

2016 Spring Newsletter

hope

MISSION

A man with dark hair and a slight smile stands on a rooftop. He is wearing a black quilted jacket over a grey t-shirt and a plaid scarf. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and trees under a clear blue sky.

**“I’m grateful for finding Jesus
in my life, for accepting Him”**

- Robert

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Director's Message

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. –James 1:17

It's hard to miss the growth happening in Edmonton's downtown core these days. New buildings are going up, plans are being made—it's a time of change!

I've been contemplating these changes, and thinking about how Hope Mission will be affected. And as I do, I'm reminded that there are so many things that don't change.

Most importantly, God doesn't change. In the midst of our own growth, His love never wavers. God's steadfast faithfulness remains constant. And in its 87 years of existence, Hope Mission's

mission has also remained constant. We've continued to serve, strengthen, and uplift those who are hungry, homeless, and hurting. Hope Mission is committed to continuing this life-changing work long into the future.

As we enter the Easter season, the consistent nature of God's love is abundantly evident. After all, God sacrificed His son for us because of His love—His gift of eternal life is offered to everyone, and the offer never changes!

As you've read, our Annual Spring Banquet is quickly approaching. It's especially appropriate that it's held during the Easter season. In addition to great food and meaningful fellowship, the Spring Banquet features the graduation of many men and women who have accepted God's gift of grace and salvation. It's a night to witness God's showering of good and perfect gifts.

Without your support and your generosity, the Spring Banquet couldn't occur. In fact, it's only due to your faithful and unwavering support that lives continue to be transformed through the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

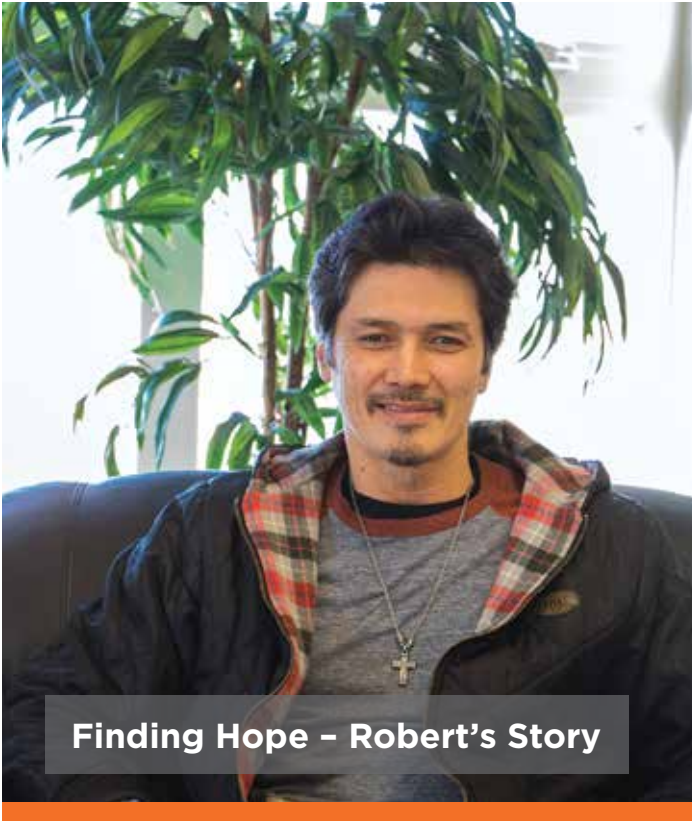
Therefore, I do hope you'll join us at our Spring Banquet as we celebrate the lives reclaimed through God's unfailing love, and because of your unwavering compassion.

Thank you so much for your prayers and your gifts. Your generous hands and hearts allow us to reach out daily and meet the critical necessities of our neighbours in need. Because of you, God's love is demonstrated and freely given every single day.

Thank you and God bless you!

Bruce Reith
Executive Director





Finding Hope - Robert's Story

“I’m grateful for finding Jesus in my life, for accepting him,” says Robert. “I’m really, really looking forward to having a better life, a more joyful life.”

Robert was born in the Philippines. “I’ve been from a broken family since the age of seven,” he explains. His mother died when he was seven years old, and his stepfather was physically abusive.

Following his mother’s death, Robert’s grandmother took him and his two older brothers in. Not long after she assumed guardianship, however, Robert’s grandmother immigrated to Canada without him. His older brothers went to college. “I kind of had it rough, because I had an uncle who was an alcoholic. ... And I was teased a lot, because I was an adopted child.”

“No more turning back.”

