

Annual Report

2011



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Superintendent's Report

Jeff Anderson

*Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. **And** the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37-39*

When Jesus was living out the Kingdom priorities he did it very often in an "AND" kind of way. He pushed the boundaries. He knew how to get things in the right order (love God with all you have) but built on that (and love your neighbour in the same way).

There is a newer book with a curious cover; it has the word AND spelled prominently from top to bottom. If you look more closely you see that it is about the "gathered AND scattered church". Missiologists note that the church needs to be both Modalic (think mode or organization) and Sodalic (think mission and vision). A key piece to the puzzle for the ECCC was acquired when Julia Stein accepted the position of Director of Ministry Support.

As a community of churches we are striving to live out Kingdom priorities and purposes in an "and" kind of way. We want to push forward into areas that we believe the Lord is opening doors AND we want to make sure we have structures in place to sustain our vision. For a number of years we have had a loose template into which we have sought to give focus to our ministry. We seek to be faithful in living our mission and ministry opportunities in leadership development, church planting/mission, renewal/church health, and compassion/mercy/justice.

Leadership Development: We continue to provide significant opportunities for emerging leaders to develop. We give out two grants, the Neil Josephson Leadership Award went to the Kensington Road Church this past year and our annual Vantage Point grant went to Lighthouse Community Church. Our Life Together houses give significant growth opportunities for the three house pastors; not to mention opportunities for those who participate in the house. Three congregations have ministry interns. The Summer Ministry Team work long hours serving and leading in a variety of settings. Through the ECC Department of Ordered Ministry many of our pastors have honed their pastoral skills through the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence grants.

Church Planting/Mission: One of the clear goals of the ECCC Leadership Board is to pursue church planting. On March 1, 2011, Evan and Christin Dewald began formally as Church Planter and spouse in the community of Chestermere, Alberta. We know that unless the Lord builds the house all is in vain but we are excited about the mission and ministry doors that seem to be opening well. On the global picture we need to work on the modalic side of ministry. Our hope is to gather a group to discuss sustainable interaction with our mission connections in Congo, Ecuador, Kenya, Haiti and Palestine/West Bank.

Renewal/Church Health: In an effort to provide real coaching and tools to our congregations we have engaged Pastor Gerald Froese to work with the ECC team committed to building congregational vitality and health. Emmanuel Covenant has gone through the first "round" of Veritas training and the Saskatchewan churches have been introduced to the context. Alive! is an annual Adult Ministry event which challenges those to attend to go deeper in their faith journey; renewal is often those small continual steps we take.

Compassion/Mercy/Justice: Kernels of Hope continues to be a wonderful and "organic" movement that captures our historic rural sentiments and melds it with a current desire to do our part in a hungry and hurting world. The Ebenezer Clinic continues to provide a profound and sometimes confounding opportunity to see the world in a setting that is both close and very far away. Pastor Snowy Noble serves as a Chaplain with Corrections Canada Edmonton Women's Institution and Pastor Tim Fretheim and Pastor Mark Johnston are chaplains in psychiatric correctional facilities; we affirm what these men do for the Kingdom in those sometimes-difficult settings.

The local church continues to be the centre of ministry. What we do as the ECCC involves both the gathered AND the scattered ministries of our community of churches. We really do need one another to more fully engage with Kingdom priorities and principles. On behalf of our leadership board I thank each congregation and each individual that has entered into the space of "partnership ministry". Our prayer is that as we are faithful to pursue sustainable ministry opportunities we will encourage and strengthen one another in our (individual and corporate) journey with Jesus.

Director of Ministry Support Report

Julia Stein

*O LORD, you are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.*
Isaiah 64:8

The theme for the Annual General Meeting this year is Borderland. We are looking at what it is to be a church that looks not only to our own discipleship, but to ministry outside the bounds of the church walls. As the new addition to the ECCC I have had the privilege of learning the character of our group of churches and I am greatly encouraged by the desire to be disciples of Christ and out of that to live missionally in our world.

There are many new things happening at our offices in Winnipeg. You hopefully have seen the new look of our website. We are happy to have a site that is easily updated from our office and provides communication to our churches and their members. We are looking forward to the opportunities this site will provide for timely and helpful communication.

We have also upgraded our database which allows for better tracking of churches and people. We know who is involved with various events and groups which in turn helps us communicate better from our office. The database assists us in fundraising and gift management.

This position gives me the opportunity to visit churches to share in ministry. It has been fun to meet many of you on a Sunday morning. I'm growing in my love for preaching and hopefully in my skill at it too by the opportunities to come and share with our churches.

As you read through this report, I pray that you are encouraged as I am by the work God is doing across Canada. This is a snapshot of the Kingdom going out into the world.



Church Vitality

Gerald Froese

'There is no vitality without reality.' [Veritas]

The beauty of Veritas is that it is a seminar designed for churches to self assess their 'reality'. To form their own assessment as to whether, as a church community, they see themselves as; healthy missional; stable; at risk; or critical moment.

From this assessment, each church is able to move forward to 'vitality' with assistance and tools provided by both the Canada Conference and the denomination. It is our hope to make Veritas accessible to each of our Canadian churches.

To date, two Veritas seminars have been held within our conference. The first was for Emmanuel Covenant (White Rock, BC), with Don Robinson presenting. The second was hosted by Saskatoon College Park, 6 covenant churches participating, and John Wenrich presenting.

My role in Veritas has been to arrange for a host church, then be available for follow up for those churches wanting to take next steps towards becoming a healthy missional church, as indicated by the markers presented in the seminar. Many of the 400 plus ECC churches that have participated in Veritas have found it a pathway toward health and vitality.

The second part of my mandate has been to be available [under Jeff's direction] as a coach for pastors and leadership teams, as well as church planting. During this year I've had the privilege of spending time with leadership teams in College Park, Blackstrap, Emmanuel, Sarnia, as well as connecting with our church planters in Mississauga [now closed] and Chestermere.

My work with the conference, a 20% position, has enabled me to be involved by making approx. one trip per month. I've really enjoyed the connections, and the privilege of being invited into the lives and ministry in our churches. The ECC vitality team, with whom I serve, have been a tremendous source of encouragement, resources, and help.

It's been a privilege to work with Jeff and serve our conference.

Church Reports

Nelson, BC

Nelson continues to move in a healthy trajectory. We continue to worship in two services – one on Saturday night and the other on Sunday morning. Instead of two different styles, we are doing identical services to encourage people to attend either, therefore encouraging more unity and community.

In August we hired Chris Wiens an Associate Pastor for Youth and Discipleship. Chris and his wife Laura and their three children Zoe, Calum and Sydney have been a blessing to our church. David Rae has joined us as an Arts and Performance Intern and Kelle Wardle is our Worship Intern. Together we strive to lead this church in a healthy, missional direction.

Continue to pray for us as we seek to reach our world for Jesus. The community of Nelson is a unique place with lots of challenges but intense spiritual hunger.

~Arden Gustafson, Pastor

Balfour, B.C.

