

# nightlight News

September 25, 2015



*nightlight Canada board chair Jack Henderson speaks at the Backstage Pass event in Kingston on Sept. 22nd. A special thank you goes out to Princess Street United Church for allowing us to use their space for the Kingston event.*

## Backstage Pass

nightlight held its annual Backstage Pass event on Sept. 22 and 23. The event is a chance for our leadership team to report to stakeholders what the ministry has been up to over the past year and its vision for the future.

The main idea behind the evening was about the need to balance scalability, so that nightlight can open in more cities, while keeping the ministry sustainable.

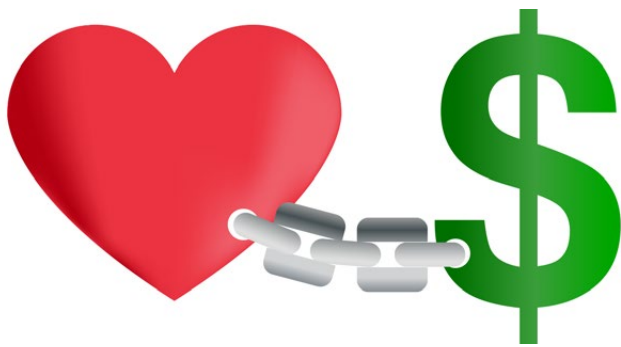
Backstage Pass is also an important fund raiser for nightlight. This year generous donors have agreed to match up to \$10,000 in donations and new pledges that come in by Monday, September 28. If you would like to make a donation, you can go to [nightlightcanada.com](http://nightlightcanada.com) and choose to donate through PayPal or Canada Helps, or e-mail [finance@nightlightcanada.com](mailto:finance@nightlightcanada.com) to indicate your intention to pledge. ■



## What Moves You?

The Ride For Refuge charity bike ride and walk will be happening on Saturday, October 3 in Kingston and Belleville with nightlight being the host organization. The event, run across Canada on the same day, raises money for charities that work to help the vulnerable, the exploited and the displaced.

If you'd like to help us, you can get involved in one of three ways 1) by sponsoring a walker or rider whose team is raising money for nightlight, 2) by participating in the event as a rider or walker, joining a team or starting your own, or 3) by volunteering to help us on event day. To help, head to [rideforrefuge.org](http://rideforrefuge.org). ■



## Removing What Fetters Us

by Peter Law

During his recent visit to the United States, Pope Francis ruffled some feathers with his censure of unfettered capitalism. The criticism was especially unwelcomed by many of the nation's Christians because it challenges some very deeply held beliefs about wealth, poverty and about how God asks us to steward our earthly possessions.

It would be a fair assessment to say that everyone has blind spots, contradictions we hold to because of unchallenged assumptions in our lives. We don't see them and assume they're not there (or else they wouldn't be blind spots). But even those who have committed their lives to serve God are susceptible to uncritically absorbing assumptions and values from the culture in which they live. We can't help ourselves.

Our true testing comes when God speaks to us, identifying those things that we hold to that don't please or honour him. Do we have a change of heart, or do we fight God tooth-and-nail for our right to continue to live the way we always have? Could it be that the Pope's address is such an occasion? Is he shining the purifying light of God's word onto the hearts of God's people and exposing their complicity in their parent cultures' materialism and the exploitation of the poor?

In the story of the rich young ruler in Mark 10 Jesus has a similar encounter. A young man asks him what he must do to inherit eternal life. Probing his actions, Jesus discovers the man has been doing all the right stuff, but Jesus shrewdly perceives that despite of the man's piety, his heart is enslaved to his possessions. Jesus challenges him to give all he has to the poor and then to follow. The man declines, unwilling to part with his stuff in order to follow Jesus.

We may argue about whether Jesus' challenge is pointed to this specific man or whether he wants us all to get rid of our things before we can follow him. This misses the point. It's not that God demands perfection before we can follow him, but it is his desire to set us free of what is hindering us, so that we are free to practice unfettered devotion to him, and by extension, to others. Jesus is able to freely give his life for undeserving humanity because he holds everything, including his life, loosely. When push comes to shove, if God asks us to part with that which is dear to us so we can follow Jesus' example of practically loving the poor, will we follow Jesus' example of obedience, or will we tell God to please keep his hands off our stuff? ■

## Volunteer Training Dates

This fall and winter nightlight will be conducting volunteer training seminars. If you've been volunteering at nightlight but never attended an orientation, we strongly encouraged you to join us for one of workshops.

However, the training is not just for existing nightlight volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering with nightlight or if you just want to find out more about the ministry, you can also attend. Doing so places you under no obligation to volunteer.

If you're interested in attending contact Adam in Kingston ([kingston@nightlightcanada.com](mailto:kingston@nightlightcanada.com)) or Kelly in Belleville ([belleville@nightlightcanada.com](mailto:belleville@nightlightcanada.com))

### Kingston Dates

Sat. Sept. 26, 2015: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. Nov. 14, 2015: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. Jan. 30, 2016: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

### Belleville Dates

Sat. Nov. 28, 2015: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Sat. Jan. 23, 2016: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

# nightlight

### nightlight Canada

c/o 825 Gardiners Rd.

Kingston ON K7M 7E6

(343) 363-0508

[nightlightcanada.com](http://nightlightcanada.com)

[info@nightlightcanada.com](mailto:info@nightlightcanada.com)

[facebook.com/nightlightcanada](https://www.facebook.com/nightlightcanada)

[twitter.com/nightlightcan](https://twitter.com/nightlightcan)

### nightlight Belleville

228 Front St., Belleville ON

Open: Mon., Tues., Fri. 6:30 - 9:30 pm

### nightlight Kingston

666 Princess St., Kingston ON

Open: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 6:00 - 9:00 pm