

**SEEKING THE HEART OF GOD
FOR
WINNIPEG
THE HEART OF THE CONTINENT**

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY
GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE**

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I would also like to thank:

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My heart is full of thanksgiving to Him, who is the author of our faith, and for the help that He has given us in writing up and compiling His mighty deeds here in Winnipeg. I felt in writing this that the Lord has honoured His work in this city and the workers that have laboured here and that He would say, "Well Done! and Thank You! "

In His service and with a grateful heart,
Ruth Wall

INTRODUCTION

For some time now, I have felt that we needed to write down some of the initiatives that have been done in Winnipeg over the last 30 some years. As we were led to do some amazing things, God has been faithful to us in this journey. This booklet is a testimony of the outpouring of His love for us, our city, and especially of His kindness, mercy and grace as we were obedient to His call.

During this time, many pastors, leaders, children and intercessors have come together as a 'city church'. We united our hearts, and put aside our own denominational differences to seek God, to pray, to repent, to worship, and to make declarations. The results were exciting, and together we have seen a change in the spiritual atmosphere over our city. We have prayed, and continue to pray, that the heavens would open and that God's manifest presence would come down and heal our land.

2 Chronicles 7:14 says "If my people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land."

We have sought to do this together, and in the following pages, you will find that each page has a write-up of a different initiative that has been undertaken or a network that was established as we positioned ourselves in unity to fulfill this scripture.

These pages have been written by the different people who have been involved in one way or another. The write-ups are not meant to be the complete details but rather the basic summary of the things that took place during that particular time. We hope that this testimony will help to become a legacy to the next generation and they will have courage to build on it.

I pray that we will continue to bravely go forth as the Lord leads.

December 2008

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Wall

IT'S A NEW DAY - TRINITY TELEVISION

Having been impacted by the grace and power of God in 1970, Betty was miraculously delivered from depression and we wanted to see our neighbours introduced to Jesus. It seemed that people were reluctant to share their deepest needs, and we were asking the Lord to show us how to reach their hearts.

Over time, we sensed from the Lord that a daily (not just Sunday) television program would show the world that our faith was not a Sunday faith but rather 24/7. Also, we felt television would reach behind closed doors where people weren't threatened by exposure and where hurting hearts could respond to messages of hope. At the time there were no daily Christian television programs on the air in Winnipeg.

It was more than two years later that I (Willard) resigned from my position as marketing engineer with Bristol Aerospace. A local TV station, CKND, opened the doors of their studios and the first program of "It's a New Day" was aired on Oct. 6, 1976. We could never have dreamed that 32 years later this program would continue to reach into homes and hearts across Canada, and through the internet, across the world.

God's promise in Isaiah 61:1-2 "The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor - - - " is as true today as when Jesus declared the fulfillment in Nazareth some 2000 years ago. These verses have been our mission statement.

Our Canadian broadcast world has changed dramatically over these last 30 some years. Today there are many good, daily Christian programs as well as full time satellite channels and locally broadcast religious TV stations. We have had the privilege of being part of the change process, but most of all, we're grateful to God for having had the joy and the opportunity to be one expression of His great love for this world.

By Willard & Betty Thiessen (It's a New Day Ministries)

THE NATIVITY PARADE

In 1976 and 1977 Dave and Elfrieda Loewen from Camp Arnes felt that Winnipeg was to have a Nativity Parade downtown to express the true meaning of Christmas to the city. They shared this unique idea with local pastors and leaders and received great support. There was a prayer group started at the home of Dave and Deanna Waters to undergird this endeavour with prayer.

They decided to have professional floats that were designed and paid for by the local churches and ministries. Sever Sign Company created 30 floats from the descriptions given to them. Many of the floats had people riding on them waving flags. One float had a huge globe on it with a red banner around it that said, 'God Loves Everyone' and it held groups of people in ethnic costumes depicting many different countries.

They started at the airport and then rode down Portage Ave, to Memorial Blvd and then to the Convention Centre. The lead float had a song playing from its loudspeakers called "Christmas, What is it all About?" The music for this song was written by Eric Wild from the Hymn Sing TV program with lyrics written by Deanna Waters, especially for the parade. CBC televised the parade.

When the floats got to the Convention Centre and pulled into the building, there was a mass choir of 300 people led by Henry Engbrecht awaiting them. People flooded into the Convention Centre from the parade route and filled every seat with standing room only. Dr. John White, the committee chairman, wrote the script for a wonderful service with worship, the reading of the Word and prayer for the city. The bell ringers played and there were soloists and trios that sang as well as the choir. The program ended with the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus.

It was a glorious display of church unity for our city and a declaration of God's great love for us in sending His precious Son to be born in a stable in Bethlehem and to live and die for us.

By Ruth Wall

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CLUB - STONECROFT MINISTRIES

My first introduction to a ministry that touched and changed many lives in the province of Manitoba both rural and city happened in the year 1971 through Stonecroft Ministries.

At first I was not at all interested in another ministry and was not looking for another involvement, but when I heard what the ministry represented, it caught my attention and God had me work with the ministry in Manitoba for 30 years.

Christian Women's Clubs hold monthly meetings in a hotel setting. Members are encouraged to bring unsaved friends, neighbours, and family. When you walk into the room you are greeted with warm friendly women that have prepared a beautiful setting for lunch, with lovely hand made table centers and interesting programs with special features like fashion shows, floral arranging, food demonstrations etc. An invited speaker gives a testimony of how Jesus Christ changed her life, and women at the end of the meeting have an opportunity to give their lives to the Lord.

Monthly 'Prayer Coffees' are held in homes to pray for the monthly meetings and the women who will be attending them. Weekly home based Bible Studies are hosted, all of which are non-denominational. The Bible Study books are all produced and published by Stonecroft Ministries. They have many different studies on Biblical topics that help women grow in their faith. Thousands of women have come to know the Lord over this time and have returned home to share with their husbands and children the Good News of the Gospel.

I am so grateful to so many Manitoba women who were willing to allow God to stretch them as we worked together. The blessings came through challenges, which have been many, but we have seen many lives and homes changed. To God be the Glory, great things He has done!

By Olga Bergen

AGLOW INTERNATIONAL

Women's Aglow is a unique visionary organization of Christian women that is established in 172 nations and 6 continents, that minister to an estimated 15 million people each year through a network of local Aglow groups. Their mission is to help resource and mobilize women around the world, promote gender reconciliation and to amplify awareness of global concerns from a Biblical perspective. Since 1967, when four women, spurred by a desire to share relationship around their personal faith came together in Seattle, Aglow has ministered to women from all cultures and walks of life. It is now the largest prayer movement in the world.

In Winnipeg, Aglow started in 1975, with a group of women who had prayed together in a church in downtown Winnipeg for six months that God would open up a ministry for women to come into a deeper walk with Father God. The ministry of Aglow came forth from those prayer meetings.

Mary Kroeker was the first President of the first chapter in Winnipeg and Helen Huebner was the first Vice President. Soon, news of what God was doing among women spread like a fire, moving through the entire province. Women from all occupations, ages and denominations met together to praise the Lord, pray, love one another, and study in small group Bible studies.

That first chapter birthed many new chapters all over the city and soon two Area Boards were formed to help start new chapters and train women in leadership skills. Aglow spread through the rest of the province very quickly. In just a few years it grew to dozens of chapters in the province and five different Area Boards, each with pastors or leaders as advisors. Annual leadership training sessions and retreats are held with invited speakers who minister to the women. Thousands of women have come to know the Lord, and been filled with the Holy Spirit through Aglow, and in turn have taken the knowledge of His Salvation home to their families.

By Gail Caithness

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Full Gospel Businessmen's Fellowship was established in 1951 by Demos Shakarian and their first breakfast meeting speaker was Oral Roberts. This fellowship was established in Winnipeg before 1978. Since that time the group has added so much to the spiritual atmosphere of the city. The FGBMF is open to the presence of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, interpretation, prophecy, healing, salvation and personal testimony.

It soon became evident that attendance at these meetings was on the increase because it was felt to be a safe place to enjoy and exercise the gifts of the Spirit with fellow believers. Strength in the Holy Spirit gave power to many for intercession and boldness to witness and reach men for Jesus, linking them to a loving community.

The spiritual atmosphere over the city was changing! Members became strong leaders in their churches. 'The Voice' magazine of the FGBMF became a tool God used over the years to encourage and draw people to Himself through inspiring stories of changed lives. Our weekly prayer breakfasts have helped men to grow in their faith and share it with others.

Meanwhile the FGBMF is continuing their mission in over 160 nations of the world, of "Reaching men at all levels of our modern society, calling them to God, and releasing them into their respective gifts and talents through the Holy Spirit".

By Don Watts

CITY-WIDE PASTORS' PRAYER TIME

In 1981 I was invited to attend a small prayer meeting of pastoral friends called "the holy huddle". These six pastors were godly men but of very different denominational "ilks" than myself. I always felt like a junior and the odd man out but I never felt free to stop going. God had other plans. Over the course of the next two years, each of the six pastors in that original group moved on to other places. I became the pastor with the most 'seniority' and began to lead the prayer time with some of the pastors who had replaced their predecessors. One of them, David Bloom, had a wonderful revelation of the Body of Christ, a deep love for pastors and a commitment to the city church. He and I joined forces and a new era of pastors' prayer was birthed in 1983.

Soon pastors from various denominational affiliations began to gather on a weekly basis. It was not uncommon to have 15-25 pastors praying, with a dedicated core of about 8-10. Our only agenda was to seek the Lord for the welfare of our city (Jeremiah 29:7). It was very informal with lots of laughter and leg-pulling. We grew to deeply love, appreciate and trust one another. For a lot of pastors, the prayer group became a safe place to 'drop in' when time permitted or when they were in need. But for the core, it became a place of friendship, bonding, commitment, synergy, sharpening, and envisioning for our city.

God spoke to us on numerous occasions and birthed initiatives such as city-wide celebrations, March for Jesus, Prayer in the Park, 40 Days Ablaze, Prayer in the Legislature and Love Winnipeg. We went on retreats together and traveled together to places like Argentina, Vancouver, Ottawa, Regina, and Florida. We sponsored conferences together and formed a charitable organization called "Equipping the Saints". Our goal was to build up the Body of Christ in Wpg and surrounding regions. We saw ourselves as one team serving one Church with one Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. That weekly prayer meeting went on for about 15 years.

We expanded the vision some time in the 90's to a City-wide monthly prayer gathering for all the pastors and leaders in the Wpg area. 50-90 pastors and ministry leaders from many denominations attend; 27 years later another generation of leaders is catching the vision.

By Pastor Ron MacLean (Gateway Community Church)

CONCERTS OF PRAYER

When we commit ourselves to seek the Lord and to step out of our “boxes”, the Holy Spirit often brings together His people from various other “boxes” and begins to work in quiet ways and sometimes in ways that throw us to the ground as we experience anew the holiness of our God.

During the early 1980’s, a group of pastors met weekly to intercede on behalf of those in authority within the City of Winnipeg and for its citizens. In time, there was a strong sense that the Holy Spirit was leading us to call for a gathering of all who had a heart to praise and worship the Lord Jesus and to lay our hearts before Him. Thus began the Concerts of Prayer.

In the 1740’s Puritan Jonathan Edwards defined Concerts of Prayer as “a humble attempt to promote explicit agreement and visible union of God’s people in extraordinary prayer for the revival of religion and the advancement of Christ’s Kingdom on earth.”

Each concert began with praise, worship and waiting upon the Holy Spirit to lead us. Often, through prophetic utterance, our concert “Conductor” (the Holy Spirit) would reveal the direction of our time of intercession. On one particular occasion, there was an overwhelming consciousness of the presence of God’s holiness. We became increasingly aware of our failure to demonstrate His glory not only through disunity within the body of Christ but also our lack of love and witness to the people of this city. What followed was a deep sense of repentance and a wondrous open door for forgiveness.

It could be said that the fruit of these Concerts produced a greater cooperation between the churches resulting in a renewed call to go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit as the people of God.

By Rev. David Bloom

HARRY LEHOTSKY AND NEW LIFE MINISTRIES

The MB Baptist Association of the N. A. Baptist Conference called Harry Lehotsky to explore the possibilities of ministry with community residents of the West End of Winnipeg. In 1983 he and his family moved into the declining inner-city neighbourhood. This resulted in the planting of a church, New Life Ministries.

Rev. Lehotsky became a leader in renovating housing in the West End through Lazarus Housing. 26 houses were renovated and sold to middle and low-income families as well as 100 rental units managed by Nehemiah Housing, providing safe, clean, drug-free rental units to diverse tenants. Previously isolated people are supported in their social relationships and given a context in the newly renovated Ellice Café and Theatre.

Harry also led ongoing resistance to organized (and disorganized) crime, working to reverse the abandonment of the area to pawn shops and the sex trade by city council and administration, restoring a trusting, cooperative relationship with law enforcement. He has been instrumental in the personal turn-around of many individuals who were both victim and victimizer.

People without a phone who need to contact community health workers or who are looking for jobs or housing now have a voice mail number they can write on applications due to the Connect 2 Voicemail service established by Rev. Lehotsky.

Harry died of pancreatic cancer in 2006 amid widespread public support for his life and work.

By Pastor Larry Gregan (New Life Ministries)

LYDIA WOMEN

It was spring, 1983. I was in the kitchen when I heard the words "Lydia women, Elaine Pinto." "Is that you Lord?" I asked. No response. About two weeks later I heard the same words- this time in the bedroom. I decided to wait before contacting Elaine. Several weeks later I felt impressed to call her, and so I did. The previous day the Lord had spoken to Elaine and told her He was going to do a new thing in her life. She responded by asking, "What new thing can you do in my life, Lord? The only thing in my life is intercession."

I had heard about Lydia women from Joy Dawson. Therefore I contacted Joy for more details. She sent me the leaflet 'Introducing Lydia' which helped us get started.

In November, 1983, Elaine and I went to a Lydia conference in Dallas, Texas, where we met Shelagh McAlpine, the founder and international leader. A few months later Tryna Bahl, from the U.S. Lydia Team, came to Winnipeg to train us. By this time Elaine and I had been joined by three other women and were meeting weekly to pray. We became the team for Manitoba.

From Tryna's visit we arranged open meetings where other women were invited to join us. Soon other groups were meeting regularly, both in Winnipeg and in rural areas. As the Manitoba team, we met with these groups to encourage and guide them on a monthly basis.

Our format was simple. We started with worship then meditated on God's word, writing down whatever the Lord showed us. After sharing what we had written, we prayed according to what the Lord had spoken to us as the Holy Spirit led.

