



## **2010 Pastor Report** ***Derrick Hamre***

Emmanuel Church is an assembly of 250 families, in two campuses, strategically located in the heart of the Central Okanagan. Thirty years ago a group of hardy pioneers purchased an orchard on the edge of Westbank in order to build a ministry complex. They illustrated great faith and courage to do this. There was significant hard work and sacrifice as they believed for a preferred future. They had no idea the impact the church would have as time rolled along. This year we were able to celebrate that history. For thirty years this family has grown, reached out to the community, and made ministry adjustments. Although the church has changed a great deal in three decades, the focus on Next Generations Ministry, community needs and providing a charismatic discipling environment has not changed. This past spring we held a banquet in order to reminisce as well as to begin charting a course forward. It was a great evening and a wonderful milestone.

Emmanuel's building in Westbank has always been a simple building, focused on the essentials of ministry. It has been added on to on two occasions, both under recent pastoral years. The building is now a 22,000 square foot area of highly used space. For thirty years we've met in a multi-purpose room that allowed for weekend worship and week day ministries. This year we renovated that multi-purpose room for the third time in our history. The goal was to transform the room into a gymnasium that would continue to meet both weekend worship needs and weekday ministry realities. This made for a very busy summer. I want to thank Pastor Jeff and the deacon board for all their help in coordinating this important project. We also had a gymnasium consulting team that gave valuable input. From friends outside of Emmanuel we were given matching funds up to \$50,000 and in total were able to raise about half the project before it was complete.

This summer we also began to look seriously at completing a dream that had been established when the church was planted. We started research on building an auditorium that would meet our needs as a worshiping community as well as provide a place for our West Kelowna public to gather for special events. We discovered that a 700 seat theatre/sanctuary is indeed possible on this property, if located where the current playground is. The building of that kind of structure along with the paving our parking lot would complete the current four acre property in a useful and multi-faceted way. In the summer an architect did some preliminary drawings illustrating this. That was followed up with a number of special meetings in the fall in order to discuss this more broadly.

In November we held a congregational meeting where our church membership voted over 90% in favour of moving forward on a building program. We were released to raise funds, make plans and this has continued right into 2011.

It has also been a year of significant developments in NGM, Peachland, and our office. As I watch the pastoral team, I marvel at their giftings, hard work and our camaraderie. As I work with our staff, I am excited about what the future holds as we work together. We have an excellent team. Pastor Ben and Pastor Andy have worked in tandem to see our pre-teens, junior highs, senior highs and young adults grow in faith and outreach. The group is as large as it has ever been, about 60% coming from non-Emmanuel homes. These young guys have built a solid system and team. As numbers have swelled, we could not imagine what NGM ministry would be like without the gym. In this we now see God's sovereign leading! This year we also saw the return of Pastor Derek Koch and his family from Thailand. Derek entered into a part time job sharing between Imagine Thailand and Emmanuel Church. This has allowed us to take another positive step with our Peachland Campus as Derek became their Campus Pastor. He is now giving direct oversight to shepherding, administration, and community outreach. Additionally, Derek has been catalytic in looking for property in order to allow the campus to move forward with greater opportunities. This year we also saw major adjustments to our church office. This included looking at the way we do our financial oversight and the oversight of our global dollars. We made adjustments, hired new staff and streamlined our efficiency to better serve both campuses, our mission and all of our partners. We welcome Wilma Gonzales to the team. Additionally I would like to thank Marlene Beagle and Pastor Jeff for all their help in these adjustments. In many ways, these changes free them up to move to new areas as well.

On a personal note, this summer I began something new: I went back to school! In 2009 the Deacon Board made a couple adjustments for me as I completed my twelfth year. The adjustments were to help me continue to be an effective leader as I prepared myself to lead the church into a new chapter. I appreciate their concern for my health and welfare. It was decided that I would take three weeks a year for a sabbatical (rather than take the whole sabbatical break at once) and this allowed me to return to school for studies. This summer it began. I took three courses and it was much more than I could handle. However the experience was great and I benefited from in-depth studies of Matthew, Luke, Judges and Ruth. I look forward to a more balanced summer this year (live and learn!).

I want to thank Sara-Lee for her wonderful support and constant partnership in ministry. Sara grew up on the mission field (in the subarctic) and knows what it is to make great sacrifices for ministry. She is a great pastor's wife aiding me with her time, advice, prayer and hospitality. Our home is constantly open for the church family and church / community events are graciously embraced and supported. She does an amazing job balancing it all with her own career and calling to be a mother. Thank you!

2011 promises to build on much of the momentum of 2010. We are a church on a mission. There are new things on the horizon and initiatives to complete. I want to thank you for your partnership in the gospel. You are a great congregation and I marvel at our God and what He is doing in our midst every day!

With love and prayer,  
Pastor Derrick