As I look back on 2010, I see the many places where God is growing us. He has grown us in discipleship. Beginning in September, we focused on revitalizing the small groups of our church. We encouraged the groups that were already meeting as well as started new groups to lead our whole church closer to Jesus. It is out of a healthy and rich relationship with Jesus that the rest of our life flows. In addition to meeting as small groups, we have also focused on discipleship in our Sunday services, having worked through Jesus' teachings on discipleship in Luke's Gospel. As we move forward into 2011, we will continue learning from Jesus what it means to follow Him as well as encourage more people to join more small groups. Discipleship is growing in our church.

Balfour has always been known as a welcoming church. Surprisingly, God has made us even more welcoming. Newcomers regularly remark how hospitable our church is. Whether they are visiting in the summer or have just moved to Balfour, people feel welcome here. With the revitalization of our Hospitality Team, we have coordinated dinners, and concerts and events to welcome people into church. I am encouraged to see God using us to bring more people into His kingdom. Entering 2011 I am also encouraged by this word "family." More and more often, I hear people refer to our church as family. As we continue to grow in Christ, I pray that we will also grow closer together as the

family of God.

The Balfour site has always been a missional community. And while we have continued to proclaim the Good News, we are entering a new time of mission and outreach in our church. Over this last year, numerous people have joined our fellowship. In the coming year, we pray the Holy Spirit will bring even more. It has been years since we have baptized someone in Balfour. Already, we are praying for the Spirit to change that. God is at work in our community. Already I see where He is calling us to live out our faith and reach out with the Gospel. Already, I sense God at work. I cannot wait to see the great things He will do in this coming year.

~Jason Ashley, Pastor

Junction, B.C.

This past year we were blessed to participate in the baptisms of a number of people. Our weekly Kraft Dinner lunch for the local high school has consistently had 30-50 youth per week and our food bank ministry continues to help people in our community. A record number of women from the Junction church attended the Women's Retreat at Riondel. We also enjoyed meeting people from the community during our outreach dinners at Easter and Christmas. It is nice to see our building finally complete both inside and out. Our building now visually looks like a church rather than a run down dive of a building. It has been a great privilege this year to see people growing in Jesus and seeing their lives change.

~Jesse Lerch, Pastor

Green Timbers

Surrey, B.C.

2010 was a challenging year for our church as we had to say goodbye to too many of our "saints." It seems to have been the year of the big funeral for our church. Yet, in the midst of the difficult year, God has given us a great gift. We have been looking for a way to bring the presence of Christ into the neighbourhood into which God has placed us and that is challenging with the ethnic/cultural/religious make-up of the neighbourhood. A new missional pathway has been opened up to make this possible.

In April we signed a contract with Rogers communications to put a cell phone "tower" in our parking lot, for which Rogers pays us \$1500 a month. As the board wrestled with whether or not to agree to their proposal, a wild idea was floated and accepted. We decided to sign the contract, but give

that \$18,000 per year back to the community. The money goes into The Fullerton Fund, named in honour of our former pastor, the late Keith Fullerton, and his wife Vi, and will be used to benefit the members of the community around GTCC in a missional way.

The Fullerton Fund will help us continue our ESL ministry, which Pastor Keith had led for so long, by paying for a trained ESL teacher. It will help solidify our relationship with the Green Timbers Elementary School by allowing us to meet the needs of young community members through the school. It will cause us to look for new ways to invest in the people of Surrey. We trust that it will also propel us into new ministry opportunities beyond just giving money. These are exciting times at GTCC!!
~Andy Sebanc, Pastor



Erickson, B.C.

This year new tables and colourful chairs were purchased for the newly completed Kid's Zone room. VBS, with the huge ship constructed across the front of the church, complete with sails, cannon, and smoke ring, saw 100 children embark on an exciting ministry voyage under captain Doug Stapleton. We appreciated the Covenant Camp Ministry Team youth that helped with our Blossom Festival Parade float and handed out invitations. 25+ adults and teens devoted their time and skills to the 'High Seas Expedition'. VBS, the monthly children's movie night, and God's bountiful blessing have all worked together to help our Sunday School grow. The year finished with 'The Not So Silent Night' Christmas program and the candlelight Christmas Eve worship service.

A much needed care ministry team has been heavily used and a blessing to many. As well, the Women's Ministry Fall Tea raised nearly \$2000 to provide funds for a variety of projects including the

shipment of care packages to college students as well as 6 large boxes of bandages and layettes to the Congo. Our church Community Kitchen received a Faith and Outreach grant to purchase a 10 cherry pitter and jam pot and this helped towards another successful summer of canning, drying, and freezing local fruit and produce. A winter women's Bible study met for prayer, fellowship, and study on 6 different Bible characters. A men's prayer breakfast continues to meet every Thursday morning.

~Doug Riehl, Church Chair

Emmanuel White Rock, B.C.

It's an exciting time in the life of Emmanuel Covenant Church as God has continued to faithfully carry us through both the challenges and celebrations of the past twelve months. We have seen God move in mighty ways amidst our fellowship as we continue to seek what it means to walk with God in every season of life. We are thrilled and thankful for the hope we have in Christ and look ahead to many exciting possibilities on the horizon for our small growing Covenant family heading into 2011. Thank you to all those who have prayed with and for us this past year as the mission continues to unfold, may you be encouraged to know your prayers are felt and appreciated by your friends and family here at Emmanuel Covenant.

~Keith Chow, Pastor

Faith Breton, AB

This has been a wonderful year of blessing at Faith Covenant Church, Breton. In 1935, the Covenant Church began a work in this community, so 2010 marked our 75th anniversary. We had a Celebration Weekend in September and updated our church history book to mark this milestone. Since our building expansion in 2007, our congregation has been growing steadily in numbers and in spiritual maturity. An average of 160 people attend worship each Sunday morning. Care clusters have been organized to connect people meaningfully with one another.

We were able to contribute over \$30,000 to mission work in our community, in neighbouring cities, and worldwide. In the spring, Marlene & Cliff Swan joined Andy & Janelle Plum on a mission project to Ecuador. In the fall, a team of 9 traveled to Haiti to work in Doctor Manno's clinic. They returned home tired but satisfied, having left the clinic more prepared to face the challenges of

the cholera outbreak one week later.

Our Sunday services offer times of powerful encounters with the Lord, and rich fellowship with one another. We continue to hear from the Lord as Pastor Dan Olson preaches faithfully. This year sermon series have included: The Book of Revelation, The Life of Moses, and The New Testament Letters of Paul. We have also been favored with the work of intern Pastor Jeff Gooderham. He has gained experience in preaching, leading services, and being mentored by Pastor Dan.

Pastor Marc Lantz works at Breton as full-time youth pastor. Two students travelled to Ottawa this year for the "Micah Challenge". Our youth have been active in raising awareness regarding social justice issues, and the church is now drinking Fair Trade coffee! Our students became more proactive in their stand against global injustice, organizing a meeting between some of their peers and our Member of Parliament, Blaine Calkins. Our congregation is thankful to be close enough to Edmonton to take in events such as Breakforth, MissionFest and YC.