The main objective of Lydia was to encourage, unite and mobilize Christian women to pray with fasting for the Church, community and nation.

By Ethel Beck

MOTHERS WHO CARE

Mothers Who Care (MWC) is a prayer ministry for the schools of our nation under the umbrella of Campus Crusade for Christ Canada, now renamed Power to Change. Our mandate is to pray for the school God has laid upon our heart for one hour each week, and to demonstrate love through encouragement to those in the school system. Our roots began in the fall of 1984 in British Columbia when two concerned mothers began prayer for the schools their children attended using the ACTS format of prayer. They watched God work, and the movement grew and spread across Canada.

The MWC movement started here in Winnipeg in the Fort Garry area. Over the past 15-20 years many elementary schools, junior highs, high school, school boards and universities have been prayed for on a weekly basis. Many groups do prayer walks around the school property, and biannual city rallies have brought the groups together for corporate prayer and encouragement.

In September, 2007, MWC birthed a new prayer ministry, Break Through Prayer. This prayer ministry follows the same ACTS format but has a larger focus on all the domains of society, such as the justice, business and medical realms. Groups are starting to form in the city of Winnipeg, and it is encouraging to sense this move of God.

“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty, whose power no foe can withstand.” Psalm 91, 1-2. The secret place of the Most High is prayer. Hebrews 6:19 speaks of entering into the very certainty of His presence within the veil. Through the blood of Jesus, we can stand before the Father. The ladies who have prayed with Mothers Who Care have experienced these verses as they have spent time with the Lord in the secret place. Not only has the Father answered prayer, but we have been changed in the process. What an amazing gift! We answer the call to stand in the gap for the schools in our nation, and in return, we benefit personally. We are transformed.

By Carol Schwab

THE WHY ENCOUNTER

The idea for the “ Why Encounter” came to George Doerksen one Sunday in church at Calvary Temple. He envisioned a book- a beautiful book- that could be placed on coffee tables, being distributed to every home in the city. On the cover would be the question, “Why am I on this earth?” Inside, the way of salvation would be clearly explained and portrayed in a colorful format. George went to work and the result was all he had envisioned – a book people would be proud to display in their homes with the Gospel clearly defined.

In 1987 a committee was formed. Churches were contacted in the city as well as the rural areas. The response was encouraging. Prayer reps from many churches were given prayer points regularly. Operation Andrew was another prayer initiative at that time. Throughout the province unsaved people were prayed for regularly and consistently.

In June a fund-raising event was held at the Convention Center and was attended by approximately 3,000 people. Dr. David Bruce of the BGEA was the speaker. Over 180 commitments to Christ were recorded. Later, a prayer retreat in August was a marvelous opportunity for all participants to get together for a day and a half of united prayer to pray for God to go ahead of us in this venture.

For six months on the first Saturday, we drove around the perimeter in motorcades of prayer and praise. On October 3rd, starting at 6 am, seven relays of cars left every 30 minutes from Calvary Temple. This was followed by a prayer breakfast with Dr. Garth Hunt as guest speaker, as well as the blowing of the shofar.

On October 5, 1987, ‘Delivery Day’, 120,000 ‘Why’ books were delivered to homes in Winnipeg and rural areas by over 2,500 Christians from 120 churches. The goal? To spread the Good News of Jesus Christ!

By Ethel Beck

MARCH FOR JESUS

In the spring of 1988 Wpg held its first March for Jesus. 1200 people from 5 churches gathered in Osborne Village and marched down Osborne St. to the MB Legislative Building. A band perched precariously on the top of a flatbed truck led the way. The crowd stretched out for an entire block so that while the people behind the truck were singing King of Kings, the ones a block back, out of range of the sound system, were singing Amazing Grace - - or any other song of their choice for that matter. In many ways it was a comedy of errors, yet everybody knew we had touched something of the heart of God for our city.

Year after year the sound system improved, but more importantly the church in Winnipeg had caught a vision for making a public display of Christian unity. Participating churches doubled again and again. Each year we were overwhelmed by the growth - - 200 marchers, 400 marchers, 8000 marchers - -and on it grew.

By the mid 90's March for Jesus was an international movement with thousands of cities marching on the same day in every time zone around the world. England's Graham Kendrick was now composing entire musical scores for the annual event.

In 1997 the march marked a spiritual turning point for Winnipeg. The St. Boniface Catholic diocese, as part of their centennial year celebration, marched 500 strong across the Provencher Bridge to join the rest of the March for Jesus coming from the Legislature. It was a day of unity and healing like no other in our city's history.

No city was more captivated by March for Jesus than Winnipeg as it quickly became North America's largest. Police escorts, road blocks, rerouted buses, permits and licences to broadcast the music to dozens of sound trucks had to be obtained. The group of marchers, led by a parade float and 100's of dancers and tambourine players stretched out like a ribbon through Winnipeg's downtown. The police estimated that as many as 50,000 worshipers from 186 participating churches flooded through Portage & Main in the years leading up to the final March in 2000.

March for Jesus will likely go down as the single greatest display of Christian faith and unity in Winnipeg's rich spiritual history.

By Pastor Mark Hughes (Church of the Rock)

COME TO THE CROSS

It all started at Bible camp at Rock Lake. Under a beautiful night sky, I asked God to take my life and use me in a special way. The next evening, my friends and I gathered together down at the beach to worship God. We did this night after night for eleven days, crying, laughing, praying, bowing and dancing on the sand. A fire was ignited in our hearts. If I only knew how deep this flame would burn.

The fire came home with us. What happened at camp did not stay there like a buried treasure. When we returned to Winnipeg, I asked these new young comrades of mine to come over to my parents' house to pray and worship together. We would gather officially once a month and unofficially all the time. We loved to be together with Jesus. It started with ten of us, but after only a few months we had fifty youth cramming into the basement of the house. We knew that God had lit a fire, and it was going to spread.

We held our first public meeting in September of 1988 and over 100 youth stormed the doors of our Zion Church. The momentum continued each month and one year later we had more than 700 teens coming every month to our gatherings. The meetings would often last for four hours. We would sing and dance like King David. As a generation, we experienced a sovereign move of God that continued for four years and touched thousands in our city.

I often think back to those times. Hundreds of youth didn't come to our gatherings to listen to a tight band, watch a smooth running operation, or be entertained with a high gloss, semi-professional presentation of religion. It was raw. It was real. It was passionate and the teachers were their peers. The worship team, the preachers, and the ministry team were all under the age of twenty.

None of us would ever be the same.

By Paul Vieira

PRAISE & WORSHIP ON THE STREETS OF WINNIPEG WITH THE CREATIVE ARTS

TAMBOURINE

When I was a young mother of three, the Lord spoke to me one night with three little words, “TEACH THE NATIONS”. My passion was in praise, worship and the arts. As I had just joined the tambourine ministry in my local church, I felt that somehow the tambourine ministry was involved and that I was to begin teaching in my ‘Jerusalem’.

Over the next few years, the Lord provided me with the opportunity to teach apprentice classes in tambourine to women from different churches, with the end result that these women taught groups of women in their own churches. After a few years, I was given an opportunity to network with many different churches in south-eastern Manitoba through the planning committee for “March for Jesus” in Winnipeg.

Together with strong partners Geri Gawley and Rosalie Pilon, we established patterns, choreographed and set up schedules so we could teach up to 125 women each year to play in the “March for Jesus”. The glory of the unison motions and dance with costumes and sparkles had an incredible anointing for the streets during and after the March.

My strong belief is that we ‘ushered the glory of the Lord’ into our city. During the final two years of March for Jesus, we were blessed to work with a small aboriginal group of tambourine players as well. This was a highlight for me.

DANCE

“Celebration Company”, a Christian dance studio in Winnipeg, was contacted in order to prepare a dance troop for involvement in the “March for Jesus”. Kalyn Falk, and later Victoria James through “Masterworks Studio”, incorporated a wonderful group of dancers each year that blessed our streets during the March. The costumes and dance movements were spectacular – it was like the dancers were inviting the onlookers to join in the celebration.

CHEERLEADING

Under Kalyn Falk’s guidance, a girls’ cheerleading troop was also established for several years of the “March for Jesus”. The girls ranged in age from 7 to 12. How delightful! Every beat was again choreographed, rehearsed for months and then played out on the streets of Winnipeg.

FLAGGING

Eddie Miller, a Christian dance leader in Winnipeg, was contacted to recruit men and boys to join in choreographed flagging for the “March for Jesus”. The first flags incorporated a gold flame on red fabric. The flagging team was a truly powerful sight during the March with the representation of men and boys leading our city in a call to worship.

In all, several months of training was required for each group to prepare for the “March for Jesus”. Endless hours of practice, committees for coordinating, costume making and fundraising

were involved. But the impact of the Holy Spirit on the individual lives involved was much greater. People were joining together for one cause – with a great result – all to honour the Lord God Almighty!

A natural culmination of several years in “March for Jesus” was the opportunity for these arts groups to create a teaching manual, “The Arts for the Lord”. Small groups of dancers, flaggers, cheerleaders and tambourine players came together in a local church, where the talents God had given were videotaped. The video, together with the manual, was sold to cities throughout Canada for “March for Jesus” training purposes. These manuals and videos later made their way to many different countries – to people with an incredible hunger to have a deeper involvement in praise and worship through the arts.

By Chris Blatz

THE PASTORS PRAYER SUMMIT

In the latter part of the decade of 1980, there was a prayer movement referred to as “ Prayer Summits “, due primarily to the influence of a leader named Joe Aldrich. By this time the pastors in the city had already been meeting for a number of years at Trinity Baptist Church, and it was thought that it would be a good idea for the spiritual leaders in the city of Winnipeg to get together with one another for an extended time of prayer, such as was being practiced in these prayer summits. Our first such gathering was in the late 1980’s and was hosted at Camp Arnes on the west side of Lake Winnipeg. It was of relatively short duration, as I recall, only being 24-36 hours in length, and it was facilitated by a number of our own local pastors. There were a few dozen spiritual leaders in attendance and it was thought to have been beneficial by those participating.

A year or two later we planned and organized a larger prayer summit of 3 days duration, and this time we met at Crossroads Camp in North Dakota, just south of the International Peace Gardens. The group was considerably larger in size and we requested Eric Stolte, who was with the Navigators ministry, to facilitate this time as he had experience doing so with a group of pastors in Saskatoon, SK. Again, we sensed God’s presence and working in our midst, not the least of which was his kneading our hearts together as spiritual leaders in our city.

A third and final prayer summit was organized one or two years following. With participation being noticeably less than the prior summit, we wondered whether this format had served its time, and so no further extended times of prayer away from the city were planned after the mid 1990’s.

The city pastors still meet monthly to pray together and fellowship.

By Pastor Lorne Meisner

MISSIONFEST MANITOBA

Back in the 1980's, Christian leaders of Manitoba saw a need for a multi-church/multi-organization mission conference for the people and churches of Southern Manitoba. To this end, three mission conferences were organized and held during the mid-eighties. Momentum was gained at each conference and, in the late eighties, the vision was moulded into what became "Missionfest Manitoba".

The first Missionfest was held in 1989 at Grant Memorial Baptist Church. Festivals were held every two years, in a variety of facilities, including the Wpg Convention Center, until 2002. Each year the momentum, excitement and involvement in missions continued to grow.

In 2004, Missionfest became an annual event, on the first weekend in Feb., with the vision to "Inform, Inspire and Involve" the Christians of Manitoba towards their God-given role in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. The goal remains the same – to bring glory to God through a celebration and examination of World Missions. This is accomplished by utilizing speakers on the 'cutting edge' of 21st century missions and to provide an environment where churches and para-church organizations work together as described in the preface to this book. This is the unity that Christ prayed for in John 17, "...that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me..."

Prayer has always been a vital part of Missionfest, through prayer breakfasts, the prayer room onsite, and other gatherings and the leadership of "Missionfest Manitoba" continue to pray that the unity we have in Christ and a sense of the urgency of Missions continue to grow among the Christians of Manitoba. More information may be obtained at www.missionfestmanitoba.org

By Gordon Gilbey (Executive Director)

SATURDAY NIGHT

It was the fall of 1989. My husband and I had experienced a deepening passion for God, a hunger for expressing worship in new ways, and a blossoming of our musical gifts. We sensed that many others shared a desire for a fresh and ecumenical worship experience, so Lionel suggested we put out a general invitation for people to get together on a Saturday night, simply to worship God.

It seemed like an odd idea at the time, and we wondered if anyone would show up. It turned out, 150 people did and "Saturday Night" began at Elmwood MB Church in March of 1990. We had absolutely no idea that it would become a city-wide inter-denominational ministry spanning 7 years, attracting crowds of 3000 at its peak, and lifting the name of Jesus in worship at some of the biggest churches, concert venues and University halls in Winnipeg.

The vision of believers coming together from all walks of life to celebrate what they had in common, to passionately express themselves to God, and to pray for His grace to pour out on our city captured people's imaginations. Untold numbers of volunteers sacrificed to help make that a reality, spending many hours practising music, tambourine patterns, dances and dramas in order to offer up something excellent. Others built stages, delivered and returned countless numbers of chairs, set up sound and lighting systems and mailed out newsletters and posters. Still others supported "Saturday Night" financially or with prayer before and throughout the event.

So many God-breathed moments were experienced as His Spirit moved over and within us, ministering to each one in a unique way. "Saturday Night" also partnered with the annual Jesus Marches and City-wide Pastors' Fellowship and initiated 2 recording projects which ministered both locally and to churches in Poland and Kenya. Stories of tapes simply wearing out on account of frequent playing were not uncommon.

One of our initial goals was to multiply and stimulate creative worship in local churches. When it became evident that this was indeed happening, we decided to end "Saturday Night". It was an unforgettable thrill to see people of all generations and denominations come together to lift up the name of Jesus and grow as a community of inspired and envisioned worshippers!

By Jane Martens

PRAYER AT THE FORKS

In the fall of 1991 there were four international and national Christian conferences scheduled to be held in the Winnipeg Convention Centre. A small group of intercessors was led to go there and pray, to prepare the place for what God wanted to accomplish. When we got there, the Lord spoke clearly to us to go instead to the roots of the city. Not knowing where the roots of our city were, we went to the Library and did some research.

We discovered that they were at the Forks of the rivers where for over 4,000 years people had met to trade and develop relationships. We went there to pray and asked a group of local pastors to cover us as we prayed. Soon after that a pastor gave us the book called "Taking Your Cities for God" by John Dawson. The strategies in the book on how to pray for a city, something that not many people were doing at that time, corresponded to ones that the Lord had been speaking to us about!

