

# Emmanuel Living

volume 2, issue 8



## *Emmanuel Exists...*

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

## What's Inside:

### *Connecting ...*

- Simple Thanks Lunch p.2
- Children's Ministries:  
FAMILY CHALLENGE 2010  
Partnering Page p.6

### *Growing ...*

- Small Groups p. 4 & 5

### *Serving ...*

- Missionary Hi-lights p.3

### *Multiplying ...*

- New Year, New Schedule,  
Same Mission p.1

October 2010

Managing Editor:  
Janie Thiessen

## New Year, New Schedule, Same Mission

### **E**manuel on Mission

As we continue our journey together through the early history of the church in the book of Acts, we begin to see ourselves as active participants in God's mission on the earth. This is an exciting calling! We are important players in God's strategy to reach the world with His love. As a church family in Southeast Manitoba, we want to lean into this mission that God began long ago and wants to continue through us.

### **For Whom Does The Church Exist?**

Christians need supportive relationships, sound and vital Bible teaching, and opportunities for ministry. As a church family, we also want to be considerate to those who may be in the early stages of investigating their faith or re-entering a church for the first time in a while.

We ARE the church, but as we mature in Christ, we realize that the church exists also for those who are not a part of it yet. How can we make it easiest for new people to connect with God and His people at Emmanuel?

### **Forward Motion**

We have seen an increase in Sunday attendance during the summer. We want to build on that as we continue through the ministry year, helping more people walk

closely with God.

To effectively engage people new to the church, the leadership of Emmanuel has been studying, praying, and collecting stories in an effort to discern the best approach to our Sunday ministries. We carefully discussed your responses to the survey we distributed, and are very thankful for the way the vast majority responded with a willingness to do whatever might make for the most effective ministry. The leadership has therefore developed a strategy for moving forward.

We value hosting both a contemporary and traditional service in order to invite a wide variety of people into worship of the Living God. We want to maximize our opportunities to successfully invite others to a church service as a step toward getting closer to God.

We've discovered that the early start is a greater obstacle for new people who would come to a contemporary service than it is for new people who would come to a more traditional service. We believe, therefore, that a new Sunday morning service schedule will be more successful in engaging "un-churched" people into the family of God.

### **Sunday Mornings Are Important**

Considering our desire to grow in effectiveness in inviting others to the life of the church, the Ministry Council recently ap-

## New Year, New Schedule, Same Mission ~ continued

proved a plan to flip the times of the two services at Emmanuel. Beginning on Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, we plan to operate on the schedule outlined below.

9:30 – 10:30 Traditional Service in Sanctuary, Adult Education, Kidz Printz  
 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Fellowship time  
 11:00 – 12:00 Contemporary Service in Sanctuary, Adult Education, Bear’s Den (Children’s Church)

*Connecting*

For those of you already committed to attending Sundays at Emmanuel, this schedule does not ask you to change your commitment, only what happens at what time during that commitment. Our aim is to make our Sunday schedule as accessible as possible for as many as possible.

*Growing*

There will be some challenges and adjustments, but we want to try this for a season to determine if the time change will help us connect new people to the church, and also minister more effectively to the people who are already a part of our church. Based on your response to our survey, it appears that this schedule will maximize our church’s involvement in ministry and success in bringing others into God’s family.

*Serving*

### 2011: “Each one bring one.”

A key part of our strategy for 2011 is for those of us in the church to invest in relationships with family members, neighbors, co-workers and friends, who are not being nurtured in a church. We pray that this would lead us at some point to inviting them to a church gathering to give them an opportunity to learn more about God and meet with Him and His people.

We want to challenge each person or family to bring one person or family to a church service with them in 2011. Some of you are doing this already, but we all can begin praying about whom we will invite. Consider also how you can strengthen your relationship with them leading up to an invitation.

Please join us in praying for this vision of reaching more people for Jesus in 2011, and for wisdom and courage to do what we can to make that happen.

