

# Emmanuel Living

volume 2, 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:

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## Continuing the Adventure

By Kent Martens

**D**o you know how the church was started?

We have, in the book of Acts, an overview of the earliest moments of the church. We are looking forward to investigating these early days of the church this fall in our Sunday morning sermon series. I think we'll find a lot there to challenge us in our journey as the story of Jesus' followers continues.

I wonder what it would have been like to be there in those early days. Amazing new things were happening, people were committing their lives to the risen Lord, Jesus, and His followers were being persecuted for their allegiance to Him. There must have been a lot of excitement, wonder, and fear.

Check out ACTS 29. [Actually, there's no such chapter in the Bible]. That's what writers call the "attention-grabbing statement." See, it's arresting because the phrase contains an error. There are

only 28 chapters in the book of Acts! "Acts 29" is another way of saying that the church that Jesus launched and grew in the book of Acts is continuing today. Don't worry. I'm not suggesting we should add to the Bible! I think it is an exciting idea, however, that we are invited to continue the adventure that Jesus began so many years ago.

The church is God's plan for the world. His plan is a vital mission. WE are part of that plan. YOU are a part of this WE. As we begin the fall as a continuation of the church begun in ACTS, let's enjoy making some history together.

**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, Jaden, and Kelsey.



## MOPS ~ Mothers of preschoolers

### About MOPS International

Founded in 1973, Denver-based MOPS International is a non-profit organization that creates communities and resources to help make “better moms who make a better world.” A MOPS group is a place where moms can come—just as they are—to build friendships, receive mothering support, practical help and spiritual hope.

*Connecting*

MOPS International serves more than 100,000 mothers of preschoolers from all walks of life. The non-profit organization exists to encourage, equip and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Growing*

### About MOPS at Emmanuel

MOPS stands for Mothers Of Preschoolers, a program designed to nurture mothers with children from infancy through kindergarten. MOPS recognizes that the years from infancy to kindergarten are foundational in a mother-child relationship and are filled with unique needs. MOPS groups meet in churches throughout the United States, Canada, and 19 other countries. The women are of many ages and backgrounds, but share the same desire – to be the best moms they can be! MOPS International exists to encourage, equip, and develop every mother of preschoolers to realize her potential as a woman, mother and leader in the name of Jesus Christ. That said, MOPS also recognizes the need moms have no matter what age their kids are, and so they have begun a MOPS Next program. It follows the same curriculum and therefore we would like to extend a welcome to all moms, with kids of all ages.

*Serving*

*Multiplying*

We all know that mothering is HARD work. It is both challenging and rewarding, but it can also be very draining. Life is filled with seasons of change and mothering is no different. At MOPS, you will find lots of other women who are facing the same challenges

that you face. Get ready to make lots of new friends, develop your talents, and expand your horizons. We’ve got a lot of exciting topics planned for discussion that will help each of us become better moms and better leaders in our churches and communities. We hope that you’ll come to realize that each of us has been uniquely chosen to be the mother of our children, and what we are doing truly does make a difference.

Each meeting will include great food, conversation, book discussion, a guest speaker or a craft. We also have invited experienced moms to come alongside this journey with us, we call them our mentor moms. This year our theme is **Momology: The Art and Science of Mothering**. Registration for MOPS is Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> (watch the bulletin for more details).

This program would not be successful without a bit of help from our church family. A crucial part of the program is that we provide safe and loving childcare so that the moms that participate can have a bit of a break every other Tuesday morning. We always need help in this area of our ministry so we would love to have your loving arms and words to encourage the kids of these families and show them just a small part of Jesus love for them. We invite many moms from the community who either do not have family close by or do not know Jesus in a personal way. MOPS allows these moms to come into our church and feel loved and accepted all the while their children are being loved in our nursery.

If anyone has any questions about how they can help or join MOPS, please give Natasha Friesen a call at 320-1022.

**Nathan and Natasha Friesen** have been attending Emmanuel for about 4 years, and have 3 boys, Troy, Ethan, and Dean.



## Friday Night Out ~ Parenting Focus

*Connecting*

This year's first **FNO** is being hosted by the Outreach Team and features a parenting seminar designed to better equip parents with important skills for today's parenting challenges. While the information will be helpful for every parent, we are specifically inviting unchurched and non-Christian parents.

There are a limited number of seats available for our own church family, and the entrance fee for you is to bring an unchurched

parent or parents to the event. So invite your unchurched and non-Christian friends!

Join us on October 15th & 22nd at 7:00 pm here at Emmanuel and enjoy 2 fun evenings that include desserts, cappuccinos & lattes. Childcare will be provided.

