

Emmanuel Living

volume 1, issue 7



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

Ready for a new season ...

By Terry Kaufman

5 months ago I wrote an article about spring cleaning. But like this year's spring cleaning, that article is probably a distant and forgotten memory for most of us. In that article I shared how my upcoming sabbatical was a bit like spring cleaning – an opportunity to step back, clean out some “stuff,” reorient myself, and prepare for another season of ministry at Emmanuel. Well, that “spring cleaning” opportunity has come and gone, and I would like to share with you a bit about what I did, what I learned, what I am excited about, and some of the things I am praying about.

What I did: For the three months of sabbatical leave that I was granted (by the graciousness of Emmanuel) I planned three key steps toward refreshment and preparation for a new season of ministry. First, I spent three weeks at a training institute in Maui. There I sat in classes with leaders from around the world who were being trained in evangelism and leadership. I met and visited with those same leaders around meals. I took long walks, sat by the pool, spent time in the library, and rested. This was refreshing for my soul and my body, cleared my head to be better able to hear, and was a great time of

simply slowing down.

The second step toward refreshment was to read, and I was able to work through about two dozen books, mostly related to church leadership and preaching. This is something I seldom have time for, and it was refreshing for my mind.

The third step was to visit some other churches in Canada and the U.S. to observe their ministries. This time was refreshing and invigorating for my ministry.

Interspersed within these steps was some physical rest and exercise, a bit of time for family, and some time to do a few projects around the

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Chicagoland: 2009 Sr High Mission

By Kent Martens

If you stood beside a man sleeping soundly under a bridge on the concrete and you had a sandwich in your hand, would you wake him up to give him the sandwich?

We did.

If you've been hauling around a six year old for twenty minutes and your back is sore, but they ask you for another piggy back ride, would you kneel again?



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Ready for a new season ... (continued)

home.

What I learned: I find myself still processing much of what I learned in my time of reading and listening and observing. I believe much of what I learned will work itself out in ministry in the future. Nevertheless, allow me to share just a few snippets that captured my thoughts during this time.

- I was reminded, and convicted, of the call the church has to evangelism.
- I was reminded that *shepherds do not give birth to sheep, sheep do!*
- I was reminded that while *we often get and forget, God gives and forgives.*
- I was reminded that when *God challenges God provides.*
- I learned that space is never empty, it always embodies a meaning (this has implications for our facilities).
- I learned that I should work even harder in my preparation for the handling of God's Word for His people. (I am really excited about this and spent significant time planning how to do this.)
- I learned that *God's plan for us is not retirement, but Sabbath.*
- I learned that people today are generally willing to **belong** to a church community before they choose to **believe** and **become** a growing disciple. This means that we must be very intentional about providing a good place for them to **belong**, in order to help them move to **believing** and **becoming**.
- I was reminded that Emmanuel means "God with us," not "God with me." It is a statement about God's involvement with His people together, not as individuals.
- I learned again **how fortunate I am to serve at Emmanuel!**

What I am excited about:

- God confirmed in my heart the direction that we are going at Emmanuel. This includes especially our plans for a 3rd service and for facilities expansion as missional steps to better accomplish what God has called us to do and be. I

believe our desire to nurture and equip people to live godly lives in their world is the right mandate, and our desire to accomplish that for a broad spectrum of people is a great reflection of God's desire for His church.

- I believe that **God will grow us as a church** as we preach, teach, and live out His Word!
- It is important that we create effective environments for people to "hear again" the truth from the Word of God and comfortable environments for changing lives (including yours).
- We are called to live in the light of eternity – we need to think and talk about that.
- I am especially excited ...

...about the wonderful people that God has brought into Emmanuel – our leadership, our ministry staff, our many ministers, and the church family at large.

...that the Word of God is our foundation and core!

... for us to increase our attention to evangelism.

...to have God work through us in the journey of Facilities Expansion. I believe that this will be a time when we can grow together as a church and have a testimony to our community as we envision better ministering to them.

...about our 9:15 start time for our first service. I know this will be a difficult adjustment, but I am eager for the extra ministry this allows for.

... for us to find new ways to practically take the gospel to the world, in our community and beyond.

What drives me to pray:

While I am very excited about what God has for Emmanuel in the days ahead, thrilled to be a part of that, and refreshed for this next chapter, you also need to know that I still covet your prayers and your partnership in this work. Much of what I believe about Emmanuel I hold with an open hand, for it is God's church working through His people. Thus we together must continue to pray for God's leading

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Connecting

Growing

Serving

Multiplying

A Sabbatical Preview

By Dave Dickey

The rumor is true. Pastor Dave IS soon departing for his 3 month sabbatical (September 21 to December 21), after five years (and four months) with Emmanuel. This is my first sabbatical experience since beginning as a pastor in 1980. Thank you, Emmanuel, for this wonderful privilege!

Let me fill you in on the main features of how I plan on using that time, a plan approved by the Pastoral Relations Committee and Ministry Council.

Sept 21 - 30 (Ottawa) Holiday which includes attending a relatives wedding.

Oct 1 - Nov 8 (Waterloo) Inter-

acting with leaders from 4 different churches in the area, observing ministries in action as well as 'behind the scenes'. My brother-in-law has connected me with these church leaders through his work with the Navigator Ministry.