For seven years we met at the Forks every Thursday to pray for Winnipeg. During that time our prayers were focused on unity with the pastors and leaders of our city, for the municipal, provincial, and federal governments, for the many ethnic people groups that were coming into our city, and the workers needed to bring in the harvest. We made many declarations over the city that have since come to fruition.

Through rain, sleet, snow and 90 degree heat, we walked the grounds and did many prophetic acts to claim the ground for the Kingdom of God. We threw salt into the waters and prayed that God would change the idea of Winnipeg meaning Muddy Waters (from the Cree language) to being a place where streams of living, pure, fresh waters would flow into the land. We had gatherings there on Halloween night and other times to bring worship and other forms of prayer to the city.

Looking back now we see how God was preparing a place where His people could come together to pray and ask Him to bring healing to our land.

By Ruth Wall

PRAYER AT TRINITY TELEVISION

Since 1976 Willard and Betty Thiessen have faithfully broadcast the TV program "It's a New Day", bathing it in prayer and opening up phone lines for volunteer counsellors to receive calls for prayer needs and to lead people to Christ. In 1992 the Lord expanded their ministry to a large building at 1111 Chevrier Blvd. Willard and Betty had a vision for a beautiful prayer room in the heart of the building.

When it was completed it had an amazing glass wall across the front with an etching of Jesus in the clouds, and His Word going forth on the Wind of the Holy Spirit through praise and worship. Below was the River of Life with lambs looking up towards Jesus. In this exquisite prayer room a literal 'fountain' of prayer began to ascend to the Heavens.

In the mornings the staff would meet for prayer times. Then the prayer counsellors would meet and pray prior to the program. During conferences prayer warriors could be seen on their knees in the prayer room. For several years, small groups of prayer warriors would meet Wednesday and Friday afternoons to pray for Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Canada. It was a joy to see how the Lord would lead these prayer times, with worship or with silence as we waited on Him. As we listened, the Lord would give pieces of His Heart (scriptures, words, visions) to each prayer warrior for the issues at hand.

It has been such a joy to have had that 'fountain of prayer' going up from the Prayer Room at Trinity Television. Thanks be to the Lord for choosing Willard and Betty Thiessen to lead the way for this special ministry in the heart of the continent!

By Jo-Ann Swenson

SEEKING THE FIRE OF GOD

In February, 1994, fourteen Winnipeg Christian pastors and leaders: Ron MacLean, Mark & Kathy Hughes, Ken Turnbull, Paul Wartman, Lorne Meisner, John Funk, Ron Geddert, Keith Miners, Ian Nairn, Musetta Ritchie, Harold Sawatsky, Garry Schellenberg, and Ruth Wall flew to Argentina to see and experience the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Most of us hoped to be touched by this holy fire, and bring revival back to Winnipeg.

In Buenos Aires, Marfa Cabrera, wife of Omar with whom the Argentine revival began, prophesied over us. I was shocked when she quoted my private thoughts concerning our quest. Everywhere we went there was evidence that the Holy Spirit was working powerfully. In one downtown theatre that had been converted into a church, the presence of the Holy Spirit was so strong that it was like being caught up in the waves of the sea. They were having services there for 23 hours a day and only closed for one hour to clean the theatre.

For some of us the visit to Los Olmos Prison, the notorious maximum security prison near Buenos Aires, was life changing. It contained the worst criminals in all of Argentina. The Holy Spirit had led hundreds of inmates to repent and be baptized in the Spirit. We had the privilege of having these precious men pray over us and we were all hit with the power of the Holy Spirit. They gave each of us a gift of a carving, made out of scrap wood, with doves or crosses that they had created themselves. There was a peace and joy in the lives of these convicts who lived in appalling conditions, that made one ask, "Who are the imprisoned?"

We went to a Carlos Anaconda healing crusade in Montevideo, Uruguay. Hundreds were set free from demonic bondage and hundreds more healed. We watched as the Holy Spirit touched peoples' mouths and gave them gold fillings with crosses on them. Garry Schellenberg's back was healed instantly. The next morning Carlos prayed that each of us would receive a powerful anointing from the Lord, and we did and brought it back home.

By Rev. Ken Turnbull (St. Aidans Anglican Church)

PRAIRIE FIRE

This is the name given in Winnipeg for what happened here during the outpouring of God's Spirit through the "Toronto Blessing". Pastor Al Gordon from King's Fellowship attended the Airport Vineyard in Toronto during the summer of 1994. Although personally he came away with some puzzling questions, he invited Jim Paul to come to Winnipeg in the early fall. Various church leaders gathered with Jim as he shared what God was doing and prayed for the impartation, which happened. It was then agreed that Jim and a team would come in January 1995 for a conference.

Over 1,000 people met at the Convention Center for "Prairie Fire" where the Holy Spirit moved powerfully. It was agreed to continue these meetings under local leadership. The anointing continued and the numbers grew to over 2,000 people for the weekly meetings. Guy Chevreau came and spoke at another "Prairie Fire" conference and held a luncheon which pastors from many different denominations attended. There was a wide range of perceptions of the "Toronto Blessing". Some were strongly against, while most sought to understand what God was doing. The meetings continued for a few months until it was decided to end them with a final conference where Vineyard pastors from the USA spoke. Well over 1,000 people came.

The meetings overall involved exciting worship, testimonies of changed lives and healings. The word of God was preached and then came the ministry time. Trained teams were organized and went through the crowds praying for people. Generally the people were laid out under the power of God. Many broke out in 'holy laughter' which was contagious.

Years later many people in the city had testimonies of how their lives were changed positively at Prairie Fire. King's Fellowship and Gateway Christian Community were the two churches most involved. Gateway ran weekly "times of refreshing" meetings for 18 months from August 1994 - February 1996. People from all over the country came to receive from God and 'catch the fire'

By Pastor Keith Miners (Gateway South Church)

THE PROPHETIC MEETINGS

During the days of “Prairie Fire” in Winnipeg in the mid nineties, the leadership at Gateway Christian Community began to gather monthly those who were interested in the ministry of the prophetic. God had much to say, and we wanted to follow Him in providing teaching and training, including practical applications in prophetic ministry. Ephesians 4:16 says, “From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does it’s work.”

We have continued since then to gather those who function prophetically on a monthly basis, as well as those who do not have that opportunity. Keeping the prophetic meetings inclusive to all has provided many opportunities to minister to those who have come just to be ministered to, as well as to each other. We wanted to make sure these meetings would remain a safe place for all to ask their questions and to take risks, all the while feeling included and useful.

Our meetings began to take a new shape in 2005, when the Lord began to gather people from other churches to our monthly meetings. Then others, including pastors, began to come from surrounding towns. We were all in this together, as it should be. From this infusion of new people, God began to form prophetic cells in what became known as “Samuel Companies”. The Samuel Companies function under the leadership of their own local MB churches and the focus remains the same today; to teach, train and give opportunity to the Body of Christ to be equipped in the ministry of the prophetic.

In keeping communications open between various churches and Samuel Companies, we embrace opportunities to function in the prophetic ministry, growing in maturity, as well as raising up a new generation, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God.

By John Waagenaar

SHADOWLANDS & BATTLEFRONTS CONFERENCE

In 1998, George Otis from The Sentinel Group came to Winnipeg with Cindy Jacobs and Alistair Petrie to put on a conference hosted by Willard & Betty Thiessen at the Trinity Television studio .

George talked about doing 'Spiritual Mapping' of our city. We learned to do research to identify both the First People group that lived in our area and what happened to them, and who established our city, how it was birthed, and what the goals and motivations of our founding fathers were.

Topics to look into included: how Christianity was introduced to our area, what the redemptive gift of our city is, what forces held back the gospel from reaching people, treaties and covenants that were broken, innocent blood that was shed on our soil, what forces gained power through the worship of pagan gods in our area, what was birthed as our government building was built, what countries our immigrants came from and where did they settle, what physical disasters our communities suffered, what traumas affected the whole community, and what greed was evidenced in the economic system . We felt like Caleb and Joshua and the spies that went into the Promised Land. We identified what giants in the spiritual realm needed to be slain.

Alistair Petrie taught us how to identify what needed to be prayed about and how to do some identificational repentance in order to bring healing to our land.

Cindy Jacobs taught us how to hear God corporately and how to pray into these issues. This led to many prayer walks and prayer assignments that the Lord led us to do over all the material that our teams gathered.

The following page has some of the places we took teams of people to pray.

By Ruth Wall

PRAYING ON SITE WITH INSIGHT

During these last 33 years we have taken dozens of teams to sites in Winnipeg to worship, intercede, and repent. These are some of the sites:

- Louis Riel's grave and monument
- The Buddhist monk site in St. Norbert
- The International office for Sustainable Development
- The Seven Oaks Massacre site
- All the gates leading into the city
- John Black cemetery & headquarters for the Hell's Angels
- City Hall
- Osborne Village
- The Aboriginal Centre
- The Site of the Dalai Lama visit
- The Royal Crown revolving restaurant to oversee the city
- The 3 main Casinos – Regent Ave, McPhillips Ave. & Crystal
- The Shrine Temple
- The Masonic Temple on Confusion Corner
- Hamilton House
- The Health Science Women's Pavilion
- Synagogues
- The Forks
- The Legislative Building
- The CN Train Station
- The Banks on the corner of Portage Ave. & Main St.
- St. Boniface Hospital
- The Lotteries Commission
- The Law Courts
- The Remand Centre
- Langside Ave.
- The University of Winnipeg & The University of Manitoba
- The Grey Nuns' Convent
- The Asper Centre
- The Duckworth Centre
- St. Boniface
- MB. Youth Detention Centre

By Ruth Wall

40 DAYS ABLAZE

From January 14 to Feb. 22 in 1998 there were 55 churches that united their hearts for a city-wide forty day season of seeking the Lord for spiritual awakening through prayer and fasting. They were sensing, along with many other leaders in North America, that it was this continent's time of visitation and harvest. Their desire was to humble themselves before the Lord, seek His face and partner with what God was doing by praying for awakening and revival among the churched and unchurched in Winnipeg and the surrounding areas.

They put aside their busy church schedules and cancelled programs to participate at whatever level of faith they had. They sent lots of information, guides and tips on mobilizing prayer to each church during that season. Their goal was that the prayer and fasting would be user-friendly and that everyone could get involved at some level. They had two city-wide corporate prayer celebrations during the forty day period - - one at the beginning and one at the end. They asked churches to set aside those dates and unite together in prayer for the welfare of our city.

They cooperated with Missionfest which was near the end of the forty days. They believed spiritual awakening in the church means awakening to a renewed passion for Christ's commission to advance His Kingdom on the earth. Part of the prayer track was to pray for Missionfest and to pray for Winnipeg to be a 'sending city'.

They hosted a conference entitled "Preparing for and Pastoring the Harvest" in the middle of "40 Days Ablaze" to equip leaders to release people in their churches into the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

At the end of that period they asked for feedback from the churches. There were many encouraging words that were returned to the leadership of what God had said during that time.

By Ruth Wall

PROMISE KEEPERS

Committed to challenging every Canadian man to discover the incredible life quest God has for them as revealed by the life of Christ and the Holy Scriptures, "Promise Keepers" Canada has been actively involved in ministering to men and their families in this region since 1995.

In partnership with hundreds of local churches, thousands of dedicated volunteers and the local leadership of Kevin Trick, Steve Masterson and Ian Nairn, "Promise Keepers" has been used of the Lord to deeply change men's lives both locally and nationally through its efforts in this region.

The annual National Men's Conference in March, smaller equipping seminars providing Biblical training in the areas of manhood, marriage and sexual purity, resourcing local church men's ministries and men's ministry leaders and the establishment of a local men's ministry network have all seen men healed, restored and forgiven. The result is that men have become Godly influences once again in their homes, churches and communities.

As well, Winnipeg and Southern Manitoba have been used of the Lord to birth a new national and international discipleship training initiative called "Discipleship Training Unleashed". This program, designed to equip and train men to lead men to Christ and assist them in their commitment to mentor and to disciple one to three men for the rest of their lives, is now offered in eight different centres across Canada. In addition to this, the program presently has requests from Christian leaders from the persecuted and marginalized churches in five different Third World countries.

Lastly, through such extraordinary experiences as an 'On air' expulsion from CJOB talk show host Peter Warren for taking a stand for Christ in August 1997, which led to the creation of "God Talk" on Sunday night radio, to the first ever "Building Men of Purity and Holiness" seminar, Winnipeg has been on the forefront of men's ministry in Canada for well over 15 years. Without question this is due to God's people here being strongly committed to praying, partnering and sacrificially serving the establishment of His Kingdom and not their own. To God be the glory!

By Ian Nairn (Promise Keepers)

THE RUN AROUND THE PERIMETER

During the preparation time for March for Jesus 1996 called “Jesus Lord of the Nations”, Jane Martens had a vision/picture of a number of runners encircling the city as a preparatory step for the March. This led to a request to me to volunteer to ‘run’ with the vision. Without too much of a struggle, I volunteered to take on the challenge of bringing the concept to reality, not fully appreciating the challenges. The obvious ones that surfaced immediately were the route, the timing and the recognition that this was not simply an event but a prayer run with eternal consequences. Mercifully, God orchestrated the coming together of a number of people through the city church to assist in the planning and implementation.

The route was the city of Winnipeg Perimeter Bypass, an approximately 100 km high speed thoroughfare. The route was divided into four quadrants. On the morning of the March, teams of approximately eight members set off in relay fashion from the four gateways of Winnipeg. A local radio station broadcast the March music, helping the runners who wore earphones plugged into radios, to worship and make declarations as they claimed the land that their feet were treading. Each team had a van with them for safety and a runner’s baton, which was a wooden cross, to be handed off at the relay point. The runners re-assembled at City Hall and continued enmasse carrying pennants to The Forks to be greeted in Olympian fashion by the March for Jesus participants. What a day!

I felt that it was important to respond to the prophetic vision that was given to us as an act of obedience. The strength of community that materialized when many churches were drawn together into one body was a great blessing. The recognition of the gifts and blessings within the Body such as organizers, athletes, flag makers, drivers, worshippers and intercessors continues to this day in Winnipeg and has made a powerful statement to the city.

By Lindsay R. Ward.