Kensington Road Calgary, AB

Kensington Road Church is a community that has undergone significant change in the last year. We are a community that is working hard at understanding and living out an incarnational ministry model. That is, we want the word to be made flesh through our community. This means we are a church that hopes to live "in" our community with great intentionality and focus. Last year this included such highlights as the Louise Dean Luncheon, Community Stampede Breakfast, Summer Soccer Camp, Shoebox Campaign, Bake Sale for Justice and ongoing collaboration and work with Highbanks Society and the good folks at 411 14th St. Louise Dean is a high school for teenage moms, Highbanks is an NGO which provides housing and programs for teenage moms and 411 14th is a low income housing unit. These are all located right in our neighborhood of West Hillhurst.

Our relationship with our external community is developing but it is a long-term work. We all like quick solutions but incarnational work takes time. Through this journey we are discovering that friendship is a holy sacrament and that it must be offered humbly to a world that is tired of sloganeering evangelicals. Pray for us to be patient and loving friends to our community.

Internally our community has undergone a significant shift this year. It is painful to see folks move

away and leave the community but this is a normal part of transitional church experience. Despite or because of this, our church celebrations have had a special tone to them this last year. Whether our Passover meal, Christmas meal with hymns or Sunday morning worship we sense the depth of the Christian tradition and faith providing a deep guide for our lives.

~James Wheeler, Pastor

Malmo Mission Wetaskwin, AB

Of course the big change for us this year came as Pastor Natasha felt it was time to retire from youth work. This has been a good challenge to us because it is encouraging us to think how we approach youth ministry and ministry in general here at MMCC. But it was challenging too in that Natasha was more than a youth pastor here, and we are glad that to date, her and Mike have been able to remain in the community and participate here as much as they like. Highlights of the year; ~ Randy Risto helped to bring in some guests from the Hobema prison to present the needs of our community. ~ Mothers of PreSchoolers continues to outgrow our space. ~ Jenell Pluim brought in the REED Slave Trade presentation that helped open our eyes. ~ Our community VBS Carnival Day was a success. ~ Small groups are growing. ~ We are moving ahead with our youth missions trip to Haiti. ~ Having willing volunteers for the many opportunities to fill. ~ Seeing anonymous people give financially to local needs. ~ Our kids day at camp. ~ Working with the Worship Committee to broaden our worship. ~ Pastoral work with people. Prayer. Visiting. Caring. Being present. Being available. ~ One on one counseling with Malmo people. ~ Teaching Confirmation Class to the Jr. Highs ~ Offering spiritual Direction to a broader group of interested people, throughout the community. ~ Getting the youth ministry up and running and see it do well with many good volunteers. ~ Creation of a 'What's Next?' committee as we discern the next steps for staffing here at Malmo Mission Covenant Church. This year has been about building a life together here at Malmo.

~Randall Friesen, Pastor

Hope Community Strathmore, AB

*He sent them out to preach the kingdom of God
and to heal the sick. Luke 9:2*

We have a two-fold mission. To teach and to heal. Hope Community lives out this mission in several ways.

Our involvement in the community continues with the School Fuel program feeding breakfast to over a hundred children each morning. The weekly Club 56 often meets in a school gym and we've been part of the launching a new Boys and Girls Club for Strathmore. Karen Bayley provides Christian counseling out of our facility. A new project is a group of us coordinating a storage unit that offers household items to people in need.

Of course, the biggest news at Hope is the work of several families to plant of church in Chestermere. Pastor Evan Dewald and his wife Christin led a small group that has become a church-plant in Chestermere sponsored by the Covenant. In 2010, we experienced additional staff changes with our playschool director and the hiring of Corinne Stoter as the Interim Youth Pastor. We are very thankful to Jeff Anderson for his advice, support and encouragement.

Our messages on Sunday mornings read the Gospel of John including the daily devotional written by members of Hope. In the spring, we discussed community, discipleship and mission from multiple perspectives and in the fall we had a sermon series on change.

While Hope anticipates even more changes, we continue to seek God's guidance. We know we are a special group of people with a witness of how God is powerfully at work in our community.

~Roger Gilbert, Pastor

Rosebud, AB

*You are the light of the world... let your light shine
before others, that they may see your good deeds
and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew
5:14,16*

Rosebud Church has been abundantly blessed and has much to give thanks to God for in relation to this last year of ministry in our community. We've been sustained by His grace and encouraged by His presence as we've endeavored to follow in His way before our watching world – our congregational theme for life and ministry in 2010 was "Connecting," intentionally connecting with our

God, with our community, and with our world. The rapid pace of life in the theatre community [five shows & around 40,000 visitors in our village], the unseasonal weather during the growing season for those in the agricultural community, along with the unplanned for events of life like deaths/funerals and the much planned for events like weddings and family celebrations have afforded us many opportunities to connect.

Rosebud Church continues to experience growth, especially of the biological nature! This past year we've witnessed the miracle of the birth of a number of children [with more on the way!] in our church family and our church nursery is one of the most used rooms in our facility. We celebrate the life of God's Spirit among us in the dedication of children to the Lord, the baptism of believers into the family and rejoice in the affirmation of faith of those who had been previously baptized as infants.

In September the congregational elders proposed, and the church board supported, the engagement of Paul Zacharias as Youth Leader on a part-time basis. Paul, along with his wife Heather, had been involved with our youth on a volunteer basis for over a year and the congregation is enriched by the time and concentrated effort being given to our young people by this young couple. Paul, an accomplished musician and anointed worship leader, is involved in distance learning through Briercrest College and Heather, a star actor, is completing her studies at Rosebud School of the Arts.

~Ray Wall, Pastor

Sanctuary Multi—Ethnic Edmonton, AB

A couple of years ago it became evident to us that God was opening doors and windows for us to establish a church in north-east Edmonton. At a meeting while discussing this Vangie Dennis, a long time member of our church, commented, "We have a mission field right here!" And indeed we do. The Beverly area of Edmonton includes three districts: Rundle Heights, Beacon Heights and Abbottsfield. In these areas the demographics range from middle class to multi-ethnic to marginalized people.

Just over a year ago we opened Sanctuary's Ministry Centre in a strip mall – finally we had a physical presence in the area. After Pastor Robin resigned as Lead Pastor in September 2010 we welcomed Gerry Froese as our Interim Lead Pastor. He and Ron Groff, our Community Pastor, and Nastasha

Westerhoud, our Associate Pastor are working together with our congregation to grow Sanctuary into a healthy missional church (Acts 2:42-47) reaching out into this challenging community gathering people into God's Kingdom.

When we decided to establish a church in north-east Edmonton we sold our church building on the south side of Edmonton. Our church has given a legacy gift of 5% of the proceeds from the sale of the church building to aspects of the ECCC to use in four areas; namely; Covenant Bay Bible Camp, Life Together House in Calgary, Chestermere church plant and the ECCC.

Now in 2011 we reflect on where we have been, what we have accomplished together and what the future holds for Sanctuary as we follow God's will for it. Please pray for us as we continue on our very exciting, but challenging journey.

~Emma Brinson, Church Chair

Melfort, SK

As the children of Israel were preparing to cross the Jordan River and enter the land that God had promised them, Moses took time to instruct them once again regarding the things of God. After all, this was a new generation preparing to follow through with what their forefathers had failed to do. Moses reviewed for them the wonderful acts of God on their behalf and encouraged them to continue in their faithfulness to Him. Moses' point was clear – all that they had seen and experienced was because of God's actions. They could expect more of the same as they crossed the river.

