

# House of Hesed

## Autumn 2004

*...building a place of lovingkindness*

Hesed is a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament to describe the eternally loyal, lavish, extravagant, unrestrained, compassionate, merciful love of our Father God. As recipients of this divine love, we desire to emulate His compassion in our attitudes and actions towards others, particularly toward those people living with HIV/AIDS.

### *A Dream Lost*

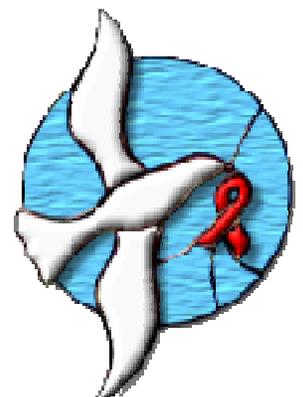
*By Dave Edwards*

Sometimes lost dreams simply make room for God's intended work.

In October of 1996, a dream came to an end. I had served for six years on a board with the aim of starting a Christian run hospice for those affected by HIV/AIDS. What started as a dream, became a steering committee in 1990, and soon incorporated as a non-profit society in BC under the name "House of Hesed". Hesed is the Hebrew word for the lavish, faithful love of God, and this house would be a place where that kind of love was clearly seen. That's as far as we got. For reasons unknown to us, the vision simply would not become a reality. We guessed that the time and place was just not right. And on October 21, 1996 we held our final meeting, dissolved the corporation, distributed our remaining assets to some group in Winnipeg, and went home. I was sad.

The dream seemed so right. Jesus had shown us an example of unconditional love. He reached out and touched the lepers in love. He showed compassion for the woman caught in adultery, separating His response to the sinner from His response to the sin. He gave us the parable of the Good Samaritan, teaching us that even those we might deem as unlovable should be the recipients of our love. He even told us that when we minister love to even the least among men, it is actually equal to ministering to Jesus Himself. And there was a ready-made application for this kind of love. Showing the love of Jesus to those dying of AIDS was simply the right thing to do. And this picture of an AIDS hospice seemed to fit Jesus mandate so well.

It was to be a house, not an institution, hence the name "House of Hesed". Over those six years we had refined the picture. An older home that needed renovating would be perfect. A downtown location, close to other resources for AIDS patients would be good. Room for twelve residents would be about the maximum for any given house. There would be a room for each resident, a room that looked like home. There would be common areas for recreation and interaction. The kitchen would be available for those who could prepare their own meals, with meals being provided for those who could not. A pantry for storage of donated food items, a locking medical cabinet for resident's medications, an entertainment system, a staff office, and the list went on. It was a beautiful picture. And the loss created a small empty place in my heart – empty until I found myself in Winnipeg last week for the Evangelical Free Church National Conference.



## *A Dream Lost (cont)*

Winnipeg. Remember? That's the location of that mysterious group to whom we donated our remaining \$1174.84. And guess what? They did what we could not.

A couple of phone calls, and I found myself standing in front of #45 Edmonton Street in downtown Winnipeg.

It was called, can you believe, the House of Hesed. I tried to hold back the tears.

I was greeted at the door by the bright, smiling face of Maresa, the on duty worker, and her one-year-old daughter. She gave me a tour that was, quite literally, like stepping into the dream I had given up eight years ago. It was an old house, newly renovated. It had twelve bedrooms. I tried my best to choke back the tears. She showed me the staff office, the recreational areas, the pantry, the lockup for medicines, and a few of the home-like bedrooms. She explained that the reason it was near downtown was to be close to the other resources available to those affected by HIV/AIDS. I met a couple of residents who were up and about, but we walked past a number of closed doors as well. The love of Jesus was present.

As we had coffee and chatted about the history of the House of Hesed, I kept one eye on life in the house. The residents looked after Maresa's daughter like she was one of the family. The smell of frying onions filled the house as Dana made his lunch. Joe scrubbed Dana's frying pan, just because he wanted to help. Another resident laughed with a friend on the phone. Shirley seemed to need her own space, but that was ok too. And these were all people who had no place else to go, and no one else who could care for them at this time in their lives. And here, they were experiencing the true love of Jesus. And maybe, just maybe, they will come to know that love in a personal way.

After I said goodbye, I stood for a long time in front of the house. Tears of gratitude streamed down my face. I prayed for each of the residents, especially those behind closed doors. I thanked God for the workers, the resources, and the administrative gifts that had been used to bring the House of Hesed into existence. I worshiped.

And as I walked away, I realized that indeed, our failures sometimes make way for God's success.

*Want to read  
more about us?*

Then please do check out our website:

**WWW.HOUSEOFHESED.CA**

You can also see pictures, watch some video, e-mail us, and see how you can get involved here.



