



2010 Deacon Report — Missions

Janice Dewald

Emmanuel continues to be a church with a deep love and passion for Missions! In fact, in recent years, we are shifting from a church that just **supports** missionaries to a church that **sends** missionaries! So many people in our church family are either “out there” doing missions or directly involved with those people who are. All you have to do is look at our “missions friends” column on the Emmanuel website to see that.

As I think back over the past year, I remember all the families and groups who went on Short Term Missions trips – Dominic Gill and her son, the Berthaudins, the Hamres, the Hansons, the Morrisons, the Harbours, the Hawkes, the large NGM team, Roy Ralph (still in Haiti), the Dycks, the Jennings-Bates (preparing for the Dakar Rally 2011), the Jansen guys, myself and Garry, and on and on the list goes! My apologies if I missed someone, as I likely did! We saw the Koch's and Detwiller's come home, and the Hansons go out to take their place. We've seen the Jensen's come home and go back again. When I start listing all of this missions activity, I am amazed. There are so many churches where if just **one** short-term missions trip takes place, it is quite the feat!

As the board members have looked at these amazing numbers, it has perhaps helped to explain a change in the trend of missions giving that we have experienced at Emmanuel over the last year. This past fall, when we had our Missions Emphasis month, it was very discouraging to see us NOT meet our financial goal for the first time in many years. In fact, we didn't even come close! And that goal amount had already been lowered from previous years, but we were trying to take into account both the recession and the gymnasium building project. However, when we looked at the TOTAL missions giving for the year, we were surprised to see that it was actually significantly **higher** than last year! On closer examination of the numbers, it became evident to us that more people are giving their missions offerings as “directed” giving to certain individuals, rather than into the general missions fund. This is great—people are supporting missions! BUT, it has created a dilemma for us.

For many years now, we have supported 12 missions partners. When you give to “missions” in general (Priority One), it is divided each month between those 12 partners according to a specific formula. In comparing 2010 to 2009 and previous years, we have seen our support for our 12 partners drop very significantly, often to about half of what they received in the past. This led us to have to make a very difficult decision this January: to drop 2 of our partners to decrease the total number to just 10.

In consultation at the Board level and with a few people who came out to the Missions Committee meeting in January, it was decided that as of June this year, we will discontinue our support for New Manna Ministries (Fred Ilyin) and Millenium Relief and Development Services (the Archers). Amongst our local missions partners, whose funding

comes from the general fund giving, it was decided to drop our support for BC LifeBuilders, and replace it with support for James Perrault, working with Campus Ministries, as they are now an integral part of our church family. We have also redirected other monies in order to support Mike and Castina Pennington, who will be starting an urban outreach church plant in Vancouver. One other change, not related to levels of giving, was to substitute Brandi and Joel Reimer, who are heading to India, for Nancy Cucheran, who got married and is now involved in home missions.

We want our church family to continue to support all the people in our congregation who go out to do missions work, but we also need you to be aware that when the amount of giving to the Priority One general missions fund decreases or stops, our partners suffer, and we don't want to have to make any more difficult decisions to drop any more of them. In March, we will be hosting another meeting for anyone who is interested in being on a Missions Committee, and I would encourage you to attend if you would like to be involved in promoting and planning Missions awareness and events in this coming year!

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Dewald