Robert spent much of his childhood feeling alone, like an outsider. When he was 16, his grandmother sponsored him to join her in Canada. His older brothers didn’t qualify because they were too old. “It was kind of tough, just me being approved. I didn’t really want to come,” he says. “I was kind of hurt by it. So when I got here, I did things on my own—didn’t really follow any rules.”

Upon Robert’s arrival in Canada, his grandmother left him again, this time to help out her daughter in the U.S. “Then I was on my own again,” Robert explains. “So I got into trouble, started drinking, doing drugs, quit school, turned the other way around, for the bad.”

Robert’s addictions progressed. Then he became addicted to gambling. “That’s when things got worse,” he says. “Gambling—it’s a bad addiction.” He joined the Breakout Recovery Community at that time, which was five years ago. “I completed the program, but I never really worked the steps.” Consequently, once he left the community, he went back to his old ways and his old addictions.

Eventually, Robert became so miserable that he began praying, saying, “I’ve had enough. I can’t live like this.” He contemplated taking his own life.

▶ **The Breakout Recovery Community** is a year-long, 12 step addiction recovery program for men. The goal of the program is to provide men with supportive community, structure and accountability to help them make positive changes in their lives. Men are admitted to the program on a continual basis and are provided with counseling, access to recreation and transitional housing.

That’s when he entered Breakout for the second time.

“When I joined five years ago, I didn’t really accept Jesus into my life. But now I’ve accepted him.” Robert remembers the exact day that it happened: “Last year, April 23rd. ... It was the most amazing feeling. The spirit was in me. I just can’t explain it. The burdens that were so heavy in my heart just disappeared.”

Robert has been sober for almost a year now. He admits that it hasn’t been easy, but he’s been committed to recovering: “No more turning back.”

Robert praises the Breakout Recovery program with helping him to understand and learn about himself. “I was selfish,” he states. “My addiction was just a fix to make me happy.”

Today, in addition to the hope and freedom he experiences in Christ, Robert feels like a new man

with new attributes. “I learned how to be humble,” he says. “I like to help others more, instead of just thinking about myself. ... I’m happier now. I pray more.”

Robert will graduate from Breakout soon, but he’s not in a rush to leave the program this time, unlike five years ago. He will take his time, and he’s even contemplating working at Hope Mission for a while. “I got my supports here, the community, case manager, pastor. And I’m going to church more now.” He stays busy reading the Bible in his spare time, along with his new hobby: learning to play the bass guitar.

His long-term goal, once he’s saved up enough money, is to return to the Philippines. He’d like to build a house there and reunite with his family.

Robert’s gratitude list is long. “I’m grateful to the Hope Mission,” he says. “I’m grateful for the community, the Breakout members and leaders. They’re actually there to help you. You really gotta work the program. You really gotta want it.”

Robert pauses. “And this is what I want. I need Jesus. I put Him first now.”



Crossing The Finish Line - Kids in Action 5K Race

This spring, hundreds of kids will run their hearts out at the Kids in Action 5K Race. Kids have been training since the beginning of the school year in preparation to run those five kilometres. It’s a big goal and one they are working hard to reach.

For kids facing deep challenges, Kids in Action gives the most precious gift: hope. Kids in Action is an after-school program run across Alberta in Edmonton, Calgary, Wetaskiwin and Red Deer. Kids build relationships with Kids in Action mentors who encourage and model a healthy, positive lifestyle.

Through training hard and setting goals, kids learn strength and endurance. The Kids in Action 5K Race promotes a healthy, active lifestyle for kids, but more than that, kids experience the joy and satisfaction that comes with perseverance. Kids learn the value of hard work, making a goal for themselves and putting their minds to accomplish their goal.

The Kids in Action 5K Race is a celebration. Each

and every kid, no matter where they finish in the race, is cheered for, high-fived and encouraged when they cross the finish line. Because that’s what matters. Setting a goal and achieving

► **Kids in Action** is our free after school program. Kids spend time with mentors to better understand biblical character lessons on love, generosity, courage, honesty and forgiveness. They get to enjoy skits and participate in fitness-focused activities. As well as enjoy a healthy nutritious meal at the end.

it. As one of our Kids in Action staff members says, “it’s about smashing goals.”

Would you like to be part of this remarkable event? Each year, we ask volunteers to join us and help make this 5K Race a great success. You can sign up to run with a kid or volunteer on event day. Volunteer registration will open in April 2016. Visit www.hopemission.com/5KRace for more information.



