



ICPM 2014 Advent Appeal

Inner City Pastoral Ministry
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Dear Friends of ICPM:

Thank you for your interest and support of the Inner City Pastoral Ministry. It is the participation and support of people like yourself that allows the ICPM to provide a ministry of presence in the inner city of Edmonton every week of the year. We are always heartened by the encouragement that we receive from our supporters. As Paul wrote in his letter to the Thessalonians:

“How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?” (c. 3, v. 9)

The needs of those that we minister to are great - housing, food security, health, lack of suitable employment, addictions, mental health conditions - these are just a few of the common issues that many people struggle with on a daily basis. There are many social agencies in Edmonton working literally around the clock to try and help individuals and families work through these situations with a hope of finding positive and lasting resolutions. ICPM does not try to duplicate the work of these organizations and dedicated professionals. Instead, as our name clearly expresses, our mission is to bring a pastoral presence to people who are struggling and in need - we seek to bring the healing love of God into their lives.

A volunteer who served at one of the Sunday lunches this past year shared the following reflection with us:

“Several months ago I was privileged to serve as one of the helpers at the ICPM Sunday morning service and lunch at the Bissell Centre. I wanted to tell you how deeply moved I was by the experience of drawing closer to brothers and sisters with whom I would not normally have contact. As Jesus bore witness, we are called not just to help the poor, but to love the poor, and there is a big difference between helping and loving ... I came to the ICPM lunch at Bissell to serve, but found myself served; humbled and drawn closer to God and my broader human family.”

We are dependent on the generosity and goodwill of supporters such as yourself for the financial resources to keep our ministry active and engaged in the inner city. The largest part of our budget comes from contributions from individual donors. As we enter the Advent season of the church year, let us remember our calling to share our Lord's gospel with our brothers and sisters in the inner city - by word, deed and action. Please give as generously as you are able, so that together all of us can continue to walk strongly with the people of the inner city of Edmonton, sharing God's love.

On a closing note, as we at ICPM think of you and the many other supporters of this ministry, we reflect with a great joy and gratitude best described in another of Paul's expressions of gratitude, this time from his letter to the Philippians:

“I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.” (c. 1, v.3)

Thank you, and may the peace and joy of Advent and Christmas be with you, now and throughout the year ahead.

God's peace.

Pastor Rick+