

INTERNATIONAL  
WORSHIP CENTRE

**Lead Pastor's Report 2021**

The second year of the pandemic was still quite challenging and stressful for many of us and being the church in times like these was equally challenging and stressful. In response to the trying times we were in, we had three prayer and fasting weeks on top of the different network prayer meetings already existing. These corporate prayer times allowed us to pour out our hearts together to God, to help us persevere and be fruitful in a difficult year. We also focused on praying for every young person in our church that they will hear God's voice and follow Him in making disciples. We are now expecting for the great harvest to come sooner than later. And I would like to share some good news. As of this writing, we were able to pay \$502,416.61 off our mortgage for the past 2 years. That's 2 years of pandemic. Praise the Lord! I am so thankful for our church family who pulled this amazing accomplishment. I am so thankful for the wonderful people who call IWC their home church.

I am grateful for the faithful leadership given by our site pastors, Pastora Virginia Gonzales and her husband, Jimmy, of North; Pastor Bong Sumayod and his wife, Mina, of Transcona; Pastor Cliff Borres and his wife, Wenie, of Neepawa; and last but not the least, Pastor Ed Santin and his wife, Edith, of Brandon. They continue to lead with godly integrity, humility, and submission - not only to God but also to the senior leadership of the entire IWC family. We held on to each more tightly and helped each other stay afloat during these turbulent times.

To the network leaders Pastor Jojo Cochon and his wife, and Chit and Pastor Jerome Basa and his wife, Alfie- your leadership is amazing. You inspire and empower small group leaders and members to follow God's call to make disciples. To the small group leaders, to you I owe the pastoring of God's people. Your constancy in caring for others is truly the glue that keeps our people together and make them bond as brothers and sisters in Christ towards a common cause. Even when social or physical distancing has become the new norm, you led well and kept the fellowship of the brethren and even reached out beyond geographical borders through virtual or online meetings.

The council members, Mel Trinidad, Pastor Ghigie Gonzalez, Pastor Bong Sumayod, Pastor Jerome Basa, Pastor Jojo Cochon, Bella Madrid, Fermel Distajo and Rob Villafranca, together with myself, make decisions with such unity, character, integrity, and wisdom that we can honestly say that God is at the helm and steering the ship in the right direction even in the stormy waters. Special thanks to the job re-evaluation team for taking the long journey of making sure that our employees, site pastors and contractors have the right job description and salaries. This work went all the way to the first few months of 2022.

To the staff, Pastor Bong Sumayod, Pastor Jerome Basa, Eva Cabaltera, Cris Orido, Erika Cruz, Bobby Fiñeza, Pebbles Marcaliñas, and Willie Landicho, I thank you all for walking the extra mile in the service you gave beyond the call of duty. You've

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been my constant companion and teammates in serving God's people and being the church to the world around us.

We also have many awesome workers who, week after week, made our services available online and in person (when permitted). Everyone of these precious people jumped at every opportunity to help with everything they got to serve behind the scenes. They patiently endured the very stressful season of ministry trying to abide by health protocols and the ever-changing landscape of providing Sunday services to both our members and visitors as well.

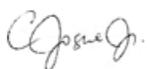
Thank you to all who call IWC home, who heeded the call to prayer and faithful giving. I'm grateful beyond words to the faithful tithers and givers who are instrumental in helping the church move forward in the direction of our God-given vision. We are awed by the generosity you've demonstrated even in the most difficult financial times we've ever faced. You have shown the kind of faith and trust in God that is truly remarkable. Praise the Lord!

Most of all, I would like to express my appreciation to my family. The life of a pastor is never easy and, usually, the family is the shock absorber. I have an awesome wife in Fatty who is prayerful and wise, standing beside me from day one. I love her deeply and sincerely thankful to have her by my side. And to our children, Isaac, Ruth, and Zac, I'm thankful for their love and support. And to our grandson Caleb, who was the constant source of delight and awe, as we see him grow last year into becoming a lively and jolly toddler. A true blessing from heaven. We also discovered towards the end of 2021 that Fatty and I will soon be welcoming our second grandchild, Zoe. Praise the Lord!

For all the details of what was accomplished for 2021, please refer to the Secretary's Report. From the bottom of my heart, I thank the Lord for blessing us with an amazing year full of His grace and favour. It is such an awesome privilege and honour to serve Him and share His love and the Good News to His people and His harvest field in Winnipeg and Canada. I give Him all the praise, glory, and honour.

Looking forward for more fruitful years as we celebrate in 2022 our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a church. Greater things are ahead of us in Christ Jesus as Lord and Head of the Church.

Committed to Lead till the End!



Ptr. Junie Josue  
Lead Pastor