



# TIMELINES

Editor: Mary Reeves

M2/W2 Association Newsletter

March 2007

## M2/W2 Association - Restorative Christian Ministries

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Mutually transforming lives—one relationship at a time.*

### VISION STATEMENT

*Our vision is to recruit and empower volunteers to reflect God's restorative and inclusive love within the criminal justice system and wider society, to foster healthier communities.*

**M2/W2 Association Charitable Registration # 10775 8054 RR00**

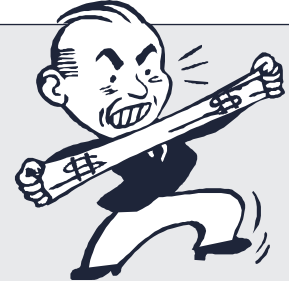


Member Agency



Member Agency

*You are invited to attend the*  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
*To hear how we have stretched your dollars this past year!*  
**Thursday, June 7, 2007, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Azalea Room, Garden Park Tower**  
**2825 Clearbrook Rd**  
**Abbotsford BC**



## CHANGES AT M2/W2

### We warmly welcome Mary to this new role!

Wayne will be at Saint Paul University Conflict Studies Department, Ottawa, to do a research project on Restorative Justice and International State Relations for six months, beginning April 1, 2007. He hopes to co-author a book based upon the research. During that time, as noted above, Bernie Martens and Mary Reeves will serve as Executive Co-Directors.

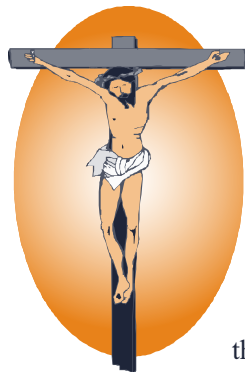
### Prayers gratefully accepted!

Submitted by Wayne Northey.

Mary Reeves joined our team last June, and has been making her mark ever since. She is very gifted in administration, besides the work she has done in promotions and fundraising. She has now been appointed Executive Co-Director, while continuing as Community Resources Coordinator. Her focus will be on administration in her Executive Co-Director role.

## OH, SUCH A FAMILIAR SIGHT AT EASTER!

### *Do we really understand the gravity of it though?*

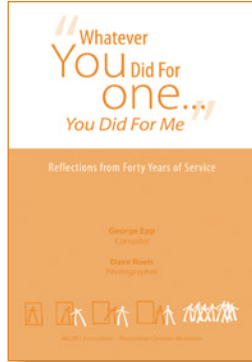


The crucifixion is the ultimate example of sacrifice and humility. How many of us would give our lives for our nearest and dearest family or friends let alone for those that we hardly know? God did know us all, even before we were born he knew what we would be like with all of our sin and still he willingly bore this pain and suffering so we could have a way to find salvation and peace. Christ showed us what it means to have selfless love for our fellow man. M2/W2 volunteers exhibit this love in their relationships with their matches whether they are parents in crisis, released prisoners or those that are still incarcerated. As Christians my hope is that we will use all of our God inspired gifts to serve others and to show sacrificial love. Abby, recently deceased prisoner, wrote to his volunteer match "Thank you and Thank God! I was overwhelmed by your love on Saturday! God's love flowed through you, through me and through my children, Praise God. It is obvious to me that the more love we share with each other the more love we receive" 1 Corinthians 13:2.

\*M2/W2 Association Stewardship Policy: Spending of funds is confined to Board approved programs and purchases. Each gift designated toward an approved program will be used as designated with the understanding that when any given need has been met, designated gifts will be used where needed most. Gifts are acknowledged and receipted with an official receipt if in excess of \$10 for income tax purposes.

\*\*Some of the programs of this agency are carried out so as to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of persons in custody and/or who have been released on parole from a provincial or federal correctional institution, having been convicted of criminal offences and having served terms of incarceration. The fact that these persons have been accepted into and are participating in our programs cannot be interpreted or relied upon as being any indication that they have been to any extent or degree, successfully rehabilitated or reintegrated.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE BOOK AND DVD THAT WAS PRODUCED IN HONOR OF “40 YEARS OF SERVICE.”



**Dave Roels™**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
www.daveroels.com  
604-733-9222



We continue to accept donations in support of this project. All donations are tax receiptable. Should you wish copies of these the cost is \$10 (no receipt) each. (Free for volunteers) Please call the office to make arrangements.

CRA announced that there were 82,243 registered charities in Dec. 2005. So we obviously have a lot of company asking for your dollars. ***Why should you support M2/W2?*** Because, we have a 40 year history of ***commitment, integrity and positive life changing stories.*** To our knowledge there is no other agency in BC that does the same kind of work that M2/W2 volunteers do. We continually strive to be good stewards of our God given resources.

