

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Period: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2020

Dear IWC Family Member,

The COVID-19 pandemic hit many churches not only in Winnipeg & Manitoba, but the rest of the world as government restrictions changes from week to week considering the pressure on the health care system with the fluctuating numbers of infected cases. Most IWC site churches had stopped physical Sunday services meetings as early as March 2020. St. James' attendance based on Public Health guidelines changes so that Sunday services were mostly streamed on-line. During the pandemic, majority of the staff were temporarily laid-off. To assist the church's finances during the difficult time, IWC had applied for some Provincial & Federal programs and were granted the following assistance for Temporary Wage Subsidy, Manitoba Summer Student Recovery Jobs Plan, Manitoba Bridge Grant and Back to Work Wage Subsidy. All public health regulations were adhered to as St. James' staff were kept informed on a regular basis. All the Sites, volunteers, and staff were informed accordingly to ensure proper planning and implementation.

With the changing times of service delivery under the 'new normal', the Digital Department was established with Ptr. Jerome as the lead aside from heading the Win Department. IWC invested into the digital system and human resources in order to be at par with other churches in reaching our congregation and other friends via on-line platforms.

A. DIGITAL TEAM

To keep up with the changing 'new normal', IWC had positioned the church to respond to the pandemic rather quickly by assessing and moving towards its needs to deliver better Sunday services via live streaming. To support this, a number of contractors were hired such as sound and lights tech, creative arts & platform directors for increased presence in social media, and a program coordinator for Sunday services. As a result of this move, some of the accomplishments were:

- Video clarity and color correction enhanced by moving the camera closer to reduce focus strain for better image clarity. The lights were re-arranged that corrected the color grading with the use of a new software.

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

- Recording studio was set up in the CE room for the worship team to record instrumentals and worship songs for Sunday services.
- Sound booth was enlarged to provide comfortable working space for the people working during services. An inventory of equipment and supplies were completed.
- A Digital Audio Workstation (DAW) was set-up to further enhance the online sound output including controlling and monitoring the sound that goes into Facebook.
- Graphics & videos – having dedicated people to do the graphics & videos made it possible for the Series introductions to be professionally produced. This included the Unstoppable Christmas, Power of Small, Enrapture Prayer and fasting materials. The Christmas and New year services production, both delivered via on-line, brought IWC to the forefront of digital and enhanced technology. Other videos were the prayer and fasting devotion announcements; Bible Projects intro and 4Ws of life groups' tutorial videos.
- Revised IWC St. James and Sites logo – a one style guide was introduced across all IWC sites, so branding was enhanced using one logo. This was made possible in coordination with other IWC sites social media people.

Here are some statistics with the enhanced Digital processes and resources:

Trends from Facebook – IWC page

- Total number followers: +382 (Sept to Jan 2021)
- Total page likes: +211 (Sept to Jan 2021)
- Total Post engagement: +4% (Dec to Jan 2021)

Trends from Instagram – Nov – Dec. 2020

- Accounts reached : +43.5% (Dec 15 to Jan 15 vs. Nov 15 to Dec 15)
- Impressions : +101.7% (Dec 15 to Jan 15 vs. Nov 15 to Dec 15)
- Profile visits : +120% (Dec 15 to Jan 15 vs. Nov 15 to Dec 15)

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

A. WIN TEAM

1. UPRISING

Uprising continued via on-line. Re-organized the Uprising team to lead the youth during this season. Volunteers were trained so they can deliver Zoom uprising meetings every Fridays. Some of the activities were:

- Open gym outreach Friday (January to February 2020)
- Outreach event - donating donuts to Frontline workers at different hospitals.
- Published a "Thank you" video for the frontline workers
- Conducted a drive-by grad tribute for IWC's 2020 graduates

2. YOUNG ADULTS – RENDEZVOUS

To support the young adults and continue programming in the midst of pandemic, this team was re-organized where the name was changed from Ground Zero to Rendezvous. Some activities include:

- Crafting via Zoom
- Outreach event - prepared care packages for YA and their families who struggled during the pandemic
- Study sessions was conducted for university students at the church building

3. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

It is important to continue being physically fit while we are living under this pandemic, so the Youth Development Centre kept on being opened following government restrictions and Public Health orders. Some of the activities from January to February 2020 were.

