

Emmanuel Living

volume 2, issue 3



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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Managing Editor:
Janie Thiessen

What a Wild Ride!

By David Rafeedie

Epocot Center at Disney World has a ride called "Flight to Mars" which simulates a real flight, with the G Force and everything. When you are strapped in the seat they warn you not to close your eyes or look from left to right so that you don't faint or get sick. And they give a lot of warnings as you approach the line. There is a green line which leads to a lesser experience and then the red line which is the full blown experience. They warn over and over again that you can get out of the line at any time. There are signs all along the path up to the ride warning the ride can cause people to faint, become nauseated, etc. As my son Tom and I approached the fork leading to the green and red lines, we stopped, read the sign, looked at each other and decided for the red line. Actually, he decided and I was too "manly" to argue the point. Wow! What a wild ride! It is now my favorite ride at Disney World. It was an exciting, out of this world ride.

I think life at Emmanuel is a wild ride too. I am excited about Emmanuel! When I think of how God has and is using us in the world we live in and beyond I get pretty enthused about the church.

Just check out our history

Emmanuel came into the world in 1944 and this was its first mission statement, or as they called it then, it's ministry statement.

To be mission minded and win lost souls for Christ. Our forefathers were way ahead of the curve with that word "mission" but that is a story for another day. That statement defined the ministry for them. They had people, a quartet and speakers, going around the local communities, singing and sharing the gospel. They were mission minded and their hearts desire was to see people become followers of Jesus. And of course, they also took the admonishment of our Lord to reach the world too and so they determined to win souls across the seas.

The idea of "mission" is imbedded in our DNA as a church. Just look at what God is doing here.

Check out what God is doing now

We still have a very active International Missions Committee. I am excited about a new project the committee has taken on; to support a bible school student in Thailand who graduates in April and will pastor church. **Kingdom Impact!**

There are kids becoming followers of Jesus through our ministries. One of our Awana kids recently led two of her classmates to



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What a Wild Ride! (continued)

Jesus. Another young boy received Jesus a couple of weeks ago. What an opportunity we have as a church to help these young people mature in Christ. **Kingdom Impact!**

Connecting

Our Outreach Team is very intentionally reaching out in various ways to the approximately 64 unchurched families connected to our church through Awana and our pre-school. We call these good folks collectively **our small congregation**. Ultimately our desire and prayer is moving them closer to Jesus and to us. **Kingdom focused!**

This past week, one of our parishioners was sharing the gospel with a dying friend in the hospital. **The church at work!**

Growing



God raised up a "platoon" as Dave Heinrichs calls us, of people to pray for the community of Woodridge. We have an initial concert coming up and other plans to reach that community. Our desire and prayer is to see people in Woodridge and the surrounding area connect deeply with Jesus. **Kingdom focused!**

Serving

We are exploring participating in another church plant with the Winnipeg EFC for somewhere in Winnipeg. **Kingdom focused!**

Emmanuel also has a history and reputation of working with other churches. This past Sunday the Pansy church used our baptismal to baptize followers of

Multiplying

Missionary Hi-lights

FEATURE MISSIONARY:

Dave & Lena Chapman serving with New Tribes Mission in Papua New Guinea

Lena grew up in our church, and after High School attended New Tribes Mission Bible Institute in Waukesha, WI and went thru their missions training program in Ontario. It was during this time that she and Dave met and were married. (Dave grew up in Texas hence all the Texas connections.) Dave & Lena were appointed by New Tribes Mission to serve in Panama and began their first term of service in May 1985. Dave, as a pilot/mechanic, had responsibilities that included not only piloting and maintenance of the airplane, but also the flight scheduling, bookkeeping, flight charges, representation to the Government officials, etc. Lena was kept busy with flight following as well as bookkeeping, letter writing, and most important a full time mom. In 2004 the flight program in Panama was closed and after helping out in the flight program in Venezuela they transferred to Papua New Guinea and continued in the same type of ministry with aircraft maintenance and hosting many groups of people to their community. This was a new culture, new language, new colleagues, and new flying/maintenance licensing for Dave. They have seen God at work in their lives as they adjust to all these new things. Their children are all away from home now so Lena has time to be a



Jesus. Kingdom impact!

We are Involved in our community

Did you know that **we give to a ministry serving the homeless teens** in Steinbach?

Did you know that *Pick-up and Walk* began as a ministry of Emmanuel and as we invited others to join us it has grown to involve many other people and churches and is a wonderful **expression of the love of Jesus to our community**.

What stories from your life could you add to this article? Many I am sure. I would love to hear them! Please email me at david.rafeedie@eefc.ca with your story so that I can rejoice with you.

