

# Emmanuel *Living*



## *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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## Our Call to Mission

### *An overview of Catch the Vision Sunday*

"Emmanuel is a wonderful church with a great foundation and history." These words spoken by Pastor Terry at our Catch the Vision Sunday on May 29<sup>th</sup> were a great encouragement to all in attendance. He also shared with us the vision behind *Believing, Belonging, Building*, which essentially began with our first mission statement, "to be mission minded and win lost souls for Christ". He spoke of how a big part of Emmanuel's history has been the valuing and teaching of God's Word as our guide for life and faith, and how our firm belief in the need for us to learn from God's Word, and for that Word to impact more and more people in their lives, has been part of a missional heart that is our history. **Believing is key to our vision and mission.**

Understanding that **community** is a part of God's call upon us at Emmanuel is still a truth we believe in, and therefore a part of our vision. Church without relationship is completely foreign to God and His word, and our study in Acts has shown us that the priority of community, relationships, caring for one another, and meeting together is essential." **Belonging is key to our vision and mission.**

God is calling us to more than just believing and belonging, He is calling us to build His Kingdom. The Bible tells us that Jesus will build his church. It does not say maintain; it says build. Eph. 4 tells us that "the Body of Christ is to grow and build itself up in love, as each part does its work." In our study of God's Word we learn that the church is God's chosen instrument for the spread of the gospel. The church is God's place for believers to grow, to learn, to work, to worship, to give, and to serve. **Building is key to our vision and mission.**

So believing, belonging, and building - rightly understood - are keys for our call to mission.

With this mission in mind, priorities of church life and finances were discussed, thoughts and concerns were shared, and in the end the membership returned a vote 89% in favour of maintaining, modifying, and expanding our facility.

We are encouraged to imagine our facility as a tool in God's hands and as an investment in the future of Emmanuel as we are called to make disciples who connect, grow, serve, and multiply.

Connecting

Growing

Serving

Multiplying

## Reflections ~ encouraging each other by sharing how God is working in our lives

This month we're excited to feature an interview with a Stephen Ministry Care Receiver. On June 5, 2011 Emmanuel commissioned 5 new Stephen Ministers, and this brings to eighteen the number of active Emmanuel Stephen Ministers presently working in our congregation and community.

Could you or someone you know who's going through a tough time benefit from the support and encouragement of a Stephen Minister? To find out what it's like to be linked with a Stephen Minister, *Emmanuel Living* interviewed someone matched with a Stephen Minister this last year.

### Admitting My Need

**Emmanuel Living (EL):** For how long did you have a Stephen Minister (SM)?

**Care Receiver (CR):** For about eighteen months.

**EL:** How was Stephen Ministry first recommended to you personally?

**CR:** A friend who was taking the training and knew about my situation recommended I ask for a Stephen Minister (SM) for myself.

**EL:** What was most challenging about your decision to request a SM?

**CR:** I would say admitting my need to myself! ... that I could no longer cope alone. Also to express that need to another person.

**EL:** Emmanuel has a number of SMs. How did you choose one?

**CR:** I expressed my need to a Stephen Leader and they matched me up with a great Stephen Minister.

### Getting Acquainted

**EL:** What stands out to you about your first meeting with your SM?

**CR:** She was 'real' ... sincere and genuine.

**EL:** Did it take long to feel comfortable together?

**CR:** Not really! I felt at home very quickly, probably because my SM was so real in how she related to me.

### Some practicalities

**EL:** Trust is a key factor in any open relationship. How did trust develop between you & your SM?

**CR:** Over time, certainly. But her kind, caring nature put me at ease. I opened up a little at a time ... I didn't feel pushed by her. And she didn't react or reject me as she learned more about me. She accepted me for who I was, situation and all.

**EL:** How did you spend your hour together each week?

**CR:** We'd meet where we could talk privately, uninterrupted. We both enjoy walking, so we'd often spend our hour outside in the fresh air. She'd usually ask how my week had been and we'd go from there. Or we'd pick up where we'd left off the time before. Sometimes my SM & I would discuss changes I might try in how I was handling my situation, so the next week we'd talk about how that 'experiment' had gone.

### Benefits

**EL:** What kind of help did you receive through your SM relationship?

**CR:** The biggest benefit I see was an increase in my confidence and my courage to tackle my situation and try new responses. Many of them worked! With my SM's encouragement I gained personal strength to move forward.

### Closure

**EL:** How did you conclude your formal SM relationship? Was closure difficult?

**CR:** Saying 'good-bye' is always difficult! However, we agreed together to gradually taper off our times together ... for a while meeting every couple of weeks, then a little longer between times. I found I was able to maintain the good ground I'd gained. My SM made closure easier, too, as we talked about shifting our formal relationship to a casual friendship. So we still keep in touch periodically.

