



# *Praise Reports*

We Are Christ Day

Our prayer is that The Lord would give

*permanence*

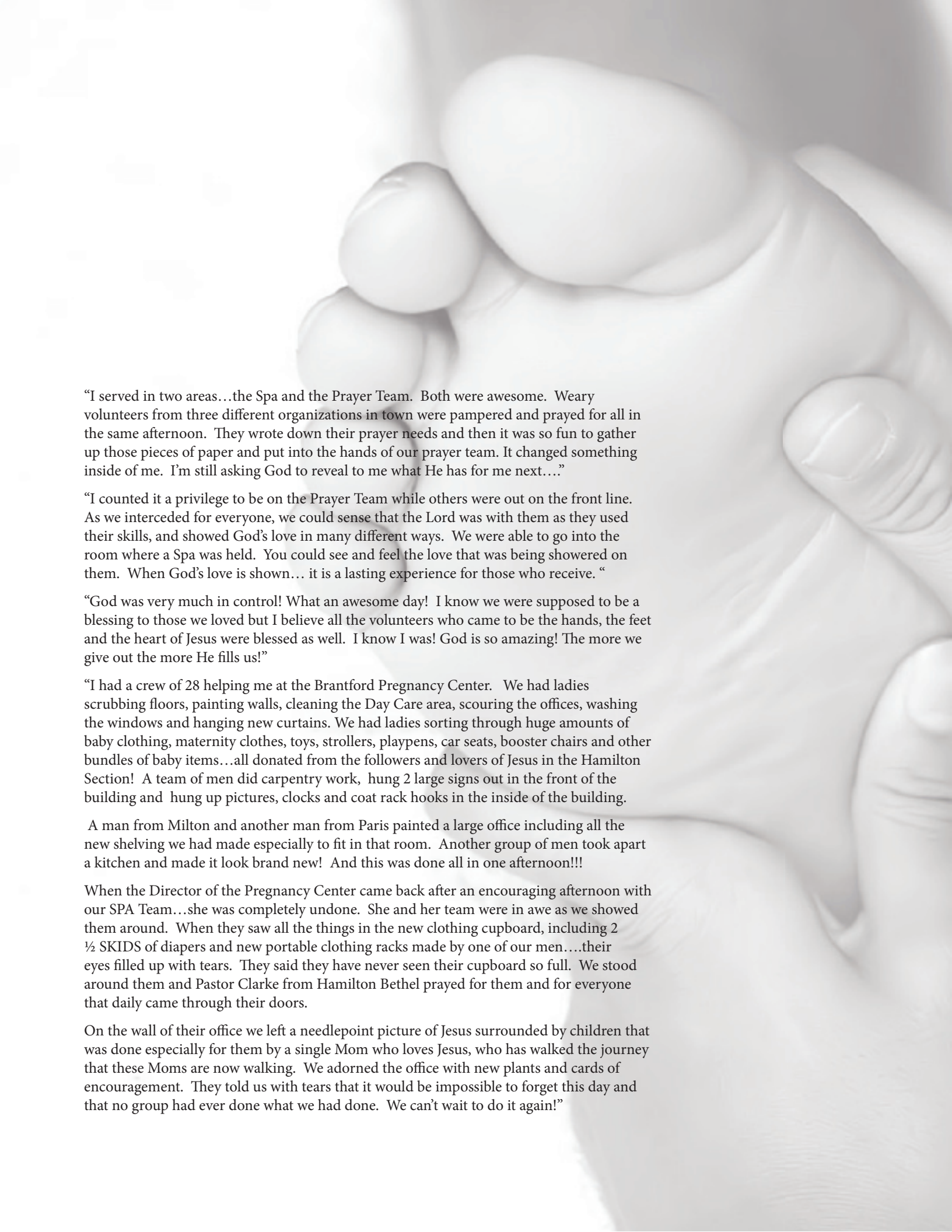
to the work of our hands  
and it is marvelous to see Him doing just that!

