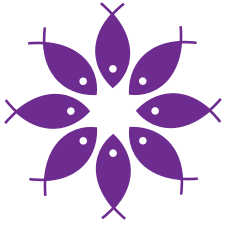


Stories of Mission

LIVING FAITH





Shining God's Light in Saskatoon

Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry provides prayer, crisis counselling, nourishment, clothing and a weekly worship circle to people living on the margins of society. The ministry gives people of all nations a sense of belonging, care and inclusion through activities that uphold Indigenous cultural practices.

God's unfailing love never gives up, even when things seem hopeless. The staff and volunteers at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry (SNCM) always strive to display this kind of love to the community they serve. People who come to the centre, many living in extreme poverty or experiencing homelessness, find a welcoming space where they can enjoy a hot meal with friends, discover their artistic gifts and receive spiritual care. SNCM is a constant in the lives of the people it serves, who know that they can come as they are and be cared for.

When COVID hit, people who rely on the services of SNCM suddenly faced even more challenges. So, as the city of Saskatoon closed down, SNCM moved to the streets. Staff and volunteers prepared food, then put on masks and gloves and delivered it to people who were hungry. They also offered friendly words, prayers and messages of hope.



Executive Director Dylan Nippi is grateful that SNCM was able to continue to be a helpful and loving presence during the pandemic. When he thinks about the work SNCM has done over the last few months, the scripture that comes to mind is Matthew 5:14-16, about being a light on a hill. In difficult times, fear and uncertainty can drive us to retreat when God is calling us to move forward. We are tempted to hide our light. But this verse reminds us that God's light cannot be hidden.

The experience of embodying God's everlasting love on the streets of Saskatoon has given SNCM a renewed sense of courage and strength in the Holy Spirit that they carry with them as they move back to ministering at the centre.



Read: Matthew 5:14–16

Reflect

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world.” We are called to shine the light of the gospel in a world that is steeped in darkness, and to radiate God’s love and truth into the lives of people around us.

During the pandemic, Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry was committed to letting God’s light shine, even though it meant changing the way they usually serve in a drastic way. In a time of uncertainty and darkness, God’s light was revealed as staff and volunteers went out into the community and attended to the physical and spiritual needs of the people they encountered.

SNCM’s faithful and courageous ministry in this difficult time can be an inspiration to us. God’s light is constantly shining, making itself known, ray by ray, through everyday acts of service.

Discuss

- 1) God’s light, which cannot be hidden, is constant. Who or what has been consistently revealing this light to you over the last year? How has it helped during the pandemic or another time of struggle?
- 2) We’ve been living through a challenging and fearful time, yet God’s light continues to shine through us. How have you and your congregation been a ray of light in your community?
- 3) God always calls the Christian community to be visible and present. What opportunities are there for your church community to be Christ’s presence in your neighbourhood?

Sing

177 – Christ whose glory fills the skies

376 – Lord the light of your love is shining

671 – I heard the voice of Jesus say

Prayer Focus

Please pray for people in the SNCM community and all Indigenous ministries. May God open people’s eyes to the challenges Indigenous people face due to systemic racism and oppression and the disproportionate ways their communities have been affected by the pandemic. Pray that God’s justice will prevail, and that healing will be experienced by all who suffer unjustly. May the services provided by Indigenous ministries continue to bring Christ’s love and healing.

Pray

God of light, we thank you that you are always with us, you never grow weary and your love is unfailing. Make your everlasting presence known to the world so that all of creation may experience the healing power of your love. Give strength to those who are discouraged. Give renewal to those who are exhausted. Give power to those who are excluded. Help us to move forward in times of darkness so that we can shine your light as we are called.

In Jesus’ name we pray,
Amen.

Learn more about Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry:
saskatoonnativecircleministry.webs.com

Learn about the PCC’s ministries with Indigenous people:
presbyterian.ca/canadian-ministries/indigenous-ministries

Support ministries with Indigenous people through Gifts of Change:
presbyterian.ca/sncm



Mission in Canada

Through Presbyterians Sharing we support mission in Canada in many ways. Together we help congregations meet local needs in their communities and work to make the Gospel relatable and relevant to people of all ages. We support ministries that help meet the needs of people living in at-risk urban communities. We walk with staff and volunteers, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, as they work together to meet people's physical and spiritual needs through ministries that operate in and with Indigenous communities in Canada. Together we live out our faith, sharing God's love and igniting transformation.

