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FLOYD'S WEEKLY COLUMN

Ask 10 people who work in social services how to end homelessness and you'll get 10 different answers. The debate often centres around what expectations should be placed on people who receive services.

For example, some argue that able-bodied individuals are expected to find employment and look after themselves. Others might argue that if those able-bodied individuals struggle with internal problems like trauma, PTSD or mental health issues, then the expectation of looking after themselves might only exasperate an already vulnerable situation and make things worse.

Over the years, two main approaches to homelessness have emerged.

The first approach is often called the treatment-first approach. In this approach, people who experience homelessness and struggle with addictions, mental health issues or other barriers are first and foremost provided with treatment. As they get better, their capacity increases and eventually the person will get housing.

Critics of this approach often make the case that treatment can only be effective if the person has the stability and security of a home first.

That's why the second approach is often called the housing-first or harm-reduction model.

First introduced more than 20 years ago, the logic behind housing first is to provide people with a home upfront, along with a support system to deal with their addictions and mental health issues.

This model is most effective for people with severe mental health issues who have been homeless for a long time. These individuals, often called the chronically homeless, make up about 25 percent of Winnipeg's homeless population.

Detractors of this model make the case that simply giving people a home is a form of enabling and provides a disincentive to work and support themselves.

Over the years, both methods have shown some success in reducing homelessness – and most cities have adapted a mix of the two to serve the various demographics within the homeless population.

But they haven't been a silver bullet.

The reality for hundreds of thousands across Canada and millions in the United States is that homelessness is not going away.

That's because those experiencing homelessness are people – people with unique problems and needs that require a complex and highly individualized treatment plan.

The idea of a one-size-fits-all solution is not going to get us there, much to the disappointment of people like me who would love nothing more than to fix a problem and scale up proven solutions.

I've come to know people who use the services of Siloam Mission whose mental illness means they will need 24 hour monitoring for the foreseeable future.

I've come to know people who I would consider incredibly successful if they got to a point of taking a shower and starting to eat properly.

I've come to know people whose social anxiety means they will likely not relate to another human being in a significant way, much less function in society.

Treatment alone will not fix their problems. And a roof won't either. But providing both, along with individualized care, is a start.

In one of the most prosperous countries in the world, why would we strive for anything less?

Floyd Perras,
Executive Director, Strategic Initiatives of Siloam Mission

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES **TO PRESENT WEBINAR ON GENEROSITY**

Stewardship Ministries will host a free School of Stewardship webinar, “Generosity Fever: It’s Contagious,” November 15th at 2:00 PM (CST).



Committed givers have the power to pass along generosity throughout their church family, creating a church culture that is immune to consumerism and nurtures generosity and tithing. Mark Lail will teach attendees to steward God’s most beloved resource: His people.

Time will be reserved at the end for attendee questions. All eligible persons will receive one lifelong learning hour.

[Register now](#) to reserve a place at this webinar.

– [Stewardship Ministries](#)

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NCM CANADA GIFT CATALOGUE NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2016–2017 NCM Canada Gift Catalogue is available and has been mailed out to all Nazarene churches in Canada.

This year's catalogue includes popular favourites, such as goats, blankets, wells, school books, etc. Also included in this catalogue are opportunities to give towards children's needs in child development centres in South Asia and Malawi (Africa). The catalogue also features our relationship and projects with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, where your giving can be matched by the Canadian government (see page 10 of the catalogue).

Youth groups, Sunday School classes, seniors groups and others, including local NMI, continue to participate in giving through the catalogue. Some have fundraising events, others collect loonies and toonies over several weeks, others hold 'auctions' of catalogue items.....the possibilities are endless!

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PLEASE NOTE

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For additional copies of the Gift Catalogue, please contact the National office.

*Thank you to all who give.
Your gifts do make a difference!*

BOOK RELEASE BY DR. CLAIR MACMILLAN

“As the nineteenth century was drawing to a close, several significant social shifts were occurring concurrently in Canada. One of the most significant changes that affected the entire country, was the opening of the Western territories to settlement, and the subsequent development of the provinces Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan. At the same time the expansion of the railway system enabled people to move to previously unheard-of locations with an ease that was inconceivable a generation earlier. Thousands of families were drawn from various places in Canada, each seeking a future in the new land. The story I tell is the account of one such family. All of the characters are real people, who by one means or another found their way into a new community and life. The events are all real, but they are not singular. The kinds of things which happen in this story happened again and again, to various people, in various places, at various times. Henry and Velma’s story is the story of countless from countless rural places in Canada, who, for a variety of reasons moved to one city or another looking for an opportunity to build a life. In the process, and in the alienation caused by their dislocation, they came in contact with other people of like mind, who shared a common need: to be loved and accepted as they found their way in the complex society of the twentieth century city.”

Lost and Found is available for purchase from the National Office for \$13.00 (includes shipping charges). Additionally, Lost and Found can be purchased by following these links:

**http://www.amazon.com/LOST-FOUND-Kenneth-Clair-MacMillan/dp/1460251245/ref=sr_1_12?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1430496368&sr=1-12&keywords=lost+and+found+macmillan

**<http://www.friesenpress.com/bookstore/title/119734000015731953/Kenneth-Clair-MacMillan-LOST-and-FOUND>

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and see your information appear in the next edition of**

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