

# Emmanuel Living

volume 2, issue 9



## 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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## Facilities Upgrade: What's Happening, Why, & How?

There are times in life when we seem to have as many questions as answers. We have all experienced that at one time or another. Yet, at times, the **answers we do know** move us forward even when some unanswered questions remain. That is the place we find ourselves in as we continue to consider an upgrade to our facilities.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING?** For over six years a facilities upgrade has been a topic of need and discussion.

- \* We built temporary annexes six years ago as a *stop gap* until we could develop a more permanent solution.
- \* We bought land 3 years ago to make provision for a building addition.
- \* We formed a team two years ago to develop a plan that could address both needs and vision.
- \* We invited the entire congregation to special town hall meetings to discuss the early version of that plan, then did more hard work to refine the plan according to the response of the church family.

Now, we are **getting close to recommending a specific plan** (very similar to what the church family has already seen) and a strategy to fund that plan. This is therefore not a new initiative; it has been a **thoughtful and deliberate journey**.

**WHY?** It is always legitimate to ask "why" before we say "yes" to such a project. While space needs in numerous areas have driven us to consider a plan, a vision for more effective ministry today and in the

future have helped to shape it:

- \* A vision for **effective space that is flexible enough to allow us to grow our Sunday ministry** to an increasing number and variety of people (as provided with a chapel space for Sunday services and other ministries). In addition to continuing to offer our contemporary and traditional services, we would like the opportunity to provide **other environments for worship that will allow our church to reach out** and minister to the un-churched and de-churched in our community and beyond.
- \* A vision for **community** that is able to use our facilities as an important place to share life together in a safe, and welcoming environment for family and guests (as seen in the double duty assignment of our lobby as a center court hub for fellowship and activity with all key ministries emanating out from that hub).
- \* A vision to provide a place for future generations to continue to be impacted by the Word of God and strengthened for ministry outside of the church.
- \* A vision for a place for where more people are encouraged and equipped to take the gospel out to the places where they live, work, and play, and the world beyond.

### What space issues are real?

- \* Our nursery is overcrowded during some services. This makes safe care more difficult, and young families deserve safe care for their children.

cont. pg.2

## Facilities Upgrade: What's Happening, Why, & How? *(continued)*

Connecting

- \* Our youth annex was intended to be temporary and at times is overcrowded.
- \* Our lobby is often very crowded between services and after the second service. In addition to being uncomfortable, it could be unsafe for some.
- \* Our offices are crowded as we try to provide support for the great ministries the people of the church are involved in.
- \* We have no good space for growth of Sunday morning Christian education, both for children and adults.
- \* A wise leader from our church recently said you should build before you **need** to. We are already past that point in some ministries.

Growing

### What about stewardship?

- \* We also must be **stewards of opportunities and relationships outside the church and into the future**. With a presently crowded nursery, what does that say about needs for Christian Education space for the future? We expect our church to grow in the future, and if we grow only at the rate of our community, within 10 years we could have 1300 people here on a Sunday morning and 2200 in our church family. We are praying that we will grow more than that. We must think about and plan for the future opportunities to minister to people.
- \* As we consider this **stewardship of the gospel and opportunities**, we also are reminded that we are **stewards of relationships**, and that is why we have a vision for the future to help the church be a place where people like to gather, to worship, to learn, but also to build relationships – a place that is core to their lives as Christ followers, much as the early church prioritized their gatherings. Our church should be a place for community to gather. We need our facility *space and design* to assist that.

Serving

Multiplying

**Options?** Consideration has been given to the option of just building to address existing urgent needs (including repairs to our existing facilities). It was determined that to do so would be neither faithful to

vision and calling, nor good stewardship in terms of design and long term financial cost (and we do not want to be a church of “portables.”) Other options have also been discussed and determined to be less preferable overall.