*Growing*

## Missionary Hi-lights

*Serving*

The Missions Committee has been excited to see so many people involved in Summer and Short Term Ministries this year - around 50 plus people that we know of, have been involved in some way. We look forward to hearing from them as to how God has been at work in their lives and thru their various ministries this year. We will be hosting a lunch for all the summer and short term workers of this past year. This will be held on Sunday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at noon, so watch for invitations and announcements in that regard.

We have chosen a theme for this year's Missions Sundays and it is: "What in Your World are You Doing?". We look forward to hearing stories of God's work in people's lives as they impact their world for Christ. We have four Missions Sundays planned - October 17, February 6, April 3 and June 12<sup>th</sup>.

*Multiplying*

For those of you who are looking ahead to being involved in some short term ministry this winter, we do have funds available for financial support. Application forms are available at the info center or contact our Short Term Ministries Coordinators: Wes Reimer ([wes\\_reimer@centum.ca](mailto:wes_reimer@centum.ca)) or Terry Wiebe ([tawiebe@mts.net](mailto:tawiebe@mts.net)). Missions Committee would love to know if you will be involved in some way so we can encourage you and pray for you.

Missions Committee would also encourage you to become involved in the lives and ministries of our long term missionaries that we support as a church. They would all be encouraged to know that we are praying for them and are interested in their lives and ministries. You will find their brief profiles in the Missions Display in the foyer, as well as their email and mailing addresses in the church directory. If you would like to receive their regular correspondence by email, please contact the church office and those could be forwarded to you as well.

God is at work in the world and we are excited to participate in what God is doing.

**What in YOUR world are YOU doing?**

## Youth ~ Jr & Sr High & Young Adults

### Young Adults



The "PLAN!" An Old Testament Bible reading plan is now available that if completed will take you through the entire Old Testament before next summer! Big challenge? Yes! Along the way, we will be hosting gatherings on Tuesday nights to discuss the Bible reading themes and to hang out together, connecting with friends. You are welcome to join in any time even if you haven't completed that weeks' reading. The PLAN is just a guide. It's meant to create a path to help us do what we want to: get into the Bible for ourselves and put it into practice. It begins September 1st and is now available at the Info Centre or from Diane Reimer [deereimer@hotmail.com].

Watch for details about a Sunday morning young adult class and more lunches coming soon!



*Connecting*

*Growing*

*Serving*

### Youth Ministry

This fall, our youth ministries will continue to invite, challenge and encourage students to pursue a personally owned, active faith in Jesus. We are excited to create environments for you to explore and grow in your faith. We hope you will jump in with both feet!

To start things off this fall, we are having an OPEN HOUSE! On Wednesday, September 8th [6:30-7:30pm] all Junior High and Senior High students and parents are invited to our beloved Shack Outback for free registration and information about the coming youth ministry season. We'll have free snacks, get your contact info and introduce our theme. If you can't make it, please pick up or request a registration form and return it to the office.



Sunday School kicks off September 12th. Our Junior High Kickoff is Monday, September 13th and our first Senior High event is our "Kickoff + One Day Retreat = Fall Overnighter" on September 17,18. Oh yeah! Save the dates!

Please contact the church office if you have any questions. [kent.martens@eefc.ca](mailto:kent.martens@eefc.ca) or [angela.at.eefc@gmail.com](mailto:angela.at.eefc@gmail.com).

*Multiplying*

## Children's Ministry ~ Rainbow Zone, Awana, Kidz Printz, Bears Den & Library

Connecting

I was preparing for the start up of Children's Ministries coming up in a few weeks, and I was doing some number crunching. I was quite surprised with the results. With the about 600 children and 200 or so workers that work with these kids, there are about 800 ministry opportunities surrounding kids that take place in our church in CM on a weekly basis. God has given us these regular moments with His kids so that they can learn about both receiving and sharing His love. I then remembered that our role is to be available and faithful to Him, and that it is up to Him to use us to make a difference in His kids lives. God is good!!

Growing

Now for the details. In a few weeks, all of our Children's Ministries will be up and running. Some of them, like Bears Den, Library and Rainbow Zone, have been happening on a smaller scale all through the summer. The rest will join the ranks on the following dates.

Serving

**Awana:**

- Registration - Sept. 22
- Training & Orientation - Sept. 8 & 15

**Kidz Printz:**

- Orientation - Sept. 12
- Meet the Teacher - Sept. 19
- First Learning Sunday Sept. 26

Multiplying

Changes for this year are not many, and most of them are minor. The biggest change is that **all** of our KP curriculum now comes from the *Re:Think Group* in Atlanta Georgia, as the preschoolers have now subscribed to their *First Look* preschool curriculum. We are very excited about this as we have grown to really appreciate the philosophy and approach of this curriculum provider.

