



For the last two months, I have been focusing on the finances of The Lighthouse. With the many challenges that lie before us, I am always humbled how the Lord provides for this work. We see once again that it is *His* ministry at work here; the financial challenges this year felt overwhelming, yet The Lord works through and with us to reach our budget. He uses people like you and me to accomplish His work. He is an awesome and inspiring God.

As you have read in this newsletter, we have had three fundraising events this year:

1. **The Phone-a-thon** in May raised \$42,545 and got people talking and sharing stories on the phone.
2. **The Ride for Refuge** in October raised \$25,000 and was a new event for us. This year we had 32 riders and next year we hope to double this. We especially want to see our young supporters at this event.
3. **The Annual Dinner and Silent Auction** in November raised \$20,390 and was a time to celebrate the work of The Lighthouse as well as hear stories and have fun. This year we had more than 70 items in the silent auction, and we learned much about the work of the Hispanic Ministry.

In 2012, we plan to have one fundraising event every quarter/season. For our fourth and new event we are planning an evening of music and entertainment. Although we are yet in the planning stages, we know it will be a fun evening out and a great way to raise funds for the work of The Lighthouse.

Thank you for all your continued support, ideas, resources, prayers, and work. 2011 has been a year of much growth, learning and accomplishments. *Together, we are helping people and changing lives!*

May we always bless others as God has blessed us.

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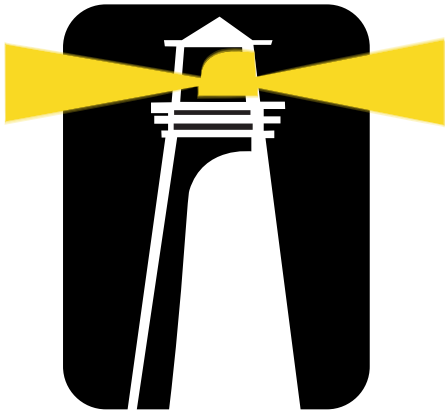
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The LIGHTHOUSE

Helping People | Changing Lives

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How Happiness* Got Her Name

by Samm Medeiros

Five years ago, a middle-aged woman from Vietnam was diagnosed with cancer. The life-altering news shocked and terrified her as she dwelled on thoughts of what the future might hold for herself, and her daughter. Like many people suffering from cancer, this woman faced numerous emotional and physical difficulties during her chemotherapy treatments. The acknowledgment of the possibility of death had burrowed itself deep into the crevices of her mind and was eating away at this once strong, quick-witted and powerful single mother.

Then one day everything changed. A friend, and member of the Vietnamese

"[...]as she speaks of her illness, there is no longer a tremor of fear in her voice."

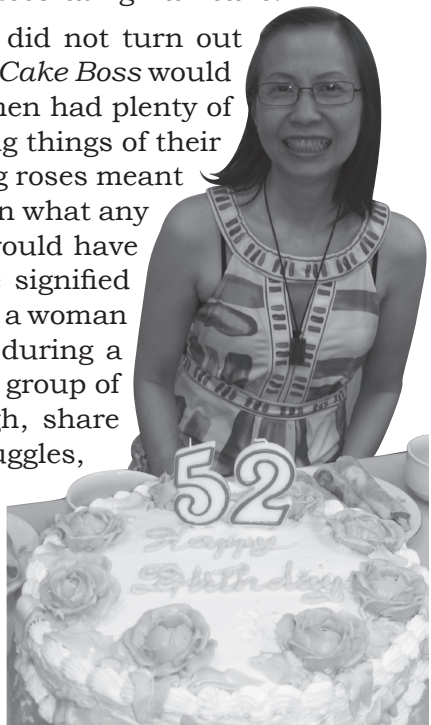
Women's Support Group at The Lighthouse introduced her to an assembly of strong ladies willing to listen and talk about the many feelings and compromises of living with cancer, as well as other personal struggles. The first day this woman arrived in the group she looked sad and tearful. After discovering the love, advice and openness of the group members, it wasn't long before she found a place where she could freely speak and be herself. She committed to the group and even started helping other women overcome their own obstacles, all the while still greatly enjoying the regular meetings she attended at The Lighthouse.

After sometime had passed, this once weak, miserable, and doubtful woman became motivated, full of smiles and connected to a group that was bigger and held more meaning than anything she had experienced before. The chats with supportive women have helped her to regain a positive outlook on her future, allowing her to focus on living a healthier life. "Thanks to The Lighthouse and the Vietnamese Women's Support Group, I am now *happy*," she shares smiling. A volunteer who had been teaching the

woman English had even graced her with the nickname "Happiness", simply because her face was constantly glowing and full of dazzling smiles. Even now, as she speaks of her illness, there is no longer a tremor of fear in her voice. Her face is brave and her eyes are tearless. With the help of the supportive Vietnamese women at The Lighthouse, she has become courageous and unafraid of facing her cancer treatments.

During one of the days spent with the support group, "Happiness" admitted to never having had a real birthday celebration. She had attained many goals for herself, and now she wanted to learn how to decorate a cake! Once the group heard this, they immediately started organizing a special event for her, including involving her in lessons on properly decorating a cake.

Although the cake did not turn out the way a professional *Cake Boss* would have baked it, the women had plenty of fun baking and creating things of their own. The funny looking roses meant more to Happiness than what any hundred-dollar cake would have ever meant. This cake signified the story of Happiness: a woman who had been healed during a time of great need by a group of women willing to laugh, share stories, listen to struggles, and meet the challenge of cancer. This cake represented a new outlook on life and was a symbol of strength, joy, and... happiness.