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Connecting

## Reflections ~ *continued*

**EL:** What encouragement would you offer to others wondering about having a SM?

**CR:** Go for it! I definitely recommend this kind of committed caring support. Words can't describe how helpful it was to have a godly person accepting and understanding me. It might be hard at first to admit your need to another person. But when you find real help handling your situation, you'll wonder why you went on for so long, struggling on your own! You might be surprised to also discover you grow in respect for yourself. A SM will help you discover your own solutions ... and that kind of life success builds healthy self-respect and confidence!

For more information on how to be linked with a Stephen Minister, please contact one of Emmanuel's Stephen Leader Team: Joyce Goertzen (326-9172), Eleanor Gingerich (346-0578) or Pastor Dave Dickey (326-9865).



Growing

## Missionary Hi-lights

### Summer Ministries

The Missions Committee would like to encourage you to pray for these people as they give of their time to serve God in various places this summer. Pray that their relationship with God will grow, that they will learn to trust God fully and that as they form relationships with those they are ministering to, they will truly demonstrate the love of God and that many will come to know the Lord as a result of their ministry.

#### Individuals serving this summer:

- Levina Reimer - Child Evangelism Fellowship 5 Day Clubs
- Jenna Bateman - Roseau River Bible Camp
- Stephan Peters - Roseau River Bible Camp
- Alison Pauls - Red Rock Bible Camp
- Carli Penner - Red Rock Bible Camp
- Emily Dirks - Red Rock Bible Camp
- Sarah Pries - Red Rock Bible Camp
- Stefan Dirks - Red Rock Bible Camp
- Luke Thiessen - From The Top Arts Camp in Winnipeg

#### Chicago Team July 9th - 18th:

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| • Pastor Kent Martens | • Elizabeth Grauer |
| • Ang & Brendan Plett | • Janelle Heier    |
| • Ira & Kali Dyck     | • Jessica Friesen  |
| • Janna Penner        | • Jori Schalla     |
| • Brooke Friesen      | • Laurel Rempel    |
| • Caleb Dickey        | • Lauren Penner    |
| • Caleb Doerksen      | • Lucas Pappel     |
| • Carlee Hildebrandt  | • Mitchell Martens |
| • Chelsey Lehman      | • Nick Friesen     |
| • Colin Thiessen      | • Sarah Pries      |
| • Dana Doerksen       | • Taylor Martens   |

Serving

Multiplying

## Children's Ministries ~ Partnering Page

Connecting

I know that many of you have come to realize that this "Back Page" is for families. It is filled with tips and encouragement as you navigate this path called parenting. I don't know about you, but parenting can sometimes be overwhelming and the doubts creep in, "How am I doing? Are my kids getting it? Is there anything else I can do or provide for my kids to ensure that they understand that Christianity isn't rules and regulations, but a relationship with Jesus Christ that reaches into every area of life?"

Growing

In Deuteronomy, God is giving the Israelites the "Second Law", giving them the commandments again. In chapter 6 verses 6 to 8 he says, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Serving

That sounds like a lot but basically what God is saying through Moses is let the Word of God be a part of everything that you do. Whether that is on the way to soccer or hockey, at home in the morning at breakfast, at night before bed and every time in between, take some time to talk with your children. Explain to your children why we do things, don't just tell them, and give them the biblical basis.

Multiplying

It takes a lot to teach our children how to make decisions based on what the Bible says, and at Emmanuel we are happy to come alongside and help you as you undertake this awesome responsibility. We are very thankful for the men and women who work in the various Children's Minis-

tries departments. These men and women enjoy spending time with the children and teaching them what the Bible says about life.

As we have finished up with this season, we are busy looking ahead to the fall and the needs that the Children's Ministry areas have. Here is a quick look at some needs that we have.

### **Kids Printz – Sunday Morning from 9:30-1030**

Age 3: Dept. Coordinator and 2 teachers

Ages 4&5: Co-dept. Coordinator & 6 teachers

Grades 1&2: 5 teachers

Grades 3&4: 4 teachers – one half-time

Grade 5&6: Dept. Coordinator & 4 teachers – one half-time

Junior High: Dept. Coordinator & 5 teachers

### **Awana – Wednesday Evenings from 7 - 8:30**

Cubbies (3&4 year olds): 1 Leader

Sparks (K – Gr.2): Director and 5 Leaders

T&T Girls (Gr. 3-6): 3 Leaders

T&T Boys (Gr. 3-6): 4 Leaders

**Rainbow Zone (Nursery)** various workers for 9:30-10:30 or 11:00-12:00

**Bearz Den (Children's Church):** Coordinator & 3 Couples on a rotating basis

**Library:** workers to work on a rotating basis.

Please contact me if you have any interest in any of these ministries. We want to continue to come alongside the families of Emmanuel in the best way possible.

**Pam Friesen** is our Children's Ministry Assistant here at Emmanuel. She's married to Len, and they have 3 kids: Nathaniel, Colton, & Rebecca.



Believing ❖ Belonging ❖ Building

