



## **LOOSE OFFERING SUNDAY**

### **IN SUPPORT OF INNER CITY PASTORAL MINISTRY**

1. What is it? On the Sunday that a congregation/parish is serving at the Bissell Centre lunch for ICPM the loose offering from that Sunday's worship service in the congregation will be given to ICPM.
2. Why? To provide a source of financial support for ICPM. To provide a giving opportunity for congregational members to provide financial support to ICPM. To build a bridge from the volunteers serving at the Bissell Centre back to those members of the congregation not able to serve at the Centre, and thereby unite the full congregation in the ministry of ICPM on that Sunday.
3. What to do?
  - a) The Church Council or Vestry or Elders or whatever is the governing body of the congregation will need to approve this designation.
  - b) A congregational coordinator(s) will need to be appointed to take a leadership role in promoting the Sunday and making all necessary arrangements for publicity and follow up.
  - c) Develop a publicity plan for the Sunday. This can include an article in the congregation's monthly newsletter for the month leading up to the Sunday, bulletin notices, announcements at worship services in the 2-3 weeks prior to the Sunday, posters around the church giving notice of the Sunday.
  - d) After the Sunday offering is counted and recorded ensure that the congregational treasurer issues a cheque to ICPM for the amount received and mail it to the ICPM office along with a covering letter.
4. Questions:
  - a) Q. Our usual amount of loose offering on an average Sunday is only about \$30.00 to \$40.00. This won't be of much help to ICPM. Why should we bother with this?

- A. To begin with, every bit counts! Suppose that each congregation did only collect \$40.00 on that Sunday. Since there are usually two congregations doing each Sunday's lunch, that would be a total of \$80.00 per week. When that is multiplied by 52 weeks a year, that is a total of \$4,160.00. This would be a considerable help to the finances of ICPM. However, it is hoped that congregations will see this as an opportunity to make special offerings for ICPM, so that members who usually use envelopes or the PAR system will bring separate money on that Sunday to put into the loose offering - whether it is a loonie or toonie, or a \$5.00 bill or \$10.00 bill or \$20.00 bill or whatever they might desire. If congregational members see this as an opportunity to heed God's call to walk with those in the inner city, then they will naturally wish to contribute something to increase the normal loose offering amount.
- b) Q. How much does ICPM hope to raise from this program?
- A. If each congregation or parish was able to raise an average of \$250.00 from the loose offering, then based on two congregations doing this per Sunday, multiplied by 52 weeks, this would result in a total of \$26,000.00 for ICPM. That would be a fantastic support for the ICPM budget.
- c) Q. Is participation compulsory?
- A. No. This is a strictly voluntary program for congregations. If your congregation does not wish to participate that is perfectly fine, and ICPM will continue to be grateful for your support of the Sunday lunch program.
- d) Q. Are there other congregations/parishes participating in this program?
- A. Yes, there are currently about ten congregations that hold Loose Offering Sundays. One of our supporting congregations has been holding the Sundays for several years, and it receives about \$600.00 in the loose offering that Sunday.
- e) Q. If we have any questions who should we contact?
- A. You can contact Pastor Rick Chapman at the ICPM office at 780-424-7652 or by e-mail at: [info@icpmedmonton.ca](mailto:info@icpmedmonton.ca)

Thank you for your support of ICPM, and we look forward to continuing to serve with you.

Board of Directors  
Inner City Pastoral Ministry