



NEWSLETTER 2025

FIRST QUARTER

“I have to tell you, the prayers from everyone are making changes happen inside me that are new. Please keep praying. It’s helping.”



“Through joint counselling at SNLM we have come to realize that there is so much more that God has in store for our marriage.”



“I didn’t need someone to help me succeed at suicide – I needed someone to tell me to stay.”



“SNLM has helped me to restore my trust in God, restore my purpose and restore my identity in Christ.”



TESTIMONY TIDBITS



FROM THE DIRECTORS DESK

CHANGE! We all find change difficult, but we all have to change. We have to change our clothes. We have to change the sheets on the bed. We have to change the channel on TV to watch a better show. We tolerate the change in weather. We may have to change jobs or careers. Some suffer change by unforeseen circumstances: divorce, illness, even death.

At South Niagara Life Ministries, we are all about change. Clients come to SNLM seeking change: a change of heart, a change of attitude, a change of behaviour. Change is what the Gospel is all about. The life changing power of the Risen Lord, and the powerful Word of God is transformative: binding up the brokenhearted; setting the captives free and giving life where there was no life.

Change is also about growth. Children “grow up” and change into adults. And believers are being changed, transformed into the likeness of Jesus. As Paul says, we are being transformed from glory to glory. The counselors at SNLM are essentially change-agents. These change-agents are cooperating with the Holy Spirit who gives insight and wisdom in accordance with scripture to help the clients experience the transforming power of the Gospel.

There are also other changes that happen. Recently there has been a change in the Executive Director at SNLM. For 32 years, Martha Beroud had been the executive director of SNLM. In those years she has provided excellent leadership in setting up administrative protocols and procedures for the benefit of the clients. Martha will continue with counselling. In January 2025, I was given the wonderful privilege and opportunity to become the new Executive Director of SNLM. That is a BIG change. This is not change for change sake but change for the furtherance of the mission of SNLM to reach, rescue and renew those who are suffering from life’s crisis, issues and problems.

SNLM also has the change of two new employees: Marilyn McGale, a part-time statistician and Jennifer Lown, a part-time cleaner. We are certainly looking forward to their contributions to SNLM.

Change isn’t always a bad thing but is an opportunity to see how the Lord works in all things for those who love Him and are called to His purpose.

As SNLM embraces these changes, it is our prayer that you will also embrace these changes by continuing to support and pray for this ministry.

Bernie McGale

Executive Director of SNLM



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

One of my favorite passages of scripture to share with clients is Jesus words in Matthew 11:28-30 where He says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." They so often come so weary and burdened searching for rest and I tell them that Jesus is inviting them to come, to come to Him, be connected to Him, learn from him, like He is their life coach for here and right into eternity. I find these words give such quick hope for whatever they're facing. Bringing clients to Jesus and His words have left many finding **REST** in Him.

*Come and **R**-release, **E**-everything, **S**-surrender, **T**-totally.
He is so good at what He does!*

Heleen Fokkens

BOARD BITES



The Board of Directors at South Niagara Life Ministries is pleased and excited to announce the creation of the "Fundraising Focus Group". The task of this group is not to do the fundraising, but rather to see or discern (focus) on ways the fundraising can be done efficiently and effectively.

The focus of the Fundraising Focus Group is not just to "look" at all the good ideas related to fundraising, but to "see" God's idea for South Niagara Life Ministries. So far the Fundraising Focus Group is made up of Kathy Klune (Board Rep), Helen McCreadie (staff) and Jim Mueller (volunteer). Other members are being sought out.

We look forward to what the Lord is going to do through this group.

Kathy Klune

FORWARD FEATURE

2025 Mark Your Calendars

SNLMs Annual Key-2-Hope Initiatives:

1st Initiative: March 28, 2025—Confirmed

1st Qtr: Spring Initiative – In the planning stages
TESTIMONIES & MATCH CHALLENGE

2nd Initiative: May 11–June 15, 2025

BBBC—Baby Bottle Benefit Campaign

3rd Initiative: July 2–Sept 13, 2025

Annual Walk & Roll —Match Challenge

4th Initiative: Thursday—Oct. 30, 2025

SNLMs 33rd Anniversary—Benefit Dinner, PROGRAM,
& MATCH /DELPHI BANQUET FACILITIES—6:00-9:00

5th Initiative: Christmas Adopt A Family
South Niagara Life Ministries—sponsors welcome.

