

Home Views

*Celebrating Sixteen Years Of Nurturing Christian Community
Boarding Homes Ministry*

*Glory To God
In The
Highest*

Luke 2:14



“Jeffry stretches, ‘reaches’ for God, even in all harsh the constraints of life.”

*From the Cat
Jeffry Church
School
Curriculum,
William Ho.*

“...and you shall be called Sought Out, a city not forsaken...” [Isaiah 62:12 KJV]

Driven by love, God searches out and draws close. This is the way of Grace. And so it was the Christ-child came into that unpromising corner of Bethlehem. Humanity in all its frailty and beauty was lovingly sought out. God *found, drew close, and blessed.* Christians today can take up a partnership with God and, compelled by love, seek out those who have too often been forsaken. As Boarding Homes Ministry enters its seventeenth year its house communities stand as witnesses to God’s pattern of searching love. Strangers are now friends. Strong relationships support, and lives are nurtured as blessings ebb and flow in Christian community.

***This Advent, from our home communions:
Rejoice, for you are loved, and found.***

Greetings from the Board

On behalf of our Board, I bring you Christmas greetings and a thank you to all our donors and supporters. Your generosity allows us to sustain the existing home ministries and promote new ones. The need for Christian community is urgent.

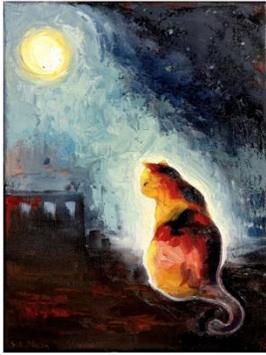
Our financial situation is serious. We have approximately 18 months remaining in the ministry’s reserve fund. This puts at risk our existing programs, much less any future expansion. We ask you to prayerfully consider how you and your home congregation might help address this very serious concern.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration. In Christ, Kimberly Oliver, Chair

Please Come Along On A Pilgrimage
as the newsletter explores
the spiritual fabric of a
Boarding Home visit.

To Donate: Please send in a cheque with the donor card. Or a cancelled cheque to use PAR, *pre-authorized remittance*, and show the amount to withdraw each month. Donors can use a credit card at canadahelps.org on BHM’s page. Please also consider our ministry in estate planning.

A donation of \$50 provides weekly support, food and resources for home visits; \$25 helps provide pastoral training for team members; \$100 helps fund major Christmas and Easter feasts in the homes; \$20 aids in training for seminary students; \$50 helps towards our very popular summer bbqs; \$40 helps circulate our *Cat Jeffry Church School Curriculum.*



Jeffrey is bathed in light, and equipped by God for ministry.

By Sue Miller, one of 20 posters from the *Cat Jeffrey Church School Curriculum*.

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God.
1 John 4:7 NIV

Boarding Homes Ministry

St. Q, Box 713,
Toronto, M4T2N5,
416-992-4987
Rev. Rodger Hunter, Chaplain,
Email: bhmin@sympatico.ca

We're on the Web!
See us at:

www.boardinghomesministry.ca

A Spiritual Journey

Tucked away in unpromising corners of our towns and cities are gifted people of wit, charm, and spiritual insight. Their fortitude will inspire. Their hurts will draw us closer to God and each other. But, unless Christians diligently seek them out - their lives will remain unmet, and we will all be the poorer.

Boarding Homes Ministry encourages Christians to move freely out in their neighbourhoods and form new, loving communities in which God is glorified and humanity is graciously met.

This newsletter explores how God moves in these boarding home visits, and, how you might move in them as well.

A Boarding Home Visit: Nurturing Christian community is at the core of our ministry. New communities of faith take shape as church visitors join with residents. **And where is God?** The fruits of God's Spirit enable them all draw close. *Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control* [Gal 5:22-23 NIV]. These gifts help overcome 'distance' and let communion flourish.

When a resident has in their heart, "I'm lonely", or, "I'm happy"; or "I'm frightened", or "Let's read scripture so that it will cheer our souls" **team members are there** to lovingly respond and take the words seriously.

And where are BHM donors in all the visits? They are part of every moment. First off, their support nurtures community. Their generosity pays for a Chaplain to promote the work, and they provide all manner of resources for the ministry. Their kindness colours every visit. Our donors help a small basement room become a many-layered, vital gathering place where God is glorified and humanity met.

A resident said, "God is smiling on this." Yes.

The model of ministry is simple, and fruitful.
God calls, then equips, the faithful for community ministry.
You also might become a part of new and joyful communion.

Over the years seminary students have been an important part of the mix, and the homes provide excellent learning opportunities. "You're my girlfriend," he told me. I didn't know how to respond, but he continued, "I mean, you're a girl, and you're my friend. And I like you." "I like you too," I answered, with a little relief. And I do. I like his awkwardness. The restlessness that prevents him from staying seated. I hope I will become wise enough to be able to say the truth: "You are a blessing." Emily Gordon

And what of the future? Where shall all of us be: residents, team members, donors and students? As children of Bethlehem's Child we shall continue on a pilgrim's road to the banquet of heaven. And, while on the road, as pilgrims can, we might ponder our roles in Christian community. There are still many places to go, and spiritual gifts to share. God is praised.