



2010 Deacon Report ***John Staring***

I pondered for quite a while as to what to say/report.....this year has flown by. Being elected as a deacon was both humbling and daunting. I can say now it wasn't as bad as I thought it would be and I've really enjoyed the privilege of serving alongside your amazing leadership.

When I reflected on the year, although there has been changes to the building (gym) and lots of meetings, what blesses me the most is to see all the relationships happening all around. I know God is at work building something which isn't just physical, but spiritual. The Sunday services have been powerful with a strong and clear messages being preached and ministry happening. There is a real battle going on, and we need to persevere. There is a battle against the physical (expansion) and spiritual (holiness), and I feel that as we all work together, the Lord is producing something even more precious in everyone....Love.

By this shall all men know that you are my disciples if you love one another.

Over this past year I've been blessed to work along side many others in the kitchen as we prepared and served meals - in particular the gym dedication meal, the Christmas Dinner/Theatre production, the NGM functions, the men's breakfasts, to mention a few. A highlight was when Sheila and I were blessed to help chaperone the youth group's trip to Fe Viva in Guatemala. We have an amazing group of young people who are loving and serving the Lord. I've enjoyed the fellowship of meeting together and feel especially that the week of prayer (and the amazing prayer room) is so important and a great launching place for the new year. I feel sad that many aren't able to have that "special" one on one time with the Lord! I'd even like to see it happen more than once a year - it's like a mini interactive retreat with the Lord, and though it is only 1 hour long its impact is more like 2 months of Sundays (not of course taking away anything from the great preaching we are blessed with every Sunday).

I'm not sure what we'd do if we couldn't pray and continually commune with God. I love the old hymn, "What a Friend we have in Jesus....what a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer." And lately there has been a lot to carry to God—deaths, injuries, sorrow and heartache, but also joy and celebration, peace and goodwill, birth and growth.

I'm also looking forward to the next building phase. I've suggested that we consider doing this project in house—as much as possible—building, bonding and growing together. I feel that there is so much to gain in working side by side—forming friendships, deepening relationships and stretching our faith together. People can help in all sorts of ways: planning, fund raising, encouraging, laboring in love with everyone using their talents and resources, and partnering together. Together let's make our needs known to the Lord and

to one another and watch as He builds His church. Can we believe for a mortgage free addition? Dreaming the Dream!

I look forward to this next year to see what God has planned for us!

John Staring