I could on and on. I suspect you could too. We are 66 years old as a church. That sounds old to some of us, but we live young. We were born to share life; mission is a part of our DNA as a church. Our mandate is to make followers of Jesus who *connect, grow, serve and multiply* and by God's grace we are and will do just that without flinching or being distracted.

This is a wild ride! I am excited about being a part of Emmanuel and you should be too!

Dr. David Rafeedie is the husband of Ellen, father of Tom and is the Executive Pastor at Emmanuel Evangelical Free Church.



Missionary Hi-lights *(continued)*

mentor to other young moms and to give a helping hand wherever she may be needed in their small mission community and Dave is busy with the maintenance of the airplanes and is working at getting his licensing for flying in that country. Their daughter Rachel is a missionary with NTM in Mexico, Elizabeth is a vet tech assistant in Texas, and Josh is a student at the NTM Bible Institute and is planning on continuing his education to be a doctor.

PRAY AND SUPPORT OUR SHORT TERM MISSIONS TEAMS:

ROMANIA: Team Leaders - Dan & Luella Hewson

Tenderfoot Team (traveling May 4-17): Ruth Koop, Janie & Holly Thiessen, plus 3 others from other churches.

Work Team (traveling May 18-29): Kelsey Penner, Eugene Poiron, and Mark Toews.

HAITI: (College & Career Team) Team Leader - Rachel Giesbrecht. Traveling April 30 - May 9

UKRAINE: Team Leaders - Bruce & Cathy Reimer. **Team Members (traveling April 17 - May 3):** Ed Wieler, Garry Giesheimer, Mike Heppner, Jake Friesen, Russ & Karen Wohlgenuth

ATTENTION YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS:

If you are planning on working at a Bible Camp/Summer Ministry this summer there are funds available for you through our Summer Ministries Support budget. Please pick up an application form from the office or at the Info counter and hand it in to the office or to Heidi Newman or Chad Peterson. These should be in by mid May. The criteria for this support is that you are a believer, have a heart for mission, have demonstrated that love for God in ministry already, and that you are a member or have been regular in attendance at our church for the past year.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:



Buck & Joanne Nageli serving with New Tribes Missions, on home assignment in Florida

They ask for prayer for the decisions that need to be made at this time. They continue to be the caregivers for Buck's mother and have not been able to find alternate arrangements for that. They are now tentatively planning on staying in Florida for the time being. Buck will be working at the NTM headquarters in Sanford, FL in the capacity of maintenance and Joanne will continue being caregiver for Buck's mother. They strongly desire to return to Brazil, however, for now it seems God has for them to stay in Florida. Please continue to pray for them. They are planning to come up

here to visit in mid June & July.



Wes & Brenda Dyck serving with New Tribes Mission in Durham, Ontario

Thank you for investing in the eternal value of the souls of people from various ethnic groups around the world. You are involved with us as we invest in the lives of the students here at the Missionary Training Centre. Please continue to pray for more students to come our way, as we are only at 69% capacity in admissions so far for the fall term. We had a good break over Christmas in Texas with our son. We are enjoying our interactions with all the students but especially with the ones we have the responsibility and privilege to disciple. We're involved with some of the classes, in the admissions office and Brenda helps out in child care as well. We still live in a lovely new duplex here on campus and are thankful for the convenience of being able to interact with the students in a variety of ways.

***Please pray:** That we would draw from the Lord the wisdom and guidance we need each day as we minister to the students. Also for wisdom as the course continues developing and for the personnel we need in the coming days.



Cliff (& Iris) Dirks serving with Youth For Christ in Steinbach

Starting Feb 1st, 2010 Cliff began a part time position (15 hours per week) with Steinbach Youth For Christ as an assistant to Jim Harms. Cliff's main responsibilities include assisting in organizing the major fund raising projects: Festival of Friends Fundraising Banquet, Benefit (Motorcycle) Ride for Backstage, Golf Tournament and a future Snowmobile Ride Fund Raising Event. Cliff is on loan from Winnipeg Youth For Christ to Steinbach YFC - all donations to Cliff's support continue to go to

Winnipeg YFC. Cliff's responsibilities for Winnipeg YFC include looking after Camp Cedarwood Rentals, assisting in organizing the Winnipeg YFC Corporate Golf Tournament, Golf Marathon, and Fundraising Banquet.

