

About three and half months ago I walked through the doors of the Kelowna Gospel Mission looking for food, shelter, and a place to lie down and rest. I was lonely, angry, frustrated, and just plain mad at the world. I won't get into my past life except to say that it wasn't pretty, and a story like you've heard many times before where a person ends up on the street. But with me it is just a little different. Yes, I'm a drunk and no, I was not homeless. Far from being destitute, I was just mad and angry, fed up and lost! Not long after, I was signed in as a guest at the Mission. About four days into my stay, I got involved with their recovery program run by a man I was destined to meet. This man welcomed me with a smile and a hand shake and things started to change, slowly and with lots of patience and understanding. Today I can honestly say that by being attentive and attending AA Meetings I have the beginning of a new life. At the Mission I learned new behaviours such as how to live and work with others and solve my problems. I also learned how to use a computer and job finding skills.

This was complemented by what it means when we read the Good Book. I have been very fortunate, and today I now attend church willingly with a happy heart. I have true friends who really love me. But most of all I have faith – a faith that constantly reminds me that I don't have to look back, just forward. Today, thanks to Kelowna's Gospel Mission, I have a peace that I have never had at my place of residence and a hope for the future. The Lord is working with me. That is more than I ever had before. Not all is rosy, but it sure *ain't* dark when one has the love of friends. I took a look at what the people who work here have, and what they have is what I want: love, friendship, happiness, and kindness. And now I know that through God and Jesus, can I have these gifts. Today I read the Bible and prayed for God's will, not mine. I gave it all to Him. This is all because one day I walked through these Mission doors and my soul was put right. I thank God for Bill, a kind coach; the "barber", a man who gave me a Bible and said "read"; Bob, who gave me hope; Mark, who's life was kind of like mine; and Pat and Bonnie, two very loving women who love us and are always smiling.

Kelowna's Gospel Mission is here for any lost soul who is seeking a good life and wants to change. All they have to do is "ask". They will be welcomed.

J.T.