

Fall 2019



# Newsletter

"Working together to build a stronger, kinder and more just community"

## "A Message from our board"

Stonegate Ministry is pleased to announce the appointment of **Samantha Coelho**, to the position of Ministry Program Director. After undergraduate studies in *Peace and Conflict* Samantha has recently graduated with a *Master of Theological Studies* degree from the University of Waterloo. Besides active involvement in her church, she has served in several capacities in Brampton, most recently in the role of Program Assistant at Regeneration Outreach Community, a community hub for the homeless. In that role, she led fellowship meetings, provided spiritual support for at-risk individuals and developed relationships with partners and churches in the community. As Assistant Director



of Sensational Day Camp, Samantha recruited and trained a team of forty volunteers for the camp leadership team and planned and facilitated camp activities.

She also took full advantage of University of Waterloo's co-op opportunities, gaining international experience in South Africa, Guatemala and as an intern in Bolivia working in a shelter for adolescent girls who had experienced violence or abuse.

With a strong Christian faith and a passion for social justice, Samantha will be looking for volunteers to serve with her as she takes on this new challenge. If you share her passion for helping those in need, she would welcome your contact at:  
Samantha@stonegateministry.ca

*Horace Knight, Board Chair*



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### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Stonegate Ministry is an alliance of local Christian churches working in partnership with the community through shared resources, offering programs and opportunities to build healthy relationships, strong families, a sense of belonging and a deeper relationship with God. We endeavour to address the needs of the whole person and families to bridge toward a better life and to be a faithful voice to ensure everyone in the community is treated with justice and Christian compassion.



## *'Holy Discontentment' and the Mission on our Doorstep*

It may sound a bit odd, but **'holy discontentment' is a gift** to a mission like Stonegate Ministry. Simply put, while we give God praise for all the good we see taking place in and through the ministry, we know there are so many more people in the neighborhood who wonder if God really cares.... or even **is there a God at all?**

William Booth was encouraged to join in celebrations for a milestone in the history of the Salvation Army. While he was grateful for the movement he was leading, he voiced his inability to celebrate while children were still going hungry, people were still in poverty, and churches were still keeping their distance from the pain and brokenness of society. **His was a 'holy discontentment'**. It was 'too soon' to bring out the party hats.

Discontentment on its own is not enough. In fact, if left unchecked it can be horribly dangerous, discouraging and draining. The key, however, is found in the word 'holy'. 'Holy discontentment' leads to ever-increasing loving engagement with neighbours and friends! We read *'For God so loved the world that He GAVE..'*. Caring always leads to action. As someone has phrased it *"Love always finds a way; complacency always finds an excuse"*. Or as someone else has pictured it: *We have a Choice – to sit and curse the darkness or to get up and light a candle*. Candles sound good to us, right? The best critique of what is wrong is the practice of what is right.

So *"Lord, what would you have Stonegate Ministry do? What does faithfulness look like for us?"* This is a great question to ask and to ask often.

One thing for sure is this: A faithful street-level ministry is rooted in the mission of Jesus Himself. Such a ministry lives out a 3-dimensional calling:

- to be *upwardly* focused on God
- to be *inwardly* focused on community among the volunteers, prayer partners and supporters, demonstrated in relationships of love, appreciation and compassion
- to be *outwardly* focused on a struggling world that does not yet know God or of His great love.

Our call, as Christian men and women and as a Christian outreach, is to be moved with what moves the heart of God. What matters most to God is to matter most to us, and **what matters most to God is people**.

May Stonegate Ministry have the wisdom of Moses and the courage of Joshua in pressing on together to 'love and serve the Lord'. Amen?

*Bruce Smith on assignment with Stonegate Ministry*



## **GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH**

*'God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.'* Psalm 46 KJV  
God has been very present in the Great Finds' community, especially in the last couple of months. Our store has been open for almost 5 years and our customers, volunteers and managers Jeannie and Iryna, have developed a supportive, respectful and strong community. Many **heart-felt conversations** have been shared with our customers.

The husband of one of our regular customers suffered a life altering accident this spring. She comes frequently to share updates and **ask for prayer and support** from our volunteers. (continued on page 3)

(continued from page 2) Recently, after overhearing one of our volunteers asking a widowed customer how she was doing, a new customer 'opened up' and shared about the sudden death of her young husband.

Jeannie, Iryna and our volunteers also **support each other**. This year has seen a number of our family and friends age and become ill and pass away. God is always present here at Great Finds and we feel blessed and honoured to be 'the face' of Stonegate Ministry in the community we serve.



There are many 'troubles' these days and Great Finds has become a place of refuge where God's *present help* is evident each and every day.

*Eleanore Vincent, a faithful volunteer*

## OUR TWO MINISTRIES

- **Great Finds Thrift Store**
- **Program Ministry**

Our most visible ministry is the **Great Finds** thrift store on the Mimico Lake Shore strip providing high quality family clothing at very affordable prices. It also provides a welcoming and safe haven where people are treated with dignity, respect and compassion. Clients, initially drawn by the excellent 'finds', often return regularly just to see their favourite volunteer, knowing that **someone genuinely cares** about them and their story.

Our **Program Ministry** is far less visible and is dedicated to meeting particular needs such as loneliness, spiritual hunger, emotional issues and addiction. These programs, under the direction of our Program Director, are often offered jointly with local churches, run by volunteers and held in different venues in both the Stonegate and Lake Shore communities. These programs have helped many individuals **restore** broken relationships, **break** harmful habits, **renew** their hope and even **rekindle** interest in church attendance. Two examples of these programs are:

- **God, Coffee and Me** – a weekly Bible Study held in a local Lake Shore restaurant.
- **Women's Group** - meeting regularly to hear from experts in various subjects, this ministry addresses the most common need – loneliness amongst singles and seniors.



**Stonegate Ministry has a vision** to reach more lonely and needy people in the two communities we serve through programs that address the needs in ways that **Jesus modeled** during his earthly ministry. Programs are structured to address the social, emotional and spiritual needs that are so evident as we interact with our customers and food bank clients. To provide for this ministry expansion and become more effective in reaching individuals, we have **established a Program Ministry Fund** to provide the financial backing in support of Samantha, our new Program Director, and the associated costs of these programs. Please consider making a **donation marked "Programs"** so that more men, women and young people will receive personal and practical help in Christ's name.

We are grateful for your ongoing interest, prayer and financial support of Stonegate Ministry.

*Graeme Quigley, Vice-Chair*



# Stonegate Fundraising Dinner

**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

Kingsway-Lambton United Church, 85 The Kingsway  
6:15 pm drinks & nibbles, 7:00 pm dinner

- “My Favourite Things, Broadway & Gospel”  
with Rev. Kerry Stover, Tenor and Kim Hanmer as accompanist
- Fun Auctions – both silent & live
- Ministry Stories
- Gourmet buffet dinner

**Save the date – November 2<sup>nd</sup> – the night we get an extra hour’s sleep**

Why not buy a table of 8 and invite your friends and neighbours?

Tickets \$45

For tickets contact the Stonegate Ministry Office at 416-255-6282

## CONTACT US

**Great Finds store and ministry office address** – 2358 Lake Shore Blvd. W. Etobicoke M8V 1B6

Contact us at 416-255-6282 or [office@stonegateministry.ca](mailto:office@stonegateministry.ca)

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Donations may be made by cheque or online at [www.stonegateministry.ca](http://www.stonegateministry.ca)

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