We have much to praise our God for as we review another year of ministry at Melfort Evangelical Covenant Church. Financial challenges caused us to be further dependent upon the Lord and we experienced His faithfulness to the point of realizing a surplus in our final budget numbers. New people continue to "trickle in" to see what is happening on our corner and some are staying and becoming involved in the church. His power and faithfulness has continued in our midst and we can say the same as Moses did so long ago: "He is your praise and He is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome works your eyes have seen." Deuteronomy. 10:21

~Gary Gilkinson, Pastor

Norquay, SK

It is an exciting time in the church which has come with many changes, developments, and transitions. Sally Larson has been working as a volunteer intern at the church, using this work as part of

her distance education studies at North Park Theological Seminary in pursuit of a dual degree of Master's of Business Administration/Master's of Christian Formation. She has functioned in various roles and areas of the church.

As the summer of 2010 came to a close, our youth pastor Grant Johnson completed his official work here at our church. We are very appreciative for his very evident heart for the youth as he ministered to them in various ways and with the church as a whole. We were sorry to see him go but wish him God's best for what lies ahead. He has since transitioned to living and working in Saskatoon.

In late August, we were able to hire a pastoral couple to fill the youth pastor role, Benjamin and Genevieve Galay. Benjamin is originally from Norquay and Genevieve is from British Columbia. They have spent the last nine years in the Calgary area running a business, seeking to be used by God in that type of leadership as well as to minister to their employees. They come to Norquay with their son Xerxes, who is now three, and later this fall had a new baby girl, Phoenix. As they have come to our church, we have appreciated their very dynamic work and are excited to continue to see how they will lead us in reaching out to the youth in our community and to join the people of the Norquay Covenant Church us as we humbly seek to move deeper in Christ and move forward in God's mission together.

~Dan Larson, Pastor



Gateway Prince Albert, SK

Gateway Covenant experienced another year of God's mercy and grace in ministry in 2010. We have decided to focus on showing our neighbourhood the love of Christ. We hosted a neighbourhood BBQ (with an assist from the Camp Ministry Team) in June that helped us to develop some connections with those living around us, especially the kids. We then began a weekly Kids' Klub program for those children, which has been both a huge blessing and a challenge. As a congregation, we participated in a *Season to GROW* that challenged us to deepen our discipleship in the areas of God's Word, Relationships, Obedient Living, and Worshipful Lives. We experienced more of God's blessing when we celebrated our mortgage burning in November. God's grace was evident to us as we together mourned the loss of our dear sister in Christ, Florence Dice. She was a faithful servant and witness of Christ's love to Prince Albert, CBC, and the Canada Conference. Her death reminds us about our own calls to be faithful and loving witnesses. As we look ahead, vitality is the goal. Over the past year, we've hosted several conversation-starting events including a dessert night, Saturday session, and prayer times about God's plans for Gateway. We want, in the language of *Veritas*, to become a healthy, missional church and are praying for the vision, intention, and means to fulfill that calling.

~Stacia Michael, Pastor

Blackstrap Dundurn, SK

For the Lord watches over the way of the Righteous. ~ Psalm 1

As a church we seek to do a couple of things well. We seek to worship God, to respond to his grace in our lives, to come before him and say, "thank you ... we love you". Our Sunday morning gatherings are the center of our life together as a church. We not only respond to God, we respond to each other as we gather. This last year we've begun a new practice of gathering together before the worship service, once a month, for coffee and conversation, it's been a lot of fun. This is in addition to our monthly meals together. We also had two small groups meeting this last year to further grow our relationships with each other and with God.

The church also seeks to love our community. We had a great Community Easter Egg Hunt where 50 people from the community came to hang out and

enjoy the great weather. We also ran our yearly Vacation Bible School with a total of 51 people participating in some way or another. We also invite people to help us with our bursary program and the Kernels of Hope ... and they do. The community responds to our faithfulness, they continue to ask us to help with our community WinterFest week, summer kid's carnival, Teacher Appreciation week, and Remembrance Day services. The community sees us as a positive influence and Pastor Steve gets asked to be involved in all kinds of community organizations.

So God is faithful and watches over us. It's not complicated we seek to love God, love each other and love our community. This past year Pastor Steve finished his time at College Park Covenant Church in Saskatoon. This change adds a bit of pressure financially to Blackstrap Covenant; however, we trust God to move us forward into his future, knowing that he watches over us.

~Steve Menshenfriend, Pastor

College Park Saskatoon, SK

This past year, our church reached out locally and beyond. For example Haiti - a successful mission trip to Haiti saw 10 members of CPCC travelling to assist, in any way they could, with Dr. Manno's Ebenezer Clinic.

The East Side Clothing Depot was open 10 times in 2010, with about 125 people coming out each month to get clothes, bedding, etc. We have many people who come each month and they are so very grateful for the clothes they receive, also for the coffee and cookies that are served. We are getting to know several of these families, not just as faces, but as people with names.

The Food Bank continues to be a service and a blessing to people in our local area. This outreach has moved into the church and food is distributed to 16 or more families every 2nd Friday. CPCC also supplies milk to 6 of these families on a regular basis.

The summer BBQ's were a huge success with many people coming to them from the surrounding area. The Gift Exchange, organized by Faith Ville-neuve and held in the church was also a success. Between 40 and 50 families brought gifts to exchange and were so very happy for the opportunity to do this. The Dessert Night and Concert was a real blessing as we enjoyed delicious desserts, listened to music and just visited and got to know each other better.

Our Tuesday morning - Nursery time for mothers and pre-school children has grown from 2 mom's and four kids to nine mom's and 15 kids on December 14. Bless you Jessica and Laura for starting this program. The Sunday potlucks are another way we have been able to reach out and get to know each other and our new members better.

The Easter Egg Hunt and the Fall Festival were also very successful and a good way to reach out to the youth in our community. Enthusiastic Adults - have had many interesting outings this past year and ate many delicious meals together. The interesting Book Studies with new people coming out to join us in discussion.

~Jan Cowan, Church Chair

Valley Evangelical Durban, MB

On Sunday September 5th, we gathered at the Alpine Church for our Worship Service. It was a good crowd of approximately 75 with all ages represented. We sang hymns, played the old pump organ and the slightly out of tune piano. We prayed, preached and worshipped God together. After the service we shared a picnic lunch inside the church. Then, approximately 10 or 12 of us set out to walk to Durban!

The idea came with a memory of Pastor Ron Hanson who at least on one occasion back in the early 60's, because of poor roads, walked from Alpine down to the Durban area for Bible study. (approx. 13 km) So, we decided to see if we could do the same. There was good enthusiasm for the idea and we made our plans. Church2Church – worship in Alpine, picnic lunch, walk to Durban, then a barbeque together. However, on Sunday, September 5th, it rained. Sometimes a fine mist, sometimes a steady rain, and it continued throughout the afternoon. But 10 or 12 of us still set out to walk to Durban! Some of us walked 4 or 5 km, some of us walked 9 or 10 km, and one young man named Karl walked the entire 13 km in the rain. We then gathered at the Durban church, changed into dry clothes, shared some lunch and conversation about the walk together.

