

Matt 25:35

# Graffiti

News from Victoria Christian Street Chaplaincy  
A ministry of Church Army in Canada

June 2001

**Please put  
a lid on it!**

The Shoebox Place  
will be closed for  
holidays, July 30 until  
Labour Day.

Please remember to  
bring shoebox hampers  
for the fall to 930  
Mason St., behind St.  
John's (Quadra St.).

## Survey says... kids are thankful

∟Our small survey  
reveals grateful hearts.

\* "Thanks and Goodbye" to Youth for Christ.

\* Student Terry Condran changes his thoughts  
about evangelism at street level.

## Preaching without words!

**"My life is everything I never wanted it to be,"  
sobbed one of the two girls, 19 and 20, who had  
asked to talk with me.**

While using speed they had turned a trick, one for the first time,  
and contracted herpes. Now facing the reality of a lifetime with  
bouts of uncomfortable genital warts, they needed help buying  
medication.

I was encouraged that they had approached me and poured out  
their hearts while knowing I strongly disapprove of their actions.  
Drugs of any kind might provide a temporary remedy for the  
aches and pains in their life, but my desire is that they find the  
comfort only God can give. So I'm praying that through our  
friendship they are experiencing a taste of what it's like trusting  
God to fully know us, love us and accept us in Christ.

I didn't need to scold them. Their eyes showed how stunned  
they were by the real consequences of their choices. "I feel so  
untouchable," the other girl said.

I hugged them both, helped with medication, and began  
working with one to get into treatment for early drug addiction.

One of them commented in our recent survey, "He believes in  
God, he tries to share his beliefs but if you don't believe he  
doesn't push you." We don't push, but we do pray God's love in  
us will attract.

This is one example of what keeps me hoping and praying. I  
hope it helps you too.

Peace in Christ,  
Capt. Rick Sandberg.

## God Provides! We reply!

Truth is we were running a little bit in the red at the beginning of June,  
but cheques from regular supporters and others had arrived by June  
6, bringing us about even. **Thank you Lord!**

All our money goes to Church Army to be accounted and receipted.  
Rick' salary is paid directly by Church Army, and 100 percent of the  
rest comes back to Victoria for ministry costs. Church Army monitors  
those expenditures as well.

Our overhead costs are minimal thanks to St. John's providing us with  
low-rent space. Most of our money is spent buying food when  
shoebox supplies are low and directly helping youth with their diverse  
needs (see above).

If you would like to contribute financially, please send your tax  
receiptable gift to: The Church Army, Suite 301 50 Gervais Dr., Don  
Mills, ON M3C 1Z3. Direct deposit is available.

Financial statements are provided annually to contributing parishes,  
and are also available upon request.

## It's ministry as usual where the rubber meets the road!

With mixed emotions our street ministry ended  
its formal association with Youth For Christ  
(Victoria), April 10.

Youth for Christ provided sanctuary, support  
and supervision for our ministry five years ago  
when the Anglican Diocese of BC changed the  
way it wanted to foster ministry. YFC took me  
in and encouraged me to follow my heart and  
God's leading. The following years provided  
some of the best fellowship and most  
challenging times I have experienced. Through  
it all I was blessed by the strongest fellowship  
in Christ. Thank you YFC staff and board!

In the last couple of years, as YFC went  
through its own transition, our ministry team  
took a stronger leadership role and  
strengthened our ties to Church Army. At the  
same time, our financial support and  
partnership in ministry was almost exclusively  
through Anglicans. And we also began to  
believe God was leading us to acknowledge  
our Anglican flavour.

I met with Bishop Barry Jenks to discuss our  
thinking, and my personal desire to function as  
an Anglican Church Army captain. Bishop  
Barry was gracious, supportive and  
understanding of our heart desire to  
acknowledge the working of the Holy Spirit  
through Anglicans participating in our ministry.

So as of April we have functioned solely as a  
Church Army ministry in Victoria.

## Who we are – How we work

Victoria Christian Street Chaplaincy consists of  
myself, Rick Sandberg, a Church Army captain  
posted in Victoria, answering to Church Army  
National Headquarters in Toronto, and to a  
Regional Director in Abbotsford.