### **HOW? How can we provide for such a vision?**

The short answer is: “**only by God’s grace and provision.**” But **His provision comes through His people.** While exact figures are still being worked and reworked, we know that we will need to raise a significant amount of money before the project even starts (through one-time or one-year commitment gifts) so that this project can proceed without a long term debt load that will hinder ministry. **Gifts to help seed that fund before the end of 2010 are very important to our ongoing preparation.** The financing of the project when completed (even without any growth in the congregation) should be manageable with an average of less than \$100/month in family giving. This is based on our existing church family only, not taking into consideration any future church family growth. That means one or two nights out per month might be sacrificed as a family to help make this a reality. **We believe the “how” can be managed as long as God is calling us to this and we are obedient,** but we do not have all the answers to these questions yet as this clearly is a vision that includes faith.

To ensure that God is calling to us to this, we will be embarking on a **special prayer focus** January 1, 2011 for this project. Since a **building is an extension of mission and vision** and ultimately about making more and better disciples, it is most definitely a spiritual endeavour where **we need to hear God’s heart.** Therefore this prayer focus will include a call to **fast and pray**, special congregational prayer meetings, and guided prayer in small groups and ministry teams. But don’t wait until then to start, **please pray now**, for wisdom for the team building the plan, for wisdom for us as a congregation, and that we will hear God’s calling on us for today and the for the future.

## Missionary Hi-lights

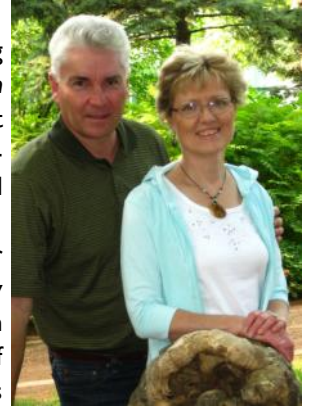
### Heart 2 Heart Canada Missionaries: Dan & Luella Hewson

Since 2006, when our journey with Heart to Heart began, God has been faithful in fulfilling the following promise. *And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Phil 4:19* God was faithful in supplying courage to step out of our comfort zone when we went on our first missions trip. He has been faithful in enabling us to continue working with children in Romania. We are relying on Him to give us wisdom and guidance in our current role as Development Coordinators for Heart to Heart Canada.

We have been blessed to read the recent ministry reports of H2H staff. During summer camp sessions 140 children from 5 different orphanages were able to experience many activities that were totally new to them such as water games, riding a zip line, sleeping in tents, a barbeque, and so much more. Around the campfire children heard of the gift of salvation that God has for each one of them. Many accepted this gift and gave their lives to the Lord. A special backpacking trip through the mountains of Romania was an exceptional opportunity for H2H staff to pour into the lives of teen boys. They hiked through the mountains and explored God's magnificent creation, discovering a beautiful lake and a cave with an underground waterfall. Each morning and evening presented opportunities to talk about what it means to be a man, what they would like their legacy to be, relationships, and sexual purity. The conversation around the campfire on the last night went on till the early morning. They talked about many things, ending with talking about how to accept Christ into your life, just by believing in Him and asking Him into your heart. We rejoice that one of the boys, Bebe, asked Jesus to be his Savior that night. Currently we are putting together a short-term team to work with H2H in the spring of 2011. If you would like more information about this trip call the church office.

Prayer requests:

- ~That the children and teens that accepted Christ through the summer ministry will grow in their new-found faith and that they will have the strength to stand up for their beliefs in difficult surroundings.
- ~For H2H finances (Romanian sales tax just jumped to 24%)
- ~Ministry teams for 2011 for Romania - that God will choose and empower each team member.
- ~Health and energy for Dan and Luella to keep up with a busy schedule and for safety in travel.



Connecting

Growing

Serving

Multiplying



### Update on the Jacobsons

Tim and Lorna Jacobson serve with SIM Canada based in the Greater Toronto Area. Lorna is the MK (Missionary Kid) Care Coordinator and supports missionaries around the globe through mentoring and encouraging both parents and their children through the various opportunities, challenges and endless transitions of missionary life. She focuses special attention on developing a faithful prayer network for missionary children – or perhaps, more accurately, “child missionaries.” Tim is the principal of the School of Urban Biblical Studies, an innovative ministry that seeks to help Canadian churches realize their missional potential through enabling them to do Church-based equipping for discipleship, leadership development, and mission. They appreciate the support and encouragement of their friends who recognize that Canada is part of the mission field.