YOUTH WITH A MISSION/ KINGS' KIDS WINNIPEG

In 1967 a Trans-Canada YWAM team, led by Arni and Heidi Breitzkreuz arrived in Winnipeg. A real move of the Holy Spirit was seen as they ministered in the Transcona Pentecostal Church. Much prayer had gone into the outreach and Pastor H. H. Barber fully supported it. Out on the streets of Transcona a lot of young people were just hanging around. They were invited to the nightly meetings showing the film "The Cross & The Switchblade". On the second night the place was so packed that all the "Ywammers" went to the prayer room in the basement to make room for more seating. An invitation was given and a long time of interacting outside the church followed. Many decisions for Christ resulted. Loren Cunningham flew in from Central America and part of the team remained for follow-up before continuing on to Montreal's Expo 67.

In 1995 a "King's Kid's" team went across Canada as a part of the mid-decade "Vision 2000" initiative. In Winnipeg, the Lord impacted my husband Doug and me, imparting the vision to seek Him on how to mobilize kids, youth and families in ministry. Out of that time a "Generation of Destiny" conference was hosted at Trinity Baptist Church and in 1996 a team was formed to join thousands of other youth in Atlanta at the "Target World" gathering.

The Lord very clearly revealed His heart for the nation of Canada to that group of kids and adults. He pointed out the need to remove the 'stones of offence' that were standing in the way of a move of God. In the next 10 years intergenerational, multinational teams from across Canada were birthed in Winnipeg and addressed reconciliation issues in Quebec, Israel, Nunavut, Rwanda, the Refugee community and the Aboriginal people.

In 2002 Kim and Jamie Arpin-Ricci planted "YWAM Urban Ministries" in the West End of Winnipeg as an ongoing outreach to the poor in the city. My husband Doug also started "YWAM TESOL MB" in 2002 as a means to reach the immigrant population both in the city and the nations.

By Carolin Sadler (YWAM)

THE DANIEL PRAYER GROUP

Throughout the fall of 1996, we realized that God had spoken to a team of King's Kids in an unusual way, during their outreach to Mexico. The core group of kids was from Winnipeg. We had a growing sense that we should continue to meet regularly, to follow up on the thoughts that the Lord had impressed on our hearts. After some digging I found some information about 'Daniel Prayer Groups' (DPG) through YWAM Wales. These consisted of groups of kids that met together regularly to pray for the nations, and whatever else God placed on their hearts.

As we sought the Lord He led us into many adventures. We did numerous prayer walks in the city, prayed and worshipped at different venues before concerts or mission fests and volunteered with Take Pride Winnipeg. Outside of the city He led us to pray for reconciliation between people groups, and as a result we went to Quebec, a native reserve in Alberta and Israel. In each instance He led us to pray for healing and for the stones of offence to be removed. We were amazed at His specific leading especially in the formation of the teams and day to day guidance.

As this group got older we lay DPG down for 2 years, only to take it up again with a younger group of kids. While the first group repeatedly heard from God concerning national and international issues, these younger kids had a heart for the poor, homeless and their province of Manitoba.

The Lord led us to reach out to the needy in Winnipeg in a number of ways among which were handing out muffins on the streets, taking a service at the detention center and praying for rain for the farmers. Again God answered our prayers, by providing rain ending a time of drought, closing the crack houses in the Point Douglas area and sending money into a needy area of town - - \$40 Million to be exact!

The latest adventure led us to the National House of Prayer in Ottawa a week after the election in November 2008 to pray for and with our government leaders.

By Carolin Sadler (YWAM)

THE FLOOD OF THE CENTURY PRAYER TIME

In the spring of 1997, huge snow falls and a high water table caused the Red River to overflow its banks and create a devastating sea on the prairies of Southern Manitoba,

The province was in a panic and the water continued to surge and threatened even the city of Winnipeg, despite its floodway. As pastors, we felt helpless, except for the recourse of prayer. At nights during the most critical time, a group of city pastors, leaders and intercessors would arrange to meet at different predetermined locations on the perimeter of the city and pray. We stood under those dark, chilly skies with our flashlights and called on the name of the Lord for the salvation of our city, both physically and spiritually. We sandbagged by day and prayed by night. It was a very tense time as our city anxiously waited for the cresting of the Red River.

Those evening excursions were filled with thanksgiving, scripture reading, proclamations and prayer that the Sovereign God, who stilled the storm and parted the Red Sea would somehow 'part' the Red River and prevent it from cresting over our city dikes. That week the Red 'parted'. The city was spared. The worst flood in the history of Winnipeg that was named the "Flood of the Century" was averted.

There were probably thousands of people praying during that time in 1997 when the river threatened to overrun our city. We, like Isaiah in chapter 37 verse 21, believe that God intervened, "because we prayed".

By Pastor Ron MacLean (Gateway Christian Community Church)

THE MERGING OF HEARTS

In 1997, the March for Jesus committee made a formal invitation to the French Catholic Archdiocese to participate in the March celebrations to honour Jesus. This was the year of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the St. Boniface Cathedral. What followed was nothing short of a miracle in the making!

Preliminary prayer preparations brought a word from the Lord that “this activity would have a resounding effect in the heavenlies over our Nation”. In the founding of our city there had been a great deal of “competition” if not outright “animosity” between the French and English Dioceses situated on opposite sides of the Red River. St. Boniface spiritually was like a “walled city within a city”. We felt there was a shift in the heavenly realm as we declared UNITY between the French and the English, over Winnipeg. The referendum on “separatism” in Quebec was defeated shortly thereafter!

Locally, we encountered a logistical problem with the closure of the Provencher Bridge after being damaged by the waters of the spring flooding. It was not till the eleventh hour, after much prayer, that we were given the KEYS to open the bridge and remove the city barricades to allow the marchers to cross over to MERGE with the rest of the marchers coming from the Legislative grounds.

Upwards of 1000 French Catholic people, led by Archbishop Antoine Hacault and Monsignor Albert Frechette participated in the March, beginning at the Cathedral. Father Michael Wynn of the Ukrainian Diocese joined them, along with many sisters from the Grey Nuns and The Oblates and a host of other believers. Andre Robin and Richard Jaworski, Catholic members of the March committee, were instrumental in mobilizing the faithful on this historic day, when the river was crossed and hearts were united from the East and the West in the love of Jesus. Committee organizers greeted the St. Boniface contingent as balloons were released in celebration! The ranks mingled and proceeded into the Forks location for the end celebration.

By Myrna Kisil

JESUS DAY 2000

In 1998, Robert Pohl, a Roman Catholic priest, contacted leaders from many denominational churches in Winnipeg to come together and form a Jubilee Committee to plan a celebration for the year 2000. Many responded and formed a committee to plan a service where the City Church could unite their hearts, put aside their doctrinal differences and come together to worship, pray and exalt Jesus in our city.

The “March for Jesus” leadership team were invited to be part of this initiative. We met monthly for 2 years as a committee to seek God’s plan for this great undertaking. We agreed that it would take place at the Goldeyes’ Ball Park at the end of the March for Jesus. Sam Katz let us have the park at a very reasonable cost. The three dioceses of the Catholic Church that have their headquarters in Winnipeg were a part of this along with Lutherans, Baptists, Anglicans, Mennonites, Pentecostals and many other churches. We worked through every word of every song and prayer that were to be used so that we would be in total agreement. The celebration was to be part of “Jesus Day 2000”.

When the great day on June 24th, 2000 arrived, tens of thousands of Christians arrived at the Legislative Building to kneel in worship of the King and to pray for our government. It was an overwhelming sight! Led by dancers, tambourine players, flaggers, over 20 sound trucks covered in plastic and a wonderful float, we marched in pouring rain, thunder & lightning to the ballpark where a huge stage awaited us. On the stage we found a worship team and all the bishops, archbishops, and church leaders gathered in their priestly robes, very wet but ready. The brave people who stayed were soaked, but we went through the planned program as a declaration of our desire to stand together and raise up the banner of Jesus Christ in our city to the world and the heavenly realms.

By Ruth Wall

WINNIPEG INTERCESSOR NETWORK

I have always had a special love for Winnipeg. After I moved back from the West Coast in 1991 the Lord led me to go to Argentina to the Harvest Evangelism conference with Edward Silvano in the fall of 1993. There I caught the vision for city prayer. In 1994, I began praying with Ruth Wall, Myrna Kisil and others on Thursdays at the Forks. The Lord impressed on us the desire for a network of intercessors from around Winnipeg who would have a heart for praying for the city. This would mean that city prayer needs could be communicated and prayed for individually or in groups that intercessors were already part of. At the time this seemed to be in dream territory.

However, in Jan. 1998, city pastors Ron MacLean, Mark Hughes, Randy Wengel, Hugh Hedlin, David Ruis and John van Drongelen met with me and asked if I would coordinate such a network. John agreed to be the pastor liaison. Ethel Beck graciously agreed that we could use the names of the 100 or so intercessors that had formed the Prayer Shield for Prairie Fire. Most of this group agreed to be part of the new City-Wide Prayer Network. From this foundation, until the Lord led me to step down in the fall of 2003, the network built to almost 500 intercessors from over 70 churches.

John van Drongelen helped me get into the computer age, which made communication so much easier with the majority of our network. Several times a year we sent out an update by snail mail and email, and held prayer nights throughout the year. Keeping names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses updated was a constant challenge, but one I thoroughly enjoyed.

Throughout the entire time, the Network was under the supervision of the City Pastors. One requirement they set in motion turned out to be very wise. Only intercessors that had the approval of their pastor and took part in prayer in their local church could be a part of the Network. This opened a door of understanding between pastors and intercessors which has proven very beneficial.

By Ruth Reid

PRAYER WALKING IN WINNIPEG

In 1998, March for Jesus invited intercessors to begin the day's celebration with prayers for our city, using the unique tool of "praying on site with insight". Walking helped sensitize us to the realities of the communities and embellished spoken petitions with undeniable body language that could be read in the heavenlies! According to Joshua 1:3 the intercessors claimed every step taken, for the Lord and for His purposes. Four strategic routes were "mapped" in a 12-page booklet with instructions and suggestions for multiple prayer focuses, specific to each area, all ending at the Legislative grounds. Hundreds of intercessors took up the challenge!

Route #1: Revelation of God's Truth in Osborne Village starting at Pembina & Osborne (Psalm 40:9&10)

Route #2: Mercy and Justice for the captives, starting at Higgins & Main, winding through the Exchange district and through City Hall Plaza to a shuttle back to the Legislative grounds. (Micah 6:8)

Route#3: Reconciliation amongst the people groups of Wpg, starting at the Forks at the "healing rock" site, stopping at the Stonehenge monument, moving down Pioneer to Main and down Portage and Memorial.(Ephesians 2:19-22)

Route #4: Restoration of Hope starting at King's Fellowship, west on Broadway to Langside St., to Ellice, Spence, back to Portage, via Memorial. (Isaiah 58:10-12).

On this route the walkers gave out loaves of bread...a prophetic act signifying Jesus as the Bread of Life.

We saw a significant decrease in the number of murders in our city in the months following these prayer walks!

By Myrna Kisil

THE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD AT THE LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

In 1999, a group of people read the entire Bible out loud in the Pool of the Black Star at the Legislative Building in Winnipeg.

The Bible was divided into 365 portions. We gathered 30 teams of people that agreed to go on the same day each month and read out loud. Each day a team of two or more people would go in and read the portion of scripture for that day. They would go home and phone the next team so that they would be postured to take their turn the next day. They would start with prayer and then proceed to read. We flooded the building with God's word everyday.

There was not one verse that was missed out.

On New Year's Eve going into the year 2000 all the teams met and came together around the Pool of the Black Star. It was an awesome time. We stood as the last four chapters of Revelation were read out. Ian Nairn led us in worship, pastors led out in prayer and Jonathan Mutch blew the shofar. Our God was truly glorified.

The presence of God was so powerful many of us were on our faces on the floor in worship and adoration of our Lord.

Over the years there have been many groups of lay people and pastors that have felt led to go to the Legislative building to pray. There has been a group of men there for years praying on Saturday mornings.

We have taken many visiting leaders to the Leg. over the years to help us discern the different symbols that are found there and to help us to pray that they would be exposed. In 2007, a Mason named Frank Albo published a book called "The Hermetic Code " that explained the symbols and exposed their meanings. This has given us material to pray into.

By Ruth Wall

HEAR THE MUSIC

“And when I am lifted up from the earth,
I will draw everyone to myself.”

John 12:32 (New Living Bible)

This was the scripture that gave us our simple but profoundly important philosophy of ministry, which is still the same to this day. Hear the Music nights began in January of 1999 with a team of musicians that came together for a singular purpose: to lead our city and surrounding area in musical worship that would lift up the name of Jesus. In doing so, we believed that He would draw us to Himself. And He did.

Of course this was not a new idea for our city, and Hear the Music night was simply joining in carrying the torch of corporate worship that had already burned brightly for many years. Importantly, the mission behind the event was to disciple and mentor Christian musicians. Over a period of 6 years we did just that, and met monthly to join in worshipping our God. Prayer was a critical part of the life of our team and we met often with many faithful volunteers to ask God to help us point others to Him and change us in the process.

We began our gatherings at the Meeting Place church (appropriately named) and continued to meet in different churches throughout Wpg and southern Manitoba, ultimately finding our home where we might not have originally suspected, at the Burton Cummings Theatre. Support from the city churches and Christian community continued, and the mainstream venue allowed the event to be accessible to people who were investigating spiritual faith from a distance. Our Hear the Music nights were filled with many sweet moments of life changing worship and times of high energy praise that reminded us again of the truth of scripture, that the Lord dwells in the praises of His people. We offer heartfelt thanks to the community and return praise to our Saviour for the great things He has done!

By Jon Buller (Founder HTM Ministries)

THE TRAIN OF TEARS

Holocaust Remembrance Day, Tuesday, April 13, 1999, saw ninety intercessors from across Canada (six of us from Winnipeg), gather in Vancouver in response to God's call to worship Him, pray and seek His face for our nation on a Watchmen for the Nation envisioned prayer train journey from Vancouver to Winnipeg. Our call was to seek the mind of the Lord in repentance and supplication, asking the Father to forgive the sins of our nation against the "the Apple of His eye – Israel". The sin of anti-Semitism was seen as a hindrance to God's blessing our nation as His dwelling place.

