

centre street church

family *life*

January 7/8, 2012

Thank you

Letter received by Pastor Henry and reproduced with permission: 'My family and I attended the Centre Street Church service this evening and I found your story about the power of prayer and how the parking situation at CSC was resolved especially poignant. As you stated, after extensive prayer, the answer came in the form of bus transportation from a local parking lot to the church to facilitate the parking needs of the church until a parking lot could be built....but what you probably don't know is how this decision changed my life. I was one of the bus drivers driving your shuttle bus every Sunday morning.

'At that time of my life, in 1996, I was 4 months pregnant with my second child and happily married. My husband was a student at the University of Calgary and I was driving a school bus with Cardinal in order to make ends meet, as I could take my 4 year old son with me to work. I left the church that I had grown up in about a year before, as I no longer believed in the values or the doctrine of the church, but I still had my faith. My husband had become so disillusioned that he left the church and completely lost his faith and his way.

'Every Sunday I would I pull up to the hotel off of Edmonton Trail and pick up people going to church. I was drawn to the love and friendship that I experienced week after week. I got to know my passengers, who always asked about my pregnancy and my son. When I was up at the church, waiting for passengers, I remember going into the foyer and listening to the music...absolutely drawn to the doors and wanting desperately to enter the service...sometimes I would even find myself going back to my bus and shedding a few tears, not really understanding why. I drove that bus until I went on maternity leave in November...always going home to tell my husband about how I wanted to go to Centre Street; about how I was drawn to it.

'My story continues with finding another job after the birth of my daughter, and putting my faith, again, on hold. A friend moved back to Calgary in 1998 and brought me to CSC, along with my son and daughter...I loved it, broke down and cried that night and found a home. A year after that day, my husband asked if he could come with us. He said that he wanted to see what it was all about, but he would keep his keys in his hand. If he heard something that he didn't like, he would leave and pick us up later....he kept his keys in his hand for a year of Sundays, and never left once. We have now been going to CSC, as family, since 1998, and it is truly our home.

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'As you said tonight, when you open up your life to the Lord, you never know how your actions are going to affect the lives of others. I bet you didn't know how your decision to have a shuttle bus affected mine! I (and my husband) could never thank you enough!' *Name Withheld*

We Celebrate

Congratulations to CSC partner, New Life Church, in Ukraine on their 10th anniversary. A note from the church: 'We have had an amazing ten years of blessed time together in L'viv. We went through joyful moments and hard times, moments of victory and losses, blessings and disappointments. Looking back, we remember words of Samuel: He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the LORD has helped us." (I Samuel 7:12). Our church grew from a prison ministry which started at the end of the 80's. From the beginning, our church has chosen clear goals in the ministry to spread God's kingdom on earth. The church priority is to minister in prisons and orphanages, to disadvantaged people, street children and people with disabilities. During the formation of the church, we gathered in about ten different places such as basements, apartments, daycare, and cultural centers. It was a tremendous blessing to purchase a former factory which became a building for our church and helped us to begin about 20 different ministries. Thank you for your prayers and support. *Pastor Misha*

Did You Know?

On November 11th over 60 married couples enjoyed a great evening at our 'Marriage Impact'. Joy and Gord Dirks were the guest speakers sharing about their '40 year marriage odyssey'. They encouraged couples by sharing their own life experiences of the ups and downs, challenges and blessings of marriage. They talked about the awe factor, sex factor, the together factor, the humility factor and the God factor. Couples expressed how much they appreciated that Joy and Gord were so real in what they shared and how the practical life tips would help them nurture their marriage relationship.

The ministries of Children, Youth, Missions and Outreach, Special Needs and Adult Small Groups came together to reach out to the community around Central Campus for a children's carnival. The event included a used clothing give-away, craft and bake sale and a Bible give-away. 1500 people including kids, their friends and families attended. Many people from the community were introduced to the church.

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