



From the Director

We run a lot of programs at the Living Rock, from meal programs to employment preparation and everything in between. But the most important part of our week, and central to everything we do, is our chapel service. The Gathering began with just a few youth and a couple of staff, but now we're averaging 40 to 50 youth a week.

Many of them stay and talk to me about prayer, or confide in me about grief and other issues they're dealing with. They are really looking to God for answers and meaning in their lives. The youth who get the most involved, by singing or listening or getting ministered to, are often the most hardcore and challenging. For a lot of them, the Gathering has become their church. It's pretty exciting.

We don't proselytize or preach to the youth. They come to the Gathering voluntarily, to get their life needs met and to connect to God and the community. There's huge power in that. Youth are even asking me for Bibles - I've given out four in the past week.

More staff are getting involved too, as God raises other people up to run the Gathering. I used to do the whole thing, but now it's gained momentum and more and more of our community are getting involved.

As the Rock celebrates its 22nd anniversary, it's good to look around and see all the people - staff, volunteers, donors, sponsors - who support the work we do. Our anniversary gala is like a bigger version of the Gathering. We're coming together to celebrate and have a meal together, but this time it's with the wider community. A big 'thank you' to all of you who stand with us.

Rev. Alan Craig

GROWING IN

OPERATION CHRISTMAS BLESSING



Tuesday December 11 Rock Auction at the Evening Program - youth can use Rock bucks to buy presents (in partnership with Jerry Haanstra, CRIEDA and community donations)

Thursday December 20 Annual Christmas Dinner at the Evening Program, with hampers and gifts for all youth and their children

Monday December 25 The Rock is open for breakfast on Christmas Day

PASTORS' LUNCH

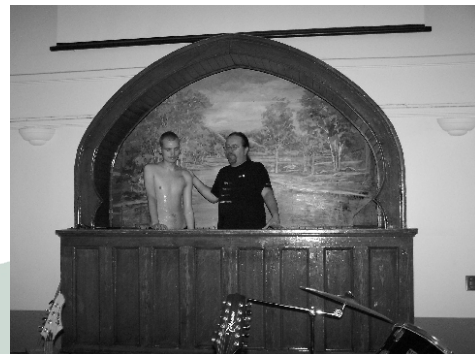
On October 30, pastors from around 10 Hamilton churches came to the Living Rock for our Pastors' Lunch. They enjoyed finding out about different ways to help the Rock - for example, this Christmas we'd love donations of coats, socks, winter clothing, hygiene products and toys. Call 905-528-7625 for more details.



Al Craig and Living Rock staff play at the Gathering.



A number of youth were baptized this year at Bethel Tabernacle and Hughson St Baptist Church.



COMMUNITY



FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!

The Living Rock has been focusing on food for the past few months - not just the food itself, but improving the way it is served.

One of the first priorities is the kitchen, where the floor needs to be leveled and replaced with industrial tiles to bring it up to Health Code. New industrial-strength cupboards, drawers and a pot rack are needed, and the walls could use some repair and a fresh coat of paint. This would cost around \$25,000-\$30,000.

We would also like to improve the areas where the food is served. A six-tray steam table would keep food hot and fresh and improve wheelchair accessibility from the elevator. This would cost around \$3,000.

Finally, it would be great to add to the Oasis Coffee House, part of the Evening Program, by having a coffee kiosk/tuck shop. This would provide secure storage for incentives which youth could buy with Rock Dollars and points they earn. This would cost \$1,300.

Would you consider a special donation to help us improve our food services? Youth are learning cooking as a life skill and many develop a vision for the hospitality industry. If you can help, please call our Development Team at 905-528-7625 x.39.

DREW'S STORY (CONTINUED)

With Phase I of TRI-Rock almost finished, Drew is looking forward to working at McDonald's. He is determined to work hard at his new job, but he'll carry on enjoying his favourite part of life at the Rock - the Evening Program.

Drew wrote an essay about the program which won a Thanksgiving prize from Voortman's Cookies:

What the Evening Program Means to Me

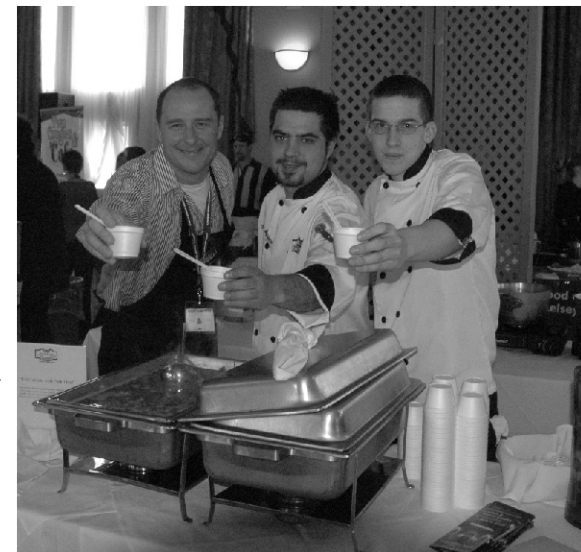
"The Evening Program is a great place for people who are homeless, have trouble making friends, who just moved to town and can't find their way around.

