



MINISTRIES

SNLM **SEPTEMBER UPDATES 2012**

COMMON CAUSE ♥ COMBINED ACTION ♥ IN FAITH TOGETHER

Many Thanks - for all our supporters - volunteers - and prayers - while SNLM progressed along to finalize autonomy. Our Board faced some tough decisions in assuring 20-years of ministry investments would continue. SNLM always said we would do what it takes to move forward debt free; sadly including employee layoffs. However, I am happy to report we are all back, and SNLM is back to full services. This summer, in daily and voluntarily serving requests, I've been reminded just how much community and area referral sources depend upon our ready availability, to help people in life crisis, with dire needs. We continually strategize and seek ministry sustainability - *i.e.* to grow, develop and sustain: **1)** day- to-day operations, **2)** qualified personnel, **3)** and to assure our future in Niagara, *and* - **4)** to position SNLM to act, in God's timing, on implementing our next phase in mission development, for both space and personnel development.

Vision Agenda: HELPING PEOPLE Resolve LIFE CRISES, ISSUES, AND PROBLEMS

Most of us have been ***blessedly*** spared - life or death crisis, life upsets, brokenness, *etc.*. Through others lives and personal circumstances, I increasingly learned this summer how we take for granted, ***too often***, our families, our health, our homes, our transportation, our income, our privilege to work, *and* - as we look around the world - even our freedom of worship. We assume everyday (as most people we see do) that when we get up, this day won't be much different than the last. Then '**BANG!**' - '**Lightning strikes!**' - **and life as we know it** (*the life we take for granted*) is changed; sometimes forever. Most of us truly don't appreciate our blessings, or their value, until ***after*** they are gone.

The first vision (of SNLM's development) was born in community over 20 years ago. A vision born from the hearts of men and women, in Christian compassion, for providing free resources and practical life solutions for people facing such crisis and decisions, alone. A vision in trusting God's sovereignty - that still marks their legacy today - for affirming and respecting life at both ends of the life cycle, and in between; a legacy that we, who are involved in SNLM, are blessed to carry on.

This month marks a major milestone in SNLM's 20-year-services that stems from the culmination of many years of prayer, investments, and joint energies expended. ***We are all eager*** to see what SNLM's **new season** will bring. **You** are welcome, and encouraged, to become part of SNLM's new day, if you aren't already. There has never been **a more opportune time** to add your heart and compassion, alongside ours, toward making a difference in **life** decisions, made in desperate times.

Whether by investing your time, skills, or talents, or through your financial commitments, **YOU** can instrumentally **intervene** in a critically decisive moment, and a small window in time. **YOU** can save **a home - a marriage - a life**. **YOU** can help reconcile a family - support a mother - **intervene in life crises** - diffuse someone's anger - lift the wounded - heal the broken - care for the dying - assist distraught parents - aid troubled children - and provide all of them with the experience of God's grace to find new hope, new faith, and new direction, by extending your hand with ours.

We have learned how the *Spirit* of neighborly love can disarm a spirit of death, of disillusionment, chaos, crisis, despair, depression, anxiety, hopelessness, stress, confusion, *etc.* - often cycling in the lives and families coming

in urgent need. **When we share** God's provision in our lives to others, we serve as conduits of grace to them, and effectively intervene with help in their time of need. We allow them to **experience** the power of neighborly compassion, grace, care, and faith, that results (often amazingly) in **new hope** - **new purpose** - and **new life**. When you extend your hand with ours, through this ministry, you make a difference (*maybe ALL the difference*) for redeeming lives. **Please prayerfully commit, or recommit** your budget contributions this year, and if you can - please register for any of the upcoming fall activities. If you have had a rough year - please contact us for prayer (it would be our privilege), or with any other thoughts, and means of help to share. **Thank you.**

Blessings, and may God's grace be with you,



Martha Beroud
Executive Director

P.S. Our monthly tours have reconvened, and if you have never attended one, this fall would be a good time to come and hear SNLMs (1-hour) story. Please call **Brenda** Mondays and Wednesdays - for dates & times, & to register.

FYI: A Current Partnership / Program Curriculum: YOUNG & PREGNANT IN NIAGARA (YPN) -

South Niagara Life Centre Ministries (SNLM) has always had a passion to come alongside and assist young people; particularly those facing parenthood for the first time. SNLM facilities are safe, non-judgmental, and welcoming - to encourage young people to come in for counsel and resources.

With an increase in teen pregnancies, and in our own need to overcome funding limitations, SNLM researched for relevant, age-appropriate programming. Programs that could be practically offered in both our Fort Erie and Port Colborne locations, with outside volunteers.

Having similar concerns for good health, we began a collaboration with Niagara Regional Public Health via NLC to offer YPN (with both a prenatal and postnatal emphasis) - in the southern Niagara areas.

YPN is a 12-week pre-natal program geared particularly to teens, to provide them help and guidance at a challenging time in their life. This curriculum's purpose is to build confidence in young people for raising healthy babies, and for parenthood. Young people are encouraged to talk, to ask questions, and voice their prenatal, post-natal, and parenting concerns; in a group-learning-environment of their peers (also includes offering **Earn-As-You-Learn** incentives - as we receive them).

YPN is offered every Wednesday afternoon at our Port Colborne location, 3:00-5:00 pm and **every Friday** afternoon at our Fort Erie location, 3:00-5:00pm. Groups begin with a nutritious meal and wonderful incentives each week, prior to the training.

So far we have had two groups, serving 13 teens (both males & females) and 7 babies

Group volunteers are welcome, via an application process, tour attendance & background check to qualify. There are opportunities **in both our locations**, to assist this program and/or for our F.E. Life-Skill Classes.

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Founded October 1992

SNLM REGULAR HOURS:

Fort Erie: Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00p.m.
Male Counsel (Ft Erie) Tuesdays & Fridays
Port Colborne: Wednesdays, 1:30 – 4:30 p. m.



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