After a send-off light lunch and blessings through three Messianic west coast Rabbis we boarded the Via Rail Canadian and began our journey, two groups in the prayer and praise car, one group in the following "rest car" on two hour rotating shifts.. Though recognizing the heaviness of our sin and that of our nation, we sensed the Lord's desire for our release and, through His Spirit, the support of other intercessors across the nation who were joining us in prayer. It was important for us to lay down our personal revelations and burdens and learn to function as one body before the Lord. We sensed, too, that we were preparing ourselves and the way for the main thrust of our act of repentance to be effected on July 1, 1999 at the Winnipeg Watchmen Gathering. It was a very sober time. The poignancy of the endeavour struck us when a young Rabbi and his family stood silently at the side of the track as our train passed on our way out of Vancouver. Many intercessors lined the station platforms as we made our journey eastward. We sensed the Lord touching a map of Canada, placing lights of anointing for His purposes throughout the land. He encouraged us.

Upon our arrival at Winnipeg Via Rail Station we were wonderfully welcomed by intercessors and worshippers greeting us with candles, baskets of flowers, grapes and cheeses, in contrast to the death camp welcome of other days. We were taken to dinner and a gathering at Trinity Television. The next day we paid prayer bus visits to Rosh Pina Synagogue, the Legislative Building, and the Forks. We gradually dispersed and made our ways home, planning to meet again July1 at The Watchmen Gathering.

In Awe of His Love.

By Terry Wall

NATIONAL DAYS OF PRAYER FOR NATIVE CANADIANS

In Jan. of 1999, Ross Maracle, Director of Spirit Alive Ministries, began the first of several trips to Winnipeg to raise up prayer and organize a public prayer assembly and celebration on the National Aboriginal Day weekend June 20-21. The purposes of the prayers and gathering were to repent to God and bring His forgiveness for the wounds suffered in post Native / Native and Native / Non-Native dealings, to cry out for God's healing for the brokenness of Native brothers and sisters, and to bring about unity and understanding between Native and Non / Native people.

Winnipeg was chosen because it had the largest urban Canadian Aboriginal population.

During Rev. Maracle's visits a board was formed and preparatory prayers and events were held. The logo chosen for the event was a white hand flat against a brown hand reaching up to form a tepee, a symbol of the unity that was the goal of the program. During the prayer walks in the inner city, Ross was very broken for his people, especially when he saw very young native women and girls involved in prostitution in the city's North and West Ends.

The finale to the initiative was the grand celebration in St. John's Park and the closing service held at Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship. It was significant because it was a public demonstration of Native and Non Native Christians coming together outside the walls of the church working in unity of purpose and endeavour to see God glorified in our city.

On a personal note, I (Ruth) had earnestly asked the Lord to give me a Native woman friend. God answered my prayer by connecting me with Lucy Guiboche and we've had a wonderful friendship ever since. God is so good!

By Ruth Reid / John van Drongelen

WATCHMEN FOR THE NATIONS GATHERING

In September 1997, the Lord revealed to David Demian that the sin of anti-Semitism, brought to Canada by our European forefathers, was a key to the nation's current spiritual condition. The Lord asked David to call Canada to true repentance, a rending of hearts.

Blow a trumpet in Zion
Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly
Gather the people, sanctify the congregation,
(Joel 2:15-16)

Over the next few years the Lord began to reveal information about the history of anti-Semitism in Canada. The St. Louis ship, which was filled with more than 900 German Jews fleeing persecution by the Nazi regime before the onset of the Second World War was denied access into Canada. The team also came across the book "None is Too Many", written by two Canadian professors, detailing instances of Canada's anti-Semitic immigration policies that prevented even orphaned children from finding refuge.

A short while later a prayer "Gathering " was called in Winnipeg, the heart of Canada, the sole purpose of which was to pray for God's glory to fill our land, and to start to remove any hindrances or 'stones of offence', which stood in the way of a move of God in our nation. On July 1, 1999 over 2300 people gathered in Winnipeg to seek the Lord with 'a broken and contrite heart'. Deep crying filled the Duckworth Centre such as we had never before witnessed. At the end of our time together we sensed that God had heard our prayers.

Prior to the Gathering we had been asked to bring stones from significant places where God had met us. With these stones we laid down an altar of remembrance, to signify the day that a remnant of Christians in Canada had asked God to forgive her for her anti-Semitism. After the altar was laid, a HUGE double rainbow filled the sky. 'Never again' will people in Canada be silent in regard to its stand towards Israel. Something was broken in the heavenlies!

Interestingly a group of kids in Winnipeg had been seeking the Lord for what was on His heart as an outreach for them during the summer of 1999. It was in September 1997 that God gave them the first clue. As they asked Him for clarification He led them to this very event. A commitment was also made at the Gathering to seek the Lord as to how the different generations could honor one another and walk together in unity.

By Carolin Sadler

PRAYER GROUP FOR ISRAEL

“For Zion’s sake I will not keep silent...” Isaiah 62:1 is the call of God to intercede in prayer and action on behalf of the Jewish people.

The Gentile portion of the body of Yeshua (Jesus), grafted into Israel’s ‘New Covenant’, are sons and daughters of Abraham spiritually and heir to the promise that by him and his seed all nations will be blessed. In God’s promises to Abram in Gen. 12:3, He says definitively, “I will bless those who bless you and whoever curses or ‘treats you lightly’ I will curse.” Tragically, for almost 2000 years the Church has largely treated lightly the very ones we are to bless. But God has been doing mighty things regarding His ‘covenant people’- - the state of Israel, ingathering of the Diaspora, and Jewish people meeting their Messiah. Throughout all of this the faithful heart of God for the Jewish people is exploding into the hearts of Gentile believers worldwide.

Following the 1999 “Gathering” in repentance for Canada’s anti-Semitism in Wpg, I led a group of people to meet once a month to pray for Israel. Guest leaders included Deborah Kellogg - “Prepare the Way” ministries and Kay Hodges - “A Prayer Storm for Israel” in the fall of 2002. A showing of “The Embrace” video, depicting the journey of Canada’s repentance relating to the St Louis ship was held at the Asper Community Center on ‘Kristalnacht’ in 2005. Carol Miles repeatedly went to Israel, ‘on assignment’ and was instrumental in bringing to Wpg a Christian Palestinian family. Whenever they were in Wpg. partnering and encouragement happened with Dean Bye’s “Return Ministries”, which assists Jewish people to make ‘Aliya” (emigration to Israel) The first people to be helped to return to Israel were Rabbi Ankin and his family from Winnipeg.

In December, 2003 another group of people started meeting once a week to pray for Israel at the Bridges For Peace office with John Howson. Both these groups continue and are blessed by an awesome sense of God’s presence.

By Carolin Sadler

LINK CANADA PRAYER WALK

After attending the July, 1999 Watchmen for the Nations Gathering in Winnipeg, I began to feel an intense burden to pray in a greater way for our nation. Within one month God prompted me to organize a prayer walk from Calgary to Ottawa which He confirmed in many wonderful ways. The prayer focus was to ask God to bring healing to our land, unify the church and to help see the level of prayer rise in Canada. On April 19, 2000 a team of seven from Vernon B.C. set out for a 73 day life-changing prayer trek which would land us in Ottawa on Canada Day.

As we prayed, many issues that hindered the church were somehow manifested within the team. We found that we regularly had to deal with our own issues of unity and self-promotion. As we approached the MB border, a message for me 'to tread softly as if walking in moccasins' came from a woman who was praying for me. We all sensed that the level of opposition had increased once we had entered into MB even though we could not specify what had changed.

On May 18th we reached the west side of Wpg after enduring a snow storm at Carberry two days earlier. There we welcomed intercessors from Wpg who met us on the Trans Canada Highway and walked with us representing the Church of Wpg. It was in Wpg that God began to show me the importance of the First People's 'walking' with us. A local leader, Roger Armbruster, had arranged for me to share at a First Nations Church service which was being aired to many reservations across Canada. These believers immediately identified with what we had been called to do and warmly received us. Someone told the listeners to 'honk' when they passed by on the highway to encourage us. For the next few weeks there were many honkers!

Local intercessors brought us to key locations to pray for Wpg and for the province of MB. At the 'Forks' I felt impressed that our prayers were uniting with many who had prayed before us. We felt blessed as we left Wpg and knew that we were now better prepared for all that would come.

By Rob Parker (Director National House of Prayer - Ottawa)

THE TRANSFORMATION II VIDEO

In the year 2000 A.D., the turn of the Millennium, Alistair Petrie was partnered with the ministry of the Sentinel Group and George Otis Jr. He emailed me that my reports about what God was doing in the Canadian Arctic were very similar to what the Sentinel Group was seeing in communities experiencing transformation in other parts of the world. He asked about sending a team from the Sentinel Group into the Canadian Arctic later that year.

This trip was facilitated and the Sentinel Group was able to document stories in Pond Inlet, Nunavut, as well as Kangiqsujuaq, Quaqtaq, Aupaluk and Puvirnituq in northern Quebec. By April of 2001, the stories of Arctic Canada and of Uganda were combined into the Transformation II video.

A couple of months later the premiere showing of the video came to Winnipeg, hosted by Calvary Temple and Pastor Bruce Martin. The evening was chaired by Alistair Petrie, and attended by a broad cross-section of leaders and believers from the Church in Winnipeg. It attracted those who had a heart for transforming revival in our city. What came through most clearly was the desperate heart cry of those community leaders in the North and in Uganda who had experienced a degree of community transformation. We could see it required a unified desire for God's presence out of a pure heart.

After the showing there was at first a silence, and then an awesome sense of God's presence filled the sanctuary. Pastors and leaders began to humble themselves and to repent to God and to one another. They repented for having prioritized our kingdoms over God's Kingdom, for having focussed on building our houses rather than building His House in our city.

There was a strong sense that there was a shift in the heavenly realm that evening as believers aligned their hearts with the heart of God for our city. The heavenly and the earthly realm connected.

By Roger Armbruster (Canada Awakening Ministries)

WINNIPEG IS THE CENTRE-PEG

“Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains
of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back,
lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes...”

Isaiah 54:2

In 2001, Pastor Brian Warren, director of Canada In Prayer, inspired by Isaiah 54, believed that the Lord had instructed him to lead prayer at the 'Four Corners' of Canada. This would also be in preparation for the Winnipeg based Canadian Prayer Assembly on May 19th, 2001, where the Lord said the final peg should be placed as a centre peg and where the final act of prayer would be made.

Brian bought a set of large camping pegs (made in Canada) and was welcomed by groups of pastors and intercessors in the following cities:

March 1st - Victoria, by Mile Zero on the Trans Canada Hwy

March 3rd - Whitehorse, behind the Yukon Government building

April 14th - Pele Point, southernmost point of Canada near
Windsor, Ontario

April 21st - Pangnirtung, Nunavut, at a Church Dedication

These prayer assignments were times of prophetic intercession for our Nation and local pastors and intercessors joined in the act of 'staking out' Canada in prayer and with the Word of God. In Victoria there was a sense of a river of fire going right across Canada!

On May 19th, people came from all over Canada for the Canadian Prayer Assembly in the Winnipeg arena. This was the time to go to the Forks and hammer the final peg into the ground in the heart of Canada. Local pastors led a crowd in fervent prayer and worship. At the end of this amazing prayer journey it was clear that Winnipeg was the Centre-Peg!

By David Carson (Canada in Prayer)

CANADIAN PRAYER ASSEMBLY

As Canada entered the 21st century, the body of Christ in Canada was at a crossroads. Over the last decade there had been a steady decrease in church attendance, a frustrated and often isolated clergy felt a general malaise about the church's place in a post modern Canadian society. Canada in Prayer, under the leadership of Brian Warren, partnering with Crossroads, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and Focus on the Family, believed that working together with the body of Christ in the context of the Canadian Prayer Assembly could serve as a beacon in a rapidly changing society.

On Saturday, May 19, 2001 hundreds of Canadian Christians from all denominations, and from all over the nation, gathered together at the Winnipeg Arena for a time of celebration and prayer. The theme for this national event was "Celebrating the Church" in working toward the unity captured in the prayer of Jesus in John 17:22, "that they may be one, as You and I are one."

The assembly featured an afternoon praise time for teenagers and young adults with many bands and special speakers. There was a ministry for all the children as well. The adult program was started by Russ Rosen leading in worship, with over 100 tambourine players, a flag parade of the provinces, official welcomes, the National anthem, many dancers and a huge choir, with prayers for the different parts of the body of Christ. During the day many leaders such as Mary MacLean, Brian Doerksen, David Ruis, and Dan Wilt took turns in leading us in praise and worship. We came together and prayed for government leaders, church and ministry leaders, and intercessors. We prayed that the church would respond to a call for repentance and a corporate expression of humility, and return to the roots of biblical Christianity, to recognize the church's original redemptive role in community and society, and rejoice and celebrate the various expressions of the church together.

David Mainse from 100 Huntley Street broadcast the entire day live across Canada in unity with Willard Thiessen from It's a New Day.

By Ruth Wall

THE JOURNEY OF HOPE

In 2001, over 500 people from across Canada journeyed to Israel with Watchmen for the Nation, a national prayer ministry, to repent to the Knesset and the Chief Rabbi of Israel for the anti-Semitism in Canada, to pray for Israel and to bring back the blessings from significant holy sites where God had intervened in the past. Terry & Ruth Wall, Emily Swar, Lorraine Cramp and myself went from Winnipeg to represent the province of Manitoba.

Prior to the journey, Winnipeg intercessors met to pray about fresh vision and plans for the future after March for Jesus, unity for city pastors and to see the heart of the city start beating again. Emily Swar felt moved by the Lord to give me a small red sponge heart to massage in Israel, a prophetic act that would hopefully release God's heartbeat back into our city. Others prayed and massaged the heart during the journey also. The heart was returned to Emily at the end of the journey. We had been obedient to God's call.

At a prayer meeting six months later an intercessor envisioned a heart being restored with half being new flesh, half old. At the Rise Up Manitoba conference a year later, a whole new heart was envisioned, though it was not yet beating. Later the beginning of heart beats were noticed and we were very encouraged by the report of a Taiwanese intercessor who saw a beating heart and spreading circulatory system when flying over Winnipeg.

Many similar expressions were reported locally. Prayers in the 2007 "Light the Trans Canada Highway" initiative prophesied open arteries ready to pump the blood across the nation. Mayor Sam Katz and the City Council have announced this fall 2008 that we are to be known as "Winnipeg, the Heart of the Continent"! There is a strong sense that the heart of God is beating strong on behalf of Winnipeg and His purposes are being released.