## An Inmate Writes While Waiting for an M2 Match

In 2000 I bought two Bible programs for my computer, one called “Multimedia Bible Studies” on a CD and the other one was called “PC Bible Studies” on 5 floppy disks, and I’ve used these programs often over the past years, and find them fruitful & filling, almost like filling my stomach with food, so I guess it’s called “Spiritual Food”. Praise the Lord!! Hallelujah!!

George, thanks for saying you’re going to keep looking for another M2 sponsor for me. I appreciate this a lot. I already have left this in Gods hands though, so I truly believe that if it’s in Gods plan for me to meet another M2 person, then it will definitely happen. Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thy own understanding!” I like this verse a lot, as I’m sure you do too.

(excerpt of letter from Lonnie)

**Church Reader Board:**  
Humility – is not thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less!

## A note from Fraser Valley Institute to W2 volunteers at the Christmas Prison Dinner

“There are special caring people who know the gentle art of bringing joy to others by sharing from the heart.”

“It’s people like you who can make a moment a little more special, a day a little bit brighter.

Thank you for the way you added a little more “Light” at Christmas.”

## **VOLUNTEER CHALLENGE!** **Have you ever thought of someone that would make a good volunteer for our organization?**

This is your chance to invite them to March 13th, 7 – 8:30 pm, Volunteer Challenge, Central Heights Church, enter off south parking lot, 1661 McCallum Rd., Abbotsford.

We have a great need for volunteers in every one of our programs. Currently we have over 200 Federal and Provincial prisoners waiting for matches in both the male and female visitation programs, several Moms waiting for a mentor and a need for trained volunteers in the CoSA program.

**Will you be one of them?**



At the ACCW Christmas Dinner the prisoners wrote poetry and gave them to our Coordinator Linnea Groom. This is what Lisa wrote:

## **WHO ARE W-2’S**

***They come every second Monday with a smile, a hug and an ear,  
They make us feel special with their Christmas cheer.  
They give unselfishly, with their hearts, minds and souls,  
They would like to help dig us out of our holes.***

***Who are these beautiful people so full of life?***

***They are W-2 workers, trying to help with our strife.***

***So if you need someone who has unconditional love,  
Talk to Linnea and she’ll send you a woman, a friend a dove.  
Thank You!!!***

## Archbishop of Canterbury backs restorative alternatives to failing prisons -02/02/07

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, has criticized society's over-reliance on prisons – and is calling for a commission of enquiry into the penal justice system in the UK, which he says is failing both offenders and victims because it is not restorative.

Dr Williams says that at a fundamental level prison is not working because it cannot cope with the primary need to change the behaviour of those convicted and rehabilitate them to community – a point which reformers and advocates of restorative justice have been making for a long time....

The Archbishop's call for radical change came in a lecture to the Prison Reform Trust today on 1 February 2007.

A Commission is needed to explore different models of penal justice, Dr Williams argues, because problems stem from an inadequate sense of responsibility, not simply on the part of offenders, but especially on the part of the society, which imprisons them.

He declared: "If we seriously want to address the problem of re-offending, it is clear that a penal culture in which there is no real attention to how offenders change is worse than useless – literally worse than useless, in that it reinforces alienation, low self-worth and the lack of any sense of having a stake in the life of a community."

The real neglect, Dr Williams argues, is that like society as a whole, the system does not adequately explore how offenders might reform: "If the underlying problem in crime is a breakage in relationship, this means that the offender has lost the active sense of being answerable for others."

He continues: "That sense is ... inseparable from the assurance of having others who are answerable for you. The most unhelpful and indeed damaging way of treating this is thus surely a system that leaves the offender without any grounds for believing that he or she is the object of anyone's responsibility. This is emphatically the message that much of our present system still gives to the offender."

The Archbishop warns that a creeping consumerism threatens to unbalance the relationship between society, the offender and the victim. Moves to put parts of the system out to tender or franchise, sends the message that the community as a whole is not fully committed to the business of changing offending behaviour...

Dr Williams asserts that the current harmful imbalance in the system, which acts as a barrier to true rehabilitation, is exacerbated by an inability of many to talk about responding to crime in anything other than punitive terms: "It would be welcome – though it feels at times like crying for the moon – if politicians and commentators could refrain from speaking as if punishment were essentially about the expression of disapproval and the infliction of legally controlled suffering and not much more."

He concluded: "In itself, such an approach changes nothing but any crime surely indicates that something needs to change in a person's awareness and conscience."

