fitness facilities,

**HOSPITAL MINISTRY:**

- Boxes of chocolates
- Catholic bibles

**AGAPE HOUSE (411 Hawks Avenue)**

- Ladies good used or new socks
- Peanut butter, cheese whiz, waffles, homemade sweets, cakes and squares, coffee, hot chocolate, tea and juices.
- Toilet tissue, paper towels
- 2-4 slice toasters
- 2-electric kettles w/automatic shut off
- small deep freeze
- 2 microwave ovens
- computer desks
- garbage cans
- shelving units or brackets and boards
- maternal vitamins (for pregnancy and nursing )
- glass display cabinet (2.5' deep x 3.5' wide x 3' high) to display Holy Family crib set.

**AGAPE STREET MINISTRY:**

We use over 250,000 pieces of candy each year of the following: **(30,000 individual SANDWICH BAGS are given out!)**

- Loose candy: (wrapped caramels, mints, sours, suckers)
- Chocolate bars (small 'fun' size)
- Sandwich bags (fold top) (250,000 per year)
- Homemade cookies
- Umbrellas
- Gloves
- 60-100 litre plastic containers with lids i.e. rubbermaid etc.
- small-medium size plush animals
- Pocket size new testament bibles
- Rosaries and booklets on how to pray the rosary"
- Medals, Crucifixes

**BIRTHDAY BAGS**

- New items ONLY for Birthday Bags please
- Medium size gift bags
- Tissue and bows
- Makeup (new & unused only)
- Perfume, cologne
- Shampoo, hand creams, conditioners, cosmetics, nail polish
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Towels/facecloths
- Sanitary napkins
- Soap
- Jewellery (used is acceptable, but in good condition)
- Jewellery boxes
- Hair accessories, brushes, hair clips, etc.
- Makeup bags
- New small gift items
- Good Christian novels
- Christian birthday cards

**AGAPE HOUSE REFERRAL ADVOCACY CENTRE**

– Lease and maintain a downtown centre / pregnancy center (estimate \$2000/month)

Major projects to be adopted:

**FARM - EMMAUS HOUSE**

– Life skills farm need farm, or \$1 million.

Agape Street Ministry does not solicit funds but in light of enquiries regarding our needs and costs we have printed this general budget.

For 2003 — \$50,000.00 for operating costs. This does not include capital expenditures. The following are some of the approximate monthly costs

- \$1,100.00 / mo mortgage
- 225.00 / mo phone
- 300.00 / mo gas and electric
- 300.00 / mo insurances
- 200.00 - 400.00 / mo stipends
- 200.00 / mo transportation
- \$1,500.00 / yr. car insurance
- \$1,300.00 / yr water, sewer, garbage
- 2,500.00 / yr taxes

Tax receipts are available.



**AGAPE STREET MINISTRY**

email: [agapest@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:agapest@vcn.bc.ca) website: [agapestreetministry.org](http://agapestreetministry.org)

**Agape House (604) 215-4115**

411 Hawks Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 3H7

A project of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate of St. Paul's Province

**HOPE-FAITH HOUSE**

(604) 584-4674 email: [agapest@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:agapest@vcn.bc.ca)

**Can you please share your Hallowe'en Candy with this year?**

*Please help!!*

**We are in desperate need of loose candy and small chocolate bars!!!**

We give-out **250,000** candy bags each year, which are made up of a few pieces of loose candy and one chocolate bar, as well as scripture verse and information card. Please help!

Phone and leave a message at (604) 215-4115 (Agape House) and we'll give delivery instructions and/or arrange pick-up