Nov 9 - Dec 21 (Steinbach) Summation & application - processing / consolidating lessons & projecting

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Ready for a new season ... (continued)

Connecting

in our ministry. I also realize that we will make some mistakes as we move forward. We will try some things that will not work. We will likely have to eliminate some activities in order to focus and be effective in the future. And, I know, that I carry before God a tremendous responsibility, together with our church leaders, for the nurture of this family. All of these thoughts, and more, are why we are called at Emmanuel to "prayerfully nurture and send disciplined believers." So please continue to pray with me through these things.

Overall, my sabbatical was a gracious gift that helped me to focus my

thoughts on this next chapter of expanding outward - into our community through service, into our community and world with the gospel, and in our facilities with effective environments for both spiritual formation and spiritual fellowship. There is much more that I could share with you about what this spring cleaning did for me, and what I found as I worked. But this gives you quick picture from my desk for this new season. This sabbatical clearly helped to prepare me - heart, mind, and body - for another season of ministry. I believe that sabbaticals are a wonderful investment in the future ministry of the church. Thanks for investing! These

are exciting times for Emmanuel, and I am thrilled to be able to partner with you in them.

Pastor Terry

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.



Growing

Chicagoland: 2009 Sr High Mission (continued)

Serving

We did.

If you sat at a table at a soup kitchen with a man who said there was no God, would you patiently and nervously share your belief in a Creator God who loves everyone personally?

We did.

I say these things not to brag, but to give a glimpse of some of the things we did this summer. It's hard to find the words to tell you, our supportive, sending church family, what we saw, felt, thought and did during our mission adventure in Chicago this summer. As a youth pastor, I want my church to know that AM proud of the way our team displayed Christ-like attitudes and actions throughout our trip. Team, thanks again for your part in a great mission.

Multiplying

The team of 18 students and five adults drove South in two 12-seat vans and a trailer on July 11th. We spent a week with the Center for Student Missions in Chicago, a ministry focused on hosting teams in active kingdom work in the city. We had two hosts that went to all our sites with us. The first night we went on a prayer tour, driving through various parts of the city praying quietly as we observed the diversity and challenges in Chicago. Our group was split in two for most parts of the day, serving in similar types of ministries. We worked at day school programs and day-cares with kids, served in soup kitchens, helped in shelters and distributed food and kindness on the streets to people who needed it. We enjoyed discussing our experiences at the end of each day, sharing with each other who we me, what we felt and did and how we saw God in our day. Our aim as a team was to display the fruit of the spirit to each other and everyone God brought us in contact with. We enjoyed a recreation day after the week and on

our way back we planned a relaxed final team meeting to review our experiences, sharing God's work in our lives and thinking about what God might be wanting to do in our lives next as a result of our trip. We also participated in communion together and distributed our traditional "awards" to all fantastic team members.

My prayer is that the experience of the Chicago mission will be a springboard in our lives for ongoing sacrificial service of real people in need, in the name of Christ. This is already happening as some from our team went on to work at camps, the soup kitchen in town and in other big and small ways. I believe there will be ongoing projects that will be springing up among our youth this fall as we want to expand on our serving response to God's call, being "Jesus with skin on" to people around us.

Thanks to all who supported us in prayer, kind words and financially. I am grateful to be part of a church family that sends high school youth to do important work in God's kingdom! Yes!!! We look forward to sharing more about what God showed us in Chicagoland.

Do you want to have a personally owned, active faith?

We do.

Pastor Kent



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.

A Sabbatical Preview *(continued)*

implications. Also incorporate a 10 day window of family connection time & additional ministry observation (Red Deer; Surrey; Victoria)

A special bonus will be having Sharon & Caleb accompany me to Waterloo. (Sharon & Caleb will be picking up home-schooling again for this year.) Home base will be a basement suite at Sharon's sister's home.

Connecting

I'd appreciate your prayers for insights, understanding, and making actual adjustments ministry-wise and personally. I have some guiding questions in mind.

Regarding ministries:

1. Small Groups: *How best to proceed as we build a leadership community ... to support one another as we together implement the vision for small group ministry.*
2. Pastoral Care: *How can Stephen Ministry best complement other ongoing aspects of pastoral care? What challenges to anticipate and what opportunities to maximize, picturing Stephen Ministry at year 5 or 7?*
3. Adult Education: *What are guiding principles and main components for incorporating a spiritual formation perspective into all our Adult Ministries?*

Growing

I also have some goals regarding personal growth: *spiritually*, my inner life with the Lord, via devotional reading and systematic Bible study; *professionally*, working smarter (*How I*

Serving

Multiplied

work, not just *what's* my work.)

In my absence, I'm grateful to other pastors and church leaders for keeping an eye on areas of my ministry responsibility.

* **Pastoral Care**: Pastor Rob & Adult Ministry Assistant, Helen Hildebrandt.

* **Stephen Ministry**: Stephen Leader Team members, Eleanor Gingerich & Joyce Goertzen.

* **Small Group Ministry**: Adult Ministry Assistant, Myra Gerbrandt

* **Adult Education**: Pastor Rob

See you near the end of December!

Pastor Dave 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.



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