- Open gym outreaches every Thursday nights
- Open gym outreach Saturday mornings
- Free Taekwondo class outreach
- Sports camp outreach in partnership with Athletes in Action - 20 students only per government regulations. (August 2020).

4. KIDZTOWN

Re-organized the Kidztown team and recruited new volunteers who can deliver online teachings among the children. It successfully launched the first and afterwards the succeeding weekly online Sunday school classes. During December, Kidztown was part of the Christmas special production.

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

B. DEVELOPING LEADERS

The Membership Class was offered in February before the onset of the pandemic to which a total of fifty (50) new members were added to our roster. Nurturing of members were done on a cell/life group basis. In fact, one of the networks at St. James (Purple) had nurtured 76 people.

The Christian Education Department which was transformed into the LEAD Department started working in 2019 and continued in 2020 changing and/or updating the curricula for the Leadership Training Track (LTT). As a result of the re-organization, the new LTT gave new names to the process that every member goes through as a part of one's journey towards leadership. The new names are as follows:

- Enable – Nurturing
- Enlist – Membership
- Encounter – Encounter God Retreat freedom weekend (EGR)
- Enrich – Growth series (new)
- Empower – Launch Pad
- Energize – Refuel

The first team was established and worked on the Growth Series lessons focusing on how members can grow in their relationship with Christ such as reading the scriptures, praying, praise/worship, giving, the Holy Spirit and hearing from God. Some sites and cell/life groups were using the Growth Series as posted in the IWC website. A new content team composed of Alfie Basa, Eva Cabaltera, Fermel Distajo, Rosemarie Gravoso, Fatty Josue, Ghie Miranda, Lito Rodriguez, and Mike Vidallon was formed in the latter part of 2020 who worked on transforming the in-class materials into on-line format considering the government restrictions on public gathering. The Leadership School-Empower On-line offering was successfully launched in March 2021 with an initial 70 students. Thanks to the digital expertise and great work done by Mike Vidallon.

C. MULTI-SITES REPORT

IWC St. James looked for ways to support everyone during the pandemic – members who are needing support, the frontline health care workers who are working so hard in this crisis, and even those affected by natural disasters. In fact, some members were engaged in sewing face masks and someone donated 500 pieces that resulted in giving away a total 863 free masks. During April, May, June, August, and November, IWC had given away loaves of bread

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

courtesy of a brother who is working on a bread manufacturing company. Recipients were the Lighthouse Mission, families, neighbors, and other members. Support to Operations Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse resulted in 487 gift boxes provided to children in developing countries. Disaster relief for Taal Volcano and Typhoons Rolly & Ulysses amounted to \$6,900 contributions from members; for which we are really thankful. Out of all the networks at St. James, there are currently 39 active cell/life groups, 5 new or opened cells, 7 new members assimilated into cells and 7 first timers. There were 11 babies dedicated and 5 weddings officiated.

IWC-Brandon, under the leadership of Ptr. Ed & Edith Santin, is moving steadily going forward. Giving increased from \$39,077 in 2019 to \$62,913 equivalent to 60% increase in giving. There are 48 people who consider Brandon as their primary assembly where around 30 are attending regular Sunday services when restrictions are allowed; 6 are bonafide members with 12 volunteers. During the pandemic two (2) were new converts. There is one cell group meeting regularly (8-10 attendees) and a prayer meeting weekly with 7-10 regular attendees. Brandon is a multi-generational church with representation of families, youth, and children.