There are a lot of people who are homeless and have trouble finding their way to happiness. With programs like the Evening Program, it gives youth a place to eat meals and make new friends.

Good or bad, there are even people who get out of jail and lose their apartments because they could not pay their rent. They come to the Rock and can find themselves a home.

It is so great to see people with great big smiles because it helps people go from having a bad day to a great day."

Living Rock Ministries presents SOUPFEST!



It's almost time for Soupfest, the Living Rock's hugely popular annual fundraiser for youth at risk! This year Soupfest takes place on Tuesday January 29 from 11:30am to 8pm, at LIUNA Station, 360 James Street North. Top restaurants will be competing with their finest soups, dished up by sports personalities, local politicians and other 'celebrity servers' (pictured left). Talented musicians and artists, including a piper from the Royal Canadian Legion, will also be featured.

Tickets are \$8 for adults (for four 4oz bowls of soup) or a book of 10 for \$60; seniors (over 60) \$6 between 2-4pm; and \$3 for children (three bowls of soup). Call 905-528-7625 for details and sponsorship opportunities.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are lots of great ways you can raise money for the Living Rock. Students in the marketing class at Glendale Secondary School created stick-on tattoos with the Rock logo on the back, and sold them for \$1 each (the Glendale Bears tattoo is pictured below). They raised \$250, as well as spreading awareness about the work of the Rock! Thanks to everyone from the Glendale marketing class.



Why not think up creative ways to raise funds for the Rock? We'd love to hear from you, and you might even appear in our next newsletter!

LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES

contact info:

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FAX: 905-526-8723

WEBSITE: www.livingrock.ca

EMAIL: mail@livingrock.ca

Charitable # 88345 8812 RR0001

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have supported the Living Rock at our recent events.



LIVING ROCK PLATINUM SPONSORS



Scotiabank

YOUR RIGHTS AS A DONOR

If at any time you would like to change the amount of mail you receive from us, please contact the Development Team at 905-528-7625 ex 39 and we would be happy to comply with your request.

In addition, Living Rock Ministries assures its donors that personal information is not used for commercial purposes. We do not rent, sell, trade or share our donor information. Personal information is kept confidential and is used to mail information about our services to donors.

LIVING ROCK MINISTRIES PROGRAMS & SERVICES

youth food bank • breakfast program • evening meals • positive recreation programming • anti-racism initiative
employment readiness training • chaplaincy • visiting youth in custody • urban ministry training • addictions counselling
health clinic and medical supports • volunteer opportunities • educational assessments and supports • youth work-to-earn incentives • computer resource room • housing help • supports for pregnant and parenting youth
creative art competition celebrating diversity • self care and health promotion for young women

UPCOMING EVENTS

Soupfest VI: Community Connections for Youth
Tuesday 29 January 2008
LIUNA Station

Call 905-528-7625 for details and sponsorship opportunities

'Meet the Street' Service Projects and Video
(sponsored by Crime Prevention)
Throughout 2007 and 2008
Call to register 905-528-7625

Living Rock Golf Tournament
Thursday 5 June 2008
Beverly Golf and Country Club
Call John to register 905-627-3860

MEMORIALS

The following is a list of donations made to Living Rock Ministries in memory of past friends, colleagues and family:

Received from:	In Memory of:
Laurie Miller	Ben Daigle
Gail Alderson	Ray Brown
Anonymous	Rachel Stacey



Founded 1985 905-528-7625 www.livingrock.ca

SOUPFEST!
TUESDAY JANUARY 29, 2008 -
DETAILS INSIDE!

GROWING IN COMMUNITY

MIRACLE ON 30 WILSON ST!



The Living Rock is mortgage-free! Following renovations throughout 2007 - including sandblasting of the outside of the Rock, which has helped revitalize the downtown core - both our buildings are now paid off. Thanks to everyone for helping achieve this Christmas miracle, including the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Historia, participants in our Golf Tournaments and other faithful donors.



When Drew first came to the Living Rock, he saw all the youth standing outside and thought it was a club. So he went to check it out and discovered the Evening Program. Now, four years later, he's still a regular and loves everything the Rock has to offer.

"When I first lived in Hamilton, I was staying in shelters - it was my first experience of being homeless," says Drew. "After about four months I came to the Rock. It's a great place to make friends."

Drew says the Living Rock is 'part of my routine'. He enjoys a hot meal at the Breakfast Program, then takes part in work programs during the day. TRI-Rock has helped him handle stress and stay focused on his work.

"It's helped me stay out of trouble," he says. "I'd probably be out of a job without the Rock, and I wouldn't have the money to pay for a place."

Drew has also taken part in the Rock's anti-racism initiative. He says awareness is the only way to prevent racism. "It's the worst type of stereotyping. People can't help the skin colour they're born with."

CONTINUED INSIDE