**The name of this woman has been withheld to protect her identity.*

Helping People Changing Lives

Thank you for being partners with us in this ministry.



Yes, I would like to help with a donation of \$ _____

☐ Cheque Enclosed

☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD # _____ Expiry Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Other Ways to Help (Contact us for details)

- ☐ PreAuthorized Remittance (PAR)-makes it easy for you and for us
- ☐ Monthly Visa or Mastercard Donation
- ☐ Canada Helps on-line at www.canadahelps.org
- ☐ Giving through Christian Stewardship Services (CSS)
- ☐ United Way Payroll Deduction-just provide our CRA # and address
- ☐ Matched Corporate Giving-many companies match employee donations

Please mail your contribution to:

The Lighthouse
1008 Bathurst Street
Toronto, ON M5R 3G7

Receipts will be issued in the New Year.
Canada Revenue Agency #13036 3740 RR0001

LOVE, SWEAT +GEARS

While “Love” motivated my participation in the 2011 Ride for Refuge bike-a-thon, it was the “Sweat” and “Gears” of the Ride for Refuge motto that pretty much summed up my experience the morning of October 15, 2011. Our starting point was the Markham Missionary Church on Major Mackenzie, just east of McCowan Road, and from there my riding partner (my dad) and I began what proved to be a most rigorous exercise. While I had “trained” for the event (i.e. a few Sunday afternoon bike-rides on the Humber West trail in Etobicoke) and considered myself to be in reasonably fit condition, I was not prepared for the bracing strong winds, the intermittent showers and the significant drop in temperature. The flat tire and several hills did not help either. About five minutes into starting the second 25 KM circuit of my 50 KM trek, it pretty much felt all up-hill.

Fundraising can sometimes feel like an up-hill battle too. There are days it feels like we, as a Board of Directors, have to fight so hard to raise just a few thousand dollars. And yet, in the course of this up-hill battle, there are many people on the side-lines cheering us on.



In the case of the Ride for Refuge, numerous volunteers circulated our route in service vehicles and were available to us at various rest stops with hot chocolate, snacks, water and aid (including tire repairs!). The flags marking the Ride’s vehicles and snack stands became a welcome sight for us riders, reminding us of the many people invested in our endeavours and eager for us to achieve our goals.

Likewise, with respect to fundraising, many people came through for me in support of my Ride. It reminded me that I belong to a community that cares, a community interested in seeing that I achieve the goals that are important to me and a community invested in the mission of *The Lighthouse*.

I – like many riders – am very grateful to the many sponsors who helped us raise a total of \$25,000. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! Your support helps us to continue many essential and God-glorifying ministries of The Lighthouse.

Thanks to Peter, Bruce and my dad who battled the elements with me for The Lighthouse on October 15th. Thanks also to Rob, Alex and all those other riders who participated in the Ride on October 1st in Brampton. Thanks for your love, sweat and gears!



We need YOU!

The Lighthouse Board of Directors is an active Board in need of new members. Do you have skills that could benefit the leadership of The Lighthouse? Do you have experience that would help The Lighthouse work more effectively in the many communities where it serves? Are you looking to serve God in a new and exciting way?

Contact Rob Datema for more information:
416-535-6262
rob@lighthousecentre.ca



Annual Lighthouse Dinner & Silent Auction a Big Success!



This year 128 people joined us at our annual fundraising dinner at Toronto District Christian High School in Woodbridge, and we raised \$20,390. It was a wonderful evening of fun, learning, celebration, community-building, and fundraising for the important work of The Lighthouse. Thanks to all those involved!



I Felt Disgusted

-A reflection from the Annual Lighthouse Dinner and Silent Auction
by Peter Noteboom

Her story was all too real. I felt disgusted. She described the death of her husband after being kidnapped, threats to her own life, attempts to kidnap her young children, fleeing to her family home and being tracked down there,

“... Mexico, is being ripped apart by gangs, the drug trade, violence, and extreme injustice.”

and the unbelievable courage it took to leave and take up residence in another country, Canada, uprooted from her home. I felt disgusted because I have seen the crosses of murdered women, felt the terror and fear in the streets of Ciudad Juarez, and listened to the stories of faith communities telling about the impunity, the feeling of being powerless to change the situation. One of Canada’s most important trading partners, our neighbour

to the South, Mexico, is being ripped apart by gangs, the drug trade, violence, and extreme injustice.

This brave woman’s story made the evening real and meaningful. She left no doubt about the value and necessity of The Lighthouse. Her story demonstrated why Samia Saad and the other ministry co-ordinators at The Lighthouse are so highly skilled and professional in their listening, counselling, and therapy. Her story illustrated what immigrant and refugee work looks like today: preparing refugees for the grilling process of telling their story, as painful as it may be. Her story communicated celebration: a successful hearing, and receiving official refugee status. And then her own “giving back”: participating in the ongoing work of The Lighthouse, including leadership development programs.

What a journey!

For me, injustice always brings with it a feeling of disgust. I was blessed though, to be part of an evening that helped me to hear this woman’s testimony, all around a table with friends and other supporters who care.

May the resources that were raised that evening further contribute to strengthening the people, programs, and ministry of The Lighthouse. And may the injustice and violence that causes families to be uprooted and flee from their homes to come to a strange and alien land end.

**the name of the woman in this story was withheld to protect her safety.*



Guest Speaker (left) and Samia Saad, the Lighthouse Hispanic Counsellor and Program Coordinator