Another change is that KP will be putting together an Easter program this year in place of our usual Christmas program. This will hopefully help the students to better understand how important Easter is to our faith.

We value your prayers as we enter a new year of ministering to our children. God has plans for this year and we all want to be part of them.

**Pastor Rob Reimer** is the husband of Sylvia, father to Mandy & Jessica and has been the Children's Ministries Pastor at Emmanuel since September 2000.



## Adult Ministry ~ Stephen Ministry, Small Groups & Adult Sunday School

### Stephen Ministry

An arm of Emmanuel's pastoral care ministry, Stephen Ministry resumes regular semi-monthly 'peer supervision' September 9th.

Throughout the summer 11 of our 13 Stephen Ministers continued to meet on a scaled back schedule with their 'care-receivers' (the men & women whom they are individually encouraging & supporting). Our Stephen Leader Team is encouraged by the growing confidence Emmanuel members are placing in this ministry. One 'confidence indicator' is individuals taking initiative, asking to have a Stephen Minister. Such responsiveness has caught up with our current capacity; two women have had to be placed on our 'waiting list'. This need for more Stephen Ministers solidified the Leader Team's resolve to offer what will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> training session. Last week a decision was made to schedule this 50 hour course starting January 2011. If you or someone you know might be interested, talk to any of our Stephen Ministers or Stephen Leaders.



2010 Commissioned Stephen Ministers



2009 Commissioned Stephen Ministers

Connecting

Growing

### Small Group Loop

Hey everyone! Whether you are in small groups already or considering joining, here are a few things to keep your eyes open for this fall:

#### **Small Group Kick-off: Sunday, Oct. 3:**

A night for your small group to come together to connect through praise and worship and enjoy fellowshiping over coffee and treats.

#### **Group Link: late September:**

A dessert night designed for anyone interested or curious about small groups. Come and meet some new people, and find out more about small groups at Emmanuel.

#### **Group Link-Extended: October(ish):**

A 5-7 week trial group designed to get your feet wet, connect with one another and catch a glimpse of a small group experience.



#### **THE CHALLENGE: GO DEEPER**

This year our challenge in small groups and as individuals will be to take an intentional look at where we are spiritually and relationally and then take the next steps to go deeper in our relationships with God and each other. Looking forward to a great year together! For more information contact Myra at: 326-7735 or [myra.gerbrandt@eefc.ca](mailto:myra.gerbrandt@eefc.ca).

Serving

Multiplying

### Adult Education:

Watch for details regarding this fall's line-up of Sunday morning courses, which will start Sept 19<sup>th</sup>. These will include:

- \* "Drug Proofing Your Kids", taught by Jim Harms, director of Steinbach's Youth For Christ & Back Stage. For parents of pre-teens and teens.
- \* "Don't Stop Believing", taught by Al Hiebert. For those wanting to deepen both an active faith (connected to real life and real people) AND a grounded faith (connected to clear thinking about God's Word).
- \* "Praying – from Duty to Delight", taught by Sue Nichols. For those anywhere along the spectrum of novice to 'seasoned saint'. Guided discussion of J.I. Packer's book by that name.

## Prayer Ministry

In Exodus 17 we are given a picture of a type of prayer: Exodus 17:10-13: "So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. <sup>12</sup> When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword."

Connecting

Just as Aaron and Hur physically held up Moses' hands to help win the battle so we can hold each other up in prayer to help win battles. Our battles come in many different forms. Sometimes it surprises by how we have to fight. Ephesians 6:12 reminds us that, "our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." And it may surprise you how many battles are being waged. Our prayers warriors are often very busy.

Growing

At Emmanuel we want to be a church that prays for each other. Sunday mornings, opportunity is given for people to come forward to have prayer. Also on Sunday mornings there are people praying during the services for all who are involved in ministry that Sunday, as well as those who have come to worship and be nurtured. We have prayer chains that take requests and intercede for each individual request. Additionally, we have teams of people who have signed up to pray for a pastor. They receive e-mails with specific prayer requests to guide them in those prayers.

Serving

The prayer ministry of Emmanuel is not "up front" and in the spot light, but rather an absolutely essential ministry of support that operates quietly in the background. We are here to "hold up" one another through the power of prayer, and we are always looking to grow our "prayer team." If you are interested in getting involved in our prayer ministry in any way, please contact Peggy Kaufman at: [tkaufman@mts.net](mailto:tkaufman@mts.net) or at 320-9612.

