

Remembering Who We

Our stories have always defined us. They explain, they teach, they show us how to be in harmony with life and the Creator. They show us strength, beauty, honour and humour. They remind us who we are.

The schools tried to take this from us. They tried to take our stories, our language, and our sense of who we are as a People. They tried to take away our history and culture, explaining to us that we do not need them anymore and it is time to be assimilated. But they were wrong.

Who we truly are can never be taken from us. When we share stories through legends, through songs, through our dancing, our ancestors live through us. Be proud of who you are and where you came from. Our stories are our strength.

My story ... Dorothy De-lorme

When my four brothers and I were in the care of our parents we lived in peaceful surroundings.

We were content and happy with the joy of being able to go camping outdoors with the birds and the flowers and enjoy outside activities. This life was our life with our parents.

Life changed in 1954 when a black car drove up to our front door and the agents came to our home to take my brothers and I to St Bernard Indian Residential School, Grouard, near Lac La Biche.

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In this Residential School, under the supervision of the nuns and priests we were to spend the next seven years. We lived in a regimented environment with many, many other boys and girls looking to the outside world through wired windows, our play area surrounded by a high wire fence. Although my brothers attended the same school we were separated, the boys and the girls. We seldom spoke with one another. Visits home to our parents were limited, sometimes once a year. I was seven years old when I entered Residential School.

In 1961, I came home again to attend high school. Back with my parents I found it hard to adjust, to love them again, as I blamed them for leaving me in Residential School.

The Residential School offered me an education, learning to read and write,

Now I believe they really did not have a choice.

The Residential School offered me an education, learning to read and write, but, Residential School took away my family life and was very intentional in taking away my Cree language, my culture, my dignity. We were ridiculed with name calling and often made to feel ashamed by the persons who were supposed to be our caregivers.

Within the Aboriginal Community and with my brothers and sister we never spoke of our experience of the Residential School years. For forty years I carried the shameful secret within my heart. Memories of physical and sexual abuse received while attending Residential School. Not until news of a class action suit against the Canadian Government and the Churches who ran the Residential Schools did we begin to talk about our experiences.

In time I received a “Common Experience Payment” compensation for my years spent in Residential School. Through our lawyer, my brothers and I were able to enter the “Independent Personal Assessment” where further compensation is paid for documented experiences of physical and sexual abuse. This process has not been easy as overpowering memories both frightening and shame filled surface, putting us through again the harmful experiences of Residential School.

My story ... Dorothy Delorme ...continued

The process continues to this day as lawyers and adjudicators make final decisions. My brothers are in their later years now and are wondering if they will receive compensation before they die.

I believe in my adult years a lack of pride in my person and Cree heritage resulted in a breakdown in my family relationships and contributed to an abuse of alcohol. However, in 1984 I enrolled in a life skills course and regained my self esteem, my self respect. Through the wise counsel of my brothers, elders of the Métis people, I have regained my sense of pride in my Aboriginal culture, and deeply value our ceremony and prayer. They taught me the strength of our spiritual way, the Great Spirit, Mother Earth. Through this healing I was able to let go, to carry more lightly my experiences of the past.

I continue to hold as well to my Christian beliefs. For many years now, I attend the ICPM Community of Emmanuel in the Bissell Centre.

Attending church makes my spirit strong. I feel really close to God, a sense of God's presence through the hymns and readings and the way the bible story is explained. I forget my struggles and concerns and gain peace of mind.

I read the Gospel of the day and support the Pastor, Pastoral Associate and the Sunday Lunch Food Coordinators. Giving thanks for the ministry, the good deeds of Inner City Pastoral Ministry, I presented Pastor Rick and Mary Anne, Pastoral Associate, with a Métis sash, whose colours symbolize the struggle of the Métis people.

Though I have lost much due to the Residential School experience but I am a survivor and I am now proud to be a Cree woman. Remembering who we are, our stories are our strength, this is my story

Dorothy Delorme



Truth and Reconciliation Commission: An Important Time for ICPM

It is now over a month since the TRC completed its public sessions at the Shaw Conference Centre. Thousands of Aboriginal people attended the TRC. Many attended or were descendants of those who attended the Indian Residential Schools. Some have strong links to Edmonton's inner city neighbourhoods, community agencies and outreach ministries including ICPM.