If you have questions about this change in schedule and our desire to connect with more new people, please contact the church office or any member of Ministry Council.

*Multiplying*

## Simple Thanks ~ October 17th



Sunday, October 17th is ‘simple thanks day’... an opportunity for you to invite a person or a family over to your place for a simple lunch. Soup and bread would work wonderfully. Maybe try inviting someone you don’t know too well!

Please consider making a donation toward food provision for others. Half of the simple thanks funds collected will help people locally and half will be sent internationally.

1. Invite someone for soup on Oct. 17th.
2. Consider donating.

## Missionary Hi-lights

It's exciting to hear about what God and His faithful servants are combining to do in our world. Sunday evening, September 26th, the opportunity was there as Isi & Tessa Masi and Julz & Naomi Malama of Island Breeze Ministries, as well as Debbie Krahn, shared their summer experiences.

Connecting

The two Island Breeze couples reported first. Their journey through Canada's northlands became very real as we were told their story with pictures, dramatization, song, dance, and personal testimonies. Over a one month period they visited three communities in Nunivak (Northern Quebec) and Cape Dorset in Nunavut. The Island Breeze teams use a combination of story, song and testimony to communicate, they felt this method was embraced by the Inuit and many doors were opened for the future.

Growing

They had been invited to partner with Roger Ambruster in facilitating 'the healing of the land' process. They claimed 2nd Chronicles 7:14, 'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and search my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and forgive their sin and will heal the land.' We heard how people took to heart these scriptures as the youth and elders reconciled, and as people repented and turned from the sins of their forefathers. God did mighty things in bringing healing. The raw emotion of Isi, Tessa, Julz and Naomi's presentation was sobering, yet hopeful. God is stirring up His church as He brings the people of the south and the far north together.

Serving

Debbie Krahn shared her experience of assessing and treating the sick in Malowi, Africa last July. She visited a number of villages, often using a hut as a clinic, other times potential patients gathered in the open air of the village center. Surrounded by adult villagers as well as many curious children she would make her assessment. Slide after slide had a story, and Debbie told us how conflicted her feelings had been during her trip. She was so happy to be able to help the Africans to some extent, but disturbed that some of their medical problems were actually caused by Aids meds that are not deemed fit for the western world.

Multiplying



Island Breeze Team Summer 2010



Traditional Dance

She found the children and their enthusiasm a blessing and her interpreter was very good. Another real highlight of the trip was her ability to interact and connect with the driver who took them from village to village.

Each year people from Emmanuel, as they see a need, or as God instills a passion in them, leave their comfort zones to serve. Many times quietly and without fanfare, they use their skills and passions and go as God directs.

We in the Missions Committee would love to hear 'What in YOUR world are YOU doing?'

## Small Groups ... Big Impact

### GOING DEEPER

'Small groups ... Big impact' took on a visible expression Sunday evening, Oct 3. Just over 100 participants, representing about 25% of our total small group numbers, gathered in Emmanuel's sanctuary for an 'evening of worship & community'. Named "Deeper", this is the first of three such planned events for this year where we can gather as a larger small group community to worship together and celebrate God's work in our midst.

#### Worship:

*Connecting*

The evening opened with a powerful hour of worship. The Worship Team pointed us to the source and foundation of our community ... God in His amazing love, the paradox of Jesus' glory revealed in the cross. Pastor Terry voiced his conviction that small groups provide a needed context for growth and transformation in the lives of its members. His prayer of 'commissioning' was a great encouragement and expression of hope for all of us in this upcoming small group season.