The walking and talking together was a great way to remember the faithfulness of God's servants in past years. It was a great way to experience the rolling Alpine/Durban farm country as we walked the soggy gravel roads. And it was a great way to share thoughts/faith memories with other walkers as we slowly made our way down to Durban. Sunday, September 4th is our next Alpine to Durban walk. You are welcome to join us, or to

plan your own journey to remember and give thanks to God for those who walked to share the gospel with us.

~David Johnson, Pastor

Minnedosa, MB

Ministry continues here at the Minnedosa Evangelical Covenant Church. We are thankful for gifted and committed church members who keep each branch of the church functioning. This past year we have seen a greater sense of unity among the other churches here. Through listening prayer we felt that God was leading us to raise \$30,000 for a ministry to homeless children in Kyrgyzstan. We enlisted the help of other area churches and they have responded. The Calvary, Anglican, United, Catholic, Erickson Lutheran and Hilltop Baptist have all contributed and we have together raised over \$8,500. This is not a great amount but the miracle is in the cooperation. God is up to something.

We were pleased to receive nine new members into our church this past year. Their commitment is a great encouragement to the church. Recently there have been some new people coming to Jesus and discipleship is already underway. We pray for an even greater move of God in this New Year and increasing openness to his gifts and calling.

To reach the next generation for Christ must always be a concern and priority for the church. This past year we began a ministry to Jr. High youth. Recently three prayed to receive Jesus into their life. Pray that they will grow and mature in the Lord. The return of Christ grows nearer. May God find us faithful in our generation. Psalm 25:4-5.

~Dan Peterson, Pastor

Faith Winnipeg, MB

Greetings from Winnipeg, I have been thinking much about three words Jesus uses in Luke 12 that goes something like this, "rich toward God" (Luke 12:21). This has been a reflection point for me because I believe that the Spirit of God is doing great things in the lives of those in the FCC community. We have seen over and over again this year ordinary people doing extraordinary things because they have given their best to God. They could have been rich towards many other things but instead they have followed the prodding of the Holy Spirit to point those riches God's way.

There is a renewed sense of mission within our congregation. The fruit of this is the many who show up each month to serve at *Siloam Mission* in

downtown Winnipeg, and *Nova House*, which serves as a shelter for abused women and their families. It has also been encouraging to see the many from our community who travel down to Haiti to partner with those living in far different circumstances than our own.

There is a sense here of new life in Christ. In November there were five men; all aged 20-25 years old, who entered the waters of baptism. There seems to be a longing from people of all generations to wrestle with how it is we live out our faith in this very material world we live in. Over 40 people attended a "Good \$ense" class three weeks in a row to have conversation about God and money.

Our prayer for this church is that people would continue to choose the way that is "better" (Luke 10:42) that we would be a community that is marked by the way we are "rich toward God."

~Erik Anderson, Pastor

Fort Francis, ON

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest to if we do not give up. -Galatians 6:9

This year we have experienced a decrease in attendance yet at the same time we have had opportunity to see significant spiritual growth and ministry within our church family. We have continued with our emphasis on spiritual formation and have been more intentional about increasing our visibility and contact with our community. This has led to new connections, opportunities, and relationships. We have conducted a weekly class to introduce people to the Bible and help them understand the Big Idea. This has been well received. The community youth group that we are a part of has further developed their focus to include outreach and a ministry of discipleship. We have begun offering Christian counseling at subsidized rates. Our junior (Bible) camping program which is a significant outreach to the children of our community continues to develop. This year, the camp board encountered and successfully navigated increased financial costs and other changes. We continue to offer sponsorships and each year the numbers get larger. This year, our goal of continuing to upgrade our facilities was met. We also realized our goal of bringing a new constitution and bylaws before the congregation for their consideration. I am once again humbled

by God's grace, provision and faithfulness over the past year. ~Ken Johnson, Pastor

Off Lake

Emo, ON

Greetings from cold and snowy Northwestern Ontario!

Another year has passed; another year that we, the Off Lake congregation, have been blessed as we serve the Lord within our homes, church, community and abroad. Our attendance continues to remain stable, yet we are growing in our spiritual strength and service under the leadership and encouragement of our pastor Joe Orr and his faithful wife, Lorna.

We praise God that our Pastor received his certificate of ordination so now we can officially call him our "Covenant" pastor. In addition, we were blessed to have Pastor Orr and his son, Justin, travel to Guatemala on a Mission trip. As a congregation we filled their suitcases to overflowing with goodies to leave behind, as well as monetary gifts to build houses.

We continue to strive to reach out to those in our community with various social events, such as meals together, game times, a "Bluegrass" music group. In addition, we participated in services at the senior home, in local ministerial events, Bible camp requests, Christmas caroling with goody bags for each home, shoe box ministry and missionary support. Our ladies diligently rolled bandages and created layette packages for Zaire for our special project this year.

We know that the Lord has plans for us; all He asks is for us to remain faithful, to stand fast on His promises.

~Linda Wilson

Rainy River, ON

The congregation in Rainy River praises God for his wonderful faithfulness, love, mercy and grace which He continually lavishes among His people. The Lord truly blessed his people here in Rainy River throughout 2010. We invite you to join with us as we remember Sunday May 9th, 2010. Beginning our morning worship service at our Old Church Facility and then after some songs of praise and prayer walking together as a congregation to the other side of town and continuing to worship in our new house of worship. Moving forward to September 3, 4, 5, 2010 we held our grand opening weekend. Throughout the weekend many

from the community as well as other brother's and sisters in the Rainy River area came to celebrate with us. Each event was a highlight, however, our Sunday Morning worship celebration and Saturday evening appreciation dinner were truly a wonderful expression of praise and thanksgiving to God and all those who have prayerfully and financially supported what God is doing. We are so thankful to God for his continued leading and guiding through the entire process.

We enter 2011 with great anticipation of what the Lord is going to accomplish through His people here in Rainy River and are continually reminded of these words penned by the Apostle Paul to the church at Ephesus, "Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
~Kora Pater, Pastor

Lighthouse Sarnia, ON

It's been a full year at Lighthouse as we continue to live out our vision to **love** God, **live** in community and **serve** the world.

We've been encouraged by new initiatives to grow deeper in Christ. Whether in our weekly gatherings or in homes, the past year has seen people take steps to grow faith and relationship with Jesus. We're blessed by seekers who continue to join us and know God more. We've been thankful for the support of the ECCC in the last year as we completed our Neil Josephson leadership award experience and began our first year of Vantage Point 3, the Emerging Journey. Both of these experiences have been significant for our community.

In many ways it's been a very challenging year and season for people at Lighthouse. The second half of 2010 was filled with personal challenges, vocational transition and challenge, tremendous grief and loss and trying medical hardships. Through it all our value and commitment to community has been tested and shown to be true. Time and time again, we've witnessed people care well for one another and live more fully into authentic relationship and community.

It can be easy in the midst of these types of challenges to look inward and just to worry about yourself, but both last year and as we continue to look forward to our future, Lighthouse looks for new ways to expand God's Kingdom in the world by

serving our neighbors. Generosity was shown in our Christmas benevolence projects. Meals continue to be served at the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Students served in various ways on summer projects in Toronto. We look forward to another trip to Haiti in March 2011. We continue to reach out, look out and serve the world.