Prayer Requests:

*Financial support (short about \$200 per month)

*Wisdom in planning fund raising events for both Winnipeg and Steinbach

*Funding for Center for Excellence, Winnipeg YFC. (5 million required over and above Federal and City Funding)

Connecting

Growing

Serving

Multiplying

Reflections ~ The Red Dot

By Al Hiebert

Come with me on a three-week missions trip to Hyderabad, India. Visit my January 2001 Introduction to Theology class at OM India. Hear one of the 27 students ask, "Is it right or wrong for Christian women to wear the red dot on their foreheads?" How would you answer?

Connecting

Before I tell you how I did respond, let me indicate how I likely would have responded, had I had the time to collect my thoughts better. Here are some questions to ask when we decide on "disputable matters," i.e., when the Bible does not say directly whether some practice is clearly right or wrong for Christians.

Growing

1. Does it glorify God?

- a. Is it to the praise of **God's glory**? *Eph. 1:6,12,14*
- b. Is it **for my Lord**? *1 Cor. 10:317.*
- c. Does it remind me that I'm a **royal priest**?
1 Peter 2:9
- d. Does it help me present my life to God as a **living sacrifice**, a spiritual service of worship? *Rom. 12:1*
- e. Is it **doubtful**? Is it **of faith**? Does it **trouble my conscience** or my understanding of what my heavenly Father wants? *Rom. 14:22,23*
- f. Does it help me show **submission to those in God-ordained authority** over me? *Rom. 13:1*
- g. Does it **conform me to the world**? *Rom. 12:2; 1 John 2:15* (Does it **come from love for the world or lead me to love the world and its values**?)
- h. Does it **transform me and renew my mind** to know and do God's perfect will? *Rom. 12:2*
- i. Does it help my mind **dwelt on things that are true, honourable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, excellent, and worthy of praise**? *Phil. 4:8* (Does it express a **godly mind-set**? *Rom. 12:2*)
- j. Does it help me be a **good steward of time, money, and abilities** God has asked me to administer for Him? *Luke 12:37-48*

Serving

2. Does it help to make me like **Christ** (as His disciple, following His **pattern**)?

- a. Can I **take Jesus with me**? *Rom. 8:29; 1 John 2:6; Psa 139:7* (cf. "What would Jesus do?")

Multiplying

- b. Can I do it **in Christ's name** (authority, implicating Him)? Can I **thank Him** for this? *Col. 3:17*
- c. Can others grow in Christ-likeness by following my **example**? *1 Cor. 11:19.*
- d. Does it hinder or help me **run my race** for Christ?
Hebrews 12:1,2
- e. Does it **edify/build me up/nourish me**?
1 Cor. 10:23; 14:16; Rom. 14:19
- f. Does it help me **purify myself as Christ's bride**?
1 John 2:28; 3:2,3; 1 Peter 1:15,16; Lev. 11:45.
(Would I like to be doing this **when Jesus comes back**?)
- g. Does it help me be a **good ambassador** to spread Christ's gospel? *2 Cor. 5:18-20; Col. 4:5*
- h. Does it put me in **bad company** that corrupts good Christ-like character? *1 Cor. 15:33*
- i. Does it have the **appearance of evil** (un-Christ-like)? *1 Thess. 5:22* (Note limitations here)
- j. Does it **bind me to unbelievers** (hence, take me away from Christ-likeness)? *2 Cor. 6:14*
- k. What does the **church (Christ's Body) say about this**? *Rom. 14:18; Acts 15:28*

3. Is **love** my motive? *John 13:35*

- a. Is my **motive pride** (or love)? *1 Cor.8:1-2*
- b. Is it **profitable, helpful, expedient, wise**?
1 Cor. 6:12
- c. Does it **make for peace** or hassles?
Rom. 12:18; 14:19
- d. Does it **stumble/tempt weaker brothers** to reject their commitment to Christ? *Rom. 14:13-15,21; 1 Cor. 10:32; Rom. 14:13-15,21* (Note limitations here)
- e. Does it help me **give preference to others**?
Rom. 12:10
- f. Does it help me to **do good to all**? *Galatians 6:10*

4. Does this show the **Holy Spirit's dynamic/power**

- a. Does it help me **yield control to the Holy Spirit**?
Eph. 5:18

Reflections ~ *The Red Dot* (continued)

- b. Does it belong in the **home of the Holy Spirit?**
1 Cor. 6:19,20;
- c. Is it good for my **body as the temple of the Holy Spirit?** 1 Cor. 6:19
- d. Does it **enslave/master me?** 1 Cor. 6:12; 10:23
- e. Does it help me **flee youthful lusts?** 2 Tim. 2:22
- f. Does it **cater to the flesh?** Galatians 5:16-21
- g. Does it **promote growth of the Fruit of the Spirit?** Galatians 5:22,23
- h. Does it remind me I've been **washed, justified and set apart** for divine service? 1 Cor. 6:11

So, how did I respond to the red dot question in India? I said this was just my third brief teaching visit to India. Hence, I do not understand their culture enough to pass judgement on this debate in their churches (e.g., is this mere cosmetic adornment, or is it an expression of Hindu worship) which needs to be processed with humility, with many of the above questions, and with recognition that believers of equal spiritual ma-

turity and competence may well come to divergent conclusions.