Full story at:  
[http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/content/news\\_syndication/article\\_040712rw.shtml](http://www.ekkleisia.co.uk/content/news_syndication/article_040712rw.shtml)

**"Do Justice —  
Love Mercy"**



## A More Awesome Big Picture

– by Jose Goedbloed

In the spring of 2000 I drove by West

Railway and noticed the M2/W2 sign along the road and this got my attention because both myself and my husband have been M2 volunteers since the mid-1980's. I stopped in and discovered that the Hidden Treasures Thrift store had just opened a week before and was raising funds to be donated to the M2/W2 organization.

After talking to some of the volunteers and prayer it was clear to me that this was an area I could devote some of my spare time to. It has been a wonderful experience for me. Not only have I met some great people but as time went on it has become a multiple mission in the downtown core of Abbotsford. People would come in for a kind word without being judged. As we were short on male volunteers M2 suggested we look into escorting guys from Ferndale. I did take the escort training and started with one guy once a week to volunteer his time at the store. On Monday's and Wednesday's I pick up four guys while on Friday's Dick picks up four guys as well.

Over the years our sales have tripled which is great for the cause but I believe that the bigger picture is even more awesome. Hidden Treasures not only provide financial support for M2/W2, it also serves the community at large by providing a listening ear to many regular customers and showing them compassion and friendship.





## Family News

Our prayers are with **Didi** a very faithful W2 volunteer who recently had a car accident and is recovering from the effects that include multiple stitches to her face. We are extremely sad to report the death of two of our prisoner matches; **Rick and Abby. Rosalind Richards and Elaine Bisbey** who volunteer in the W2 program both lost their fathers in the last few months. **Helen Harper** died in February and is the wife of John Harper who died in 1998 and began the M2 program in 1983 in Kamloops.

## Spiritual Care Corner

I have always been amazed at the collaborative teamwork between a dentist and his assistant. The assistant watches the hands of the dentist and responds, without a word, providing the required instrument. This is a picture of our working relationship with God who is always lovingly at work in the world (John 3:16, II Corinthians 6:1). We watch God and collaborate with Him in the work He is doing in the lives of people we know (Psalm 123:2). God responds to human need and we can do the same (Matthew 25:34-40). Sometimes it's supplying a practical, physical need. Other times our acquaintances need emotional or relational support. Sometimes they need a word from the Lord (Isaiah 50:4). And all of us need information and guidance (Proverbs 3:5-6). What a privilege to work with the Master and Wonderful Counselor! (John 15:16)

Rufus Loewen,

## P2 ABBOTSFORD PARENT MENTORSHIP

Do you have...

- A passion for families?
- A desire to learn & grow?
- A desire to share what you've learned from parenthood?
- A desire to make a positive difference?

If so, we'd love to hear from you.

Please call:

Grace Williamson  
Program Coordinator  
(604) 859-3215 at M2/W2



We want you to meet the "Little Light" from Romania, now in our office.

Luminita Dudas has joined with us and will carry out the duties of full time Office Assistant. Please make her welcome when you call or stop in.

Hildegard encouraged our hearts last year when she sent us this note at year-end.

*"I just celebrated my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and I am thankful that I can still support you!"*

We too are thankful.

**Although there is always a constant need for volunteers in all of our programs, we did wish to highlight the need for both M2 and W2 volunteers at Surrey Pretrial. These are group meetings on Friday evenings. There is also an opportunity to minister at a bible study at Ford Mountain up in the Chilliwack Lake area. Please call the office to participate in either of these.**

## Mark Your Calendar

March 13<sup>th</sup> – 7 – 8:30 pm,  
Volunteer Challenge, Central Heights Church, enter off south parking lot

March 24<sup>th</sup> – 9 am – 3:30 pm , Core Training Session, Wagner Hills Farm, 8061 264th St, Langley-6 k north of the freeway.

June 7<sup>th</sup> – 7 – 9 pm, AGM  
See Pg. 1 of the Newsletter

Apr. 1 – 6:30 pm, Sevenoaks Alliance Church, 2575 Gladwin Rd. Abbotsford – Isaiah 58 Project. Come and support M2/W2 at this evening where we are one of three agencies that will be profiled.

## BOARD NOMINATIONS

The Nomination Committee is in the process of preparing names for recommendation to the Board for the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

If you know of someone you think would be a good addition please contact the office.

## Please take note:

- If we do not yet have your email address please send it to us at [info@m2w2.com](mailto:info@m2w2.com).
- Recepting will be done on an annual basis.
- Membership is an important part of our agency both for accessing grants and some funding as well as for our charitable status. If you are not a member please consider becoming one. The cost has been kept low - \$10 per year, in order that people can participate. Call the office to arrange this.