

## 2010 Deacon Report *Martin Weilmeier*

### Overview

Looking back on the last year, we see that it was a pretty amazing year for Emmanuel.

- We began with renewed commitment and vigour to develop a 5-10 year vision that included *completing the dream* of building a sanctuary.
- We had just miraculously recovered from a significant budget deficit to start the year with a clean sheet.
- We took time to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our current building and recognized the sacrifices of those that made it a reality.
- We decided shortly before the summer to convert the main sanctuary to a gym in order to make better use of our facility for midweek youth ministry and weekend services. Amazingly we managed to get most of the renovation completed during the summer vacation period.
- We welcomed back Derek Koch in a new roll as Peachland Campus Pastor, an arrangement that allowed him to also continue working with Imagine Thailand.
- We reorganized office management and welcomed Wilma Gonzales to the team.
- We studied the feasibility of adding a theatre-style sanctuary to our existing facility and presented the vision to the congregation. This resulted in 90% approval to proceed with planning and fundraising. Quite amazing, really.

There were, of course, difficulties and challenges. But through it all we learned a lot and grew in our faith.

I must admit that I enjoy looking back because it becomes clear just how much God has blessed us. But even more important is to look ahead and see what God wants us to do. The items listed above are just part of the means or mechanism, while the goal is to build the Kingdom of God. More important than any list of changes or accomplishments is the ongoing impact on people's lives: people in our church, in our community, in our country, in our world.

Next Generation Ministries has grown to record levels, allowing us to reach young people, transform lives, and develop future leaders. We've invested more in missions than ever. And not just by supporting partners, but through our own people going out and directly making a difference in the world, or through short term missions opportunities that impact the hearts of future missionaries and supporters. Of course, we're teaching people and discipling them in many different ways. More people are getting involved in various ministries to make a difference and grow in their own faith. All of these activities are supported by prayer with individuals and teams praying continually.

I really appreciate how we can pull together at Emmanuel to accomplish so many different things. But we can and must do more. Luke 10:2 says, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” We are the workers, and there is lots of work to be done. I encourage all of us to get more involved in different ways. Let’s use our talents for God and challenge ourselves in new areas. As we’ve been reminded recently, “...store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.” (Mt. 6:20). And let’s lift all our efforts up to God in prayer so that He would bless the work and use it for His glory.

If you know of something that could be improved or done better, be sure to let one of the pastors or deacons know. We’re always looking to make things better and value feedback. And also be prepared to get involved. This is your church!

### **Audio Recording**

I’ve continued with digitally recording the Westbank services and making them available online ([emmanuelnet.ca/sermons](http://emmanuelnet.ca/sermons)) or on CD. A total of 287 sermons from as far back as November 2005 are available online. That’s 7.2 days of continuous listening, available anytime and anywhere the internet is accessible. Catch up on a recent message you might have missed or check out some great messages from the past.

### **Website**

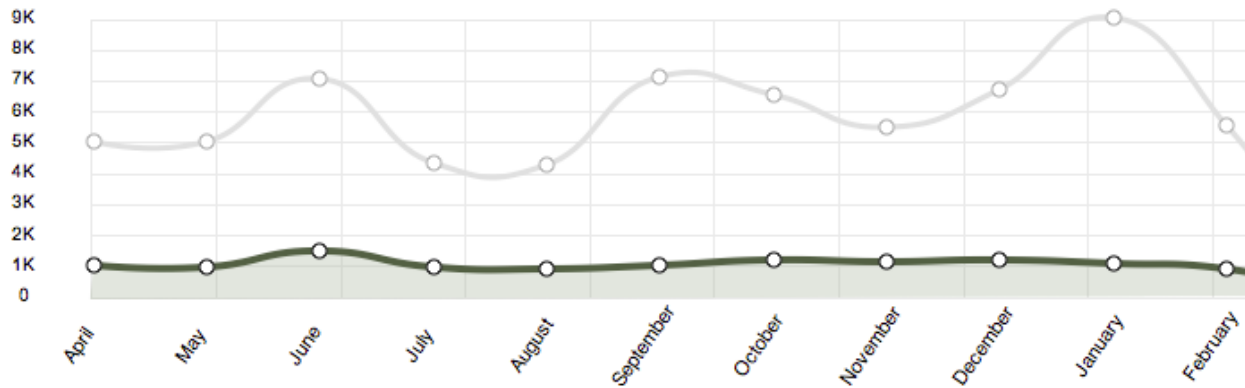
March 2010 marks the second anniversary of the revamped Emmanuel website. We continue to try to improve the accessibility and availability of information and resources in accordance with our vision of the website being an online “connecting point.” Our goal is to continually improve things, so if you have any questions or suggestions, please pass them on to [admin@emmanuelnet.ca](mailto:admin@emmanuelnet.ca).

Highlights of the site include:

- All digitally recorded sermons are online and fully searchable by date, speaker, keywords, and even Bible passage. These sermons are also available from the iTunes store podcast section. Sermons can be listened to online, downloaded, or subscribed to for automatic updates.
- Event calendars are available for general events, next gen, children, small groups and ministry schedules. If you want to know what’s going on when, our online calendars are the place to check. You can even link them to personal calendars.
- All of our missions partners are highlighted, along with regular updates from them so that we can continue to effectively support them, in prayer and otherwise.
- In addition to having the Word from the Pastor online, Andy and Jeff write blogs on topics of interest to them.
- The next gen and children’s pages have been restructured to make them more useful for NGM.
- There’s now an Emmanuel twitter feed on the front page to enable real-time updates about current events.

There are lots of other things available that I haven't even touched on. If you haven't had a chance to look over the site recently, it's worth checking out to see what resources might be useful.

On average, emmanuelnet.ca gets about 240 unique visitors and over 1,600 page views per week.



Many people worked hard to make this site a reality and continue to work hard to keep it updated. I'd like to thank everyone involved for their efforts. Without contributions from people across Emmanuel, it wouldn't be what it is.

## Badminton

We've started an Emmanuel badminton night on Wednesday nights from 7 – 9 pm. It's a great way to get some exercise and have some fun with others from the church or the community. Bring a racket, some inside shoes and a loonie to play. We have about 15-20 people out each week.

## Thanks

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our pastoral staff. We really are fortunate to have such a dedicated team of pastors to teach us, challenge us and organize us for the work of the Gospel. Maybe I'm biased, but I don't think we've ever had such a complementary team with such a broad set of skills and experience, all focused on the same mission. They work tirelessly to minister to and mobilize the congregation of about 600 that call Emmanuel home. Spiritual leadership can be very difficult at times, particularly with an enemy that knows our weaknesses. Please continue to lift up our pastors and their families in prayer. We are blessed to have them and shouldn't take our leaders for granted.

In Christ,  
Martin Weilmeier