IWC-Neepawa under the leadership of Ptr. Cliff & Wenie Borres, is a thriving and growing church. Around 120 people call Neepawa their church with an average Sunday attendance of 60 during government restrictions. There are 14 volunteers and 4 members who went into Launch Pad. Ten (10) persons were saved, 9 baptized in water and 1 baby dedicated. There were 12 newcomers who visited; and majority were assimilated into cells. There are 6 active life/cell groups; 3 new cells where one is composed of young adults. Weekly morning and evening Friday meetings were held with an average attendance of 10-12 people. While living thru pandemic, Neepawa continued to do outreaches such as helping the community in sandbagging when they were hit by the flood last year and giving groceries to neighbors who lost their home in a fire. Giving increased lightly from \$56K to \$61K in 2020.

IWC-North under the leadership of Ptr. Ghigie & Jimmy Gonzales, continues to experience the same stability and growth this year even in crisis with an average attendance of 150-165 people and as high as 200+ during special events for in person services and around 145-160 in on-line as evidenced by the special Christmas Service & Good Friday meetings. Twenty (20) persons were saved as a result of borderless meetings thru daily and weekly Friday meetings with an average of 15-20 families, 25 new visitors, total of 16 active cell groups, with 6 new open cells resulting in 6 newcomers being active. Three (3) have gone thru

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

Nurturing. North had series of exhortations led by the Site Pastor focused on the following topics such as 'Virus that Attacks a Healthy Soul', 'Troubled Heart is Troubled Life' and 'Unveiling – Study of the Book of Revelation'. Giving increased to \$253K which is less than 5% increase in 2019. With the pandemic, the younger generation exhorted in on-line prayer meetings & special events and praise/worship. Even with the crisis, North did several outreaches such as: total of 20 gift bags were distributed to needy members, gasoline station attendants, & garbage collectors. Voluntary donations were given to Winnipeg Harvest, Union Gospel Mission, and grocery gift bags to families. The youth went to houses of graduates giving gifts that resulted into two young adults becoming active in life group meetings.

IWC-Transcona under the leadership of Ptr. Bong & Mina Sumayod have consistent attendees of an average 70 every Sunday where they consider Transcona its primary assembly. Thirty-nine (39) are members with a strong base of 25 volunteers. Giving slightly decreased from \$120K in 2019 to \$117K in 2020. Two (2) people gave their lives to Christ; 1 baptized in the Holy Spirit and 1 baby was dedicated to the Lord. Ten (10) newcomers came with 7 of them assimilated into the cell groups and 1 new cell. There are 7 active cells and 3 new open cells. At the onset of the pandemic, Transcona members were meeting via on-line. They participated in the January prayer & fasting meeting daily; nurtured new life groups and challenged young couples and young adults to open new life groups. In lieu of building services, they met at Kildonan Park, Assiniboine Park, St. Vital Park, & Kilcona Park during the summer months averaging 50 people each in attendance. They also participated in outreach by distributing bread at the MB Housing along Rougeau Avenue. A new family was invited for dinner and now are active life group members.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2020; total revenues amounted to \$1,534,993 and expenses of \$1,211,604 giving us a surplus of \$323,389. The pareto principle remains in operations where 20% of the people are giving 80% of the money. Among the top givers were ten families from St. James, 8 families from North, 2 from Transcona and 1 from Brandon.

Let me end in *Habakkuk 1:5 that says, The LORD replied, "Look around at the nations; look and be amazed! For I am doing something in your own day, something you wouldn't believe even if someone told you about it."* I believe that while we are experiencing the difficulties brought about by the pandemic; God is working behind the scenes.

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

On behalf of the Pastor's Council -- led by Ptr. Junie Josue, Lead Pastor, members -- Pastors Bong Sumayod & Jerome Basa, Bella Madrid, Melinda Trinidad, and Kevin Veron; the Pastoral and Office Staff; we are grateful for your continued support and faithfulness even in the midst of lack. We are grateful for your submission, humility, and commitment in serving along side with us as we await the 'something new' that God plans for us. God Bless us all!

Together with you In Christ's Service,



Ptra. Virginia V. (Ghigie) Gonzales
Council Secretary
May 21, 2021