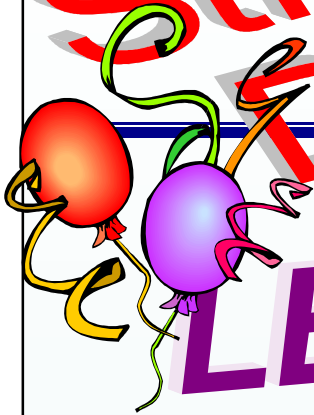
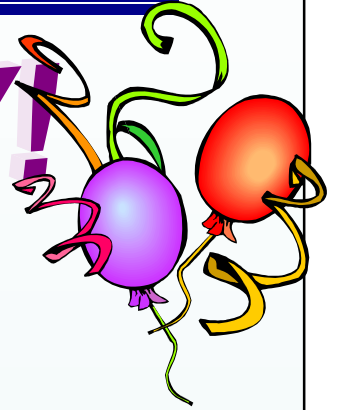


Straight Dope

street hope
from
Lent '09



LET'S PARTY!



Come help us celebrate

Church Army's 80th Anniversary!

To commemorate the work of those who have gone before, and to learn about vital work which continues across Canada, **please join us for lunch at noon and a brief presentation at 1:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 1, at St. Saviour's Church, 310 Henry St., Victoria.**

It was 1929 when Capt. Arthur Casey came to the Dominion of Canada with the purpose of establishing The Church Army in Canada to help spread the gospel. Today Church Army continues to pioneer evangelistic ministries including **StreetHope** in Victoria!

April 1st also marks Capt. Rick Sandberg's 23rd anniversary of street ministry in Victoria.

It was 1986 when the Diocese of BC brought Capt. Sandberg from the Don Jail in Toronto (where he was a chaplain) to begin an outreach to street kids and juvenile prostitutes.

Over the coming years, Capt. Sandberg was blessed to help establish **Threshold Housing Society** for teens, **The Alliance Club** youth centre, and **Out of the Rain** seasonal night shelter.

Due to funding issues, Rick left the Diocese in 1996 but continued his street ministry in Victoria

with the help of many generous supporters.

Many of those supporters joined a ministry team which established **The Shoebox Place**, a lunch ministry hosted at St. John's Church. (Photo on page two.)

Most recently, a faithful group of people have come together to run **First Church of the Ultimate High**, a soup and prayer ministry for the addicted people spilling out of nearby resource centres. (Please see the feature story on page two.)

Rick's work is typical of innovative Church Army evangelists across Canada. Please join us April 1st to learn more about their various and vital ministries.

We are very grateful to St. Saviour's Church and it's Rainbow Kitchen for providing a venue where we can meet, get a taste of their important ministry and experience the ethos in which many ministries function.

The Church Army presentation includes an 8 minute video and an historic wheel preserved from a 1929 mission cart pulled from community to community by Church Army evangelists. To mark our 80th anniversary, the wheel is traveling to evangelists across the country, gaining a sticker at each stop.

Addicts appreciate prayers at "church"

"Hello my family!" is the friendly greeting "Karen" gives as she visits our *"Church of the Ultimate High"* outreach. **"Can we pray and give thanks to God?"**

Karen is bubbling over these days with joy from many blessings from God. "My HIV count is way down, and that never happens," she noted the other day. "And my leg is healed – I can walk now!"

Karen also told us a cancer went into remission while she was homeless. **"My doctor asked what I'm doing, and I told him about this little church where I go and people pray for me."** (Note: we tell people we aren't



Teens enjoy lunch from shoebox hampers given by caring supporters.

a church, just part of the church, and this is how we do church, we have soup!

Karen's most recent answer to prayer was finding an apartment. God even sent her son at the right time to get her on a bus before she spent her rent money.

Karen isn't typical of our drug afflicted friends at Ultimate High, but she isn't uncommon either. **We often get to pray with visitors**, to encourage them in faith in Jesus Christ, and to share our love for each other. **"You guys are better than family,"** said Jen, one of our regular visitors who doesn't use drugs.

Jesus told us to live in such a way that others would notice His light shining through us and that would cause them to glorify God also. So that is what we are trying to do, and some people are noticing!

I recently heard a description of counseling, that **it should be more like dancing than wrestling**. That's a good way to describe our evangelism — responsive and in tune.

We pray for people to come, we go on the street and invite them, and when they come, we welcome them into our fellowship, and offer a bowl soup. All the while we seek to understand how they need us to respond to them in Jesus name. He does the rest. Outcasts are welcomed, the weak encouraged, the gospel is lived and spoken in personally meaningful ways. All are blessed.

Read more at www.StreetHope.org

Straight Dope is available by email; subscribe by writing to newsletter@streethope.org

Donations

StreetHope(Victoria)
is a faith ministry of
The Church Army in Canada.

Church Army accounts and receipts all donations and returns every dollar (and more) to Victoria for ministry here.

All tax deductible donations should be made out to The Church Army in Canada and sent to:



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