First, let me tell you that I've heard from North Bay this week. The seeds that were planted at their "We are Christ" Day on November 29th are bearing fruit not only in North Bay, but in Huntsville and Parry Sound. The Holy Spirit has ignited a passion in the hearts of the Body of Christ and I'm sure there are angels peering over the banister in heaven cheering. I know Jesus loves us unconditionally but I also know how it feels when my sons do the right thing. It makes my heart sing a little louder and my smile a tad broader. So if I feel like that, I know Jesus must be absolutely laughing with joy over His followers.

After the "We are Christ" Day in North Bay a lady from Parry Sound went home different than she came. She left determined to make every second count for eternity. She has since contacted the Food Bank in town and has recruited some men from her church to help make them new shelving and a shed. She has also met with the Program Directors from the Native Friendship centre to brainstorm about how the church can come alongside them! And on Mother's Day they are going to send flowers to a group of abused and forgotten Moms telling them that they are loved and appreciated. They are going to sign the card, "Love, Jesus".

"I hardly know where to begin.  
It went way beyond any of our expectations.  
God completely wowed us".





"I served in two areas...the Spa and the Prayer Team. Both were awesome. Weary volunteers from three different organizations in town were pampered and prayed for all in the same afternoon. They wrote down their prayer needs and then it was so fun to gather up those pieces of paper and put into the hands of our prayer team. It changed something inside of me. I'm still asking God to reveal to me what He has for me next..."

"I counted it a privilege to be on the Prayer Team while others were out on the front line. As we interceded for everyone, we could sense that the Lord was with them as they used their skills, and showed God's love in many different ways. We were able to go into the room where a Spa was held. You could see and feel the love that was being showered on them. When God's love is shown... it is a lasting experience for those who receive. "


"God was very much in control! What an awesome day! I know we were supposed to be a blessing to those we loved but I believe all the volunteers who came to be the hands, the feet and the heart of Jesus were blessed as well. I know I was! God is so amazing! The more we give out the more He fills us!"

"I had a crew of 28 helping me at the Brantford Pregnancy Center. We had ladies scrubbing floors, painting walls, cleaning the Day Care area, scouring the offices, washing the windows and hanging new curtains. We had ladies sorting through huge amounts of baby clothing, maternity clothes, toys, strollers, playpens, car seats, booster chairs and other bundles of baby items...all donated from the followers and lovers of Jesus in the Hamilton Section! A team of men did carpentry work, hung 2 large signs out in the front of the building and hung up pictures, clocks and coat rack hooks in the inside of the building.

A man from Milton and another man from Paris painted a large office including all the new shelving we had made especially to fit in that room. Another group of men took apart a kitchen and made it look brand new! And this was done all in one afternoon!!!

When the Director of the Pregnancy Center came back after an encouraging afternoon with our SPA Team...she was completely undone. She and her team were in awe as we showed them around. When they saw all the things in the new clothing cupboard, including 2 ½ SKIDS of diapers and new portable clothing racks made by one of our men...their eyes filled up with tears. They said they have never seen their cupboard so full. We stood around them and Pastor Clarke from Hamilton Bethel prayed for them and for everyone that daily came through their doors.

On the wall of their office we left a needlepoint picture of Jesus surrounded by children that was done especially for them by a single Mom who loves Jesus, who has walked the journey that these Moms are now walking. We adorned the office with new plants and cards of encouragement. They told us with tears that it would be impossible to forget this day and that no group had ever done what we had done. We can't wait to do it again!"




It was simply

*beautiful*

The Hamilton Section blessed hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of families. When we saw Moms walking out of the Store that was set up at the Homeless Shelter in tears because they now had blankets to keep their kids warm and boots to wear and food to eat....we were undone and spurred on to keep focused on exactly what Jesus has told His church to do. When we walked into the SPA and saw the precious volunteers from the 'Brantford Pregnancy Center' being ministered to and saw our ladies speaking words of life into each of them...our hearts left longing for every follower and lover of Jesus to be a part of what He is doing. When we saw our amazing volunteers hammering shelves together at the 'Why Not Youth Center' and plastering and painting walls at 'The Parkview Nursing Home'...we left wanting every follower and lover of Jesus to experience the thrill and honor of being His hands...and His heart. When we saw the male residents of Parkview getting their toe nails cut and feet cleaned by our ladies who looked beyond the gross mess and saw those feet as beautiful, we knew we were watching the miraculous. When we witnessed 80 year old Margaret from Calvary Church in Simcoe handing out blankets she had spent days making, to each resident...we saw uncontainable joy on the faces of both the giver and the receiver and we want to see that repeated everywhere!





