

# Emmanuel Live

volume 2, issue 2



*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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February 2010

Managing Editor:  
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## Pray for Canadian Christian Higher Education

By Al Hiebert

All Canadian evangelical post-secondary schools need your prayers for:

### 1. Spiritual Vitality and Faithfulness

Most of us know of Christian post-secondary schools who once vibrantly built Christ's church in our nation and world, but who no longer do so. Some have gone secular, some are history. In the past year the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) has been pressuring our university-level evangelical post-secondary schools to drop their statements of faith or face recriminations. The 34 member schools of Christian Higher Education Canada (CHEC) are collaborating on such challenges from CAUT and others. Pray that these schools ensure their faithfulness to God and His Word and to disciple-making spiritual vitality.

### 2. Serve God's Purposes in Our Time

David did (Acts 13: 36) and CHEC members seek to do the same. Our students today want employable skills. So do their parents and future employers. These pri-

orities open new opportunities for God-glorifying educational ministries for many CHEC schools. Discerning God's direction in these changes warrants much wisdom and prayer.

### 3. Focus on Mission

Very creative students, faculty, staff, administration, boards, alumni, supporting churches, and receiving employers make brilliant recommendations for improving schools' curriculum, staffing and co-curriculum. Some of these may contribute to "mission drift" away from core values and priorities. Please pray.

### 4. Supportive Constituency

No school can fulfill its mission without a substantial flow of students and funds. These are never enough. But if parents, teachers and others urge young people to pursue prosperous and prestigious careers at secular public universities, then more CHEC schools may suffer or die. Steve Henderson (2006) and others have documented that half to two-thirds of "born again Christian" high school graduates step away from their faith during their four years of study in non-Christian

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## Pray for Canadian Christian Higher Education *(continued)*

post-secondary education. While many evangelicals are salt and light in secular universities, the sad truth is that too many either lose their spiritual vibrancy or turn their backs on all things Christian in the process.

The future health of the Canadian evangelical community is at stake here. Please pray.

Connecting

**Al Hiebert** is currently the Executive Director of CHEC (Christian Higher Education Canada). He taught at Providence Seminary for 26 years full time and 3 years part time, and also at Briercrest College & Seminary for 7 years full time and 3 years part time. He and his wife Lorna currently live in Steinbach and attend here at Emmanuel.



## Reflections

Reflections is a new section in *Emmanuel Living* in which we hope to encourage each other by sharing what's on our hearts from our personal journeys with God. All submissions received by the 1st of each month will be carefully considered for this section of our newsletter.

Growing

This month we have included question and answer on "**How is Christ formed in your life?**"

Serving

### Question:

Is it possible to have Christ formed in us without being grounded in the faith?

### Answer:

The relationship between Christ being formed in us and the role of faith on our part is quite well set forth by John Piper in a message on Galatians 4:12-19. Included here is a quote, but the whole message is worth reading:

Multiplying

"The answer to the question, *How is Christ formed in your life?* is: by your faith. It's really quite simple: the Son of God comes and shapes us from within if we rely on him to come and shape us. The Son takes shape in those who abandon themselves to him. Christ forms himself in the lives of those who will let go of all the forms of life in which they have shaped on their own. Christ takes shape in a life that is willing to become putty in God's hands. Christ presses the shape of his own face into the clay of our soul when we cease to be hard and resistant, and when we take our own amateur hands off and admit that we are not such good artists as he is."

(By John Piper. © Desiring God. Website: [desiringGod.org](http://desiringGod.org))



## Missionary Hi-lights

### FEATURE MISSIONARY:

**Randy & Delores Blake**  
serving with EFCC in  
Edmonton, AB.



Randy & Delores initially went to Belgium in July 1987 with the EFCA and spent 3 terms in their ministry there with the Moroccan Arab population. A major ministry was the Avenir Sport program using a weekly soccer program in the summer and a hockey program in the winter as the means of reaching boys and their families. They returned to Canada in 2002 and the Lord directed them to doing the same ministry to Hindu, Sikh, Muslim and other background peoples in multi-cultural Millwoods. They partner with Millwoods EFC which has a strong mission heart for their area. God has grown the work through Future Sport and ESL. In December they had a fabulous Christmas Party for the Future Sport and ESL programs and had great opportunities to share the gospel with these folks.

### Pray:

- For our daily walk with Jesus, to follow His Spirit's leading and growing in knowledge of the World the Sword of the Spirit.

- For our children, Martin, Lauren, Clare and Andrew, who had a wonderful Christmas and are pursuing jobs, school and friendships

- For the continued sowing of the Word to our friends who do not yet believe in a PERSONAL GOD who gives forgiveness, eternal life and help to His children.