## Reflections

**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 a poem written by one of our Senior High Youth, thanks so much for sharing your poetry with us!

Multiplying

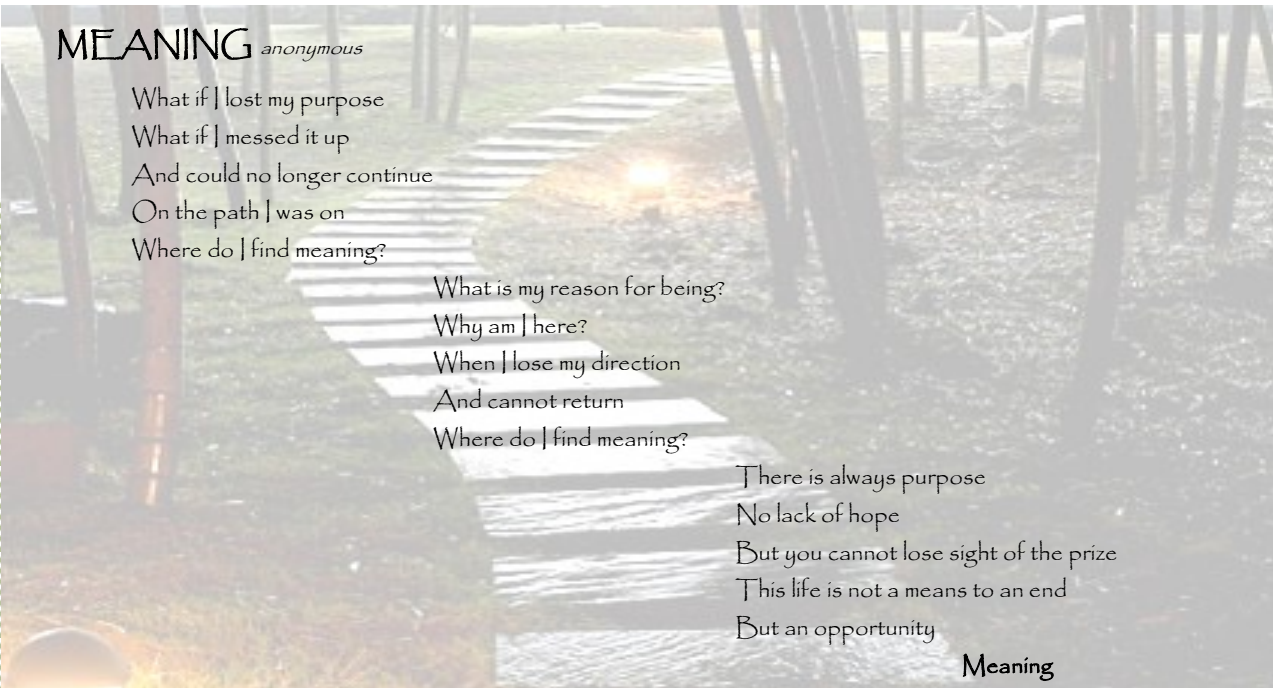
### MEANING anonymous

What if I lost my purpose  
 What if I messed it up  
 And could no longer continue  
 On the path I was on  
 Where do I find meaning?

What is my reason for being?  
 Why am I here?  
 When I lose my direction  
 And cannot return  
 Where do I find meaning?

There is always purpose  
 No lack of hope  
 But you cannot lose sight of the prize  
 This life is not a means to an end  
 But an opportunity

Meaning



## Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page



Connecting

### Another Way to Teach Kids Honor

Growing

One of the ways that parents can teach honor to children is to include it in the instruction process. You might say, "I'd like you to obey me by setting the table, then I want you to think of something extra to do to surprise me. That's showing honor. You choose; it's up to you. Report to me when you're done and I'll check your work."

Surprising parents delights them and focuses on something they want or need. Instructing children to surprise you by doing something extra teaches them to think about your needs and desires not just getting away with the bare minimum. When your child does an extra task, it's like giving you a gift. Receive the gift with delight. This can be a fun way to teach honor.

Serving

Honor involves doing more than what's expected. All family members need to learn honor and children can learn it when parents teach it. So look for ways to teach kids to do more than what's expected in daily life. It will not only make family life better now but it will also help kids be more successful as they get older.

This parenting tip comes from the book, [Say Goodbye to Whining, Complaining, and Bad Attitudes In You and Your Kids](#) by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.

Multiplying

### Prayer Corner

\* Your children's friends could have a profound impact your child's faith journey, so pray that they will know and love Jesus.



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