By Pastor Randy Wengel (Zion Apostolic Church)

POWER TO CHANGE

From March 24 to April 15 in 2001, under my leadership and a committee of pastors, leaders, and businessmen Campus Crusade brought the "Power to Change" initiative to Winnipeg. With funding from local businessmen and the churches we planned around 60 events in the city such as evenings with famous entertainers like Kelita, Wally Larson and Jon Buller. We had breakfasts and lunches with stars such as Paul Henderson, Toby Travis and Archie McLean where people could bring people from their workplace to hear their testimonies of how God changed the speakers' lives. We sponsored a huge P.O.D. concert at the Winnipeg Arena for the young people in the city, as well as a skateboarding event where they could bring their unsaved friends.

All the events were undergirded with much prayer as there were prayer teams at all of the events, praying throughout. The city was saturated with billboards, television and radio ads and newspaper articles inviting people to these events. The goal was to help equip the local church for evangelism and in the process dozens of churches had training sessions for people on ministering salvation to the lost and 350 youth attended a special Youth Training event. Several hundred volunteers gave leadership across Manitoba.

We estimate that 95% of the province saw the commercials on T.V. from 18-20 times, 350 churches participated, approximately 5000 people were trained to share their faith, 20,000 attended regional Special Events, and 18% responded to the message of love and forgiveness. 1101 people called the 1-800 number to ask for the CD/booklet, 48 prayed to accept Christ on the phone and 334 logged on to the website. More than 69,000 homes were visited at least once with an invitation or the booklet about Power to Change and \$427,586.00 in donations were received.

Lives were changed as over 2000 people accepted Christ for the first time and God was glorified in our province because of the saints that gave of themselves, for the gospel to be spread.

By Norman Brown (Power to Change)

PRAYER IN THE PARK

RAINBOW STAGE 2002 – 2004

“Prayer in the Park” was one of the initiatives that came out of the “Pastors Prayer Network”. The vision was to gather the whole Church of Wpg for corporate prayer and to do it in a way that families of all ages could participate in and have fun. We decided to have it outside, in a park, with food and music. Churches were invited to bring their congregations after their Sunday services to Kildonan Park for a picnic, an afternoon of fun and then to join the City Church at Rainbow Stage in the early evening for worship and prayer. Five to eight hundred people came out for three years. We endured mosquitoes, thunderstorms and rain inside and outside of the venue, but the faithful saints of Wpg came out with passion and purpose.

Jane Martens and her band from “Saturday Night” led us in worship the first night. We prayed for our government and the ethnic groups in Wpg, as well as the Church at large, including hindrances to the gospel like apathy. We hoped to unleash the Church in prayer, evangelism and unity. Social issues such as gangs & crime, the unborn, gambling and the youth of the City, were also prayed into.

We invited Government leaders like Joy Smith M.P. to come and lead in prayer for all levels of government. Many pastors led us in prayer over those years. All the offerings that were taken were given to charities in the city of Winnipeg.

Prayer in the Park wasn't one of our most successful endeavours but it will go down in Winnipeg Church annals as the wettest and windiest. Well, perhaps not the wettest. That award would probably go to the Last March for Jesus in 2000, where two downpours emptied the ballpark of marchers and created a stage wet enough for all the performers to hydroplane before a drenched and die-hard crowd of a few dozen people.

By Pastor Ron MacLean (Gateway Christian Community Church)

THE WINNIPEG PULPIT EXCHANGE

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity”

Those words from Psalm 133 have challenged the pastor’s of our city to ask the question, “How can we not just exist together in tolerance, but actually live together in unity and demonstrate that unity to our congregations?” Since 2002, part of the answer has included an annual pulpit exchange, where on a given Sunday morning, pastors exchange pulpits with another pastor, and together they each speak blessing, restoration and hope into each other’s congregations.

Pastors are given the freedom to arrange their own exchange, or a central planning group arranges the exchange. Frequently these exchanges cross denominational backgrounds, bringing together pastors from different traditions. It has provided a unique opportunity for us to call each other’s congregations to greater kingdom work, which blesses not just individual churches, but also the larger city church. These exchanges have also provided an opportunity for us to commend the gifts that our host congregation’s pastor brings to the greater city church.

We have seen over 30 pastors on a given pulpit exchange Sunday, speaking across our city in each other’s pulpits. The blessings have been huge for these congregations and also the pastor. I can’t think of one situation where the exchange did not produce positive fruit.

We are truly learning to link arms as pastors in the city and together become the shepherds of the city church. Congregation members have found a new freedom to bless and speak well of other church traditions because of the demonstrated unity and vulnerability that their pastor’s have demonstrated. Ongoing relationships and other joint ministry ventures have also been birthed through the pulpit exchanges. God is building His church.

By Pastor Bruce Adams (Kilcona Park Alliance Church)

THE HEALING ROOMS

Winnipeg Intercessors had been praying for some time for a Healing Revival to come to Winnipeg. In 2002, Pastor Randy of Zion Apostolic Church invited Steve and Christina Stewart, "Healing Room" leaders from Vancouver, to come and hold a conference in Winnipeg. Based on the model of "Healing Rooms" in Spokane, Washington where John G. Lake served in the beginning of the 1900's and saw 100,000 documented healings, this conference sparked further interest for Winnipeg. Training sessions for prayer workers were held during the fall.

In November of 2002, the "Winnipeg Healing Rooms" were established. Five Wpg pastors founded the Healing Rooms and Pastor Al Gordon graciously opened his church, King's Fellowship. From November 2002 until July 2007 the Healing Rooms were open there with close to 700 'patients' coming to seek healing. The prayer people involved there rely on 'Doctor' Jesus, believing the scripture in Mark 16:18 that if "they laid hands on the sick, they WOULD get well." People came with cancer, arthritis, blood diseases, depression as well as other illnesses. A 15 month old boy was healed of a blood disorder (confirmed by the doctor's report). A suicidal man "dropped in" one afternoon, and was set free of depression. People wandered in off the street and received salvation.

In July of 2007 the Healing Rooms moved from King's Fellowship to the "Prayer Furnace" on Panet Rd. We could again sense the deep Presence of the Lord. We continue to meet there and are seeing healings of shoulders, legs, eyes, backs as well as progressive healings of cancer. We also meet in Bethlehem Aboriginal Fellowship twice a month so that those in the inner city can avail themselves of the opportunity to be healed by Jesus.

By Jo-Ann Swenson (Director, Wpg. Healing Rooms)

LA DANSE TOUR

In Montreal on July 25, 2003 a team of 250 Canadians of every people group, age and region of the nation of Canada began a 5000 kilometre journey. This journey was another step in realizing the dream that was in the hearts of the forefathers of our nation: two people groups uniting in a bond of love and commitment. The La Danse Celebration tour was like a courtship: English Canada taking French Canadians across the nation, from Montreal to Victoria to show them to the English Canadian family. It was organized by Watchmen under the leadership of David Demian.

This tour traveled by buses, planes, and ferries. They stopped in Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Oshawa, Wpg, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Kelowna, Vancouver, and Victoria to meet with the body of Christ across the nation. In each of these cities there was a big celebration led by local worship leaders and the Montreal dance team called Alliance et Vie. Winnipeg was privileged to be a part of this amazing undertaking. A committee of people from many different churches prepared events to welcome our French family and provide the great hospitality that Winnipeg is known for.

On July 30, a group of French Catholic people from St. Boniface along with many others, met them as their planes arrived, playing guitars, singing and waving welcome signs. Many of the worship songs were done in French.

They were then taken to Gateway Community Church where they were served a lovely banquet, complete with white linen tablecloths and beautiful table centers with doves and wedding rings that Marilyn Keating had created. They were welcomed by a group of pastors and each person received a special gift of Manitoba honey.

After supper they were bused to The Forks, where we rented the Scotia Bank stage and put on a wonderful celebration. Hundreds of people came out to take part. We had some welcoming time, Jane Martens led worship and we danced with the Alliance et Vie team. David Demian spoke. The weather was beautiful! At the end, around 11:00 just as we finished there was a huge display of fireworks that went off at the ballpark that we felt the Lord had orchestrated. We were all truly blessed!

By Ruth Wall

CITY-WIDE PRAYER MEETINGS

Over the last 15-20 years there has been a lot of teaching to the Body of Christ through books and seminars on strategic prayer and spiritual mapping of our cities and communities by godly people who have had breakthroughs in their cities. Beginning in the 90's different pastors and prayer leaders in Wpg came together and began mapping our city also. There was a lot of research into the history of our city and a network of up to 500 intercessors from over 70 churches with a heart to pray for Winnipeg was formed with Ruth Reid coordinating.

City-wide prayer meetings have been held, some monthly, and an average of 70-80 and occasionally 100 or more intercessors and pastors have met to pray for specific needs and strategic targets such as church unity and vision, and how to touch the lives of people in Winnipeg with the gospel. Prayers of repentance and cleansing were offered at many sites where we believed there were acts of injustice.

In 2003, a new leadership team was formed, including Doug & Carolin Sadler from Ness Ave. Baptist, Rev. Ken Turnbull from St. Aidan's Anglican, Pastor Keith Miners and Terry & Ruth Wall from Gateway Christian Community and myself from Zion Apostolic.

Alistair Petrie gave me a solemn word in the summer of 2004 - to start praying with more fervour and intensity, as our city was at a crossroads and needed prayer. We did just that and I called for more prayer meetings, and more often.

Intercessors from cities across Canada have been connecting through conference calls on the first Wed. of each month and are praying for each other's city under the leadership of Sara Maynard of "Cityscape" ministries. We have all been encouraged and strengthened by sharing each other's burdens.

Prayer continues to go on in Wpg. through many different expressions and people. Thanks to everyone who has prayed on behalf of Winnipeg over the years.

By Pastor Randy Wengel (Zion Church)

PRAYING FOR THE MAYOR

In the fall of 2003, city intercessors were gathering once a month to pray for our city. In the November meeting there was a leading of the Holy Spirit to pray for the Mayor. While in prayer there was a sense that God wanted a change of mayors and even gave us a time frame to pray into. We had prayed faithfully and regularly for the present mayor, but those of us in leadership sensed that we needed to gather to pray specifically for a change. In mid-February 2004 about 60 intercessors and pastors gathered together and began to pray into God's purposes for Wpg. As we began to pray, there was a strong leading of the Spirit that the person on God's heart was Sam Katz, a businessman in the city. Then, at a gathering of pastors who were meeting to plan a prayer meeting, the election issue came up and there was a discussion about the city's future and how to pray for it. Ron Maclean suggested that we go and see Sam and share our heart with him.

Ruth Wall arranged a meeting, with only a few weeks left before the election. Pastors Bruce Martin, Ron MacLean, Mark Hughes, Junie Josue, Rob Baron, Todd Petkau, myself and Ruth Wall went to meet with Mr. Katz . The meeting lasted for about one hour in which a few of the pastors were able to share personal stories of encounters with him and why they thought he should let his name stand. He was visibly moved by our meeting and expressed that he would let us know within three days if he would allow his name to stand. On June 1st, 2004, Sam Katz declared his candidacy for mayor of Wpg. and was elected the city's 42nd. Mayor on June 22nd. He was re-elected in a landslide vote on Oct. 25th, 2006.

Mayor Katz sponsored a breakfast to thank the people who had helped with his campaign, to ask for help and share his vision for the future. He personally invited the leaders who went to his office to the breakfast and asked Pastor Bruce Martin to open the meeting with prayer and bless the meal. He shared the story of how the meeting with the pastors helped him to decide to run for mayor. We have continued to have a good working relationship with him in helping our city to be blessed, to prosper and to move into the future with opportunity for the next generation.

By Pastor Randy Wengel (Zion Church)

LOVE WINNIPEG

“Love Winnipeg” had humble beginnings. A young Bible college student named Juergen Hamm had heard of an event in B.C. called Love Abbotsford. Every spring the churches in that city hit the streets for one day to do random acts of kindness. The first ‘Love Winnipeg’ in 2004 was nothing more than Juergen’s church youth group and a few youth from other congregations. Nevertheless, the excitement generated from this fledgling group was contagious.

The Winnipeg Pastors’ Prayer Network saw the potential in the idea and by 2005 they were ready to jump in with both feet - - and hands. Work gloves were distributed to the pastors as a promotional touch point. At the same time David Macfarland of the EFC was championing a similar concept on a National scale under the name of “Celebration 2005”. No problem, in Winnipeg we would fly both banners over the city at the same time.

That first year was a roaring success as congregations were teeming with creative ideas. Over the course of the two week event, lunches were served to the faculties of local schools, cookies were delivered to police and fire precincts, cake and coffee was served to the staff at hospitals, lawns were mowed, back lanes cleaned up, hedges trimmed fences mended, and 40 square yards of graffiti were over-painted. The white Love Winnipeg shirts and smiling faces could be seen everywhere on our city’s streets.

Winnipeg Mayor Sam Katz was so impressed by the idea that he called a press conference to officially endorse the event. Congregations signed on, as the desire to love one’s city captured pastors and church members alike.

With 88 churches participating in 2008, Love Winnipeg is really just getting started as many congregations are beginning to see it as something they can do 52 weeks a year.

By Pastor Mark Hughes (Church of the Rock)

RISE UP MANITOBA

In May, 2003 I was given a public prophetic word during a large city meeting at Gateway - - "Do not let the prophets die. God has called you to gather the prophetic people in the province." A few minutes later another word was given that Wpg would become one of the centers for the prophetic in Canada. Prophetic round tables would be established here and become connected with others around the country. The response to these words was to pray for a year!

Then, in 2004, God told me and those in Wpg connected with me, to issue a call to 'whomsoever will come, to come' to a conference at the end of October, 2004. Two hundred people from 27 different churches and communities gathered. Richard Long from Toronto and Bryn Franklin from Vancouver were the main speakers. So, Rise Up Manitoba was birthed.

In April, 2005 Pastor Randy Wengel and I were invited to the Can. Prophetic Council meetings in Regina where we were prayed over and prophesied to for about an hour! In October 2005, Marc Brisebois, Stacey Campbell and Alistair Petrie were the main speakers when about 500 people from 65 churches and 27 communities gathered.

By this time there were relational connections made around the province. "Samuel Companies" and the "MB Prophetic Round Table" had been established out of the vision for Rise Up Manitoba. Annual conferences have been established in Dauphin and Brandon as well as Wpg. The vision is to gather all who will respond to God's call for the Body of Christ in MB to come together, rise up in each community and take its rightful place. This means listening to God, sharing what He is saying, praying the purposes of God into being and walking this out locally. It means proclaiming the gospel and being salt and light throughout the province.

Conferences in 2006 with Jay Bunker, a Native American who pastored for 35 years in Elk River, MN and 2007 with James Arreak, Inuit leader from Nunavut, focused on the place of First Nations and Inuit rising up and taking their place.