### Ministry Opportunity:

Young adults needed to help with the summer soccer program. If you have soccer skills and love the Lord, love kids, and love adventure, contact Randy for more information on this ministry opportunity.

Email: Randy Blake [randdblake@shaw.ca](mailto:randdblake@shaw.ca)

### DID YOU KNOW??

That 4 of our MKs (Missionary Kids) are now serving as missionaries?

- \* Edward & Silvie Emsheimer in Brazil
- \* Josh & Josie Dyck and family in Indonesia
- \* Rachel Chapman in Mexico
- \* Heather Jacobson & Elias in Ethiopia

### PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

**Fred & Audrey Otto serving with NTM in Brazil**

- Attended the annual West Brazil missionary conference at their MK school 25 km down the Amazon from Manaus. The fellowship was great, reports from the tribal missionaries was challenging and encouraging. The Lord IS building His church.



- Have been living in a small apartment at the mission headquarters – this has given them many opportunities to help those missionaries coming through that are struggling in many areas. One can't go into details about all the problems that our folks face, but you all know what kind of interpersonal problems PEOPLE face – and our missionaries happen to be people too!

- We're moving into a house 4 km away from the mission headquarters while a couple is on home assignment.

- Audrey is helping in the accounting department.

- We are working on translation projects – resource material into the Portuguese language.

- We would love a little bit of your cooler weather.

**Mark & Pat Emsheimer on home assignment from Brazil**

- Living in Camdenton, MO while on home assignment

- 1<sup>st</sup> grandchild born to Milton & Sheila – Natalie Mae on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>

- Currently traveling to California – Feb 3 to Mar 7 visiting with Mark's sister and then on to Chase, BC to visit Pat's brother and sister then to Steinbach for Missions Sunday on April 18<sup>th</sup>

- Prayer for safety in all our travels and for good opportunities to share what God has been doing



**Daryl & Molly Porter serving with EFCCM**

- Pray for safe travels and health

- Feb 3 & 4: Calgary for debrief meetings

- Feb 10-Mar 3: Ukraine for meetings and teaching

- Mar 10-19: Langley office. Daryl in Director Team meetings and Molly will volunteer at the office

- Apr 9-28: Daryl flies to Japan, Thailand, Philippines

- May: 10,000 km by car to visit supporters and family in Eastern US

- **Ministry Opportunity: 3-5 young adults** needed to run a youth summer English Institute. Contact Clay Bergen, team leader [bergenc@explornet.ca](mailto:bergenc@explornet.ca) or phone 306-469-2208. Still need teachers for the adult institute as well.



Connecting

Growing

Serving

Multiplying

## Seeing Today with an Eye to Tomorrow

It is always easier to make plans that address what we know to be true today. It is much harder to make plans for what we do not know. 20+ years ago Emmanuel committed to a new building program that looked well beyond what they knew was needed at the time to what they only saw by faith might be needed in the future. Today, we live in that future, and our facilities have provided for ministry well beyond what was “known” 20 years ago. Today, we are in a place where we again need to address present facility needs but also look with the eyes of faith into what might facilitate effective ministry for our children and their children over the next 20 years.

Connecting

With that in mind the leadership of Emmanuel has been discussing, and working on, the development of a facility upgrade to provide effective environments for the learning of God’s Word, godly worship and fellowship, and to connect lives to God both inside and outside the church walls. Of course, we must start with what we\* understand our situation to be today.

Growing

What we see today is a growing need for...

Serving

- ◆ increased youth space for welcoming and safe fellowship, and for learning from God’s Word
- ◆ new preschool space to minister to more people from our community.
- ◆ new office space to help us better equip our ministers (you are our ministers).
- ◆ expanded nursery space to provide a safe and inviting environment for families.
- ◆ flexible space for new ministry initiatives, including fellowship, learning, and worship opportunities.
- ◆ lobby (center court) space for warm, inviting fellowship and a gathering place for our church family and our community.
- ◆ a new expanded chapel that could facilitate family services (weddings, funerals) and worship services for up to 350 people.

Multiplied

As we consider these, and other, needs we must also thinking in terms of flexible and inviting ministry space for tomorrow—for our children and grandchildren. We are less certain what that future looks like, therefore we require the eyes of faith and the direction of God’s Spirit through His people. That means that there are still questions that deserve discussion.

◆ **Is this the right time?** While in S.E. Manitoba (and at Emmanuel) we have not been impacted as much as some other areas, we are still in a time of economic uncertainty. Should we wait for better times? We could sit and wait for the economy to fully rebound,

but there are never guarantees about economic certainty. And given that a building process takes years from start to finish, there is concern if we do not continue moving now we miss some key ministry opportunities. We therefore believe that we should continue moving forward, not recklessly, but in planning and implementation as God continues to direct. If we are given a clear message to stop, we will stop.

