



Imagine with me a full sanctuary. First Baptist Church has come out together on a weekend – at one place and at one time. The energy in the room is palpable. The anticipation is electric. Someone gets up to the microphone, says a prayer... then we all leave. We all get in cars and trucks and walkers and scatter around the community. We load up paintbrushes, handbells, and personal care kits and head to those in need – in need of assistance, attention, and the love of God. We gather, not for worship or fellowship, but TO SERVE – to be the hands and feet of Christ.

What is this strange occurrence? **OPERATION INASMUCH**. Christ told a story about believers who chose to help those in need: *“Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **INASMUCH** as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” (Matthew 25:37-40)*

Christ still calls us to serve the least of these. Not only to the far reaches of the globe, but also to our own backyard. How can you be involved? It’s simple:

- 1) Mark **October 3rd** on your calendar – block out the day for an opening, service projects, and closing, with lunch served in the middle.
- 2) Read the form on the reverse and fill it out. Record your preferences for ministry projects (see below), your availability for lunch, and what size you would like for your Operation Inasmuch T-shirt
- 3) Return this form to the church – either bring it the church office or place it in the offering plate during worship

Doorstep: This ministry to those in need offers a food pantry and clothes closet, along with financial need assistance. They have some physical work that needs to be done in their building, so folks with expertise in that area or a willingness to learn should sign up for this opportunity.

Rescue Mission: The Hope Center (which provides shelter for homeless women and children) is in need of a paint job. Our job is to paint four rooms in order that there will be a safe and inviting place for those who need it.

Food Drive bag distribution: We will be walking throughout the neighborhood, distributing bags to collect food and other items to donate to the Rescue Mission and Doorstep.

Nursing Home Ministry: We will share encouragement to those who often need it most – those in our nursing homes and long-term care institutions

White Cross: Our ladies invite all those with willing hands (even the men!) to help prepare toiletry kits and other white cross items, to be delivered to the Rescue Mission. For those who want to help, but feel physically unable to do some of the other projects, this is a great opportunity for you to engage in ministry.

Imagine the full sanctuary again. Now the day is over; the ministry complete. We have returned to the sanctuary, this time to tell stories – to share how God has used us to be his hands and feet. While the day is ending, the opportunity for ministry is just beginning....