You are invited to ...

SNLM's SPRING FUNDRAISER

"Thrive in 2025"

Friday, March 28, 2025 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
SNLM's location @ 143 & 139 Gilmore Rd. Fort Erie, ONT.

5:30 pm - Doors open for pre-registered guests
5:45 pm - Tours offered in our main offices
6:00 pm - Meet & mingle, enjoy some sweet & savory appetizers
6:30 pm - Program including testimonials, mission/vision & opportunities
- concluding with door prizes
7:05 pm - Close in prayer - Tours in main office
7:30 pm - Conclusion

Pre-registration is required - on a first come basis. Limited invitations to 100
Please register today! Call SNLM: 871-0236

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that clients will find healing and salvation through Christ
- Pray for the groups & their leaders that meet weekly at SNLM.
- Give thanks to God for continuing to supply all SNLM's needs and praise for our *faithful donors*.
- Pray for our Spring Fundraiser & Match Challenge "THRIVE IN 2025" on March 28th. May God use it for His glory & the good of His kingdom.
- Ask the Lord to continue to unify His work in the greater Fort Erie area.

PASSING THE TORCH



Greetings!—personally—and on behalf of South Niagara Life Ministries.

Many thanks to all, who over 33 years have supported SNLM's mission, *free* counsel services—and/or served during my tenure (1992-2024) as Executive Director. It's been my privilege to serve on staff and to train 100+ lives, yet sad each time to bless and release each one to their new assignments. Now it's my turn, and while I expected to serve in this role many more years, I am grateful to our board for their gracious understanding; selecting my replacement—allowing me to step down to better address the changing needs within my family, and personal health.

Still, I have been in office various days, since January 1st, to mentor and consult as needed; transitioning my E.D. duties to Bernie McGale. I love serving the Lord, fulfilling His call, and serving lives via SNLM. I am glad to continue serving for two days a week as a volunteer (*Tues. & Weds*); confidentially carrying out crucial counsel work, co-leading groups, resource development, continuing to consult, support, and serve, as my husband and I are able.

I have to say, since this is my last editorial, I (we) **have loved witnessing** how time, services, and investments we've made, together, change hearts and transform lives—who later on serve others and contribute. How can you put a price tag on lives, *who*—in finding hope and faith change their life courses?—restore good mental health and lifestyles?—or a price on the many seeds, hope, and impact made over time, by our small team, in 30,134 lives?

As an incorporated Christian charitable mission with a biblical counsel methodology, ours is unmatched for reaching and addressing heart issues; for bringing lasting, life transforming results. **No problem** stands alone. SNLMs holistic counsel approach includes practical helps, resources, and services to address life problems; rather than solely addressing symptoms. SNLMs services, since the beginning, include life alternatives to abortion, life empowering choices and counsel, life alternatives to suicide and euthanasia – to life threatening addictions – alternatives to divorce – grieving alone or calling it quits on God; among many other individual and family life altering challenges and issues that broken people continue to come in with. All—we pray that will engage support from our community relationships, friends, and partners; to sustain them.

There are a few with us, who have given since the beginning—pledging gifts as match incentives for 2025-2026; in extending their family legacies. Others are considering endowments, bequests, fundraisers, in their commitment to stand in the gap with us and serve our neighbors in need. *We are grateful*. Please pray all means will advance and sustain SNLMs mission.

No one group, church, or business can man nor fund what we can do together, investing and making an eternal life changing difference. **Prayerfully**, with all the sacrifices, resources, time, and manpower invested to fulfill SNLMs mission, to date, **may** others catch the vision, and sense the heart-beat of our mission—to pick up the torch and join in relationship with our faithful team, Bernie McGale as my replacement, and our Board. May God richly bless you.