◆ **Are there any other options?** There are other options. Doing nothing is an option, but “doing nothing” will put limits and strain on existing ministry, as well as limitation on future ministry. Planting a church is sometimes considered an option, but church planting does not really address space management, it is an outreach initiative. Church planting and facilities expansion are not counterproductive or mutually exclusive. In fact, we will continue to pursue opportunities for outreach through church planting.

◆ **Would this expansion require us to grow?** It is the intent of the Facilities Vision Team to recommend a design that would not be uncomfortable for our existing congregation, yet will still provide adequate space for an increased congregational family. We do not foresee a completed project that greatly overextends our needs, but we do foresee a project that provided flexible space for a congregation larger than what we presently are. A larger church family would certainly also make this project more affordable, but the Facilities Vision Team will keep in mind the realities of our existing congregational size. Without doubt, a building project like this is “God-sized” and will require a measure of faith for us as a church.

◆ **Is this good stewardship?** This is an important question, but difficult to quantify and answer. It is absolutely essential that we acknowledge that we are first and foremost called to be **stewards of the gospel, of relationships, of people and opportunities**. That is where the issue of stewardship starts. Our stewardship of resources (financial and time) is a servant to the gospel and our mission. So, is this good stewardship of our mission (gospel, people, opportunities, relationships)? If it is, then it is likely also good stewardship of the resources God has given to us, for He gives us those resources for the purpose of the mission. It is hard to quantify stewardship of mission. What is the impact of discipling more than 1000 people for the next twenty years and the effect they will have on our community and our world? We believe that the impact is great enough that this is good stewardship and

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\*at this point in the process, and for this article, the “we” refers to our Ministry Council and Facilities Vision Team

## Seeing Today with an Eye to Tomorrow *(continued)*

therefore validates the investment of our resources. It is true that ministering to people in our culture is costly compared to what those same resources could accomplish in other cultures, but this is the culture God has placed us in. As our ministry grows we believe any increase God provides will allow us to do even more for His Kingdom. That means that facilities are an investment in ministry, not a goal or an end in themselves.

another about the future of Emmanuel? On February 28<sup>th</sup> we will have a congregational meeting where we will have a time of question and response to help us as a congregation work through some of key issues connected to this wonderful opportunity. Please come and join us at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Connecting

The preceding are simply some responses to valid questions. They may not definitively answer those questions for everyone, nor should they. Recognizing that, we ask you to pray with us about this project and the decisions and questions related to it. Would you please interact with these ideas by talking with one

Growing

## Thinking about Easter - already?

By Terry Kaufman

Are you thinking about Easter yet? The truth is that many of us are still in recovery mode from our celebrations of the advent of Jesus (paying bills, dropping pounds, and just generally recuperating from the busy pace). But the truth is that part of the reason advent celebrations are so rich is because we prepare ourselves for that time. Thoughts about Jesus' coming to earth float in our hearts and minds for weeks, even months, before we reach the day of celebration. If we are willing to give that much attention to remembering the arrival of our Savior, it is equally appro-

priate for us to spend time preparing for the remembrance of His sacrificial death and victorious resurrection. With that in mind, it is not too early to start thinking about Easter, and spending some special time focusing your hearts and minds on Jesus and His love for us, and His work at Calvary. There will be a *Easter preparation guide* available soon to help you prepare your heart. If you prefer, simply create your own special pathway of remembrance, sacrifice, and focus over the next weeks to prepare your heart for the celebration of Easter. He is worthy of all our worship, so let us offer Him a bit more of our

time and a bit more of us over these next weeks. It is not too early for "Easter thoughts."

**Pastor Terry Kaufman** has served as Senior Pastor of Preaching and Teaching at Emmanuel since September of 2003. Terry and Peggy have been married for 26 years, and have two children, Alisa and Rob.



Serving

Multiplying

## Children's Ministries - PARTNERING PAGE

**H**ey kids! This month this page is for you! Did you know there are 66 books in the Bible. Read the paragraph below and find as many of their names as you can. When you are done, return your page to Pastor Rob or Mrs. Pam for a prize!



*Connecting*

There are thirty books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Las Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much; he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus, there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

*Growing*

*Serving*

*Multiplying*

Mrs. Pam had lots of trouble finding the last 7. How did you do? \_\_\_\_\_

Here are the 23 Mrs. Pam found: Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Esther, Job, Lamentations, Daniel, Joel, Amos, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Timothy,

### Prayer Corner

Pray for your child's Awana small group leader, Kidz Printz teacher, or somebody that you know that works with these age groups. Pray that they will know that God loves them and that they will have a strong desire to share that with the kids that God has given him/her to influence.



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