“Our time of serving at the Why Not Centre began by an overview of what takes place at the youth centre and the impact it has on many high risk youth in Brantford. Our team organized boxes and boxes of clothes and over 200 bags of groceries that were packed by another team at Braeside! We filled their shelves until there was no room left! We cleaned out the basement and organized more supplies. Our team worked hard and enjoyed the opportunity to serve by cleaning, organizing and sorting. We were told by the Charlie, the Director of this Center, that we accomplished 3 months of work in one afternoon! They were thrilled with the support and encouragement this brought to their ministry.”

“250 packed out the Dining Hall at Braeside. The volunteers from the various organizations in Brantford and some of our own volunteers that had participated in the “We are Christ” Day were treated to a delicious corned beef dinner with all the trimmings! It was a 5 star meal put on by a 5 star team of cooks and servers!! We received several comments from guests at the Volunteer Dinner, expressing their deep appreciation for the evening. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves and were very encouraged by the ministry of sharing and music.

Melissa Bone spoke about the beauty of feet that were in His service. She prayed a beautiful prayer of blessing over them. Myrna and John Bustard interspersed her message with songs of encouragement which were both moving and powerful. The evening was planned to honor, serve, encourage and bless these faithful servants that willingly give of their time and energy week after week, month after month and year after year. So many of them told us that this was the first time they’d ever been thanked and it touched them deeply!”

“I have never been in anything like this! Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the “We Are Christ” Day! I was blown away by God’s presence, by God’s goodness and by the people’s willingness to help and to give...I was amazed at how organized it was and came to realize that God loves it when we come together to worship Him but that He also wants us to go outside the church walls and love people! I saw Jesus in many eyes in a very real way. I know that He was so pleased with the unity and the willingness of His Body to be His Body! I will never forget this “We are Christ Day”! I am praying that God will show me His will for my life and that I will be able to live every day like a “We are Christ Day”!”

"The word "WOW" continues to be planted in my vocabulary when it comes to our "We are Christ Day"!

I am simply stunned at the team of people who covered Brantford with the love of Jesus in such a short period of time... blessing whoever they saw in the most incredible ways!

I was raised in the Salvation Army Church in Simcoe so I watched people give their time, money, food and clothing to those in need. But what I saw happen in one day in Brantford equaled years and years of what I saw growing up and it left me speechless.