Hope Mission's Annual Spring Banquet – Celebrate With Us

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

We invite you to join us for Hope Mission's Annual Spring Banquet, a special celebration full of joy, thanksgiving and hope.

You'll be treated to a delicious meal, cooked with love and served with a smile. One thing you'll notice is your meal will be cooked and served by the same staff who care for the homeless, hurting and hungry at Hope Mission each and every day.

The Annual Spring Banquet honours the men and women graduating from recovery programs. Many of our honoured graduates have known hurt, hunger and homelessness.

You'll be introduced to men and women who have battled addiction and through hard work, tears, laughter and the life-saving power of Jesus Christ, will stand before you redeemed and restored into new life. Many of these men and

women, just months ago, were struggling to find their way and not sure where their next meal would come from.

Now, these men and women have hope. A future. A life rooted in Jesus Christ.

You'll also hear children from our Kids in Action program singing their hearts out – they've prepared something special to perform for you. Through the Kids in Action program across the province, staff members pour into children with mentorship and encouragement, giving children hope for a brighter future.

Will you join us to encourage and uplift our honoured graduates? Will you clap and sing with children filled with joy and excitement? Will you witness the transformation that your care and compassion has brought?

Call today to reserve your ticket
780.453.3877 Friday, April 1, 2016 at 6:00pm
Sherwood Park Alliance Church
Tickets are \$10



Provide meals for those in need.

For just \$2.70, you can provide a meal and other essential services. Please help Hope Mission provide meals and care for those in need this spring.

- \$27 helps 10 people
- \$54 helps 20 people
- \$135 helps 50 people
- \$_____ to care for as many as possible.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PROV _____ PC _____

PHONE _____

please send email updates to my email address: _____

Payment Method:

By Credit Card: VISA MC (CIRCLE ONE)

CARD NUMBER EXPIRY DATE

CARD HOLDER'S NAME (Signature)

By Cheque:

Make out your cheque to:

Hope Mission
P.O. Box 953 Edmonton, AB T5J 2L8

Donate Online at:

www.hopemission.com/donate

Give Monthly

please contact me about monthly giving

Hope Mission plans to raise \$7M this year through fund-raising campaigns. This will cost us approximately \$1M. All money raised will be used to care for people in need. For further information please contact at 780-453-3877. A receipt for income tax purposes will be sent to you. Costs are average and include the expense of preparing and providing meals. If gifts exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to care for people in need throughout the year. Hope Mission is a Registered Canadian Charity #11896 2851 RR0001



Fixing Her Eyes On Jesus – Nicole’s Story

Nicole is redeemed. Having graduated from the Wellspring Recovery Community in 2015, Nicole was among our honoured guests at last year’s Annual Spring Banquet.

Nicole lost everything because of her addiction. She and her husband slept in stairwells of apartment buildings, and Nicole landed in jail before coming to Hope Mission.

She describes how much her life has changed.

“Wellspring [Recovery Community] has given me tools to see who God wants me to be. I’m able to be happier and make decisions that are in line with God’s will for me,” says Nicole.

She points to the community of Wellspring as one of the most amazing parts of her journey of recovery. She says that in the world of addiction and living on the streets, the idea of having a friendship

with a woman is “outrageous.” But coming into the Wellspring community where women live, learn and journey together, the bonds of friendship and sisterhood form quickly and tightly.

“God wants us to be together as a community,” says Nicole. “We’re generations. We’re a family. We’re very much a big family.”

With that come support, love and understanding. And in times when things are difficult, Nicole knows where her strength comes from.

“Every time things get rocky or things get worrisome all I [have to] do is fix my eyes on Jesus and He calms the storm,” says Nicole.

“Even if the storm is still going on, He calms the storm between him and I. The storm can twist and rage all it wants, but when Jesus is there and my eyes are on Him, everything’s ok.”

MORE WAYS TO GIVE

DONATE Even a small amount makes a big impact. Fill out the donation slip in this newsletter and provide meals for those in need.

GIVE MONTHLY Your continued support helps us respond effectively just as the need arises.

VOLUNTEER We are always seeking passionate, dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers to join us. Email volunteer.coordinator@hopemission.com to get started.



LEAVE A LEGACY Remember Hope Mission in your will. Call (780) 453-3877 to find out how a planned gift will uplift people in need for years to come.

DONATE GOODS We are in need of warm clothing, especially jackets, ski gloves, underwear and socks, toques, boots, hoodies and jeans.

BE AN ADVOCATE Hope Mission relies on word of mouth to extend our reach. Share the mission of Hope with friends, family and co-workers.

CONTACT HOPE MISSION

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