Many non-Aboriginal Canadians also attended the TRC. Leaders and members of the churches who administered the government run Indian residential schools participated in the TRC. The TRC provided a special opportunity for listening to the experiences of those who attended the schools. Many spoke of childhood experiences of pain, suffering and abuse at the schools, and later times of struggle and alienation as adults.

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A major goal of the TRC is to support healing and reconciliation within Aboriginal communities, and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples across Canada. ICPM is at a central location for these important conversations. Many of the Aboriginal people ICPM journeys with day to day in inner city Edmonton have a personal or family connection with the Indian residential schools. Three of the four churches directly involved with the schools are the sponsoring churches for ICPM. The ICPM Sunday morning worship and brunch at the Bissell Centre drop in is one place where residential school survivors and church members can encounter each other on a regular basis.

The TRC was a significant way station on a long-term journey of healing and reconciliation that will continue for many years into the future. With hope ICPM will be faithful to its Gospel mission, and serve as an active, respectful agent of healing reconciliation with everyone it encounters.

Church Volunteer —Sunday Worship and Lunch Program

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. Also, I so appreciated your own personal style of ministering in such a situation, imbued with obvious personal integrity and devoid of all condescension. 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, the first requiring nothing of us except perhaps material assistance, the other a shedding of our ego autonomy to reach out in simple friendship and indeed solidarity, given our mutual poverty in the larger economy of grace. So thank you for being witness yourself so effectively to this difficult challenge at the heart of being human. 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.

Please accept the enclosed as a small contribution to the work of ICPM. It should be more, and I will work harder at that.

In the meantime, may I wish you and the ICPM Team all good things, and again, thank you.

*In friendship,
David*

Spiritual Wellness Retreats for ICPM Women and Men



Navigating a Man's Journey May 16, 17

As the long weekend in May approached 15 men who call the inner city their home attended Men's Retreat hosted by the Star of the North, St Albert. With the support of Archbishop Sylvain + Star of the North Retreat Centre, ICPM will planned and implemented this men's event. For several months prior to the Retreat, Doug Krefting, Pastoral Ministry Volunteer has offered bi monthly spiritual reflections with many of the men at the Marian Centre. Participants included men from the Men's Spirituality Group, Community of Emmanuel and the McCullough Centre. Guest speakers included Archbishop Sylvain, Dan Jelinski (Accelerated Learning Facilitator) + Bob McKeon, Doug Krefting + Pastor Rick offering prayerful reflection. Neil Patterson, Marian Centre, was the retreat Chaplain. Friday night 5 + 10 pin bowling, good food and great fellowship offered the men a relaxing time away from the daily grind. As this event is ICPM's first attempt at an extended Men's Retreat, leaders wait upon God to discern the Spirit's presence and call upon the lives of the many individuals who attended.

Time Away from the Everyday April 25-27

A time away for women of the inner city, hosted by the Star of the North Retreat Centre, St Albert, 25 women joined together for relaxation and fun, including arts and crafts, clowning workshop, yoga and spiritual reflection. ICPM is deeply involved in the planning and implementation of the Wellness Retreat for Women through the leadership of Mary Anne Miskolzie, Pastoral Associate and ICPM volunteers. Many of the women are members of ICPM Community of Emmanuel. A participant commented, "Pastor, even if you didn't want to join in on all of the activities, it was wonderful just to sit and watch the women chatting and enjoying each others' company!"



Message from the Chair of the Board

"Life is like playing a violin solo in public and learning the instrument as one goes on."

—Samuel Butler, English poet (1612-80)

Transition is the psychological process we go through when we come to terms with a new situation. William Bridges says, it isn't the changes that do us in, it's the transitions. But, unless transition occurs, change will not work. That's what happens when a great ideas fail.

Over the last year, ICPM has faced significant transitions because of major changes in its staff, Sunday operations and board. A year ago, Sister Marian and Linda Winski retired. Both were key leaders and doers within ICPM. This meant the board had to give concentrated efforts to find new people who would lead us forward but also fully accept the fact that the ministry was facing a major change. Mary-Anne Miskolzie is one of our new key people who joined us last year. Also, Linda Heywood and Tammy Monpetit were hired as Sunday Food Coordinators. The board membership also changed. After many years of capable service, Fred Drummond retired as treasurer, and more recently, Bob McKeon stepped down as chair, after many years of inspiring leadership. Last year, Ann Matheson took over the treasurer position, and recently, I, David Barnum accepted the role of chair of this unique mission.