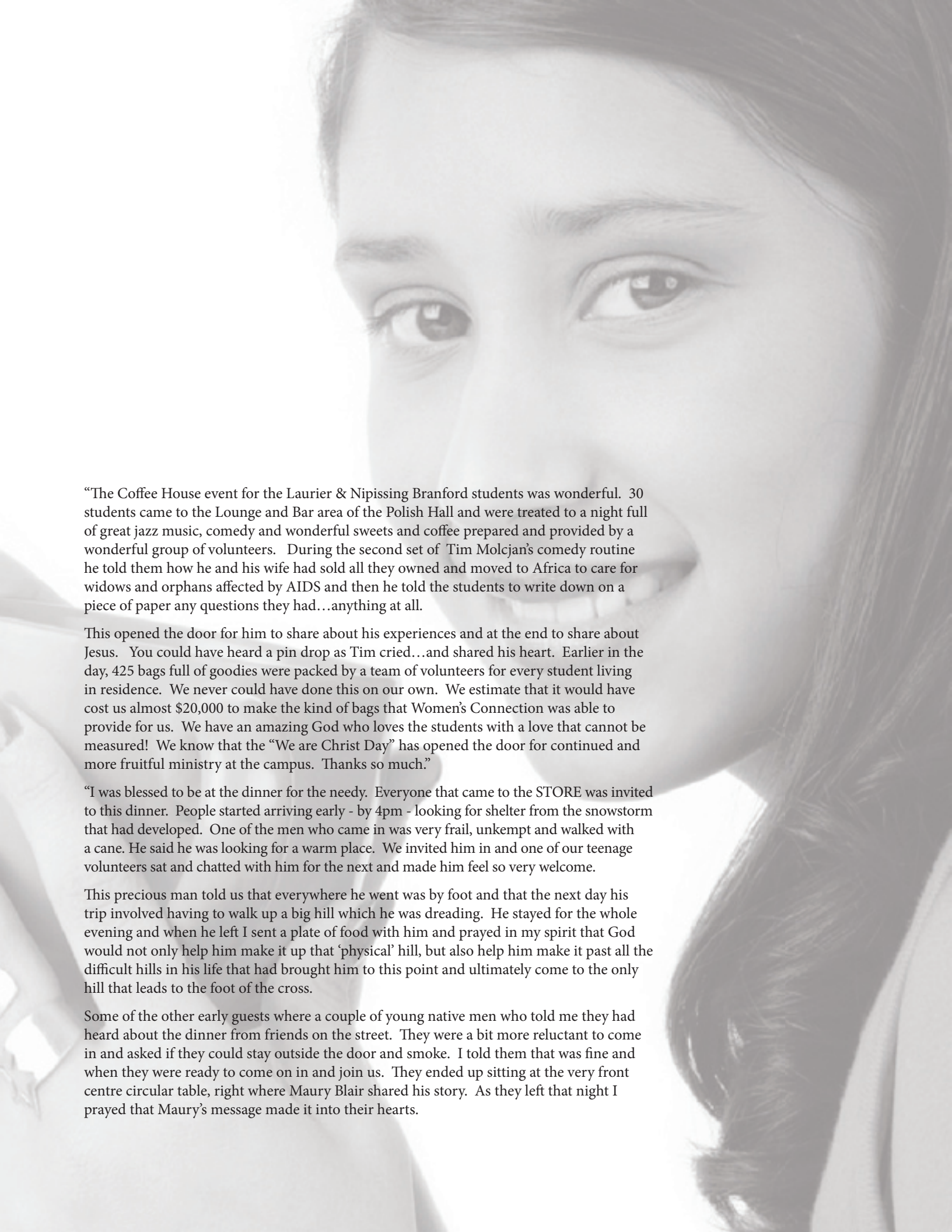
I had the honor of sorting through all the donations that came in for the "We are Christ Day" so as I went through mountains and mountains of clothes and toys and food I knew that what was about to happen was going to have a huge impact.

# *God Did This!*



Saturday, February 14th there is a huge 'Valentines Extravaganza' taking place in North Bay. All the ladies that came to the SPA at the "We are Christ" Day were from Amelia Rising, a place of refuge for the sexually assaulted. It was these precious ladies who were crying as the Body of Christ manicured their nails and rubbed their shoulders. It was one of these ladies who asked if this was what true love felt like. Now they have all been invited back to enjoy another day out full of fun, amazing food, the love of Jesus and they're coming! A florist in town has donated 100 corsages and others have given \$1500 to finance this special day! The fellowship hall has been adorned to look like a wedding hall that I'm sure will take their breath away when they walk through those doors! Pray that each of those ladies comes one step closer into the arms of Jesus, the one who loves them the most.





“The Coffee House event for the Laurier & Nipissing Branford students was wonderful. 30 students came to the Lounge and Bar area of the Polish Hall and were treated to a night full of great jazz music, comedy and wonderful sweets and coffee prepared and provided by a wonderful group of volunteers. During the second set of Tim Molcjan’s comedy routine he told them how he and his wife had sold all they owned and moved to Africa to care for widows and orphans affected by AIDS and then he told the students to write down on a piece of paper any questions they had...anything at all.

This opened the door for him to share about his experiences and at the end to share about Jesus. You could have heard a pin drop as Tim cried...and shared his heart. Earlier in the day, 425 bags full of goodies were packed by a team of volunteers for every student living in residence. We never could have done this on our own. We estimate that it would have cost us almost \$20,000 to make the kind of bags that Women’s Connection was able to provide for us. We have an amazing God who loves the students with a love that cannot be measured! We know that the “We are Christ Day” has opened the door for continued and more fruitful ministry at the campus. Thanks so much.”

“I was blessed to be at the dinner for the needy. Everyone that came to the STORE was invited to this dinner. People started arriving early - by 4pm - looking for shelter from the snowstorm that had developed. One of the men who came in was very frail, unkempt and walked with a cane. He said he was looking for a warm place. We invited him in and one of our teenage volunteers sat and chatted with him for the next and made him feel so very welcome.