By Keith Miners (Gateway South Church)

THE HEALING THE LAND TEAM FROM FIJI COMES TO WINNIPEG

The Transformation II video which was released in April, 2001, featured the Inuit at the northern ends of the earth, and made a powerful impact upon the Fijians at the southern ends of the earth. By March 2004, the third Transformation video, "Let the Sea Resound", told of the amazing work that God was doing in a revived Fiji, particularly among the indigenous Fijians in the healing of their ancestral land. In the providence of God, both the Inuit of Canada and the 'Fiji Healing the Land Team' connected when eleven Fijians came to Canada in July of 2006. The launching pad to officially welcome them, and to thrust them out to the North, took place at the Forks in Winnipeg on July 5, 2006.

Official welcomes were given by Native Grand Chiefs Arnold Ouskan and Sydney Garrioch, and a Native Chief on the Committee for International Relations, David Harper. Welcomes were also given by MP Joy Smith, with blessings from the office of P. M. Stephen Harper, from the Hon. Eric Robinson, the Minister of Heritage and Culture in MB, and also the Deputy Mayor of Wpg, Mike Pagtakhan. Welcomes also came from the Jewish community, and from church leaders.

So, Wpg was the centre, the heart, from which the healing of the land vision was spread to Northern Canada, and from which it continues to spread, having become a movement. Manifestations of God's Presence in reconciling relationships, and in touching the sea and the land have been evident in each of the Nunavut communities where the healing the land process has taken place—Rankin Inlet, Pangnirtung, Clyde River, Pond Inlet and Arctic Bay.

The 'Protocol Event' at the Forks in Wpg began to open the heavens for this ministry into Canada. It was held under the leadership of a well-known Native pastor, Raymond McLean, and there is now a strong expectation that this healing the land process will be moving down from the North further South into indigenous communities in Manitoba as well.

By Roger Armbruster (Canada Awakening Ministries)

THE PEGWATCH PRAYER FURNACE

For several years groups and individuals in the Winnipeg area had been seeking the Lord for a House of Prayer that would be continuous, night and day, 365 days a year.

In July of 2005, a call came from Watchmen for the Nations encouraging a week of 24/7 prayer during the One Heart conference in Quebec. In response to this call we felt "Now is the time to start day and night prayer in Winnipeg!"

On July 24th, 2005, (the 17th of Tammuz on the Hebrew calendar) at 2 PM, we sounded the Shofar, and immediately a special presence of God settled in the place. Colleen Danchak started that first watch for the 24/7 Pegwatch Prayer Furnace in the gymnasium of Gateway Christian Community Church. The corner had been partitioned off and made cosy with sofas, candles, floor cushions and a stereo with lots of tapes to encourage participants along in worship and intercession. Paper and art supplies were provided for those who wished to express their worship or prayers in a more creative and tangible manner.

People sign up for the same time slot each week or for spots that are not spoken for. People can sign up on the internet under "Pegwatch", at Gateway Church or at the Prayer Furnace.

After 11 months of moving around the facility because of various school and church activities, the prayer furnace was moved into a little house on the front of the church property. Here, after having prayer and praise ascending for over three years, twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week, faithful people continue to seek the Lord in groups or in private devotional times. At least a dozen churches from Manitoba are represented each month as people of all ages come to pray over requests that have come in from around the world or locally here in Winnipeg.

By Jonathan & Carolyn Mutch (Winnipeg Prayer Furnace)

RED RIVER HEALING EVENT

In the summer of 2006, the Lord began to connect First Nations from both North and South of the U.S. border in the Red River Basin. Some of the leaders in this were Jay Bunker (Ojibwe) and Russell Hawkins (Dakota Sioux) on the U.S. side, and Raymond McLean (Ojibwe) and Irvin Wilson (Ojibwa) on the Canadian side. Some have even claimed that the Red River was named 'Red' because of the amount of innocent blood that was shed in this river basin during past conflicts between the Ojibwe and the Dakota Sioux, between the fur traders in which the First Nations were forced to take sides, and between the MN govt and the Dakota Sioux. God had previously spoken to Keith Miners about the need to do a healing ceremony at the source of the Red River, which is close to Sisseton, SD.

By September of 2006, Russell Hawkins, Superintendent of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Sisseton Agency (a legal gatekeeper from the Dakota Sioux, one of the most sinned against tribes), issued this statement: "This is an invitation to the Tribes to a gathering here in Sisseton, SD. The purpose of this gathering is to see reconciliation between the Tribes and restoration of the land. We are addressing the spiritual aspect of our past differences, and the land we fought for. One of our goals is to be one Body in Christ as Native people in this region" That event took place in late October, 2006.

The spiritual realm was shifted as the tribes repented to one another and released forgiveness. Soil samples from sites along the Red River where massacres and murders had taken place were thrown right back into the river's source after those sins were repented of and the blood of Jesus applied. One local lady 'happened' to be passing by. She shared that the Lord had shown her seven years earlier that this event would take place. At the same time as we repented at the source, a team was at the Forks and a team was at the mouth of the Red River. The cry from the land for justice for that innocent blood that was shed was replaced by the cry of the blood of Jesus for mercy and forgiveness.

By Roger Armbruster (Canada Awakening Ministries)

THE GOLDEN KEY

To say that Winnipeg is a City of Destiny is an understatement! It holds a significant position in global – national – provincial – and local arenas. It is not only known for ‘Portage and Main’ – but as a place where the wind of God has blown and which has impacted cities and nations in their destinies.

I have always regarded Winnipeg as a “template city”. It offers extraordinary diversity in culture, music, tradition, faith, education, industry, recreation, - a city that truly releases destiny! To that degree it is a Gateway City and many people who have come to Winnipeg, myself included, have found a welcome – a home – and a place of nurture, preparation essential for our release to the nations. It is a perfect template that demonstrates what the mosaic of the people of God really represents!

Some years ago, I travelled to many provinces and cities with a golden key used earlier by leadership across the United States. Prophetic symbols need to be used carefully – and prayerfully – since they quickly challenge a Western worldview! Working with a cross-section of leadership in each city and community, heart-felt prayers were made that addressed issues of unity – crime – social injustice – healing of the land – and the release of Kingdom culture. Testimonies came back with reports of many breakthroughs concerning changes in unemployment – the ecology – the economy – new leadership relationships within the Body of Christ – and Winnipeg was no exception in that the status of it being the “murder capital of Canada” began to shift.

It is essential we continue to learn what it means to be stewards of what God has entrusted to us in order to unlock our destiny and to continue extending the tent pegs of our God-given influence. The pages of this booklet offer a testimony to the destiny of a city that surely reflects Zechariah 8:20-23 – in which languages and nations will be blessed by Winnipeg having heard “that God is with you.”

By Rev. Dr. Alistair P. Petrie (Partnership Ministries)

THE AWAKENING AND BEYOND

In May of 2004 my wife and I received an invitation to relocate to Wpg to serve on staff at Calvary Temple. As we prayed, the Lord simply said, “Awaken the Giant”, and “Re-dig the wells of revival”. Through many confirmations from several key spiritual leaders across Canada and America, we transitioned ministry and moved here to Wpg in July of 2004. It was only days after being here that we knew that the ‘Giant’ was not just one church but rather ‘The Church of Winnipeg’, including many denominations, races, and generations. God was calling the church of Winnipeg to “Arise and Shine” (Is. 60).

This cry for the church to ‘Awaken’ was clearly heralded by evangelist Tommy Hicks in 1961 in his ‘End-Times’ vision. In November of 2006, we launched “The Awakening”. We felt the Lord calling us to gather the Church of Wpg to celebrate what He is doing in the region and to call on Him for a greater release of His glory, plans, and purposes in Wpg and surrounding area. “The Awakening” gatherings have carried on now in several different locations. It has never been about one particular church, so we gather in various ‘neutral’ sites. Hundreds of lives have been changed, challenged and provoked to see “His kingdom come, and will be done, in ‘Wpg’, as it is in heaven”!

In January of 2008, my pastor, Bruce Martin, asked me to pray about the possibility of transitioning our young adult ministry to a ministry on Sunday nights that would be focused on worship, prayer, and revival in Winnipeg, including all ages, all who are hungry. I proposed the name “Beyond” based on Ephesians 3:20 “... He is able to do beyond what we ask, think or pray...” believing that God wanted to meet us, empower us, and release us ‘beyond’ the walls of a church building. “Beyond” was launched on April 13, 2008. Hundreds now gather from dozens of different churches every Sunday night at “Beyond” as we passionately worship God, hear His Word, and experience His miraculous touch. Many have been physically healed, spiritually revived, and launched out to fulfill the great commission of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Praise God! The Giant is being awakened!

By Pastor Trevor Meier (Calvary Temple Church)

PRAYER BUSES

Over the years there have been a few times where we have rented buses and gone around the perimeter to pray and ask God for His favour on our city. In the 1990's a group of women from Women's Aglow circled the city with prayer.

In preparation for the 2006 Franklin Graham Festival in Winnipeg, a call for prayer was made and it was to be on buses as they circled the city. The response from the churches was overwhelming and on October 14, 2005 people from different denominations in Winnipeg and surrounding communities gathered at Eastview Community Church on the outskirts of the city. They united their hearts in praise, worship and prayer before boarding the twelve rented city buses. Seven vans had to be added for the overflow. Some people stayed to pray at the church. Each bus had a prayer leader and a sheet with suggestions of what to pray about, as the vehicles circled the city via the Perimeter Hwy. Voices were raised in prayer, praise, worship and in declaration of God's promises. The prayer was that God would move upon and touch the hearts of the people of Winnipeg and the surrounding communities.

On April 17th, 2007 a few pastors, leaders and a group of intercessors from the City-Wide Prayer group rented a bus and drove to the four gates of the city of Winnipeg to pray for the opening of the gates of the city for the King of Kings to enter, and for His will to be done in our city as it was in heaven. Our first stop was the east gate, at the corner of the Trans Canada Hwy. east and Lagimodiere Blvd. Then we travelled to the south gate, the Red River and Hwy. 75. Next we moved on to the west gate, Trans Canada Hwy. west and finished our praying at the north gate of the Red River and Henderson Hwy. As we travelled to the gates, we got out of the bus and prayed, praised, and shared pictures and visions people had and read appropriate scripture.

By Tina Jerger

THE FRANKLIN GRAHAM FESTIVAL

The central Canada Franklin Graham Festival happened on the weekend of October 20-22, 2006 in the MTS Centre, Winnipeg.

It was an amazing event with a total attendance of 50,645. However it was much more than a 3-day event in a downtown location. Throughout our entire region and beyond our province, well over 200 churches were actively engaged in mobilizing their people in life-style evangelism. Imagine churches from every denomination working together to proclaim the message of Jesus. 3,000 people attended Christian life and witness classes, to help them become equipped to share their faith and make disciples, influencing Christ's kingdom far beyond a weekend event.

For me personally this is the absolute strength of Franklin Graham's approach to evangelism. Local churches and believers must cooperate. He comes to partner with us not to do the work for us but to strengthen our hand in what we are already doing in our local churches.

Also on a personal note, I see a couple regularly in my small group who responded to Franklin's call. They had been invited by a lady from our church and were assigned to us for follow-up. In the greater Christian community I continually meet people who, when introducing themselves to me, make the connection back to the Franklin Graham Festival. I believe that the process and the systems involved in this event can serve the Christians in our area long into the future.

We were given the tools to work together and were reminded that making disciples is far more than getting someone to make a decision. I, for one, am thrilled that Franklin Graham came to Winnipeg. Yes, it was worth the expense and at the end of the day the bills were all paid.

By Pastor Bruce Martin (Calvary Temple Church)

THE ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE AT THE FORKS WITH A SURPRISE VISIT FROM THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

On June 2 & 3, 2007, two of our Native leaders of the Church in Manitoba, Raymond McLean and Irvin Wilson, linked arms to issue a call to the Body of Christ in Manitoba for an event at the 'Inn at the Forks' that they called "Breakthrough Manitoba".

Both Native and non-Native leaders were given an opportunity to share, with special focus being given to past "Healing the Land" events, particularly at Berens River First Nation in northern Manitoba, where God showed up in a big way in October, 2006, with letters appearing on a school classroom wall which caused the fear of God to come upon the whole school in that community.

"Breakthrough Manitoba" was held at the Forks in order to facilitate a special corporate gathering to pray outdoors right at the Red River. That prayer time was to have taken place at 4:00 PM. on June 3, but with the Spirit moving so powerfully from the previous session, the group did not make it outdoors until 4:45 PM. It was God's perfect timing.

Rodrick Ross from Berens River First Nation, noticed that the Governor General of Canada, Michaëlle Jean, just 'happened' to be walking by at the Forks at that moment. He invited her to join us, and against the wishes of her security staff, she insisted that she wanted to join us, and to pray with the First Nations leaders right at the historic Forks. Michaëlle Jean said she would give her blessing to our prayers and joined Ruth Wall in throwing a stone into the Red River from the Valley of Elah in Israel (where David killed Goliath), along with some of the earth from sites along the Red where innocent blood had been shed, but over which the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus had previously been applied along with identificational repentance by both the Dakota Sioux and Ojibwe tribes. Michaëlle Jean left the Gathering under the pressure of her security guards exclaiming, "I wish that more people in Ottawa had the same spirit that you people have!"

By Roger Armbruster (Canada Awakening Ministries)

LIGHT THE TRANS CANADA HIGHWAY - 2007

What an amazing picture of love and unity in prayer! Intercessors from Victoria, BC to St. John's, NF. connected and tag teamed for a 35 day National Prayer Drive initiative in 2007. The prayers went forth shining from the west coast to the east, like the brilliant beauty of the setting and the rising of the sun. The vision was clear; the issue was the condition of the spiritual heart within our nation. The Trans Canada Highway was the perfect symbolic picture as it flowed throughout Canada like a main heart artery. Every mile of the Trans Canada was driven and prayed for.

Canadian intercessors met in cities with other intercessors, focusing their prayers on heart passions like love, holiness, seeking God's kingdom first and softening the hardness of hearts. Many volunteers came bearing gifts, prayers and sacrifices of time and money. "Prepare the way", was the cry, "Remove the stones. Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord." (Isaiah 62:10)

Interestingly, Winnipeg, MB was a significant strategic piece within the bigger picture. Past prophetic words had been given that the heart of Canada (Winnipeg) was dying. For years leaders and intercessors, reminding God of His mercy, faithfully took these words, repenting and speaking life back into this heart.

