



20 Years

Changing Lives



It was 23 years ago that Steven stepped on Guatemalan soil to instantly become a full-time missionary. God had a call on his life, he knew it, but wasn't exactly sure what that all meant. In 2002 he received God's vision to give food to street people and share the love of Jesus with them. He was "obedient to the Heavenly vision". Steven began to realize that these were not just street men, they were father's, someone's child, brothers, and most of all God's children. In 2005 House of Refuge began. In less than one month of renting a house he saw his first convert. A young man who had been sick for 4 days and his family had abandoned him. His name was Edgar.

God did a miraculous thing in his life, and he was transformed by God's power. When he came into House of Refuge, he was limping due to a broken bone in his leg that did not heal correctly. One night Steven laid hands on it and commanded it to heal correctly. The next day he was walking fine with no limp. Jesus Christ healed his body instantly and set him free from addiction! This was the first healing miracle of many miraculous healings that would take place.

In 2006 Steven married his wife, Karla. The two of them became one powerful couple. God would use them in mighty ways to see salvations, healings and restore people and relationships. God continues to pour out His Spirit in every service. Jesus meets people where they are at, whether in a park, the bars, on the streets, or on their deathbed.

TRANSFORMATION CENTRE Phase One

Steven and Karla celebrated 20 years of ministry and the Grand Opening of the Transformation Centre Phase One. This vision was in their hearts for a long time. The good news is that after many years the structure of Phase one is completed and debt free!

The Transformation Centre Phase One consists of a large meeting area, kitchen, two bathrooms, a staff meeting area, food storage rooms, two staff washrooms, a garage, laundry room and patio. It was built to professional standards with our hearts to do our best and in a spirit of excellence.

Now that this phase is finished and functional we still need to fill the rooms. Our priorities are the electricity needs to be upgraded to higher voltage. Build and install kitchen cabinets. There is a need for major appliances (refrigerator, stove, microwave, kitchen sink), household items (furniture, dishes, etc.), a generator and air conditioners.

Even though the need is there we started putting the building to use. One of our meetings was very powerful. We ministered and encouraged our staff and volunteers. The presence of God was evident and strong, and people's lives will be forever changed because of that night.

Many do not realize that our volunteers are growing in their callings. Two have been sent out as missionaries, one is a pastor, and another has started his own ministry in the garbage dump. These come from a variety of backgrounds, some grew up in Christian homes while others were sons or daughters of ex-prostitutes or from ex-alcoholics.

Thank you to each one who has supported this project!



In 20 years of ministry, we have seen many lives changed and transformed! We have experienced many miracles of God's healing and provision. On a personal level we navigate infertility for many years and one miscarriage. Now we are parents of a beautiful 2-and-a-half-year-old son. He loves to pray for others and responds to the presence of God in worship. In this newsletter we want to share a few of our favourite testimonies with you. These victories are also yours! These lives have been touched through your generosity and prayers for the ministry. You are a part of these powerful testimonies. Thank you for walking with us for 20 years, praying, partnering, visiting with teams, imparting into our lives and our people. We are blessed to have you in our lives. Thank you!



At 13 years of age Cony was sold into sex trafficking. She lived a life of alcohol, drugs and abuse. For many years she had felt worthless. Cony eventually got away from prostitution but began selling liquor. This is where she met genuine Christians. Steven & Karla would visit her, pray for her and not judge. They were the only Christians she would listen to, because of bad experiences in her past.

After many years of friendship, Cony came to know Jesus in a real way. She escaped the bar scene and quit doing drugs. Her youngest daughter, Helen had been rescued, just in time, from being sold into sex trafficking. Cony went back to school and received high school education and graduated with honours. She is now a faithful member at House of Refuge.

Now Cony and her daughters Mayra and Helen have a new destiny. Helen, was the first female in the family to study at a university level. She graduates law school at the end of this year!

Briana even as a young child had a genuine hunger for God. She would come to church with her grandmother. She was the first in her immediate family to attend our local church. Often, she would be found kneeling and weeping at the altar. Every service she would come to pastor Karla and give her a big hug. One service Pastor Karla preached, and Briana felt something powerful. She came running to Pastor Karla after service and pleaded with her to pray, she said, "I want what you have!"

Briana was only 5 years old at this time. Pastor Karla brought her close and laid hands on her. She prayed for her and that day she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. She is a teenager now and has kept the same fire in her heart. She prays feistily and her heart is close to God's. In this time her whole family is saved, her parents' marriage was restored, her brother serves God with fire in his heart and now they serve at both Shaddai Church and House of Refuge Street Ministries.



WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR TEAMS IN 2026. WE WOULD LOVE TO HOST YOU. ASK FOR MORE DETAILS.

DONATIONS

All donations are tax deductible in Canada.

Thank you for partnering with us!
Send your cheque/money order to:

House of Refuge Street Ministries
19 Commerford St.
Thorold, ON L2V-4P5

E-Transfers: steve@houseofrefuge.ca
Visit our website: www.houseofrefuge.ca

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Please pray and consider becoming a monthly partner today.

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