This precious man told us that everywhere he went was by foot and that the next day his trip involved having to walk up a big hill which he was dreading. He stayed for the whole evening and when he left I sent a plate of food with him and prayed in my spirit that God would not only help him make it up that ‘physical’ hill, but also help him make it past all the difficult hills in his life that had brought him to this point and ultimately come to the only hill that leads to the foot of the cross.

Some of the other early guests were a couple of young native men who told me they had heard about the dinner from friends on the street. They were a bit more reluctant to come in and asked if they could stay outside the door and smoke. I told them that was fine and when they were ready to come on in and join us. They ended up sitting at the very front centre circular table, right where Maury Blair shared his story. As they left that night I prayed that Maury’s message made it into their hearts.

Laura was 11 years old, with very tangled brown hair that almost completely covered her thin face. She was extremely shy and unwilling to raise her hand to demonstrate her desire to be chosen to receive anything. However, when Cindy Rose, of The Rubber Chicken Company, told the children to put their hand on their chest and repeat the words, "I am special, I am loved!" I was sitting close enough to see her little hand clasp her chest and hear her whisper... "I am special. I am loved." By the end of the afternoon, Laura sat with TWO hands fully extended with a large smile on her face, obviously sooooo glad to be at The Kids' Extravaganza.

A young boy, with a huge attitude and tough exterior, complete with sunglasses worn throughout the entire afternoon, had a huge smile on his face at the end of the day. He jumped off the gym floor when asked what his favorite moment of the extravaganza had been. With a loud voice he shouted..."I LOVED IT ALL, EVERY LAST PART!!!!!!"

There was so much joy in the gymnasium as the children waved goodbye and boarded the bus, with another bus trailing them....full of blessings and expressions of love for each of the families represented. How blessed I have been to meet these children. "

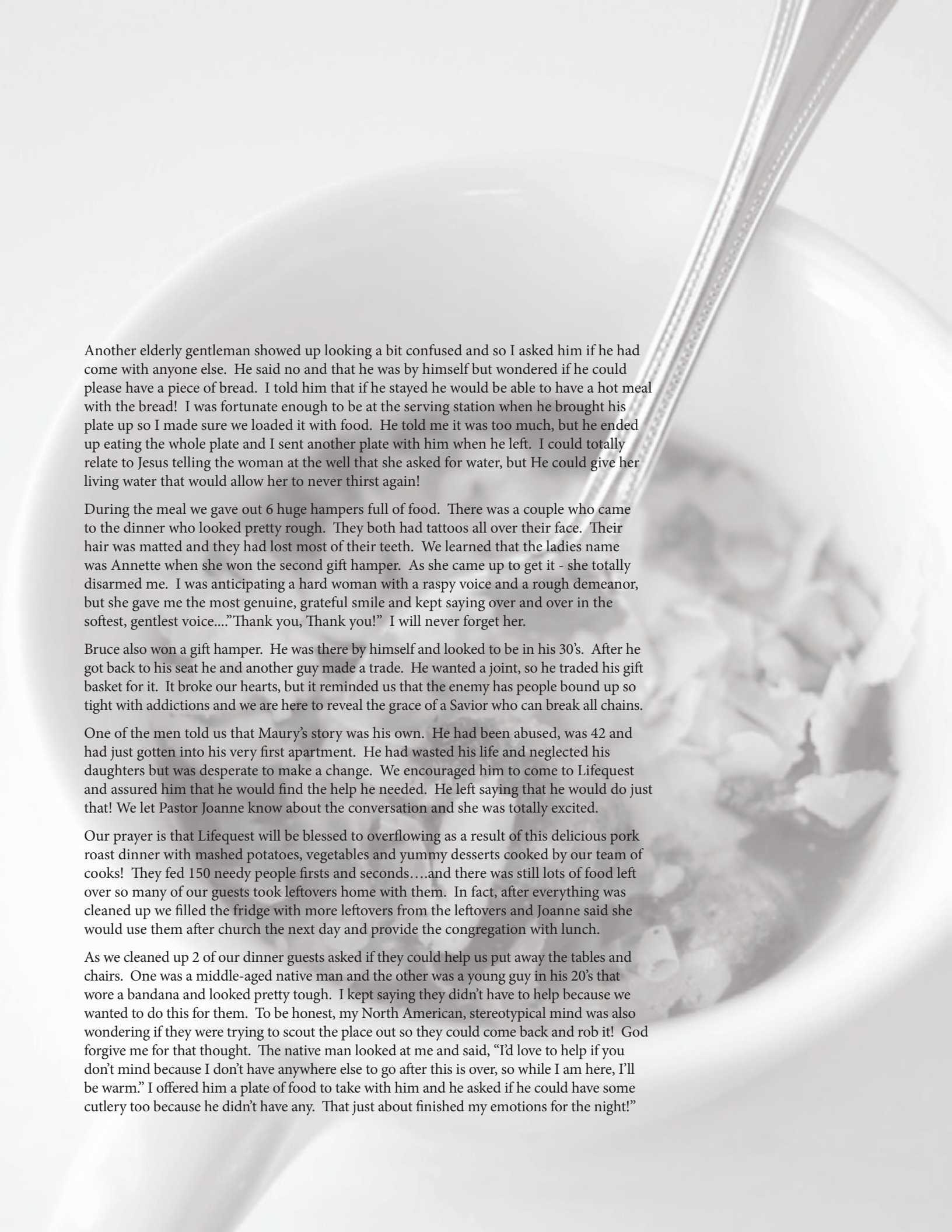
"Her name was Alexis. She was 5 years old and her Mommy dropped her off at the bus stop to head to the 'Kids' Extravaganza'... alone. She had no mitts, no hat, no scarf and an extremely dirty coat. She sat alone at the end of my row of 6 great kids, all of them needing much care. By the end of the afternoon Alexis had two gift bags, a balloon animal, an extremely heavy bag of groceries, a new hat, a pair of new mitts, a scarf, two large hot dogs, a bag of chips, a drinking box, and a bag of candy floss, and most of all, she knew

