

INTERNATIONAL
WORSHIP CENTRE

SECRETARY'S REPORT
Period: January 1 – December 31, 2021

Dear IWC Family Members,

Greetings in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ!

Luke 5:4 says, *'when He had stopped speaking, Jesus said to Simon, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch."* I believe that God is telling us the same thing today both individually as members and as a church to dig deeper and launch higher as we go forward to the next 25 years.

We praise God for His awesome faithfulness in bringing us through the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic that affected not just our church but churches all over the world. We continued to abide with Manitoba Government restrictions on guidelines and protocols to ensure the safety of all, especially our church members and lessen the risk of spreading the virus. Through most of 2021, IWC site churches did not hold in-person gatherings, but the St. James site continued livestreaming services and offered in-person services with allowable number of volunteers and people as allowed.

In the Summer and Fall 2021, most IWC Sites re-opened in-person gatherings but were restricted again due to the rising cases of the "Omicron" variant. Again, IWC reverted to on-line streaming. The Digital Department under the able leadership of Ptr. Jerome Basa was able to deliver better, technically innovative, and creative on-line church experience.

A. DIGITAL TEAM

The Digital Team, in its efforts to keep up with the changing times and adapting to the 'new normal' of doing church and technology, played a significant role towards successful IWC presence on-line. Some of the accomplishments were:

- Sounds and Lights Tech – completed the re-arrangement of stage lights, stage expansion and added a streaming camera.
- Social Media Creatives:
 - A Creative Director hired providing a big boost to the consistency of church designs
 - Graphics and Videos – Series Intros, Special Activities and Programs graphics, announcement slides were enhanced
 - New and Updated Website, Church App launched
- Successful online events conducted:
 - Momentum Online Conference with Ptr. Junie & Ptr. Jerry Berenguer

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- Mental Health Forum with Dr. Gerry Tonn
- Covid 19 Q&A with Dr. Natalie Casclang
- Virtual Annual Business meeting for 2021

B. WIN TEAM

I. KIDZTOWN/ IWC SUNDAY SCHOOL

Headed by Marjory Miranda, KidzTown went 100% online. Accomplishments were:

1. Launching of the first Online VBS (Vacation Bible School) – “ANCHORED”
2. Recruitment of new volunteers towards effective online presentation
3. Weekly Online Sunday School class
4. KidzTown Christmas Special

II. UPRISING

Headed by Norman Relis, the following activities were conducted:

1. Drive-by Tribute to 2021 High School Graduates
2. Online via Zoom Uprising gathering every Friday night
3. In-person “Uprising Game Night”
4. Uprising Outreach – Sanitary Supplies Donation Drive – Women’s Resource Centre

III. RENDEZVOUS

Headed by Marie Gravoso reached out to young adults through the following activities:

1. Study sessions for university students at 1077 St. James – January – February 2021
2. Care packages – Distributed giftbags containing groceries for struggling families of young adults – January 2021
3. Worship & Prayer Night – November 2021
4. “How To” Student Forum – Outreach activity conducted via Zoom to help first-year university students to know means and ways to go about university life – January & September 2021
5. Summer Zoom Paint Night – June 2021

IV. YDC – Youth Development Center

YDC conducted a sports camp outreach in partnership with Athletes in Action called “MULTI SPORTS CAMP” attended by sixteen participants from July 10 to 23, 2021

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V. OUTREACHES

Despite the pandemic, we have conducted three major outreach events:

1. Socks and Underwear Winter Donation Drive – January 2021
2. Giant Tiger Donation items for Siloam Mission – May 21, 2021
3. The Annual Operation Christmas Child Shoebox – December 2021

C. LEAD - DEVELOPING LEADERS

Developing leaders thru the Leadership Training Track (LTT) is the primary goal of the Lead Department equipping the saints and releasing leaders to becoming Life Group leaders. To deliver the classes during the pandemic, Lead transformed the teachings into on-line delivery. The courses were offered via on-line learning called Learning management System (LMS) - designed, developed, and maintained by Micoi Vidallon. Thank to his efforts, our on-line offering is at par with other professional on-line learnings.

