

# Emmanuel Living

volume 1, issue 6



## Emmanuel Exists...

to glorify God through the prayerful nurturing and sending of disciplined believers to present Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

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August 2009

Managing Editor:

Janie Thiessen

## Is Introducing a Canadian Law Limiting Abortion a Possibility? By Wendy Peterson

Rod Bruinooge is troubled that Canada is the only G8 country with absolutely no law addressing the issue of abortion. He believes a law limiting some abortions is better than no law. He has taken upon himself the campaign to change that reality so that abortions within the last trimester, barring truly exceptional circumstances, will not be permitted within Canada. At this moment a child's life may be legally snuffed out as he or she emerges from the birth canal.

I asked Rod if I could broadcast this information in our church and request prayer. He had no hesitation in saying yes.

Who is Rod? Originally from Thompson, Manitoba, he is the Member of Parliament for Winnipeg South. According to his personal website, Rod is married to



Chantale. They have two children. The first, Sarah, was born in 2007; the second, Luke, this year. Rod's chil-

dren "are a constant reminder of why he serves in government: to make our country a better place for the next generation."

Rod's political career began in 2006. His website informs us that "Rod has founded a Post-Secondary Education Caucus to which he was elected chair. He was also elected chair of the multi-party pro-life caucus, vice-chair of the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group and vice-chair of the Canada-Holland Friendship Group. Rod is also a mem-

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## Strengthening the Stephen Leader Team

By Pastor Dave Dickey

Meet Emmanuel's newest Stephen Leader Team member! **Joyce Goertzen** has just completed her intensive week of training in Pittsburgh, Aug 2-8. Joyce will join Pastor Dave Dickey & Eleanor Gingerich in guiding the current team of 13 active Stephen Ministers. Marlene Goodman, also one of our Stephen Leaders, is on leave.

The following is an interview with Pastor Dave Dickey and Joyce.



**DD:** How long have you attended Emmanuel?

**JG:** Basically, two different time periods. First, in 1968 when I moved to work in Steinbach, until I left for Bible School (Prairie). And now again in the past 5 years.

**DD:** Where are you presently working?

**JG:** I work part time at the Providence Bookstore, as well as teach ESL for Southeast Literacy Services.

**DD:** What ministries have you been involved in at Emmanuel?

**JG:** I started the Ladies Bible Study, now led by Sue Nichols, when I came to

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## Canadian Law Limiting Abortion ... (continued)

ber of the Standing Committee on Canadian Heritage.” To establish any abortion-related law is no small task for Rod to undertake. After all, in the present political environment where the issue of right-to-life is a divisive if not explosive issue which few are willing to tackle, he may well have assigned his political future to oblivion. We applaud his courage.

Connecting

In an interview in the *National Post* last December, Rod explained his pro-life position. The following is an excerpt, but it is worth reading in its entirety:

*I think it is essential for a society to value its unborn citizens. The importance we give our offspring prebirth [sic] affects the importance we place on them post-birth. In Canada in 2008, our citizens have no legal value while in the wombs of their mothers. We are completely alone in the world in this regard. Most Canadians would agree that you should not be able to remove your kidney and sell it on eBay to the highest bidder. Although it's your body and your kidney, this would not only be a poor bioethical choice, but it is in fact illegal under our laws. Most Canadians would also agree that an unborn child in the ninth month of gestation, moments away from delivery, should not be eligible for an elective abortion. However, regardless of the fact that this would be an extremely poor bioethical choice, it is in fact legal. As such, Canada has far greater protections for human kidneys than we do for human fetuses....*

Growing

*Being aboriginal and having grown up in post-Morgentaler Canada, I find I enter this public discourse with a context that I hope will be beneficial to the multi-party Parliamentary Pro-Life Caucus, which I now chair. I believe Canada's indigenous people have a unique perspective on many subjects including the unborn. My aboriginal elders have taught me that the cycle of life honours both birth and death, and respect for the unborn*

Serving

*is a foundation of this philosophy. I have no choice but to advocate for the unborn and seek to have their value restored in my Canada. Our collective future depends on it...*

Rod's passion for pre-born Canadian children is obvious and contagious. Recently he met with the Aboriginal Ministry Council of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and solicited our help in his campaign for life. This is not a politically biased position as the pro-life issue is across political parties. While Rod (a Conservative) chairs the Pro-Life Caucus, its members come from all parties; are from many Christian denominational affiliations; include religious perspectives other than Christian, or hold to no religious affiliation.

You may contact Rod and assure him of your prayer support or seek more information. His personal website is <http://www.bruinooge.ca/index2.php>. Rod has established a website based on the Aboriginal concept of the Circle of Life: <http://www.aboriginallifecircle.ca/> The *National Post* article quoted above is available at <http://www.nationalpost.com/opinion/story.html?id=1121520>.

**Wendy & Ed Peterson** have been active as part of our church family for many years. Wendy is serving as Adjunct Faculty at Providence Theological Seminary and is presently completing her PHD.



Multiplied

## Character & Calling

At Emmanuel we are grateful for our partnership within our association of churches. The Evangelical Free Church of Canada of which we are a part has defined its character and calling as ...