*Jesus loved her*

lavishly and would ALWAYS be by her side.







Another elderly gentleman showed up looking a bit confused and so I asked him if he had come with anyone else. He said no and that he was by himself but wondered if he could please have a piece of bread. I told him that if he stayed he would be able to have a hot meal with the bread! I was fortunate enough to be at the serving station when he brought his plate up so I made sure we loaded it with food. He told me it was too much, but he ended up eating the whole plate and I sent another plate with him when he left. I could totally relate to Jesus telling the woman at the well that she asked for water, but He could give her living water that would allow her to never thirst again!

During the meal we gave out 6 huge hampers full of food. There was a couple who came to the dinner who looked pretty rough. They both had tattoos all over their face. Their hair was matted and they had lost most of their teeth. We learned that the ladies name was Annette when she won the second gift hamper. As she came up to get it - she totally disarmed me. I was anticipating a hard woman with a raspy voice and a rough demeanor, but she gave me the most genuine, grateful smile and kept saying over and over in the softest, gentlest voice...."Thank you, Thank you!" I will never forget her.

Bruce also won a gift hamper. He was there by himself and looked to be in his 30's. After he got back to his seat he and another guy made a trade. He wanted a joint, so he traded his gift basket for it. It broke our hearts, but it reminded us that the enemy has people bound up so tight with addictions and we are here to reveal the grace of a Savior who can break all chains.

One of the men told us that Maury's story was his own. He had been abused, was 42 and had just gotten into his very first apartment. He had wasted his life and neglected his daughters but was desperate to make a change. We encouraged him to come to Lifequest and assured him that he would find the help he needed. He left saying that he would do just that! We let Pastor Joanne know about the conversation and she was totally excited.

Our prayer is that Lifequest will be blessed to overflowing as a result of this delicious pork roast dinner with mashed potatoes, vegetables and yummy desserts cooked by our team of cooks! They fed 150 needy people firsts and seconds....and there was still lots of food left over so many of our guests took leftovers home with them. In fact, after everything was cleaned up we filled the fridge with more leftovers from the leftovers and Joanne said she would use them after church the next day and provide the congregation with lunch.