#### Stories:

*Growing*

A real source of encouragement is to hear what's been happening within the groups. **Henry (& Joanne) Penner** recounted the irresistible pull in their group over the summer break. Even though formal bible study was suspended, personal connections deepened, thanks to one member couple opening their back yard for frequent 'drop by' hotdog roasts. **Sylvia (& Vic) Peters** reported their group has 'adopted' a northern Manitoba summer Bible Camp, annually financing and assembling personal packets for the kids. Several from their group went the extra mile, expanding the invitation to others to join a work team to provide renovations to the main building. **Harv (& Tracy) Friesen** were recently commissioned by their former group to launch a brand new group. In the past three weeks, eight people have jumped on board with them. **Bill (& Betty) Martens** told of being welcomed into a group two years ago, all of whom did not know each other, and all but one couple were new to Emmanuel. They give major credit to their group in making this a church where they belong! Others mentioned various ways that their groups have been meaningful to them.



*Serving*

*Multiplying*



#### Coffee Fellowship:

Small groups then had a chance to move into the gym and connect with one another over coffee and dessert. Each group was encouraged to spend some time discussing their "next steps" in being "actively engaged in learning from God's word". After some group discussion and prayer time, most groups stayed around for some extra visiting, mingling, and eating.

Thank you all for your participation in this evening, and we look forward to our next "Deeper" evening together!

**"Why have small groups? So the church can once again become an irresistible Christian community where a person can: love and be loved, know and be known, serve and be served, celebrate and be celebrated."** (Rick Diefenderfer)

## Small Groups...Sharing & Planning "Next Steps"

*Connecting*



*Growing*



*Serving*



*Multiplying*



# Small Groups

# Big Impact!

## Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page

### FAMILY CHALLENGE 2010

**T**he big question is, are you up for it? Are you ready to do something as a family that could be both fun and challenging? Here is a chance for your family to win a cool prize, have fun doing it, and also learn a little bit more about each other. One awesome benefit is that you will not only have an opportunity to do something satisfying as a family, but you will also be able to make someone else happy. Listed below are 4 different challenges. For each challenge that is completed by your family you will receive 10 tickets to be put in a draw which will give you and your family a chance to win a great prize. The challenges you can take are the following:

*Connecting*

**1. Have a Family Night.** This evening would consist of having a meal together and then doing an activity of your choice. The qualifiers of this challenge are that it must be done with the whole family and excludes watching a movie.

***This activity earns you 10 tickets.***

**2. Read Mark 6: 30-43 together and answering the following questions as a family:**

- a) Why did Jesus feed the people?
- b) How would you describe the people after they ate the fish & bread?
- c) What can we learn from this passage about what God does for us?

*Growing*

***This activity earns you 10 tickets.***

**3. Memorize Luke 2: 51-52 and recite it together as a family to Pastor Rob or Pam Friesen.**

***This activity earns you 10 tickets.***

**4. As a family do something helpful for someone else.** This could consist of one or more of the following:

- a) Having a neighbour over for a meal at which all of your family members are a part of the preparation and the meal itself.
- b) As a family greet people on a Sunday morning as they come to church.
- c) Visit one of our seniors' homes as a family.
- d) Spend 2 hours as a family with one set of your kids' grandparent(s).
- e) Come to the church office and ask for a helping task that you can do as a family at the church.
- f) A different helping activity of your choice that involves the whole family and that lasts 2 hours or more.

*Serving*

***Each of the above serving activities, done as a whole family, earns you 10 tickets.***

*Multiplying*

Once you have completed an activity, please come and see Pastor Rob Reimer or Pam Friesen for your tickets, and please feel free to document your family fun with pics or video, we would love to have copies to include in the next Emmanuel Living. The draw will take place on Nov. 15th. Winners of one or four (4) \$50.00 gift cards can choose from the following establishments:

A Steinbach restaurant of your choice	Manitoba Children's Museum
The Steinbach Aquatic Center	Winnipeg Planetarium
Union Station Toys	Winnipeg Mint
Mini Golf Dome	

The due date to have everything handed in is Nov. 14th. Anything handed in after will not qualify for the draw.

How do you get started? Just call or email Pastor Rob or Pam to register your family.

Pastor Rob: 326-9865 rob.reimer@eefc.ca

Pam Friesen: 326-9632 pam.friesen@mts.net



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