We look forward to welcoming the 2011 AGM to Sarnia and sharing more of what God is at work doing in Sarnia!

~Glenn Peterson, Pastor

Church Plants Mission Emmaus Gatineau, QC

Greetings from Gatineau-Quebec and we wish to all the Covenanters a blessed and happy 2011. 2010 was a very challenging year for the church plant in Quebec and also a very exciting year. We had to move from a facility to another facility and adjust ourselves to the new area. We lost some members. Beside that our joy was to see many converts coming to Christ. Our focus for 2010 was on discipleship and evangelism. We did baptize 5 people in 2010. Praise God! Financially 2010 was a difficult time for the church plant.

For 2011 we are anticipating with great joy what God has in store for us. God just opened a door for another church plant in Montreal. Montreal is a very strategic place for Quebec. We are praying God to give us more provision for that.

~Onesime Kubanay, Church Planter

Chestermere, AB



Evan Dewald & Jeff Anderson at signing of Chestermere Church Plant Covenant Agreement

Several years ago some people from Hope Community began talking about possibly planting a church in Chestermere Alberta. In that time God has been slowly preparing many of us to move forward in some way. A few years ago my wife Christin and I began asking God and others if this work might be something we were to be thinking about. To make a long story short here we are after receiving affirmation from the Covenant and a Blessing from Hope Community (Strathmore) we have moved forward with a small group of people committed to moving to Chestermere to love that community. Since Oct we have meet sunday nights and have grown to about 20. We have prayerfully come up with 4 core values:

Core Values:

To communicate the Story of God and his people well.

To Worship God through the expression of our whole lives.

To live generously with our time, talents, treasures

To live authentically together and create an environment of Hospitality towards others.

The town of Chestermere is a bedroom community of Calgary with approximately 14, 285 residents. Because of the rapid growth rate over the past several years there has been very little influence from a faith community. At present there are no physical churches in the town, several small groups have developed but many are not visible Mondays to Saturday, simply offering Sunday morning worship. We believe that God is asking us to care for the community by physically living and caring for the many community needs.

Though we are early in this journey, we believe that we are co-workers with God. We believe everywhere we look, God is present and at work. With this in mind, we are prayerfully seeking God's eyes for the community of Chestermere. These are some early observations.

We believe it is God's desire to use us to further the Kingdom in this place and we are continuing to pray about what God would have us do next. Please be in prayer for us as we seek his wisdom in the coming months.

~Evan Dewald, Church Planter

Additional Reports **Committee on Ministerial Standing**

The Committee on Ministerial Standing is a group of six ordained Canada Covenant clergy who interview and make recommendations regarding candidates for credentials in our denomination. The Committee also seeks to monitor the continuing education, Covenant Orientation Program and the credentialing paperwork needed to complete the process.

In 2010, we were very pleased to recommend five candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament (OWS) and each of these five were ordained at the Covenant Annual Meeting in Minnesota in June. Those ordained this year were Joe Orr (Emo,ON), Kirsten Waldschmidt (Strathmore,ON), Brandon Shurr (Saskatoon, SK), Gary Gilkinson (Melfort, SK), and Robin Swieringa (Edmonton,AB). We thank God for these servants who received permanent credentials in our denomination and were already serving our churches in 2010. Interviews and recommendations have just been completed for Dan Larson (Norquay, SK) and Ray Wall (Rosebud, AB) and we look forward to their Ordination to Word and Sacrament at our Covenant denominational Annual Meeting this June in Colorado. This will bring our total number of ordained Covenant clergy in Canada to 21. We have another 10 Covenant clergy on the OWS retired/inactive list and 1 inactive Ordained To Specialized Ministry.

Our committee also completed a number of other interviews to recommend/monitor the credentialing of other Canada Covenant clergy. Regular interviews need to be scheduled to renew licences and monitor the Covenant Orientation requirements. We presently have 23 ministerial licences (with 2-3 more possibly being added this year) and 2 Bi-Vocational licences in our Canada Covenant. This requires a significant amount of paperwork and follow-up to keep files/forms current. We are very thankful to have Julia Stein in the ECCC office to help us with this process.

~Daivd Johnson, COMS Chair

Covenant Bay Bible Camp



Sunset over Pigeon Lake

Something from nothing, is that not how God creates?

Over 80 years ago a young lady came back from North Park with a dream of a camp after having a camp experience during her time away. The seed was planted, and took root! In the 1960's the Alberta Government broke the lease agreement in order to establish Pigeon Lake Provincial Park. In exchange for the termination of this lease Covenant Bay Bible Camp received 18 acres of land and

money to erect buildings. Currently our property has a estimated value of 14 million dollars. Something from nothing. God planted an idea and then provided a camp as a tool to do ministry.

Today we are a thriving ministry because God is at the center of all we are and do. Covenant Bay Bible Camp exists to promote a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by providing opportunities for fellowship, worship and instruction in discipleship.

A new seed has been planted in our minds and hearts. It has now taken root and beginning to grow. We are now in year two of our plan to become a year round facility and ministry. Our Phase one project will cost a million dollars and will provide us with 65 beds, a dining and kitchen area, washrooms and sitting area. Since beginning, we have received over \$50,000 in grants for new programs, staffing and other costs associated with our Functional Program Plan. God has obviously gone before us. He has also provided in small and large gifts from churches and individuals for which we are so grateful.

A special thanks needs to be given to our conference who has offered \$50,000 over the next five years with the stipulation of it being matched by new donor giving. We are grateful for all who support and want to invite you to be part of what God is doing at Covenant Bay. While the plans are ambitious, our own history shows us that God loves to create something from nothing and that is more than ambitious, it is miraculous.

To see our plans, visit us at www.covenantbay.ca/future

You can "like" us on facebook at www.facebook.com/covenantbay

~Jon Drebert, CBBC Director

Women Ministries

2010 was a "Triennial Year", a time of "aha moments", a time to celebrate who we are – women united in Christ, impacting our world. We had sobering "aha" moments such as the "Hall of Justice" where we were faced with aspects of justice, for example: racism, world hunger, human trafficking, courtroom justice, and abuse. It was overwhelming but also a nudge to lock arms and with hearts of compassion, stand shoulder to shoulder against a wall of great suffering, and restore dignity to those who live in despair. We also had moments of hilarious laughter, worship times that lifted the ceiling, met international guests, and were inspired by encouraging speakers. I found it very uplifting to be part of a movement of women who have such courage and vision.

Our Canadian Conference Women were able to assist in a number ways such as support REED (break

the chain). Churches supported their SIMs. A WM grant purchased a Cherry Pitter for the Erickson, BC, group. Women in their community join them to learn to preserve the harvest, make nutritious meals and connect over great conversation.

This year we welcomed Jenell Plum as our first Ministry Coach. A video to introduce the help she offers can be viewed on our facebook page “Women in Touch”. Jenell hosted her first Coaching Retreat in February. We trust that many more women will find times of encouragement and renewal with her help.