How do we as Christians best face our transitions? How do we best move psychologically from endings to new beginnings? The answer is to acknowledge to ourselves our innermost need for God's help. This constantly is a problem for us because in our own ways we think we know best. It is usually after we falter and fail that we realize we cannot do it alone. And so as we move through our transitions at Inner City Pastoral Ministry, we nudge each other to seek the presence of the Holy One in the work of this ministry which transforms ourselves and others.

David Barnum

"Only you have an overview of our journey. We are here such a short time."

—Psalm 90:4 (from Everyday Psalms by James Taylor)

Keeping It Simple

If you are a hockey fan, you will likely, you will likely agree with me that this is the best time of the year! Playoff games on the tv every night, 7th game thrillers, overtime excitement - what more can you ask for? One of the staples of the coverage are on the spot interviews with coaches or players as they are getting ready to take to the ice or have just come off the ice after a period. A universal sentiment expressed by all of them, from the stars to the 4th line role players is - "we just have to keep it simple and we'll be alright."

That philosophy is not confined to the sages of the hockey world. We need look no further than the Bible to find similar sentiments on how to be faithful to God. One of my favourite passages in the Bible is from Micah, c. 6 at v. 8, where the prophet writes *"And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"* What an amazing way of distilling down to its essentials what our mission in this world is - *"to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."*

You can make this mission happen in the inner city with your support of ICPM. Your prayers are essential to us, and are much appreciated. Your volunteering to provide food or serve the lunches is a great joy. But also vital is your financial support. You CAN make a difference in someone's life with a donation of money to ICPM. Talk about a return on an investment! Why worry about dividend yields and interest rates when you can literally help to CHANGE someone's life with your support of ICPM. This is as simple as it gets. Please give today to the ministry of ICPM, and join us as together we strive *"to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."*

John Campbell, Stewardship Committee



Noteworthy Events

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada – Alberta National Event, March 27-30

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada hosted its final National Event in Edmonton. This was an opportunity for all Canadians, both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, to learn more about and bear witness to the legacy of the Residential School system through: statement gathering, traditional ceremony, survivor’ gathering statements, education, cultural performances, films and speakers. ICPM was present at the TRC and a supporting member of the Ecumenical Committee. Website: trc.ca

Time Away from the Everyday – Spiritual Wellness Retreat for Women, April 25-27

A time away for women of the inner city, is hosted by the Star of the North Retreat Centre, St Albert. Many of the 25 women involved name ICPM Community of Emmanuel as their worship community. (See accompanying newsletter article)

Edmonton Committee for a Parliament of the World’s Religions, “Faith’s Coming Together Through Awareness, Compassion and Justice,” May 1-4

“Faith’s Coming Together to End Homelessness” ICPM joined a panel discussing Edmonton’s city wide Ecumenical and Interfaith initiatives to end homelessness and alleviate poverty. The panel guests included Bob McKeon, Social Justice – Archdiocese of Edmonton, Brian - Capital Region Interfaith Housing Initiative, Sister Mary Clare -Welcome Home Program.

www.edmontonpwr.ca



Navigating a Man’s Journey- Men’s Spiritual Retreat, May 16, 17

15 men who call the inner city their home attended Men’s Retreat hosted by the Star of the North, St Albert. Many of the men attending name ICPM Community of Emmanuel as their worshipping community. (See accompanying newsletter article)

UCSN Inner City BBQ July 18, 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Presented by the Urban Core Support Network, the inner city neighbourhood joins together for a fun afternoon of lively entertainment, children’s activities and free food! Held in Giovanni Cabato Park, the Inner City BBQ attracts up to 1000 residents of all ages for a fun day’s outing. ICPM as a member agency of UCSN supports this BBQ with planning and volunteer assist.

Weaving Strands: Liturgy for Living - Biennial Anglican Lutheran National Conference, July 20-23.

Presenters and participants from across the continent explore ways to create meaningful and transformational worship. This Ecumenical Conference offers more than 20 workshop options provide experiential learning, skills and knowledge that participants can bring back to their worshipping communities. ICPM joins a panel to discuss ways of offering creative and meaningful worship in non traditional settings, amongst populations that are less comfortable in traditional church settings and worship. www.nationalworshipconference.org

You can donate to ICPM quickly and easily online! Go to www.CanadaHelps.org. Search for “Inner City Pastoral Ministry”. All who donate \$10 or more receive a tax receipt.

Enclosed is my gift for Inner City Pastoral Ministry

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