

First Time Impressions !

Strangers Who Became Friends, Brothers & Sisters . . .

Thanksgiving to me is a reminder of how blessed we are as a nation, but more so a child of the King of Kings. I knew this holiday would be different from the previous years due to the pandemic and the restrictions that came with it, but never thought in my wildest dreams I would have such an honoured invitation. I was delighted to receive the invitation to ride shotgun (as Assistant on the JC's Place Van) on Sunday afternoon October 10, 2021. We started our tour from home base, the Niagara Falls SDA Church with prayer to our God. Carl, our driver, seemed like a cool guy who handled the vehicle expertly. Our first stop was quite amazing, in a strip plaza housing a No-Frills Store along with smaller outlets. John and Pam drove the other Ministry SUV leading the way and guiding the truck. At this stop a young lady came by; following a short conversation, we opened our store on wheels. The lady requested items of clothing, blanket and some food items, including water. Our next customer was emotionally distressed. After a short conversation, she expressed that this day was son's birthday, he had recently passed away. When asked if we could pray for her, she said out loud, "I don't believe in God". We were able to pray with her and she bowed her head and did not refuse prayer. Our third customer was able to move about on crutches. He was involved in a motor vehicle accident twice in which his right foot was damaged. We were able to supply him with socks and shoes and some food items. Our route continued into the evening delivering various gifts of love to our brothers and sisters in need; folks who were missing a brother, sister, a parent or a significant person from their lives. Jesus remarked in Matthew 25:33-40 the importance of a ministry of this sort. I was truly blessed, as we travelled and visited with these individuals who we were privileged to connect with and help. All were happy when the truck arrived, and we were also happy to share the gifts on board. Honestly, the Bible said it is more blessed to give than to receive. I praise God and thank JC's Place Ministries, for the opportunity to share in this far-reaching ministry. Looking forward to the next time when I will get this awesome privilege to serve again.

Hibbert Jones



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Special Needed Items:

- Pen Pals for 2 lonely persons
- 50 Small goodie packs of treats to include in Christmas Bags
- 50 Christmas Cards
- Volunteer Call 365-880-0818
- Hotel Soaps, Shampoos etc
- Small Tents for Winter
- Sleeping Bags & Blankets
- Winter Coats-Gloves-Scarves
- Financial Donation eTransfer donate@JCsPlace.org

Direct Report From John and Pam

on the streets . . .

October 14 2021 We will be going out this afternoon to do some exploratory work, trying to locate, to where the homeless are relocating, after evictions have taken place. We were able to find two more locations with about 4 more persons, also met 3 new persons today and discovered that the old tent city has grown to about 6 persons. Another change that is happening is people from out of town are moving into Niagara. The Motels who have been housing some of the homeless are fed up with the problems they are encountering with drug abuse, damage being done to the units and housing more persons than originally contracted for. Also found out from a reliable source that winter sheltering can only accommodate about 20 persons. So, a crisis is looming. Motels are using every method they can to evict the homeless. Rental rates are skyrocketing to even higher rates and the subsidy received by the homeless can barely pay rent, so what about food for themselves.

On another day we went out early in the morning to find several people sleeping on the sidewalks of Lundy's Lane near Ferry Street. After handing out needed items, we were able to sit and speak with them in a caring manner and to listen to their stories of life on the streets and their special needs. Further along we met one young man in a small pup tent, hidden in a small wooded area in a remote area of a park. His legs were sticking out of the tent, because it was so small, with blankets wrapped around his exposed legs to keep warm. We chatted and gave him some more blankets and a Tim Horton's card, along with gloves. Temperatures of 32 degrees Fahrenheit in the out of doors is not a warm situation. We told him we would be back next morning to drop off some food and hot drink. Next morning when we arrived and called out to him there was no response as he was not in his tent. I looked inside his pup tent and saw blankets and a pillow bunched up, thankfully there wasn't a deceased body inside. The distressing part was that in the opening of his tent, we saw many little packets, both empty and full; still with the top seals fixed on the packets. Flipping one over, the top said Caesar's dog food. He doesn't have a dog! What a heartache we felt, for this young man. Unfortunately, it was necessary to give the food, we brought, to another person sleeping nearby on the street. We met two girls who had been sleeping on the grass and now were sitting and leaning against the church doors on Lundy's Lane. We gave them both reading material and Tim Horton's cards for hot drink. The one young girl was freezing cold, and beside her was a needle that had just been emptied. What a sad situation, to find persons in need but no way of helping to correct the situation, it brings tears and heartache to one when you find the desperate situations and conditions on the streets, that are sometimes beyond our being able to help. Contrast this with a man whom we met, with only flip flops on his feet, after months of wear these were shot, but were the only footwear he had in this cold environment. Fortunately, there were a correct size of running shoes in the SUV that fit, and he gratefully accepted a book called "Steps to Christ." After coming home from our Sunday route, Pam and I were about to have supper and rest up a bit, when the Ministries cell phone rang; a lady was in some distress, from a lack of food, and clothes. We set up a time and place to meet her. She had an opportunity with part time job, but did not have proper clothes. We brought some hygiene products, tooth paste and brush and some clothes and a Timmy's gift card so she could have 3 to 4 meals, to get her going. She jumped up from the picnic table where we met her, and grabbed both of us, and hugged us all together, like a football huddle. She said that we were her new parents as her parents always fought, and thanked us for the help. We hope that everything has worked out for a better Life. The JC's Place Ministries cell phone is working. Praise the Lord.