As we cleaned up 2 of our dinner guests asked if they could help us put away the tables and chairs. One was a middle-aged native man and the other was a young guy in his 20's that wore a bandana and looked pretty tough. I kept saying they didn't have to help because we wanted to do this for them. To be honest, my North American, stereotypical mind was also wondering if they were trying to scout the place out so they could come back and rob it! God forgive me for that thought. The native man looked at me and said, "I'd love to help if you don't mind because I don't have anywhere else to go after this is over, so while I am here, I'll be warm." I offered him a plate of food to take with him and he asked if he could have some cutlery too because he didn't have any. That just about finished my emotions for the night!"

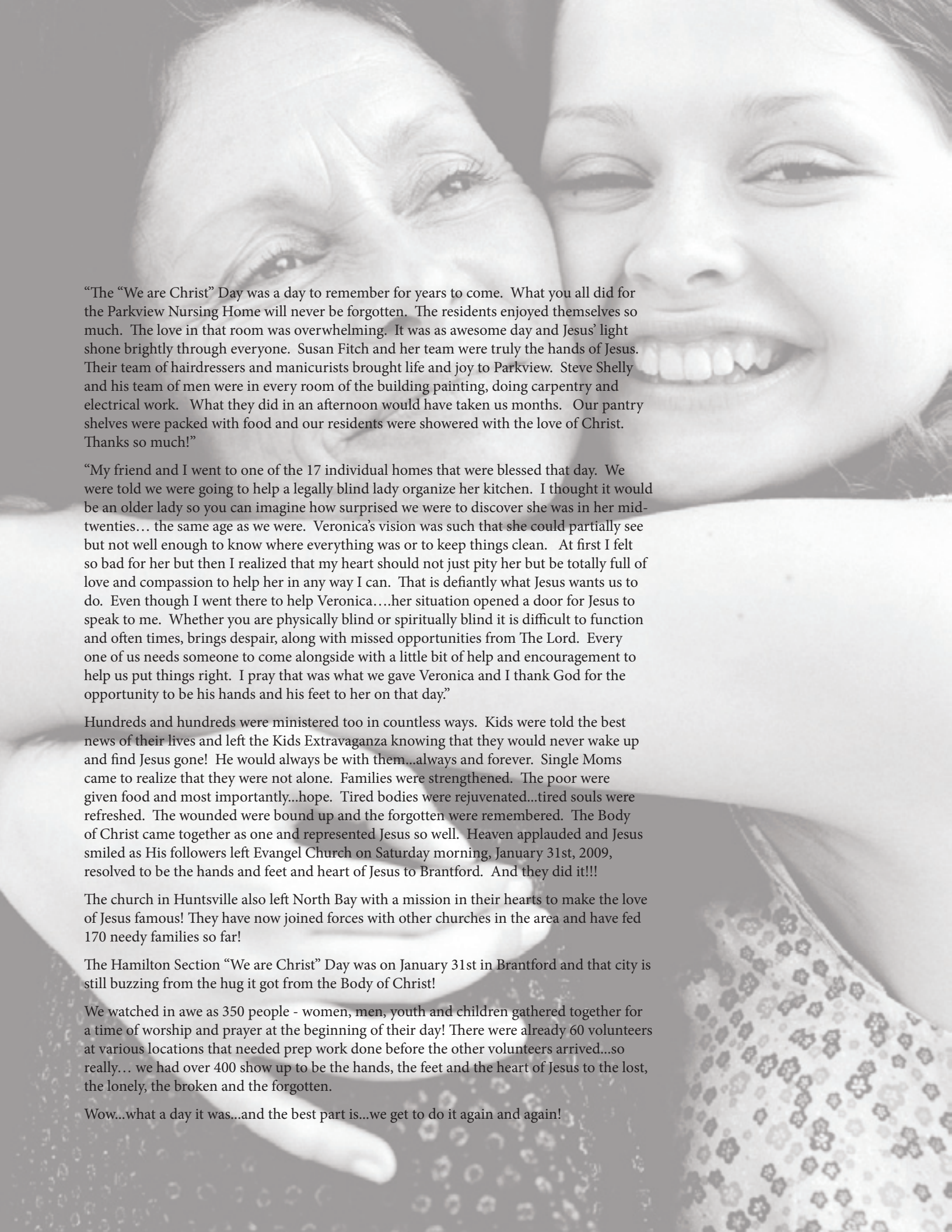
"It was unbelievable. The STORE was to open at 2:00 pm but by 1:00 pm there was a line up of people all the way down the street, so we opened early. We never stopped until after 7:00 pm and although we were exhausted, our hearts were excited to do it all over again. One lady said she hadn't had a pair of boots for 20 years. Countless kids left with a new pair of shoes and a pocket full of bubble gum. Men left with sweaters and entire suits that looked like new and warm winter coats and boots. The ladies had fun filling up bags full of beautiful sweaters, skirts, pants, winter coats, boots and jackets. The smile and disbelief on their faces told the whole story. We gave away several hundreds of bags of groceries filled with soup, shampoo, cereal, BQ sauce, salad dressing, milk, ice tea, popcorn and lots of other good stuff! We had a freezer full of sausages and ham and mini pizzas. Hundreds of bags were filled to overflowing but we never ran out. Hundreds of home made blankets were given away which brought most to tears. They were so thankful that they would now be able to keep their kids warm. They couldn't believe everything was free and of such good quality with no strings attached! It was awesome to see the change in all of the faces from when they entered the STORE to when they left. They walked straight into Gods love being expressed through His Body and they will never forget it."