**Prayer Requests:**

**Tim:** Pray for Tim and colleague Andrew as they review the results of surveys and interviews done regarding SUBS. Continue to pray about the future role of SUBS in this vision. Also pray for opportunities that arose during Tim's month in Ethiopia this summer for him to be involved in supporting the Kale Heywet churches and their theological education programs.

**Lorna:** Pray for ongoing wisdom for Lorna to determine priorities and to be most effective in her MK Care ministry (more than 40 families with more than 100 children).

## Missionary Hi-lights *(continued)*

**Family:** Nathan & Allison (newly weds) as they settle into life in northern Canada. Bethany & Steve – waiting for paramedic job opening for Bethany and resuming studies for Steve. Heather & Elias – settle in to life in Canada, long commute to school for Elias each day, praise for great class of Grade 5 & 6 students for Heather who is thoroughly enjoying teaching.

### Update on the Verhoogs:

Garry, Teresa, Seth & Jonah will be coming home for Christmas this year and expect to be arriving Dec 9<sup>th</sup>. Teresa and the boys will be staying for one month, while Garry plans to be going back right after Christmas.

We encourage you to make time to connect with them while they are home. If you like, you can email them now at: [garryverhoog@hotmail.com](mailto:garryverhoog@hotmail.com) to set a date for a visit.



Connecting

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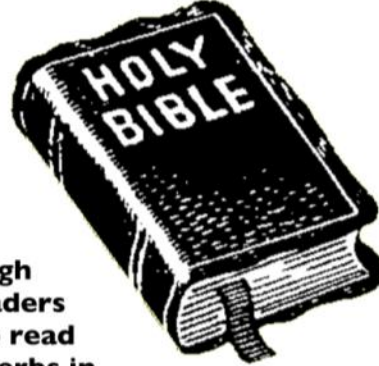
# emmanuel youth

[professional, awesome, good]

## pro-verbs

[action words, things you do]

**the way of wisdom challenge**



**Jr High and Sr High Students and Leaders are challenged to read the book of Proverbs in the month of November.**

**wisdom** is available to us all.

The trouble is, it's sometimes difficult for us to get into the habit of reading the Bible regularly. As a pack of young people, we are going to daily read a chapter from the book of Proverbs. Daily, we'll highlight in our notebooks one thing that we'll try to put into practice immediately. The way of wisdom challenge begins with Proverbs chapter 1 on November 1<sup>st</sup>. There are 31 chapters in Proverbs so our last day will be December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Bad habits are hard to break. Good habits are hard to start. Let's do this together and put into practice what we read! Are you in? Anyone can do this challenge but if you register and finish strong, we'll put your name in a draw for a HULL's gift certificate!

Register: [kent.martens@eefc.ca](mailto:kent.martens@eefc.ca) OR [angela.at.eefc@gmail.com](mailto:angela.at.eefc@gmail.com)

## Reflections ~ Dr. Sule Garba

**Reflections** is a section in our *Emmanuel Living* newsletter where we hope to encourage each other by sharing how God has helped individuals with something significant in their lives. This month we have included Dr. Sule Garba's personal testimony.



I was born into a Muslim family in Nigeria. God's intervention in my life became evident at a very early age. When Christian missionaries came to our town, my maternal grandparents were some of the first converts. They became evangelists, spreading the gospel to other neighbouring towns. After the death of my mother (when I was five), My grandparents raised and nurtured me in the Christian faith. In 1967, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Lord and Saviour and in 1969, I was baptized upon the confession of my faith. In 1980, I married Margaret. God blessed us with four children: Nanret, Sarah, Andi, and Paul.

