



2010 Deacon Report ***Jeff Walker***

We are exceedingly thankful to God our father who has sustained our growth this past year. Our numbers continue to fluctuate from one week to the next as much as 30%. At the same time there are newcomers almost every Sunday. The newcomers are visiting family or friends, people from Kelowna West Campus, people who have just moved to Peachland, or even tourists on holidays.

Here is a quick review of ministry that happens in Peachland every week. Every Sunday we start off with a setup team that brings in all of our equipment from a trailer. The team sets up the lighting & audio equipment, mail boxes, Sunday school, nursery and the coffee station. The chairs are often setup by the School District. A prayer team arrives early to prayerfully prepare the church for the service as well as other needs. Service starts with a worship band at 11:00 followed by a coffee meet & greet time. Then we have the announcements, which are followed by the sermon, which is backed up by a time of prayer at the altar. Then the clean-up begins. We have between 1 to 3 pastors from the main campus, at least 3 Sunday school teachers, the coffee/tea and baking coordinator and team, ushers/greeters. Most mornings we have flaggers to add expression, depth and color to our worship. There is plenty of room to be blessed and even more room to bless. I must agree with the many who have said they like the small town atmosphere and the personal fellowship here. I would be very surprised if someone could slip in unnoticed and ungreeted.

Throughout the week there are many other ministries connected to Emmanuel happening in Peachland. There is a ladies Bible study, women's prayer meeting, men's prayer meeting, Peachland women's book group, Peachland youth group (Route 456), Antturi's neighbourhood group, and the Peachland mini church group. All of these ministries happen outside of a church building. We continue to need a building we can operate from through the weeks and years ahead. Many hours have been spent praying for this need. Much discussion, dreaming and planning has happened with this focus. And we continue to actively look at locations and meet with landlords in search of a suitable building.

In summary, I believe God has charged us with the task of presenting our lives as a living testimony of His unfathomable mercy and grace before the community of Peachland. I see God working every Sunday in the hearts and minds of those that come to church in Peachland. A lot of individuals give of their time and resources to make this happen every week. He has challenged us with this task but has also given us His grace to carry it through. I have found that when I am willing to be get involved, then He has shown me His perspective of the work He is doing here. That's when I see that it's not so much a job that needs to be done but a privileged opportunity to be involved in.

I'd like to thank all those who are involved in the many Christian ministries in Peachland, either connected to Emmanuel or not.

Please pray with us that our effectiveness would be amplified by the Holy Spirit; that He would place His seal of approval on our work; that we not get tired following His leading; and that we not operate under our own strength, but in our weakness find our strength in His power and work in the freedom found in the privilege of being part of His mission.

Jeff Walker