Locally, our ministry team consists of five  
members besides myself, and about 20  
volunteers at the Shoebox Place. Together the  
team oversees our ministry – budget,  
fundraising, planning, monitoring and decision  
making. Again, I am accountable to the team  
and draw support and direction from its  
members.

Team members are: Rob Hosie, chair (St.  
Philip's); Barb McKee, Treasurer (St. Philip's);  
Bunny Poole, shoebox coordinator  
extraordinaire (St. Paul's); Marion Vipond (St.  
Matthias'); Joan Finnis (Christ Church  
Cathedral).

Newcomers are welcome on our team,  
volunteering at the Shoebox Place or  
ministering on the street with me.

Rick S.

## A Letter from the Student

It has been a month now since I have arrived in Victoria, so I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself.

I have, had the pleasure of meeting several of the Volunteers at the Shoebox Place and have been made extremely welcome. **This has also given me the opportunity to observe the love and concern for the young people, who visit the house on Mason Street.**

I must admit that I came to Victoria with many preconceived beliefs about evangelism which were quickly dispelled. Through watching Rick Sandberg, I have learned that love and friendship is the best form of evangelism on the street, not proselytizing.



St. Paul writes; *"And you yourself must be an example to them by doing good deeds of every kind. Let everything you do reflect the integrity and seriousness of your teaching."* (Titus 2:7) This speaks to me about encouraging young people to live wisely, not being blind to the consequences of their life choices. But, God is "not willing that any should perish" (2 Peter 3:9), "so in life and in death, we belong to the Lord." (Romans 14:8) And *"Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs too such as these.'"* (Matthew 19:14) It is up to us, God's representatives, to open the door to the Kingdom and make the Kingdom a welcoming and loving place to enter. Youth must have a sense of ownership in the Kingdom of Heaven and we, as Christ's witnesses, can show the way to discovering and experiencing this ownership in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through your prayers and help, God's Plan for these young people can and will, prosper.

**Struggling in Christ's Love;**

**Terry Condran**

(Terry is a Church Army student with us from May to July.)

## Shoebox Consumer Survey

By Terry Condran

Recently, we asked Shoebox Consumers to complete a questionnaire focusing on three main areas of our ministry. The results were encouraging and helpful.

**The first section focused on the Shoebox Place** and how the youth interact with the Ministry. When questioned on their likes and dislikes with the shoebox hampers, they replied that they find them useful and terrific, like the many different items, but that there is not enough solid food that actually fills the belly and sticks with them. (For a list of suggested items call Rick at 885-3178, or Bunny at 853-6026.

The youth describe the Shoebox Place as a welcoming, good and happy place to come to and the Volunteers are seen as good, friendly and helpful people most of the time. Other comments included, "**Shoebox rules**" and "**please do not move or close!**" It seems street kids find it a safe place to interact with healthy adults who mean them no harm.

**The second section dealt with the youth's interaction with Capt. Rick Sandberg.**

The Street Youth see Rick as a believable Christian, that they have met on the street and come to trust. When questioned on their personal interaction with Rick, they replied with "awesome", "a great pick me upper" and "**Life changing. Honestly, he changed our lives.**" Others answered with "great", "all right" and "Godly".

**The Youth see Rick as** "helpful", "great to talk with" and "fills a need for friendship and direction". Rick is someone who will be there for them to help in anyway possible, from just talking and listening with them, to helping them find places to live.

**The Survey asked for criticism and suggestions** for his Ministry and they had no objections to Rick's approach. They recognize Rick as a Christian with a desire to share his faith with them, but greatly appreciate that Rick does not push his beliefs, and that he respects other views.

**The third section dealt with the "Big Picture"**, and how this Ministry and Rick share God's Love. The Youth replied that the Ministry has been successful and has accomplished this goal.

When asked how our Ministry has effected their own thoughts about God and Christians, they replied that they *feel* the same, but they *have* changed their opinions about Christians and some feel that they can talk freely about God.

When asked, how the Shoebox Ministry has been helpful in their lives, they replied that they will meet good people, receive good food and know that they will eat from Monday to Friday.

The overall finding of the Survey is that the Street Youth have found that the Shoebox Place is a safe place to come to and that they are welcome to come as often as they want. When people's basic need for food is taken care of, the basic need in all people for God's love can also addressed. And a bellyful of Christian love can prompt the hardest of hearts to reach out for the wholeness only our Heavenly Father can and will, impart.