Connecting

Growing

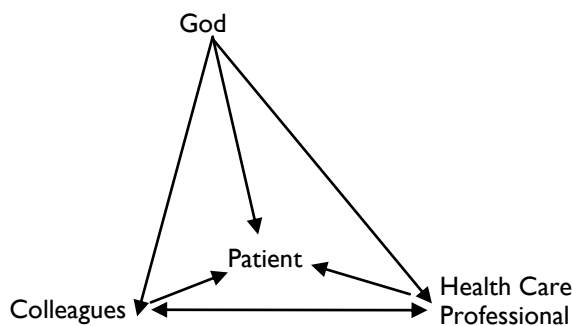
Initially, I was going to further my education in Edinburgh, Scotland, but a Canadian-trained surgeon working in Nigeria advised me to go to Canada. Again, God revealed His grace and intervention in my life. My journey to Steinbach began in 1994, following the completion of my general surgery training at the University of Ottawa. The Steinbach Family Medical Centre (SFMC) advertised for a general surgeon in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. To this day, my family and I vividly recall Dr. Gignerich calling me in response to my application. He explained that the SFMC consisted of a core group of Christian doctors and that they were extending an invitation to me for an interview. When I arrived for the interview, Dr. Gingerich and Dr. Krahn picked me up at the airport and later introduced me to the rest of the group. To this day, I have a very fond memory of the meeting and ensuing interview. To God be the glory!

Serving

We accepted the invitation and finally arrived in Steinbach in January, 1995, in the dead of a cold prairie winter. Three weeks later we started attending Emmanuel and have continued to this day. From the moment we arrived and through subsequent years, we have been overwhelmed by the support, generosity and love shown to us by members of this church and by the entire community. My family and I are greatly indebted to the many individuals who walked this journey with us, helping us get settled and encouraging us in the process.

Multiplying

In 1995, the same year we arrived, Dr. Paul Peters, who had been practicing medicine in Steinbach for over 35 years, retired. In one of his retirement speeches, he said that what had given him great joy was the opportunity to work with his colleagues to serve patients. As I listened to Dr. Peters, I began to picture this image as a triangle, with the patient at the top and colleagues and physicians or health care professionals on either corner of the triangle. Upon reflection, viewing this in the context of my faith, I began to see it as a prism, with Jesus Christ at the top, reaching all corners of the triangle at the same time:



Ephesians 2:10:

*For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

The prism is a reflection of Christ's personal relationship with an individual and with those in the health care profession. The opportunity to work in an environment with colleagues who love the Lord Jesus Christ is not something I take for granted. I see it as God's hand putting us together to work out His purpose. It is such a

## Reflections *(continued)*

blessing to work with Dr. Galessiere, Dr. Krahn, Dr. Gingerich, Dorothy Giesbrecht, Mildred Schalla, Helen Bartel, Lauren Silversides, Colleen Buhler, and Ruth Stone. There are many more, but these are the people that attend Emmanuel. They go over and above the call of duty to provide support and encouragement. I see this as the hand of God, at work for His glory.

Connecting

Medical science trains health care professionals to diagnose and treat diseases. Recent discoveries in science and technology have advanced this process tremendously. Today, when a person is suffering from abdominal pain and appendicitis is suspected, by using the latest imaging techniques, a diagnosis is made immediately. Today, wonderful, innovative tools can diagnose a patient's ailment almost instantly. The trap, or potential danger in this scenario is to forget there is a person behind the diagnosis. Patients are not "pneumonia" or "appendicitis", etcetera. Rather, they are individuals who happen to have pneumonia or appendicitis. When one views the doctor-patient relationship in the context of faith, one is challenged to follow the example of Jesus Christ. This relationship is illustrated in Mark 5:28-34, where a woman *...had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.'* When Jesus realized that power had gone out from him, how did He respond? When Jesus realizes what has happened, he addresses her in a very personal way: *Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.*<sup>1</sup> Jesus always saw the person as an individual before he addressed the illness. At all times, and regardless of our calling, this should be our model.

