



2010 Next Generation Ministries Report ***Ben McGillivray***

Wow, time again to review another year. What a great opportunity it is to be able to report on the many blessings the Lord has taken us through this year.

Personally:

It has been an amazing year for Teresa and I as we moved into a new season here at Emmanuel. We started the year wondering if we would continue on here at Emmanuel with the plans of the Koch's return and discussions of what that would look like, role changes and transitions. Praise that Lord, we were able to continue on as part of the team. As Teresa and I sifted through our role here at Emmanuel, we were also preparing for huge change in our own family dynamic as we were expecting our first child. And, yes, August 25th 2010 Cole Benjamin, our little bundle of joy, was born, and what a blessing he is. There have been lots of adjustments, but Teresa and I have loved every minute of it and are pumped to see what God has for us all in the future.

Route 456: Winter / Spring 2010

We had an awesome year in 2010 for Route 456. We had some early leadership transition as volunteers' priorities were changing. We lost some amazing people, but also gained some new amazing volunteers. We were really short in the area of bus drivers and it became a week to week challenge securing who would drive our busses to pick up all our kids. In the midst of all this, ministry was going well and we were reaching out to an increasing group of kids as the months went on. I remember one night in Peachland doing a very clear call for salvation and had seven kids raise their hands to receive Jesus. God is good. In March 2010, Emmanuel sent nearly thirty volunteers to help with Spark Kelowna, a preteen conference. Spark was a successful event, and some of our kids had a great weekend. We continued to have a great time leading up to summer. One highlight was our Energyplex and pizza party just before we broke for the summer, as we hit nearly 100 kids. The kids had a blast and also had a chance to hear Jason Ballard from Campus Fire, a phenomenal preteen speaker. It was around this time that Jesse Skarra joined me as my summer intern. We had a blast as Route 456 ended for the summer and we began to prepare for a summer of Kids Clubs.

Kids Clubs and Camps: Summer 2010

Kids Clubs were awesome in 2010; we did a total of 8 clubs. Jessie and I and a team of six or seven teens hit backyards all across West Kelowna and Peachland, teaching kids about what it looks like to be Heros for Jesus, and we had a blast doing it. Snacks, crafts, water guns and pool parties. What a privilege it was to serve our community and spread the love of Jesus at the same time.

I also had the privilege to be the main speaker at the YWAM Hockey Camp that was here in West Kelowna this summer. What an amazing time that was, connecting with so many kids from so many situations all, coming together to play hockey and learn about Jesus. It was nice to put on the old skates again too!

Route 456: Fall 2010

We kicked off the fall in our new gym and it really was and has continued to be such an asset. It is so incredibly useful to have such a large playing field always at hand especially when we have so many excited kids ready to burn some energy. After kick-off our numbers jumped up quickly, and by September we were back up into the 90-100 range making our new gym seem small. It was around this time that Don LeBlanc stepped up to really take up the slack in the bus ministry. We also added a few more adult leaders, which made it a great fall. In January we had implemented a new discipline structure, and by the fall we were really seeing the effects of it. By having a discipline structure in place we were able to challenge the students in their decision making. It really helped us to get to know the kids better. A highlight of the fall/winter is always that it is dark by 7 pm, so we can play flashlight tag. I don't get why they love it so much, but they do, and it drives me and my leaders crazy, but, man, they sure do bring their friends when it's flashlight tag.

Route 456: Winter 2011 New Business

A few new things from 2011 to report on would be the change in our pre-teen conference previously known as Spark. This year we have been given sectional control over this event, which means that youth pastors of the Okanagan were to plan and run the event. So that's just what we did. On Saturday, February 5th we ran our first *Collide* pre-teen conference. Our goal was to make this event accessible for our low income families, but still fun and challenging for our students, and I believe we succeeded. Emmanuel has never been able to get many of our kids to Spark (maybe 25 max) due to cost, and this year we took 56 kids. It was an awesome event with a total of 133 kids, a hip hop concert, great speaker (Derek Koch), and rockin' worship band that really taught these kids about worship. My personal highlight was praying with 2 students at the altar the last session. One came forward for salvation and the other wept on my shoulder as he explained his family situation and asked me to pray.

Thank you all for the wonderful opportunity to serve.

Blessings,
Ben McGillivray