Our leadership team finds itself in transition. Three key positions are open; one more will be added at the AGM. This invites a new conversation – Ladies, what does WM need to embody for you to embrace it, enjoy it, lead in it? It’s all about women like you and me, women who matter deeply to God and whose heart yearns to serve Him in a purposeful way. Will you join the conversation? Contact us at ecccwomen@gmail.com
~Trudy McIntosh

Missions Reports

Ebenezer Clinic Haut Limbe, Haiti

Ebenezer Clinic’s mission is to provide healthcare, with dignity and respect, to anyone who seeks it, whether or not they have the ability to pay. This year, the clinic has had the opportunity to implement that mission again and again.

At the beginning of 2010, the clinic found its own way to respond to the devastation of the earthquake by providing free healthcare for two weeks following. In addition, together with the help of the ECCC, they were able to help two tent communities in Port au Prince by providing several mobile health clinics and helping construct temporary shelter for several months following the earthquake.

In October, the first cases of cholera were reported in the Artobinite Valley in the centre of the country. Just a few weeks later, the potentially deadly bacteria reached the Limbe area and Ebenezer Clinic received its first cholera patient of over 2000 at a time when there was great suspicion and stigma around the illness and many health centres were refusing patients. Again, partnering with the ECCC and several other organizations like Médecins Sans Frontières, Ebenezer has been seen as a model cholera treatment centre in Northern Haiti and has been commended for its successful response.

Please continue to pray for and with Ebenezer Clinic as they are open to opportunities to serve the community of Haut Limbe and northern Haiti. ~Janelle Peterson



Key Reserve

The outreach to the Key First Nation has been both challenging and rewarding. As an Addictions Counsellor I have gained a deeper understanding and a better perspective to what life is for members of the Key community. Drug abuse and drug trafficking, poverty, violence and lack of income opportunities are a few of the factors that make life very difficult. Yet, First Nations people, in spite of these challenges, are a spiritual people and quite often I found myself talking about spiritual things and praying for and with people. The peculiar thing is that it happens anywhere: my office, staff meetings, coffee break, at a workshop etc.

A few highlights:

- Church services were held throughout the spring and summer.
- Jeff came to Key to meet with us, eat stew & bannock, and to tour the **trailer**/reserve.
- Much of the funds to renovate the trailer came via church offerings, “merchandise-bingos”, garage sales, and a highway garbage collection contract.
- We completed the exterior work and hope to finish the interior before spring. Since the furnace doesn't work, for now, the trailer is one big freezer.

At the present time the Key community is walking through some very difficult and testing times over and above the challenges I already mentioned, and the community is in real turmoil. As a part of these current issues, I have lost my job with the band which presents some difficult challenges for the ministry and our family. Pray that the light of Christ will shine in this community for fear that *“they would not listen ... because of their discouragement and cruel bondage” (Ex.6.9)*

~Alberto Zepeda

Ecuador

In 2010 we had a total of 14 Canadians, two from Kansas, and then four other Ecuadorian church leaders who joined with us to serve in a jungle community of the Oriente known as Pacto Sumaco. Pacto is the Spanish word for Covenant and this village was named for the faithful Covenanters who helped relocate the remnant of stricken refugees who survived a disastrous earthquake in 1987 which destroyed their home village. As a result, this village has relocated to an isolated area that only had a road built to it less than five years ago. Due to the isolation, broken family systems and lack of leadership the community has floundered. Although there is a Covenant church in the community, they cannot afford a trained pastor are being led by lay leadership. They only have an elementary school and so children must leave home to attend secondary school or drop out. The literacy rate is low and although the government provides a literacy program and a public health unit, the teachers and nurses never seem to make it out to this remote area.

One of the greatest economic needs for the community is to diversify their cash crops and learn environmental and sustainable agricultural practises. Our group, in partnership with the Ecuadorian Covenant church partnered to help build an agricultural training center and home for a residential agrologist. We build cement block walls, poured a cement floor in the kitchen, got the metal roof on intact and paid for the windows and doors to be put in place after we left and the cement had cured.

Our group enjoyed interacting with the lay pastor and several of the community people each evening as we shared a meal together. We also participated in worship with them three times during that week and heard incredible testimonies of people continuing in faith in the light of past suffering and difficult life circumstances. It was humbling and eye opening and we were challenged by their simple faith.

A highlight was Saturday when we presented a children's program for about 70 children of the community. Our children taught them how to play floor hockey and many other games. We did a drama, sang songs and told stories. The face painting was also a hit. Our David and Goliath were hilarious and all the Ecuadorian kids thought so too!

Our team members were awesome! They worked together with cheerfulness and enthusiasm and just kept flexible and positive when things were “different” than what we're used to. One couple brought their three children with them and we were so excited to see how that changed the dynamics of the group; attracted other children, and helped us see this bran new world through the eyes of the children.

We hope to continue our connection and communication with Sumaco in the hopes that other Canadian Covenant teams could follow-up with the work that has been started in that community. We will be planning another trip next February so please seriously consider joining us.
~Janell & Andy Pluim

Kernels of Hope

2010 has drawn to a close. That's not a surprise. To me the surprise for Kernels of Hope was that it was a very good year for us again ! We were farming together this year to help provide people in South Awiel in Sudan seed and tools for farming and fishing equipment to help people resettling after civil wars to re-establish their farming operations and lives. Food was also provided for better nutrition for mothers and children. The effects of this project will be felt for more than one generation!

Kernels of Hope as part of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada contributes the money raised through real farmers in Canada with the assistance of Virtual farmers to the Canadian Food Grains Bank for World Relief Canada to program with partners in countries in dire need. The Canadian International Development Agency (a division of the federal government) matches the funds by adding \$4 for every \$1 dollar ! The same as multiplying by 5.... I didn't like multiplication much in school but I really like it now! We also have a huge contributor called " Helping Feed the World " which is quarterbacked by the Hudye's in Norquay, Saskathcewan. They have been organizing producers in the area to commit the entire value 10 acres per farm of their crop ! This alone got us \$29,980.00 in 2010. Multiply that by 5 and you have \$149,900. Wow. The above may seem like a lot of partners but in this case it is a good thing. Or we can safely say it is a great thing. We are able to put resources directly into the hands of the poorest of the poor while increasing awareness of how people in North America can get involved even more. Is

there a more basic or more important industry to accomplish this than agriculture?

~Ray Baloun, Kernels of Hope



World Relief Canada

We are incredibly grateful for our continued partnership with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada. Through your generous participation in World Relief Sunday and Kernels of Hope, you have improved the lives of thousands of people in South Sudan by helping them gain the skills they need to work their way out of poverty. In an area where conflict and drought have caused untold hunger and pain as thousands of families were driven from their homes, there is now hope.

As an example I would like to introduce you to Garang Angok, a farmer in South Sudan. He and his family survive by growing small sustenance and cash crops such as sesame, sorghum, ground nuts, pumpkins and okra. Their lives have dramatically changed since becoming beneficiaries of World Relief Canada's programming in South Sudan. Garang now shares an ox-plow with another farmer and has been trained on how to use it effectively. The ox-plow allows the Angoks to plow more land, seed more acres and ultimately produce more crops to sell and eat. He has also received training on cultivating and mulching, which have improved his gardening practices and soil fertility. How this has impacted their lives is incalculable, but in real numbers they doubled their harvest of ground nuts. This year they produced 40 bags.