Growing

It is amazing what happens when we connect in a personal way. One of the first questions some of my patients ask me is where do you come from and what church do you attend? It is not uncommon, during the course of our conversation, to discover that both of us attend at EEFC! At other times, they are Christians who attend a sister church, this opens an opportunity to pray together, seeking God's guidance, peace, and wisdom. Furthermore, this personal connection enables the health care professional to know what the patient's wishes are in the context of the proposed treatment. If the patient has any advance health directives, these can be incorporated in the overall treatment plan. The support systems available to the patient when he or she is away, or when they are discharged from the hospital, are also explored. These are but a few issues that can come up in the course of our discussion.

Serving

Personal experience with death and illness has given me some perspective about being a patient. In other words, God has changed my position in the prism. Two years after arriving in Steinbach, my younger brother was killed in a ghastly car accident while travelling to his own wedding. This was very devastating. The church, my prayer group, and my colleagues rallied around our family and supported us during this very difficult time. In October 2008, I had to return to Nigeria because my younger sister called, informing me she was very sick and on kidney dialysis. Again, the support and encouragement I received from my colleagues, the church, and especially my small prayer group, was overwhelming. Pastor Terry took some time off from an important meeting to pray with me on his cell phone, no words can describe the profound effect these acts of love had on me and my family. Today my sister is still on dialysis, and we continue to pray for her.

Multiplying

It is my prayer that everyone will experience the presence of God in whatever position He places us. To Him be glory and honor in Christ Jesus. Amen.

<sup>1</sup>Ephesians 2:10 and Mark 5:25-34 quoted from the New International Version (NIV) Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984 Biblica; [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

# Christmas at Emmanuel

2010

Connecting

## Gateway to Christmas

Sun., Nov. 28th \* 7pm

In preparation for the upcoming season, we invite you to pause on the threshold of Advent and spend an evening with us focusing on the meaning of Christ's birth.

This evening program includes a prelude performed by various piano students from our congregation {starting at approx. 6:40pm}, as well as a variety of musical performances and an offering for the Elder's Care Fund {a special fund which allows us to provide assistance to people struggling with temporary hardship ~ especially at this time of year}

Growing

Serving

## Choir Candlelight Concerts

Fri., Dec. 24th \* 5pm & 7pm

We know that ~ for many of you ~ the Choir Candlelight Concert on Christmas Eve holds a special place in your family's Christmas traditions. Please join us on Christmas Eve as the Choir guides the attention of our minds and hearts to Jesus Christ.

Multiplying

## One Service Sundays

Sun., Dec. 26th \* 10am

Sun., Jan. 2nd \* 10am

**Note:**

Instead of presenting a small program in each of our worship services during Advent, this year the Kidz Printz Departments will be participating in our Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.

## Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page



*Connecting*

### The Value of Listening

Jesus said, "out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). Parents can use this principle to gain some understanding and insight into a child's heart. Listening becomes key.

*Growing*

It's surprising how many times we ask kids why they don't talk to their parents and hear the answer, "Because they don't listen to me." Yes, it's true some children confuse listening with agreeing. On the other hand, we find some parents really don't listen to their children, whether they agree or not. They're irritated by the lack of logic, the different viewpoints, or the naïve opinions of their children.

Listening can feel like torture as a child goes on and on about things that don't make sense to the parent. It's in these moments, however, that parents can learn a lot about a child's heart. Children may be wrong, but they're usually following some kind of internal logic. Listening allows you to figure out what's going on and offer more truth where helpful.

*Serving*

As you listen to your kids talk, try to discern what may be distracting them from understanding the truth. Don't feel like you have to point it out on the spot. Take time to listen and make mental notes of errors in their thinking. Look for creative ways to help them understand truth more fully.

*Multiplying*

An accepting, safe, listening ear, often opens the heart in ways that nothing else can. As you listen to your child, you'll learn about dreams, goals, and commitments. Good or bad, time spent listening to your children gives you a greater sense of what's going on inside, offering you ideas and direction about the heart change that's needed.

This parenting tip was taken from the book, [Parenting is Heart Work](#), by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.

If this tip was sent to you by a friend and you'd like to continue to receive tips yourself, you can sign up at [www.biblicalpharenting.org](http://www.biblicalpharenting.org).



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