

By Pastor Konkel

There is a story that tells of a sergeant who came into the barracks and asked his men if any of them knew shorthand. The recruits thought that it would be easy duty and raised their hands. "Good," said the sergeant. "They're shorthanded in the mess hall!" There are always needs around us and our world would be an impoverished place without the sacrifice of time, energy and money men and women give to serve others. When two of Jesus' disciples asked him to give them prominent positions in His kingdom, Jesus replied, "You know that in this world kings are tyrants, and officials lord it over the people beneath them. But among you it should be quite different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be the slave of all. For even I, the Son of Man, came here not to be served but to serve others, and to give my life as a ransom for many." At this time of year, Easter, we remember especially what Jesus did for us. He laid down his life for us so that we may experience forgiveness of sin, enter into a personal relationship with the God of the universe, and be assured of eternal life with Him, in glory, forever. Jesus' sacrifice is also an example for us to follow, so that we too, might serve others. John Garner wrote, "when people are serving, life is not longer meaningless." Augustine, one of the Church Fathers said, "God is not greater if you reverence Him, but you are greater if you serve Him." Albert Scheitzer wrote, "One thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve." As you have opportunity, we urge you to 'get involved.'

This year our Association of Churches is offering everyone in our communities opportunities for families and individuals to be involved in serving others. We are in process of planning our second annual Ride for Refugees which would take place Oct 3, 2009. Last year we had groups as far away as Saskatoon riding in this event. We raised a total of \$12000 which was divided 2 ways, 50% of the funds went to International Teams to be used entirely to alleviate needs of Refugees world wide and 50% came back to our communities. The portion of funds the groups from Saskatoon raised are being used to support refugee ministries in Saskatoon. We are planning to use at least some of our funds to help immigrants who are settling into our community. For more information about the Ride for Refugees check out the web site, [rideforrefugees.org](http://rideforrefugees.org) and click on the Moosomin link or call Mel @ 435-2455. Bethlehem Live provides opportunities to be involved in telling the Christmas story in an interactive way. Please see their ad in this paper.

Below you will find some of the ministries and opportunities for ministry we offer at Moosomin Baptist Church. We believe everyone will significantly benefit from the support of a caring Christian community of their choice. If you do not have a church home, we would welcome you. Please join us or any of the other churches in our communities as we seek to minister to spiritual needs and work together to help alleviate needs in our communities and in our world.

The Baptist Church at Moosomin is part of a larger organization, Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. Canadian Baptists hold a dual focus of preaching the Gospel and social work. They have always stressed that it is not only important to have an individual faith, our faith must make a difference in how we live. We must get involved in social work that makes a difference in society.

Among other things, Canadian Baptists have worked to advance education, started YMCA to provide physical fitness especially for children and they have helped immigrants to resettle.

Our Statement of faith explains, “Baptists are one denominational family with the Christian Church. Like other Christians we hold some basic biblical beliefs:

We believe in one God who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the reality of sin in the world and in our personal lives.

We believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead to save us from our sins.

We believe that each person needs a personal relationship with Jesus in order to be saved.

We believe that it is by God’s grace we are saved; we do not earn our salvation by good works.

We believe that one day Jesus will return again.”

(Baptist Witness in a Changing World).

Our prayer is that God will bless our communities and everyone who makes this their home.