



## **2010 Gym Project**

***Jeff Bjorgan***

In 2010 Emmanuel embarked upon a renovation project in order to help turn the sanctuary into a gym. Our goal in the project was not only to make our auditorium a better gym; we also wanted to make it a better sanctuary, with better sound and ambiance. Wanting to start and finish the project over the summer was no easy task, and at times the people involved in the project were scrambling to keep up with the plans for the project and the trades that needed to be organized. Because it was a quick project, we hired a project manager, Tyler Kort, and for the most part hired outside sources in order to get the job done quickly.

Although there were some cost over-runs, when I look back over the project I am happy that the church made the decision to convert the auditorium. I enjoy the intimacy of Sunday mornings; no longer are people able to sit 20 rows away from the front! Further, with the new sound system, we don't have the problem anymore of "pocket sound" where, in the old system, some places people got blasted with sound while others could barely hear what was going on up on the stage. Although setting up and taking down the sanctuary each week took a little getting used to and isn't without its disadvantages, I am pleased at how well we transitioned from being a church that had to set up and take down on the weekdays to a church that now sets up and takes down on the weekends.

We have seen a significant amount of use in the gym. The people that installed the gym floor were surprised at how much use we were getting out of our gym. For instance, we no longer rent out Pringle Gym for floor hockey; the men meet at the gym every Monday. On Wednesdays we have badminton, and on Fridays we have floorball. Of course on Tuesdays and Thursdays our next gen department gets full use out of the gym without the fear of damaging sound equipment or carpet. Aside from the assigned days, at any given time you can catch people playing basketball, or kicking around a soccer ball, or just running around playing tag. We encourage our church people to take full advantage of the gym. Invite some guys out to a lunch basketball game or floor hockey game. Pop in after school with your kids and some of their friends, and if the gym is not booked, feel free to play.

Much thanks goes to all the many people that helped out, not only with the gym renovation, but with all of the logistics in making the system of setting up and tearing down work. Much thanks particularly to Tyler Kort, our project manager; Steve Johnston, who did a lot of work investigating music equipment; Annick Gabruch, who hunted down our new keyboard; Glenn Bonkowski and Marvin Mills, who learned the new media system; Gary Neubauer, John Jansen, Jamie Leblanc, Aleita Lloyd, Sara-Lee Hamre, and Martin Weilmeier; who took the time to learn the new sound system; Harry Klawikowski, who ripped up the old carpet with gusto, Frank Beekman, who helped organize Sunday

morning take down; Marc Berthaudin, who organized the platoons; David Shaw, who drew up a site map; Chris Lloyd who designed our banners; and (now I'm going to get into trouble because I'm sure I'll miss someone) Nancy Beselt for all her design ideas. We had a building committee, but we only met once. However, the input from the first meeting was crucial in leading us forward (thanks to Norm Hanson, Aleita Lloyd, Nancy Beselt, Jeff Walker, Russ Carlson, Gary Dewald, and Chris Lloyd for all your input along the way). If I have not mentioned your name, please rest assured that I am very thankful that you were a part of the process in making this renovation a success.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Bjorgan