



The people recently pictured above have all agreed to be part of this newsletter to thank you for your support.

We welcome 200 people from our downtown every evening for supper. The Mission caters a 6 pm Family Feast and a larger Main Meal that is hosted by 'Adopt-a-Nite' teams (see 'Classifieds').

"Every night I invite Guests to express their appreciation for the meal team - what follows is loud clapping and cheers! After supper many individuals come to the counter to thank teams, who are very touched." said Peter Biggs - Director of Community Services.

When you generously give, you are simply helping the Mission directly **help these** and others in our community.

### Classifieds

Urgently needed... new meal teams (each 4-8 people) to provide downtown people with supper. Full training given. Suitable for church homegroups, company staff teams, sports teams or just a group of friends.

**Call 604-795-2322 for info**



### Community Meals



Hungry people are desperate people. **Over 4000 suppers** served each month help reduce crime and sustain many less fortunate downtown people.

Please consider a financial gift to support the poor

### Families First



Heather is a single mom with her daughter Octavianna (13 months old). She has been coming to the Mission for a year. With few supports she relies on the Mission and wants to say 'thank you' too.

### KIDS KLUB



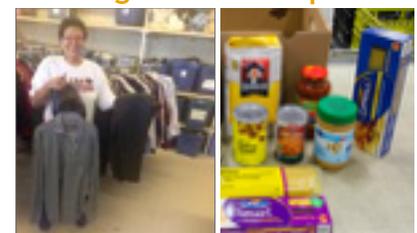
*'An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.'* We work with kids from the neighbourhood weekly. Increasing numbers of kids 5-10 yrs old LOVE the KLUB!!

### Showers & Laundry



Living homeless is tough. Increasing numbers use our shower facilities. We are also helping people 'dress to impress' for job interviews.

### Clothing & Food Hampers



*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. Proverbs 19:17*



## homelessness - we see it

There can be no more obvious a need than to see a shopping cart full of personal possessions and bedding on the street. It's a daily grind few of us can imagine. We are seeing these carts more and more. Among agencies like ours (along with informal feedback from our RCMP friends), there is widespread agreement that social needs are increasing amongst the poor in Chilliwack.

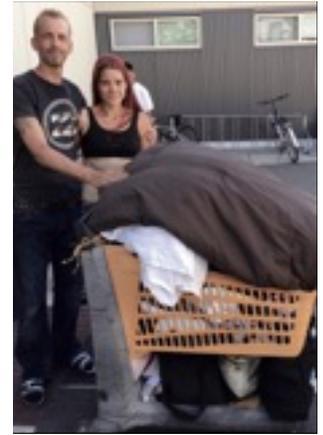


A typical Chilliwack semi permanent 'encampment' structure - hidden away.

### RAN Mission daily monitors the needs of our city's homeless.

Our Street Pastor Cory Buettner reports that there are about five semi-permanent 'Encampments' - with between 5 - 30 people. There are also currently 15 or so temporary 'clusters of tents' - each with 2 -20 people. All said on any given night more than 200 people sleep without a bed.

While some are homeless because of poor life choices, many have been recently evicted because of housing market changes.



**Maria** and her disabled husband live with three kids. Their youngest, Katie has a rare and complex auto-immune disorder. It means she has multiple and dangerous allergies. "I have no choice but to provide specialized foods to her and they cost more," she said. "We actually moved here from Edmonton as Doctors advised us that the coastal environment would help Katie." Maria's husband recently had complex back surgery - she was becoming desperate. "I started to reach out and found Ruth & Naomi's. When I went there I was surprised... 'I'm being treated with dignity and understanding!' The family meal is safe. My kids look forward to KIDS KLUB every week!" Maria tears up with gratitude when she expresses the help the Mission has given her family. "With suppers and food hampers **it means I don't have to choose between food and Katie's needs** and worry that my other kids get a healthy diet!"

**Robert** considers numbers as significant.

**18,000,000** is a conservative estimate of the number of birds he caught over his 22 years he worked as a Chicken Catcher.

**180,000+** is the number of Cannabis joints Rob has smoked in his life. "I smoked every day much like others smoke cigarettes. Lately I found I needed to smoke more" Robert admitted using 20-30 joints EVERY day. (He was able to sustain his expensive drug use through a friendship with a major Cannabis dealer)

But **SEVEN** is the most important number in Robert's life. It's been 7 months that Robert discovered and has been a Resident at the Mission - 7 months DRUG FREE!

"Since coming to the Mission I have learned so much... and I enjoy Volunteering - serving evening meals to Guests".

"People ask me whether Cannabis is addictive," he said. "I laugh and tell them it's VERY addictive!"

Robert is greatly liked by other Residents and is a great encouragement to the Mission



## a word ... from Dr. John Gray

The very best act of worship to God is to serve the needs of the hungry and the homeless within our community. God says, "This is the worship that honors me: • break the chains of injustice, • get rid of exploitation in the workplace, • free the oppressed, • cancel debts. You see, what I'm most interested in seeing you do the following: • share your food with the hungry, • invite the homeless poor into your homes, • put clothes on those who need them, • and be available to your own families. Do these things and you'll come alive, and your lives will turn around. Your actions on behalf of the poor will pave the way for you to connect with Me and I will answer your prayers." (Isaiah 58:6-9 JGT)

By partnering with Ruth & Naomi's Mission, we have the expertise with 'boots-on-the-ground' and you have the resources so that together, we can maximize the impact for those most desperately in need of our touch within our community. Remember, God is most honored when we love Him by serving those He most cares about!



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