

May - June 2009
Good Tidings Connection

Moving Forward - Into the Community

The Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland and Labrador as part of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada has called for their churches involvement in *Celebration 2009* (May 31-June 14). *Celebration 2009* is about sparking a Spiritual renewal across Canada as churches pray and work together to celebrate the love of God publicly by sharing it through creative and expressive acts in local communities. The desire of our Fellowship is that people of our communities may see Jesus lived out through our lives on a daily basis. Jesus teaching the Great Commandment (Mark 12:28-39) in the second segment declared, "...thou shalt **love thy neighbour** as thyself..." He also taught in St. Matthew 5:16 - "*Let your light so shine before men that they may see your **good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*" Believers may share the gospel of Christ vocally with their neighbour but should also live it out by doing good works through a demonstration of caring for and sharing with others. This is "living out the faith." *Celebration 2009* is not the historic way of unbelievers coming to a sacred sanctuary to encounter Jesus but it is believers filling the crevices of our society in order to be Christ to those who have not yet "met and known Him." The historic church has often frowned upon "good works" because they cannot "save us." We are not saved by "good works" but by "faith." However, "good works" is part of Christian behaviour as residents of present day society. *Celebration 2009* is a catalyst to draw people together in new and different ways to demonstrate God's love in our communities. Through participation in this initiative, local churches can make a greater positive impact in their communities for years to come. Recently the attenders of Cornerstone Ministry Centre in downtown St. John's took a day to visit the homes in their area and presented the residents with a carnation offering a heartfelt, "we love you and Jesus

loves you.” Churches and individuals can be asking, “What can we do to show the love of God to our community and neighborhood?” Consideration could be given to:

- Sponsoring a gospel concert in support of the local foodbank
- Doing an outdoor evangelistic dinner theatre
- Teaching cooking, car maintenance etc, to single mothers
- Cleanup of town streets, parks, beaches
- Helping to construct or paint subsidized housing units
- Mowing the lawn or picking up groceries for shut-ins
- Neighborhood BBQ
- Offer free courses on marriage enrichment, parenting, budgeting
- Appreciation day for town councillors, police officers, firemen, nurses, teachers, etc.
- “Love your city/town” weekend
- Cooperate with other churches to make *Celebration* happen
- Used clothing giveaway for the homeless
- Meal provision for the homeless
- Coach your town’s youth sports teams
- Involvement in community summer events as a volunteer
- Community “spiritual celebration” - worship, music, prayer for community, drama, puppet shows
- Free car wash

Activities are not meant to replace what civic, social, and service organizations in the community are already doing but to demonstrate that the church also is caring and cognizant of the fact that they are residents and neighbours who want to action the love and teachings of one whom they follow,

Jesus Christ. Our communities will realize that “faith in Christ” doesn’t ostracize the believer from their neighborhood. Some neighborhoods have been hurt by “believers” being angry, moody, distant, verbal, inhospitable, less than gracious and unchristlike. *Celebration 2009* says, “That they may see Jesus!” Our challenge - Moving Forward in our Community as the Missional Church.