The Body of Christ fed the hungry,  
clothed the cold, comforted the lonely, and

*gave hope to the broken.*







“The “We are Christ” Day was a day to remember for years to come. What you all did for the Parkview Nursing Home will never be forgotten. The residents enjoyed themselves so much. The love in that room was overwhelming. It was as awesome day and Jesus’ light shone brightly through everyone. Susan Fitch and her team were truly the hands of Jesus. Their team of hairdressers and manicurists brought life and joy to Parkview. Steve Shelly and his team of men were in every room of the building painting, doing carpentry and electrical work. What they did in an afternoon would have taken us months. Our pantry shelves were packed with food and our residents were showered with the love of Christ. Thanks so much!”

“My friend and I went to one of the 17 individual homes that were blessed that day. We were told we were going to help a legally blind lady organize her kitchen. I thought it would be an older lady so you can imagine how surprised we were to discover she was in her mid-twenties... the same age as we were. Veronica’s vision was such that she could partially see but not well enough to know where everything was or to keep things clean. At first I felt so bad for her but then I realized that my heart should not just pity her but be totally full of love and compassion to help her in any way I can. That is defiantly what Jesus wants us to do. Even though I went there to help Veronica....her situation opened a door for Jesus to speak to me. Whether you are physically blind or spiritually blind it is difficult to function and often times, brings despair, along with missed opportunities from The Lord. Every one of us needs someone to come alongside with a little bit of help and encouragement to help us put things right. I pray that was what we gave Veronica and I thank God for the opportunity to be his hands and his feet to her on that day.”

Hundreds and hundreds were ministered too in countless ways. Kids were told the best news of their lives and left the Kids Extravaganza knowing that they would never wake up and find Jesus gone! He would always be with them...always and forever. Single Moms came to realize that they were not alone. Families were strengthened. The poor were given food and most importantly...hope. Tired bodies were rejuvenated...tired souls were refreshed. The wounded were bound up and the forgotten were remembered. The Body of Christ came together as one and represented Jesus so well. Heaven applauded and Jesus smiled as His followers left Evangel Church on Saturday morning, January 31st, 2009, resolved to be the hands and feet and heart of Jesus to Brantford. And they did it!!!

The church in Huntsville also left North Bay with a mission in their hearts to make the love of Jesus famous! They have now joined forces with other churches in the area and have fed 170 needy families so far!

The Hamilton Section “We are Christ” Day was on January 31st in Brantford and that city is still buzzing from the hug it got from the Body of Christ!

We watched in awe as 350 people - women, men, youth and children gathered together for a time of worship and prayer at the beginning of their day! There were already 60 volunteers at various locations that needed prep work done before the other volunteers arrived...so really... we had over 400 show up to be the hands, the feet and the heart of Jesus to the lost, the lonely, the broken and the forgotten.

Wow...what a day it was...and the best part is...we get to do it again and again!