*Dave Edwards is a writer and consultant, in addition to serving as Senior Pastor at White Rock Community Church, White Rock, BC for 16 years and counting. Dave and Kathie have been married for 25 years and have three children, ages 20, 18, and 16.*





## Hi From Katie

The Lord has granted me the desire of my heart! It is a blessing to serve Him here at House of Hesed. I began exploring the possibility of working here before the move to 45 Edmonton. I officially started working here in August. It has become my second home!! My youngest daughter, Bailey, enjoys spending time here with me and the residents on weekends.

As I spend time with the residents, I am able to share in the joys and sorrows. I am reminded of Ecclesiastes 4:12; Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

As staff, we are able to walk alongside each other and the residents, so we are not easily broken (defeated). God has given me a love for each resident and it's amazing to see how God created each one in a special way. They are our "treasures".

As a body of believers, I believe we need to use what God has entrusted to us for his purposes and not our own. I come with no worldly talents, only a desire to serve. God does not always use those who are equipped, but equips those who are willing to be used. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!!

*Katie Cameron*



## Thanks to Jon and John!

Many thanks to these guys for organizing a fundraiser for us at Club 200. We deeply appreciate your generous contribution of time and energy to make the social happen. Also, thanks to everyone who came out to the event!



With the proceeds of the social we're going to buy a couple of dehumidifiers for the basement! We'll also buy walkie-talkies to help our sicker residents keep in touch with the staff around the house.



## Thanks to Jo!

We had a very wonderful person come and give haircuts to a couple of our residents; what a wonderful way to serve others! Thank you so much, Jo, and may the Lord bless you!

## Pastors Unite For Hesed!

Blessings to the wonderful pastors who came to lend their advice at September's brainstorming session:

**Nathan Reiger, Winnipeg Centre Vineyard**

**Troy Van Ginkel, Gordon King Memorial**

**Harry Lehotsky, New Life Ministries**

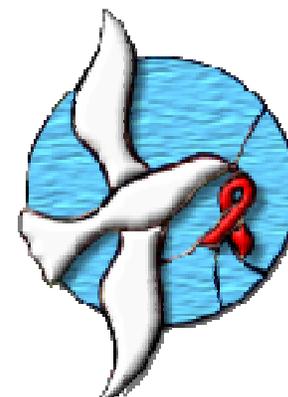
**Ken Peters, Gateway Christian Community**

**Brian Brglez, The Bridge Church**

Thank you so much for your encouragement! It's amazing to hear about the impact that Hesed has had on the church community.

### A Call To Leaders

Are you or do you know of other leaders who would be interested in partnering with Hesed? Give us a call and we can get together and share our vision to love and care for the sick.



## Christmas Fundraiser

We will be selling a whole host of products this year during the Christmas season. Check out the bottom of this page and the attached order forms. You can also go to [www.HouseofHesed.ca](http://www.HouseofHesed.ca) to get more information, or call us. We're selling handmade Christmas wreaths, Mom's Pantry Products, Toledo Meats, and Bothwell Cheese!



### Important Stuff

Thank you all for your support of Heseed. Over the past 6 years we have provided a home for over 35 people, and touched many hundreds more with the message of unconditional love. You did that! Everything we have done is yours in Christ (1Co 3:22).

<u>Yearly Income</u>		<u>Yearly Expenses</u>
Average income from room/board fees paid by government: <b>\$70,000</b>	Required donations: + individuals/churches/foundations: <b>\$105,000</b>	Facility: \$50,000
		Staff \$125,000
		Annual expenses: <b>\$175,000</b>
<b>Current shortfall: \$3000-4000 per month</b>		

As you can see, we are in need of your help. Please pray about becoming a monthly supporter of our ministry. Partnering with us means that you are fulfilling the call of Jesus to “give to the needy” (Mat 6:1-4), “to bind up the brokenhearted” (Isa 61:1-3), and to look after the sick as if they were Jesus himself (Mat 25:34-36).

There are also other ways that you can help us: Organize a fundraiser with your church or small group, ask your pastor if we can come and speak at your church, talk to people about us and raise awareness, and please pray for us on a consistent basis. We really need you!

*Cam Tucker*

### Hesed Prayer Requests



- Protection for the entire household
- Provision from the church community
- That our love for God and the residents would increase
- That the residents would know His love intimately
- That Heseed would become well known in Winnipeg

House of Heseed  
 P.O. Box 1493  
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 204-772-4793  
[Info@HouseofHesed.ca](mailto:Info@HouseofHesed.ca)  
[www.HouseofHesed.ca](http://www.HouseofHesed.ca)

## House of Heseed

## Wreath Raiser

Professional handmade wreath: NAME \_\_\_\_\_

• 12 inch ring, finished to 22 inches ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

• Mostly Balsam Fir branches CITY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE \_\_\_\_\_

• Large red velvet bow PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

• Clusters of pinecones Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ wreaths. Cost is \$25 per wreath.

• Misc. decorations Total \$: \_\_\_\_\_



(not exactly as shown)

Please fill in and return to the House of Heseed P.O. Box 1493 Winnipeg, MB R3C 2Z4 Phone: 772-4793

\*\* Please make cheques payable to House of Heseed Fax: 783-0494