

From Alberta to Nova Scotia..... A Story of Despair And Deliverance

A young expectant couple from Alberta had sold most of their worldly goods, packed the remainder into two backpacks, and began their cross country trip by Greyhound bus. It was spring and with times being difficult and a child on the way, they had made the decision to move to Nova Scotia to be with family. However, upon reaching Mississauga, it was noticed that their backpacks, all they owned, was not on board! They were told to stay 'here' until their packs could be tracked. Renting a room for one week at The Ivy Motel took their remaining money but for a few dollars. Their Toronto to Halifax fare of \$460 was now lost to them with little to no hope of recovering it.

Their situation had become more desperate in an instant! In a strange city, tired, hungry and not knowing a soul, with just a few dollars in their pocket, they were put in touch with The Compass. Thankfully, and much to the fortune of this young couple, Gail McDiarmid, a member of Christ Church Christian Outreach, just happened to be working at The Compass that day. John & Mary (not their real names) were provided with clothing, food and essentials to help them get through that week of waiting. Gail soon contacted me with hopes of assistance from the Christian Outreach team. Immediately the wheels began turning to provide funds to get John and Mary to Nova Scotia.

Unfortunately, their week at The Ivy Motel was nearing its end and their packs had still not been found. Meanwhile, Gail's husband Don was working behind the scenes! Through several phone conversations with Greyhound, Don managed to get their bus ticket reinstated!

The Christian Outreach team, due to your special donations, was able to offer them the money needed for transportation to the Greyhound Bus depot in Toronto, as well as funds to assist them along their journey. They departed soon after with their backpacks still missing.

We believe they arrived in Nova Scotia safe and sound, though surely exhausted, and welcomed into the arms of their family members. Without the loving kindness and diligence of Gail and Don McDiarmid and the open hearts of the Christ Church parishioners, the outcome of their story could well have taken a drastic turn for the worse. Instead, it's a story of "living the Christian life" that they will one day tell their yet unborn child.

With many thanks,

Sharon Flanagan

Chair,

Christian Outreach Team - Gail & Don McDiarmid, Barbara Lewis, Jessie Kennedy, Rob & Patty Blair