STATE OF STATS

Year to Date 2024 Stats

Total Clients: 338

Male: 129 Female: 209

1st Time Commitments to Jesus: 17

Recommitments to Jesus: 13

Top 5 Counseling Issues:

1. Anxiety/stress
2. Depression
3. Anger
4. Communication
5. Fear/panic



Congratulations to Michael and Natalie. They were married at South Niagara on January 2. This was a first for us!

EXCITING EVENTS

South Niagara Life Ministries 1st MAN DAY event, "Overcoming a Proudful Heart," was held on Thursday February 13, in our spacious meeting room. We had 10 participants and enjoyed a good day together. Bernie McGale was the worship leader on the guitar and Larry Hart was the seminar presenter. There was also prayer ministry. One of the participants shared how he was healed from his childhood hurts. That is definitely a praise God. A thank you to those who covered the cost of this event by their generous donations. The next Man-Day will be in June. Watch for more details.



**Yes!—I would like to support South Niagara Life Ministries—
Helping People Resolve Life Crisis, Issues, & Problems—to make a difference.**

Name: _____ Address: _____

City/Town: _____ Prov. / State: _____ Postal Code: _____

Email: _____ Day Phone #: _____

Donation \$ _____ Please Indicate: Monthly Gift **OR** One-time Gift By etransfers@snlmcounsel.ca

Please DO NOT SEND CASH VIA THE MAIL By Cheque—Payable to South Niagara Life Ministries By Visa MasterCard Amer Express

Card Holder Name: _____ Signature: _____

Card#: _____ Expiry Date _____ CSV# _____

South Niagara Life Ministries · 143 Gilmore Road · Fort Erie, ON L2A2L9 Canada Revenue Charity #84068 6000 RR0001

Phone: 905-871-0236 ♥ Fax: 905-871-0928 ♥ Text: 905-650-2363 ♥ Hours: M-F 9:00 am-5:00 pm www.snlmcounsel.ca

Reaching, Rescuing, and Renewing Lives



SOUTH NIAGARA LIFE MINISTRIES

MAIN OFFICES: 143 Gilmore Rd. Fort Erie, ON L2A2L9 - M-F 9-5

Extension Office: 84 West St. Port Colborne, ON - W 11:30-3 :00

Phone: 905-871-0236 Text: 905-650-2363

snlm@snlmcounsel.ca



South Niagara **Life** Ministries (SNLM)

Helping People Resolve Life Crises, Issues, & Problems

We hope you will join us for

SNLM'S SPRING FUNDRAISER & MATCH CHALLENGE "Thrive in 2025"

Friday, March 28, 2025 - from 5:30 - 7:30p.m.

SNLM's Location @ 143 -139 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie, ON

Celebrating 33 years of offering free community services.

5:30 pm – Doors open for pre-registered guests

5:45 pm – Tours offered in our main offices

6:00 pm – **Meet & Mingle** (some seating available); enjoy some sweet & savory appetizers; sponsor SNLM's free community services

6:30pm – Program includes testimonials – mission – vision and opportunity updates – concluding with door prizes

7:05 pm – Close in prayer, Tours continue in our main office

7:30 pm – Conclusion

Pre-registration is required – on a first come basis.

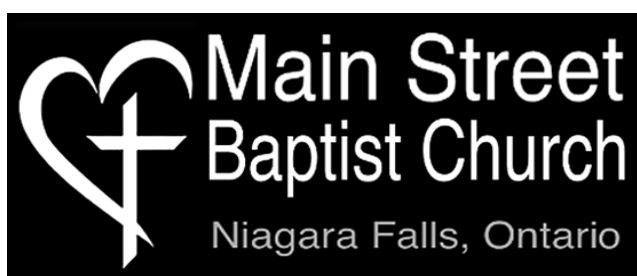
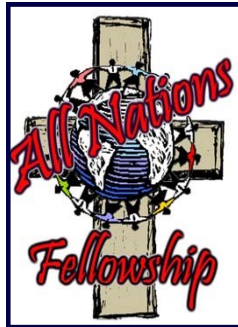
Limited Invitations to 100

Please register today! Call SNLM: 871-0236 or

Email: snlm@snlmcounsel.ca

SNLM 2025 Spring Reception

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**So Grateful for Every Friend,
SNLM Mi\$\$ion Sponsor, and
Match Challenge Provider * ***