**O u r C h a r a c t e r :** The Kingdom of God is His eternal possession, and is present in part but not fullness in the world today. By God's decree, under His direction, and empowered by His grace, the universal Church is responsible for the care and expansion of that Kingdom. Every local church, denomination, and ministry

organization is a part of that Kingdom and carries some responsibility in the work of the Kingdom. As a part of that Body of Christ the Evangelical Free Church of Canada (EFCC) desires to understand and fulfill its particular calling in the work of the Kingdom. The EFCC will seek to live out our calling to be a New Community in Christ, reflecting the fullness of His vision for the Kingdom of God "on earth as it is in heaven." We will do this by putting aside the prevailing values of our time and replacing them with the radical demands of the gospel of

God's grace.

**Our Calling: In Essentials Unity; In Non-essentials Charity; In All Things Jesus Christ**  
The calling and spirit of the EFCC is summed up well in this famous motto of Rupertus Meldenius. We both define our call and express our aspirations for this 21st Century through this early quote.

**In Essentials Unity...**  
• Essential Truths: We are called to embody and proclaim the essential truths of Christianity as articulated in the Word of God, expressed through the centuries in the great

## Chicago 2009

**Chicago 2009** was a team of 18 youth and 5 Adults who went to serve at the Center for Student Missions from July 11-20. Led by Pastor Kent, Ira & Kali Dyck, and Gerald & Kathi Bergen, this team touched the lives of many Chicago kids and adults alike. Here are just a few pics of the team as they were getting ready to go very early on Saturday morning!



Connecting



Growing



## Stephen Leader Team *(continued)*

Serving

Prov. Seminary. I've taught Sunday School - one season with Junior High girls, and a couple of adult classes assisting Chuck Nichols. I also led the editing team in creating the 2008 edition of Emmanuel's Spiritual Journey Notebook.

**DD:** What do you appreciate most about what you've heard of the Stephen Ministry?

**JG:** I think the way it prepares members of the congregation to assist each other, so the caring ministry is not just on the pastors' shoulders. I like the fact that this is a team working together, very similar to what the early disciples did.

**DD:** What interests you most about joining the Stephen Leader Team (SLT)?

**JG:** I see it as opportunity to use various aspects of my training - in counseling, in biblical study, in teaching. And I love the interaction of teaching adults.

**DD:** What skills and experience do you have that would help us develop and guide this ministry at Emmanuel?

**JG:** My life experience in farming comes to mind. Daily life was dictated largely by what the weather does. Everything has to be put into God's hands; you can't change the weather! I had to learn to be dependent, rather than being bottled up with anxiety. I've had to adopt this philosophy in other areas of life. I think it will be the same with this ministry. You do your part to the best of your abilities, and leave the results to God's Spirit.

**DD:** What will be challenging aspects of this role for you?

**JG:** Understanding how all the parts of this ministry will work together! After my week of training, I'm sure it will put a lot into order. Also, how to best be a positive addition, an asset to the leadership team and to the program already established here at Emmanuel. I'm looking forward to learning more, whatever that entails, and doing my best.

In the coming weeks, watch the Sunday bulletin to learn further how the Stephen ministry can benefit the people of our church & community. More info about Stephen Ministry can be found at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)

The Stephen Ministry is a complete system of training and organizing church members to provide Christian caring support to people (in our church and community) going through difficult life circumstances. The motto: **Christ caring for people through people.** Stephen Ministers are selected, trained and supervised by their congregation's Stephen Leaders to provide effective one-to-one Christian care to others.

**Pastor David Dickey** is the Adult Ministries Pastor at Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church and is the husband to Sharon and father to Bryan, Rachel, Rona-Marie, Ian, Loreena & Caleb.



Multiplying

## Character & Calling (continued)

creeds of the church and defined for us in our Statement of Faith. We continue in the tradition of our EFCC forefathers who said; "Where stands it written?" These truths have led us to Jesus Christ who said "he is truth" and that the "truth would set us free."

• Spiritual Unity - This calling is to a spirit of unity in Jesus Christ, with an affirmation of the priesthood and ministry of all believers, congregational government in the local church where He is Head, meaningful involvement within our fellowship of churches, and cooperation with all who share our call to these essential truths.

### **In Non-essentials Charity...**

• Generosity of Spirit: We are called to a generosity of spirit that frees us to embrace a wide variety of Christian brothers and sisters -- "simply believers" -- some with whom we will not agree in matters that are outside our Statement of Faith. Our spirit is one of warm welcome to all believers who share our commitment to our Statement of Faith and who seek to follow Jesus' command to love God and love our neighbour as ourselves.

• Kingdom Minded: This generous spirit encourages us to joyfully work with those outside our own denomination, those of "like precious faith" who endeavour to expand the kingdom of heaven.

### **In All Things Jesus Christ...**

• The Great Command and Great Commission: We are called to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, who is the Lord God. Through His grace and through His Spirit we

seek to fulfill His command to love our neighbour by loving each and every person, especially the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed. We seek to fulfill His great commission by making followers of Him from all **p e o p l e g r o u p s .**

• Godly Living: From the practice and teachings of Jesus, from the present ministry of the Holy Spirit working within us, and from the pietistic model of our forefathers, has grown a spirit that hungers for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ that will transform our hearts, our heads, our hands, and will reveal itself in a Christ-inspired value system and a holy lifestyle.

Connecting

Growing

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**Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church**  
 360 McKenzie Avenue Steinbach, Manitoba R5G 0K6  
 Phone: 326-9865 Fax: 326-9850  
 Email: [reception@eefc.ca](mailto:reception@eefc.ca) Web: [www.eefc.ca](http://www.eefc.ca)