The new sustainable agricultural techniques give Garang and his family a sense of pride and confidence because they can now provide for themselves year round. The family's health has substantially improved because, thanks to your financial generosity, they now have a latrine, have received training in better hygiene practices and have access to health care for their children. You are helping show the love of Christ in a practical and meaningful way to so many families in need like the Angoks. Thank you for caring enough to get involved!

Discipleship Initiatives

Life Together Calgary



“Oh how good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Ps. 133:1 TNIV) Notice that nowhere in this Psalm - or anywhere in scripture - does it say that this happens all the time... but it is a clear and encouraging message for those of us doing Life Together that through God’s grace it CAN happen.

At the time of this report, we are about half way through year 2 in Life Together Calgary. We have new residents which means new schedules to try and work around, new personalities clashing and meshing in community, new things to learn from each other, new opportunities to serve in our local church, and new neighbors to build relationships with.

The first half of our year we have been concentrating on figuring out who we are and who God created us to be. This is our launching point into two other focuses - “who is God,” and “what is God calling us to?” We have done and are doing this through book studies, serving in our local church community, studying and understanding our different personalities, individual days of solitude, various speakers coming to the house and sharing with us, and our rhythm of prayer and daily scripture reflection. This is all happening as we live life - everyone has their own separate lives with their own separate responsibilities, jobs, friends, families... This is our reality - it can be a struggle but making space and time and effort within our realities for these spiritual rhythms and disciplines is what we hope to figure out for the benefit of the rest of our lives.

~Joel Braun, House Pastor

Winnipeg

This last September saw the beginning of the Life Together house in Winnipeg, MB. This year the house contains five people (four students and one leader). Throughout the year we have tried to seek to live as a community that is marked by rhythm, despite the difficulties that come with a house of five people all having different schedules. The rhythms of the house in Winnipeg include but are not limited to a morning time of reflection and prayer, evening meals together when possible, spiritual direction, retreats, and scripture reading. We are finding the task of balancing responsibilities of work and school, friends and family, with our attempts at living as disciples together to be a challenge but it this is a good challenge which is stretching us. Consequently throughout the year we have changed some of the rhythms of our home in an attempt to better correspond to our schedules, our needs, and our strengths as we have discovered some things which have not worked with this group of people.

As we are quickly approaching the one year mark with Life Together we hope to better define who we are and what shape this discipleship initiative will take in the context of Winnipeg. We hope to grow in our relation-



ship with Faith Covenant Church and the neighbors that we have. This time of year also means that soon we will be looking for some new members for our home as others will soon be moving on and we pray that God would bring individuals to us. We also will be looking at new housing options

as our lease is up in August and we hope to find a home that offers space that functions better for our home.

For the Life Together house in Winnipeg we ask for the prayer of the churches in the ECCC as we attempt to live as disciples in the context of community.

~Greg Jensen, House Pastor

Camp Ministry Team



The second year Camp Ministry Team was excellent. Our Team members were David Rae from Winnipeg, MB, Aaron Coutts-Smith from Sarnia, ON, Nathan Bertram from Melfort, SK, and Chelsey Doerksen from Winnipeg/Chicago.

We extended our season from 8 weeks to 16 and reduced the size of the group from 5 to 4. The first half of the season was working with churches in various ministries. This team did everything from neighborhood BBQ's to dressing up like sailor's for a parade. Reports back from the churches was that the team was excellent and added so much to what they were doing. The second half of the summer was spent at our three camps; Kootenay Covenant Bible Camp, Covenant Heights Bible Camp and Covenant Bay Bible Camp. Again the team was

greatly appreciated at these three camps as they have so much to offer in their skill sets and more importantly in the love and care they show campers.

The Leadership of the Camp Ministry Team has undergone some changes. First of all we have renamed the team to the Summer Ministry Team as they now do much more than just camp ministry. Phil Wright's time has now ended with us and so we needed to reorganize our leadership. Each camp has three representatives on this committee Paul Bodnarchuk from KCBC, Melisa Johnson from CHBC and myself (Jon Drebert) from CBBC along with Josh Rude our church representative. Our Team coordinator is Julia Stein. Welcome Julia, Melisa and Josh. Special thanks to Jerry Haukedal, from CBBC and Phil Wright for your work on this committee ensuring the beginning success of this initiative. My time as the team coordinator was great though my work with CBBC now needs my full attention. Thanks to everyone for the opportunity to serve the conference in this way and I look forward to volunteering on the summer ministry committee.

~Jon Drebert, CMT Coordinator 2010

CBC Legacy Bursary Awards

The CBC Legacy Bursary Awards Committee was thrilled to be able to grant 13 bursaries of \$500 each to those who are enrolled in theological, biblical or discipleship programs that *equip men and women to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, through spiritual formation, biblical knowledge, Christian service, and intentional community*. This year we have helped send students to Briercrest College, Trinity Western University, Canadian Mennonite University, Peace River Bible College, Providence College, Capernwray, and Moody Bible Institute.

Grants were given to: Erin Anderson (Dundurn); Micah Bend and Nadine Frei (Breton), Garret Erskine (Winnipeg); Rachel and Miriam Mast (Rainy River), Hanne Johnson (Durban); Nathalie Hosmann (Minnedosa); Allison Gilbert and Hayley Janzen (Strathmore); Christian Wood (Surrey); Isaac Lessard (Castle Rock, CO); and Hillary Friesen (Malmo). Please keep these students in your prayers as they continue their studies.

~Andy Sebanc, Award Committee Chair

Annual General Meeting Schedule

Sarnia, ON ~ Lighthouse Community Church
April 7-9, 2011

Thursday

10:00-4:00 Leadership Board Meeting
4:00-6:00 Delegate/Guest Registration
7:00pm Opening Worship Service

Friday

8:00-9:00 Registration
9:00-12:00 Ministerium Meeting
8:30-12:00 Women Ministries Gathering (all women are welcome)
12:00-1:00 WM & Ministerium Lunch
1:30-4:00 Annual General Meeting Part I
5:15 Dinner in Sarnia (sign up at registration)
7:00 Worship Service
9:00 Late night options

Saturday

9:00-9:12:00 Annual General Meeting Part II
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:30-4:00 Seminars
5:30-7:00 Community Meal
7:30 Closing Worship
9:00 Late night options

2010 ECCC Leadership Board	
Glenn Peterson (<i>Chair</i>)	Sarnia, ON
Christin Dewald (<i>Vice Chair</i>)	Chestermere, AB
Larry Peterson (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Wetaskiwin, AB
Norinne Sullivan (<i>Secretary</i>)	Melfort, SK
Ray Wall (<i>Personnel Committee</i>)	Rosebud, SK
Dale Peterson (<i>Finance Committee</i>)	Norquay, SK
Sally Carlson (<i>ECC Executive Board Liaison</i>)	Norquay, SK
Jeff Anderson (<i>Superintendent</i>)	Winnipeg, MB
Julia Stein (<i>Dir. of Ministry Support</i>)	Winnipeg, MB
Bruce Reimer (<i>Financial Consultant</i>)	Winnipeg, MB
Gerald Froese (<i>Church Revitalization</i>)	Winnipeg, MB

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