

# *Inner City Pastoral Ministry Advent Appeal Letter*

## *From Pastor Rick*

November 2011

Dear Friends of Inner City Pastoral Ministry,



The season of Advent is fast approaching. It is for many of us a time of reflection, of anticipation and *of thankfulness*. Another year is almost over and much of what ICPM has accomplished would not have happened without you—your gifts of time, talent and money. The many Sunday lunches, the Emmanuel gift sacks, the volunteer hours make a difference for the people of the inner city community. Thank you for helping to make this ministry one that demonstrates God's hope and presence in Edmonton.

This Advent letter is the only appeal that ICPM mails for financial support from individuals in the year. We don't send out ongoing repeated notices to contributors. The ministry is a very small, frugal operation. This year is a critical one for us because although our costs have increased, our donor support though generous has not kept up. We are in the red. So, if you are able, your help in large, small or in-between donations will help us get through this year.

You might consider our deficit position like a mountain. It could be, but our people in the inner city, face much, much more.

The words of Isaiah and Luke reflect how many of our people live. They live with *valleys* of poverty and addictions. They live with *mountains* of indifference and injustice. They live needing our support for their *ways to be made smooth*. We help prepare the way for them. In 2011 we continue to:

The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.”  
—Luke 3:4-6

- **Advocate for the homeless:** ICPM is a active participant in many programs working to help homeless in our city to find suitable shelter.
- **Sunday Worship:** The Community of Emmanuel is key to the mission and ministry of ICPM.

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- **Sunday Lunch Program:** More than 75 churches and the synagogues within the Edmonton area are active in providing over 12,500 lunches a year. ICPM organizes this ministry of caring week in and week out.
- **Pastoral Care:** We provide ongoing pastoral care for many people facing a wide range of difficult human situations.
- **Aboriginal healing and reconciliation:** The population of the inner city is 60% aboriginal people. ICPM provides support amongst the aboriginal community with a range of programs.
- **Woman's Wellness:** Yearly a retreat is held at the Star of the North Retreat Centre. Linda is active at WEAC, the Women's Shelter. Sister Marion and Linda facilitate an active women's group. Sister Marion is heavily involved in mentorship programs at the Edmonton Institution for Women.

Inner City Pastoral Ministry does much, but it does so only with many prayers.

*We pray ...For peace in our broken world,  
for victims of war and violence,  
far away and in our midst ...*

*For the gift of a flexible spirit,  
for willingness to let go and move on,  
in response to the needs of our time ...  
For those who hunger for food and dignity,  
for prisoners, the illiterate, the orphaned,  
for those who are sick and dying ...*

*For all these, and for the many we carry in our hearts. Amen*

*—Sister Marion Garneau*

We ask for your generous support to continue the work, to walk with the people of the inner city of Edmonton! Giving is a profoundly transformative act to both the giver and the receiver. We know we experience great joy at Advent when we give because it connects us to the purpose of life. These acts of generosity mean we are not sitting on the sidelines. Your help is needed! Your gift will make a difference!

PS: You can also donate to ICPM through [www.CanadaHelps.org](http://www.CanadaHelps.org)