Please pray for these people on the street that they may find peace, comfort, and a safe place; and resolutions to their many problems. This month is a special one where we have assisted two ladies to move off of the streets.



Special Air Taxi Service from St Catharines to Thunder Bay Ontario November 3 2021

Carl's Report >>>

November 7th started out to be a quiet day on JC's Place Ministries weekly run to **Lend a Helping Hand** to those on the street. The homeless were not in their normal locations and all seemed to be a bit out of normal with so many missing at their normal location. Even when we drove up to the City of Niagara Falls Library there were only a few sleeping and resting under the front portico. After we had served a few with lunches the flood gates opened and the homeless were coming on their bicycles, walking and running not to be left out. By the time we had finished we had helped over 15 individuals with lunches, water, clothing, blankets, coats, socks, sleeping bags, and the list could go on and on. Even a few persons were happy to take some reading material, secular as well as religious. One sorry situation was when a lady asked me for a Bible and I said "Sure" and handed her a Gideon's paper back (New Testament and Psalms only) and she gave it back requesting a full Bible, and I had to tell her that we didn't have one on the truck today, I'd given the last full copy away (it did not even have it's covers on it) a week ago. And then would you believe it the same situation was repeated at City Hall where a gentleman requested a Bible. We are going to have to find some Bibles somewhere . . . ?

On another issue we have met a lady who has decided, she wants to leave the street life and is reconciling with her daughter in Thunder Bay, who is 12 weeks expecting a child. Covid restriction, on masks wearing and vaccine shot requirements are causing issues for this lady. Also, there are no buses or trains that go from Niagara Falls to Thunder Bay; so, we have one very angry lady here on the street, who was unable to change her situation. Pam and John were able to offer prayer, for a way and method to get her to the north without resorting to hitchhiking, or riding with a trucker, that long distance.

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Christmas Project

Many of you have asked how you can help JC's Place Ministries. Unfortunately, we cannot take all of you onto the streets to witness first hand of what is going on. Here is a picture of the dark side, of Life on the Streets.



View from the street of a homeless tent burning on November 5th. A homeless person becoming homeless again. Burnt out of what little they possess.

Here the Good News . . . you can help with Christmas stockings stuffers. The Ministry has purchase 50 small Christmas Sacks (approximately 12 x 9 inches) and we need your help to fill these for Christmas. We are looking for:

- #1. (50) Christmas Cards (you have them on the shelf as you no longer send any right);
- #2. (50) small baked goods packets;
- #3 (50) chocolate bars;
- #4 (50) bars of soap (this one is already completed);
- #5. (50) granola bars;
- #6. (50) ????? (You be creative) you must do 50 pcs to participate in this program.

Make some . . . HAPPY FACES

On December 26 2021

Carl's Report . . . *continued*

In the meantime, JC's Place Ministries was able to locate a private plane, and two pilots, to ferry this lady to her destination. As John and Pam a few days later told her this wonderful news, she giggled and glowed and accepted the fact that God heard her prayer and answered . . . and she agreed. We'll close with this final thought, donations and clothing and needed outer wear are coming into the ministry on timely basis. Thank you to all who are and have been contributing.

Carl

PS We have heard via email that this lady has been able to secure a mobile home on a rental lot for \$400.00 per month and though the units needs lots of repairs, she is looking forward to the challenges ahead. With support from the local community of Thunder Bay being established we wish her Godspeed.



Looming Crisis . . . Still valid

We are hearing distressing news from the homeless who have been moved to motel housing from off the streets, that a crisis is looming of a proportion that is as yet undetermined. The impact of covid-19 has affected landlords and tenants. The rent relief has assisted many tenants to remain in their accommodations, but others have not kept up with their rental fees. The ban or hold on evictions has stopped motel owners from evicting anyone who has not paid their rental fees. Many have told the Ministry volunteers that with the rental protection removal by the provincial government, they have been issued or are being threatened with eviction notices. This process will occur in October, forcing more people onto the streets at the beginning of the cold weather season. The courts are backlogged, and these new cases will not get a hearing in time to prevent this situation from occurring. JC's Place has a limited budget that is already stretched to the limit; with this crisis comes a need for more food, warm clothing, and supplies on our truck, and continued and extra financial support. The Ministry has been offering prayers of support with many of these motel residents looking for a solution to their housing dilemma.



JC's Place Ministries a mobile ministry of the

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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