November 9th, 2007 was the scheduled day for "Light the Trans Canada" connection in Winnipeg. Intercessors from Winkler, Morden, Brandon and Portage La Prairie met with Winnipeg's intercessors at 'The Bridge' Church. Here prayer and words were given. One specific prophetic word resonated in our spirits that "Winnipeg was the heart and the heart arteries were now open to flow across the nation." Ezekiel 36:26, 27 was also a key scripture for them and spoke deeply into Winnipeg's destiny.

To conclude, on November 10, 2007 Wpg leaders took the prayer baton received at 'The Bridge' Church and travelled to the Ontario border. There they met with approximately 30 pastors and intercessors from Ontario, for a powerful prayer time and passing on the blessings.

By Shirley Hildebrand – (Coordinator)

MANITOBA PRAYER BREAKFAST

One of the “Nation At Prayer” assignments is to ‘spark prayer gatherings’. In a conversation with Steven Fletcher in his office on Parliament Hill we began to explore the possibility of hosting a Provincial Prayer Breakfast in Manitoba, working together to that end.

We recognized that throughout Canada, many cities hold these gatherings. Some are modeled after the National Prayer Breakfast held in Ottawa each spring, and some a simple gathering of local persons led by a local mayor or business person. The purpose of these breakfasts is to give Christians an opportunity to get together on an informal basis, celebrating our collective faith regardless of denomination. It is a time of fellowship and a sharing of faith through music, inspirational message and prayer.

Candice Hoepfner, Ed Toews, Bill & Jeannette Fast, Ethel Beck, Terry and Ruth Wall, Greg Wood, Herb Wittenberg, Rick Hefford, Steven & I made up that first Steering Committee. We did not have funding so if it were going to be successful it would have to be on a cost recovery basis - - our collective faith believing - - that the Lord would provide.

One year later at 7:15am on October 10, 2007, we launched the ‘first annual’ MB Prayer Breakfast. Jack Murta joined us from the National Prayer Breakfast in Ottawa to share some history of Prayer Breakfasts as we began the morning. We were blessed as our prayer time was led by Carter Houck, a young man 6yrs old, as he prayed for our government leaders. It was a definitive moment as people relaxed and quietly joined hearts in the following prayer time.

Pastor Bruce Martin prayed for our Business and Church Leaders, Janice Filmon for Community and Homes, and after a powerful ‘Tribute to Our Military’, Michael Van Vaender prayed for ‘Military Law Enforcement and Rescue’. Serge LeClerc gave a passionate and inspiring testimony. With Sherry Ansloos and Ainsley Schroeder ministering in music, the groundwork was laid for future breakfasts.

The next year, October 15, 2008, we were again blessed with an anointed time of prayer, music, and testimony by Dennis Ignatius. The Manitoba Prayer Breakfast has found roots and is wonderfully supported by the various communities – Church, Ministry, Business and Political. As the Lord leads, we will together continue to “Celebrate the Person and Purpose of Jesus Christ”.

By Helen Toews (Provincial Director for Nation At Prayer)

TOUCHING THE HEART

'Touching the Heart' was a powerful national prophetic and intercessory assignment in the nation's geographic heart – Winnipeg. On Nov. 15-18, 2007, twenty-one national intercessors gathered, at their own expense, in Winnipeg with 30 key intercessors from Manitoba to bless Winnipeg. We began with an amazing welcome banquet where over 20 pastors from the city as well as First Nations leaders united to welcome us, open the gates of the city to us, and pray for us. We were overwhelmed and profoundly blessed.

The Lord quickly began to speak to us and direct us the following day as we pressed in to see Winnipeg blessed and released into its destiny. After an extended time of worship, the First Nations leaders led the way, repenting for the Native Spirituality that had opened the door to the demonic in the region. Much prayer and intercession for the First Nations followed. That evening we continued in worship and the Lord began to speak about a new well that He desired to open up, even though previous wells had been blocked up (similar to Isaac's re-digging of Abraham's wells). We clearly saw it was a well for the whole city and included a spiritual inheritance of healing.

The following day we received news that Pastor Bob Birch (Father of a Prayer Movement in Canada) was failing. As the Lord led us to establish the four stones for the foundation of the altar of prayer in the heart of the nation, He began to speak about the passing of a mantle of intercession to a new company of Intercessory Leaders. The scripture that came very strongly was John 12:24, "unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it abides alone."

We knew that the Lord had brought us to Winnipeg to bless this key city, but in the midst of this He was also releasing to the company that He had assembled, a commission to run with the passion for Canada and the fire of intercession that Pastor Bob had carried. What a profound time of prayer in the heart of our nation!

By Sara Maynard (Cityscape Prayer Ministries)

CARING FOR THE CORE

The core area of Winnipeg, for a time, was championed by Harry Lehotsky. The downtown area is where immigrants tend to settle, gangs are a problem, and there is a great deal of poverty and crime. As the 'Love Winnipeg' initiative grew in numbers and enthusiasm, the pastors of the suburban churches began to see the larger picture of what was needed to reach this large populace in our city.

Pastor Mark Hughes, at a monthly pastors' and leaders' meeting with about 80 churches represented, asked those from the larger suburban churches to stand in a circle. He then asked the inner city church and ministry leaders to stand in the middle of that circle. Although the purpose was to pray as a group, it became an interactive and defining moment, giving each person a clear understanding and increased passion to partner together – the ratio of suburban churches to ministries in the core was three to one. We clearly needed to regroup somehow if we were to effectively reach the 'Core'. That moment birthed 'Caring for the Core' in 2008.

Although the 'Love Wpg' event itself had been going on for the last couple of years, it then took on new significance and enthusiasm. Many churches and ministries realized that if we would work together, officially partnering and supporting each other, we could reach more souls. The events are varied, but the heart and soul of the initiative is to reach people of this area with the gospel – the good news! To let people know that they are loved. The good news is ministered by different groups doing random acts of kindness, and hosting the community events that would reach personal needs in the community and is an intricate part of the Love Winnipeg campaigns.

Working together, partnering, regardless of denominational backgrounds for this common purpose, has given strength to churches and ministries and a unity of purpose that continues to grow throughout the year. The 2 weeks of targeted events during Love Winnipeg's 'Caring for the Core' has become a catalyst to ignite many different co-operative events and the result has been the blending of churches and ministries to a bond of solidarity. It is my privilege to serve the Love Winnipeg Committee for this unique initiative.

By Helen Toews

THE “CROSS THE STREET” CONFERENCE

“That was the best conference we have ever been to” was heard repeatedly of the “Cross the Street” National Evangelism event that was held in Winnipeg in the spring of 2008. This event, which attracted over 400 key leaders, was a response to the reality that many congregations look inward and need to regain a sense of mission to become a powerful influence for Christ in their communities.

There were four main speakers plus many practical equipping electives. Dr. Tony Campolo, who opened the conference, told of Mother Teresa who was in Philadelphia and heard that a city board had just voted against having a home for disadvantaged people in their community. Immediately she went to the meeting and, in front of a huge audience, knelt and asked the board to please reconsider. Seeing this woman, famous for her sacrifice for the underprivileged, they changed their vote. Message: we can all have influence if we serve like Jesus.

Claude Houde, who pastors an influential French speaking congregation in Montreal that feeds over 8000 individuals a month and sees people come to faith in Christ every week through their outreach, talked about our need for Godly passion. Mark Hughes, pastor of the Church of the Rock who hosted the event, talked about the ‘Titanium Rule’ and how the Christian faith is not about us but about loving and serving others. David Arrol Macfarlane, the evangelist who had the vision for this national “Cross the Street” event, was the closing plenary speaker. David used the word ‘VISION’ as an acrostic describing six steps for regaining our sense of mission and community transformation. He gave hope by saying: “If we all do a little it adds up to a lot!”

Wpg was the right location for this successful national equipping event as it is a city with a rich history of united prayer, congregations working together and pastors who have a heart to see their neighbourhoods impacted by the gospel. Many leaders from across our nation attended this Wpg event and took back with them a spark from this conference that is setting other communities on fire for Christ!

By David Macfarland (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada)

THE BENEDICTION

Several months ago when the Lord spoke to me about doing this book I was quite overwhelmed and wondered where I would ever start such an undertaking. The Lord quickly spoke to me that I was to start when He took over the air waves over Winnipeg. In pondering that I realized that was when "It's a New Day" began. Thus, this journey started with the formation of Trinity Television. As I prayed into what the Lord would have me include I felt that what has happened in Winnipeg in the past was now to be sealed and scribed and that it was again, going to be a New Day in Wpg.

In preparing for the Rise Up Manitoba conference Nov.4-6 this year, Randy Wengel, Keith Miners and I felt we needed to invite Dave Barnum who is a prophet who lives in New York to be our guest speaker. He was invited to speak in some of the churches in Winnipeg and was a great blessing. He accepted our invitation, prayed, and shared with us that he felt the Lord said that this would be the most important conference that he had ever done. In preparing to speak here the only words that the Lord gave him was that he was to come to Winnipeg and bring the Benediction. The dictionary defines a benediction as the asking of God's blessings at the end of a religious service. A significant part of our conference involved recognizing the many initiatives into which God had released us, as described in this book. We humbly thanked Him and sought His blessings and leading as we looked to the future. We sensed a quiet birthing of something new that was on God's heart.

We felt that we have stepped out of the River Jordan and are now going out the other side into the promised land. We are very excited to see what the Lord has in store for our city. I pray that as we continue to seek His face, walk in unity, love and honor one another, and pray for the welfare of our city, that His full purposes for Winnipeg will be released.

Jeremiah 29:11 "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 a hope and a future."

In His Love, Ruth Wall

PROPHETIC WORDS

Many people have asked me to include some prophetic words that have come over the years. We have literally had dozens of words spoken over us especially about the heart. I have chosen only two to be a part of this as they represent the main thrust of many others.

This word was given at the Manitoba Legislative Building on March 6, 1998 by Cindy Jacobs:

“And the Lord says I have placed the name “PEG” into this city because I am going to make it a tent peg and a sure place. The Lord says I will anchor Myself in this city. I will begin to draw lines from this city. Satan has tried to draw lines but I will draw lines from this city. I am going to extend a line of righteousness that will go forth from this city from sea to shining sea. I am going to extend forth from North to South to East and to West. I am going to extend My hand upon this nation from this city says the Lord and I will bring forth a revival and a work in this city that will touch and shake the nations of the earth, so the Lord says even I will manifest Myself as the tent peg. I am going to put an anointing upon the women of this city even as I put upon Jael and she drove the tent peg in the Sisera temple and she pinned him to the ground and he was the captain of the arm. The Lord says I am putting that anointing of Jael to take the tent peg and destroy the enemy. I am going to put an anointing of Jael upon my intercessors here. I am also going to raise up My Deborah and My Barak and I am going to do a new thing here. You are going to see team ministry, men and women, husband and wives rise up and I am going to display My glory here and use this city to bring a great healing to genders. I am going to do it in a pioneer way and the new things that I am doing, you will see in this manifestation of My anointing that there is neither male nor female. I am going to bring forth a new thing in a new way in this hour says the Lord. I will put the government upon My shoulders from this place and I am going forth as the lawgiver. Look to the newspapers, I am going to expose sin and am getting ready to rip the covers off unrighteousness and corruption will be exposed. Financial corruption will be exposed; political intrigue will be exposed and God says, I am only uncovering it to reveal and heal, because I am going to put the government upon My shoulders, says the Lord.”

This word was given in Toronto, Canada on August, 24, 1997 by Gordon Grieve:

THE PROPHECY ABOUT BREAD

“I saw a fountain out of Winnipeg. As it sprung up out of the ground it turned into a manifestation of a whole, uncut loaf of bread. The outer spray of the fountain reached east and west to the boundaries of Manitoba. Another fountain sprung forth within the first, and the spray of it catapulted upward higher than the first. The spray covered east to the Ontario/Quebec border and west to the Saskatchewan/Alberta border. A third fountain gushed forth from the middle of the other two great continuing sprays of loaves of bread. It, too, found a greater pressure to extend its influence eastward to the Quebec/Maine and Atlantic borders and westward to the

Alberta/B.C. border. Again a fourth spray under a great gusher rose higher than the other three and sprayed out eastward past P.E.I. The ocean was covered in loaves of bread. I did not see Newfoundland receive bread but I did not lift my eyes northward, but seemed to carry out a line from the latitude of Wpg. and southward as I went east. The westward flow of the opposite side of this fourth gusher landed out in the Pacific Ocean. The spray continued as a mighty fountain. Then the axis of the fountain turned to the north and south of Wpg. Northward the loaves tumbled upward to Baffin Island and the Arctic areas and some loaves tumbled up and over the top of the world. It was here that a most glorious thing happened...the flow all seemed to emphasize a downpour over the U.S./Canada border.

The bread traveled on rivers, first of all into the Dakotas, in a westerly but outward flow. This bread flowed with a torrent through Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois, at which time the whole of the Mississippi River system (including the Missouri River) carried these loaves down to the Gulf of Mexico. The loaves leaped from the mouth of the Gulf into every island of the West Indies. At this time the glorious manifestation of this Living Bread caused a great expelling of demonic and voodoo spirits. Some of the islands were so cleansed that great light penetrated areas of darkness and strongholds of demonic activity were vacated. The loaves continued to go around South America, banging into the far westerly coast and then went out of sight.

The Lord spoke clearly to me as I began to review and return to Winnipeg in my vision. I found the fountain still flowing and a great cloud of witnesses and the testimony of Jesus still was on the city. I was lying on my back throughout this time. The Spirit of God said, "This is the Bread of My Presence. I will feed My people My word for I am the Bread of Life. I will nourish, I will strengthen, I will enlarge the church's authority from this place."

The oven of the church was such that they had learned to bake bread and would no longer scorch or burn the bread and He was trusting Winnipeg to influence the world with the tastiness of Himself. He said many would want to eat the bread because it looked good and smelled wonderful and God would give each who would partake daily a taste for this bread. He said others would look and say "What is it? What is it?" This will not be understood by the religious. The wolves in the church will expose themselves and speak against making this bread. They will want to know where the meat is. Winnipeg will reply that it is exactly what they are speaking of. It is Manna from above.

God is so pleased with Winnipeg's desire to be one Church that He says to you to endure and keep baking bread. There is a great spiritual side of enlightenment that will come but there is also a social aspect of this move of God, even providing food for the hungry. The one will work hand-in-hand with the other. Winnipeg, you will affect all of Canada. The world will come to see you make bread. They will learn from you and will take the recipe to their Nations and the manifest presence of His holiness will touch their nations.