How would you respond?

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 is a 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.

Connecting

Growing

Rhinerniners 2010 is Fantastic!

Rhinerniners is our yearly grade nine serving retreat at Red Rock Bible Camp during part of spring break. Like a herd of determined, strong rhinos we will stampede to Red Rock on Monday, March 29 for a two night stay at camp. We will have lots of laughs, free time, worship, great food and time for talking together. The main thing we're doing there, however, is serving the permanent staff at the camp by doing work. They will have a big list of tasks that need doing before camp is fully operational in the spring. Over the years, we have set a standard of cheerful hard work that knocks the to do list off with zest!

We think the Rhinerniners retreat is fantastic. One of the marks of a disciple of Jesus is a growing habit of serving others. This event very directly helps us to encourage that attitude and practice in our grade nine students. As well, this retreat serves as a bridge event for these students as they will be transitioning from junior high into high school. While at camp, we will talk about high school and invite grade nines to join our high school ministry starting in the summer. Along with that, our hope is that those who come will be connected more securely with other Christians and the class will together step up in bold service for God moving forward in the spring and into next year. The Rhino theme? Not sure. But it's fantastic. Please pray for this retreat and for all our students about developing an attitude and practice of serving.

If you are in grade nine, get a waiver at the youth booth, fill it out, drop it off at the church office

by March 21 with \$10 and you are IN.

We may need some help with transportation. If you are an adult with Plan to Protect training and are willing to drive on Monday or Wednesday, please contact Kent or Angela.

Pastor Kent Martens has been serving as Youth Ministries Pastor here at Emmanuel for 10 years. Kent and his wife Pam live in Steinbach with their kids Mitchell, Kyle, Jadon, and Kelsey.



Angela Plett is our Youth Ministries Assistant and is in her second year of serving at Emmanuel. Angela and her husband Brendan were married last summer and now live in Steinbach.



Serving

Multiplying

Children's Ministries - PARTNERING PAGE

Why Does God Allow Earthquakes?

Q. My small grandchildren have seen news coverage of the death and destruction brought on by the recent earthquakes. They've asked me why God allows these things to happen to so many people. How can I answer the question in a simple way that they can understand?

Connecting

A: That's a tough question to answer even when an adult asks it! It's even tougher to explain to children—the sovereignty of God, the difference between his perfect will (what he desires) and his permissive will (what he allows). But it's so important to respond to earnest questions from our little ones, to take the opportunity to teach them and encourage them in their growing faith. Sometimes it helps to go back to the beginning—literally—to Genesis and the story of Adam and Eve. Sin destroyed God's perfect paradise, and ever since our fallen world has been plagued by every kind of evil, including natural disasters.

Growing

Sometimes God does miraculously intervene in the storms of life—he stills the wind and the waves (Matt. 8:25-26). Sometimes he gives us the courage and strength to go through them. Jesus promised he would never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). In Isaiah 43:2, God says, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you ..."

Hard times can make people think about what really matters in life. God uses tragedy to turn their hearts toward him. And he gives us as believers the privilege of being his hands and feet—of sharing his love in a very real way—by serving those in need. Too often we focus on the negative news; we forget how many amazing stories of love and sacrifice come out of suffering. Talk to your grandchildren about the courage and bravery, the unselfishness, the dedication people have shown in reaching out to those whose lives were devastated by the storms. Talk about the important lessons we learn from our experiences, both good and bad.

Serving

Remind them that this broken, imperfect world is not our home. One day, God will create a glorious new heaven and a new earth for those who love him (2 Pet. 3:13). Part of what makes it so wonderful — something we look forward to — is that in heaven, there will be no hurricanes, no heartaches, no separation, no suffering, no death.

In this life, we don't have all the answers. We don't always understand God's plan. And it's okay to admit that—to ourselves, as well as our kids and grandkids. What we do know is that God is good.

That he loves us. That we can trust him. God is our ever-present help, our refuge in the time of storm.

Multiplying

We are safe in his care.

By: Christin Ditchfield

Prayer Corner

Pray with your children that God will help those that have lost homes and family members and that they will understand that God still loves them.



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