The Membership Class was offered in November 2021 with twenty-nine (29) new graduates. The new church members were composed of people from the five different sites:

- IWC Neepawa – 1
- IWC Bandon – 10
- IWC St. James – 9
- IWC North – 2
- IWC Transcona – 7

The Empower Leadership Class (formerly School of Leadership & Launch Pad) graduated a total of sixteen (16) people from the following sites:

- IWC St. James – 9
- IWC North – 1
- IWC Transcona – 6

The Nurturing Series for newcomers and the Spiritual Growth which are both on the website are continually being done through our life groups.

D. DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT

- New and Updated User-friendly Life Groups Materials outlines on the following series: Time to Act, Discovering Christ in the Gospels, and This Is the Way Series
- Provided the sites, network and life group leaders with Online Life Group Resources and Tools for LG leaders such as resources from: Every Nation/Victory Philippines, Joel Comiskey Cell Resources, and Purpose Driven Life Small Group Resources
- Nurturing Materials - Completed the Nurturing Student's Guide

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- **IWC LIFE LINKS** – The official communication page on Facebook was created to establish regular connection, provide special information and encouragement for all LG leaders.
- **A LIFE GROUP Tracking Report Forms** such as the Meeting Report and LG Accountability forms were designed and disseminated to monitor LG meetings, identify newcomers, and assist them in areas they require. *Both Life Group Meeting Form & Accountability Report Form are available on our IWC website.*
- **Video Encouragements** named *LG "Lit Advice"* - a 5-minute (or less) video of practical tips to encourage and empower Life Group leaders.
- **Virtual Engagement Process & In-person follow up** on-going
- **Regular Sunday online attendees** as well as in-person new visitors are being followed up through Phone calls, Email "Thank You" letters.

E. MULTI-SITES REPORT

IWC St. James continued to provide the spiritual care to the members both in person and via on-line streaming. The church's technology was enhanced with the investments of new equipment in all areas to support Sunday services. Technical contractors were hired to provide support to its on-line presence. Our investments proved beneficial with attendees all over the world as members shared our weekly telecasts. In fact, many on-line life groups were established and continued to meet even today. IWC had given away loaves of bread courtesy of a brother who is working on a bread manufacturing company. Socks and underwear donation drive and items from Giant Tiger were donated to Siloam Mission. Support to Operations Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse resulted in 567+ gift boxes provided to children in developing countries. Disaster relief was provided to Hope Village, YWAM-Cebu, Philippines. in the amount of \$6,370 and for Abbotsford, BC typhoon amounting to \$7,200 with contributions from the church and members' donations; for which we are really thankful.

IWC-Brandon, under the leadership of Ptr. Ed & Edith Santin is moving steadily going forward. The Santins advised of their plans to stay half a year in the Philippines in 2022. There are 50 people who consider Brandon as their primary assembly where around thirty are attending regular Sunday services when restrictions were allowed; 15 are bonafide members with 15 volunteers. Four were visitors who were integrated into life groups. There is one life group meeting regularly and a monthly prayer meeting with 7-10 regular attendees. Brandon is a multi-generational church with representation of families, youth, and children. Giving increased from \$62K in 2020 to \$79K in 2021.

IWC-Neepawa under the leadership of Ptr. Cliff & Wenie Borres, is a thriving and growing church. Around 140 people call Neepawa their church with an average Sunday attendance of 75-85 regular services and 50 during government restrictions. There are 36 volunteers and forty-five members completed

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membership. There were 25 newcomers who visited; and 15 were integrated into the life groups.

Few individuals underwent the EMPOWER class. There are weekly prayer meetings; participated in prayer Fasting Week of the church, attended on-line church trainings. While living thru pandemic, Neepawa continued to do outreaches such as distribution of goods to newcomers under the leadership of Romyr & Michelle Otoc including Adopt a Block. Giving increased slightly from \$61K in 2020 to \$68K in 2021. It is planned that Ptr. Cliff will take over the Brandon leadership.

IWC-North through the able leadership of Pastors Ghigie and Jimmy Gonzales with the support of the core leaders, Life Group leaders and apprentices continued the pastoral caring and shepherding of the members. Average attendance was 145 low and high of 200 during events. The pandemic reduced the attendance to 70-85. There are 50-60 regular volunteers. The Site Pastor decided to offer weekly Friday devotions on-line focusing on relevant topics as: 'Who I am in Christ' & 'Finishing Strong'. Weekly Friday meetings are functional throughout the year under the leadership of Mayeeh Gravoso and her team of intercessors. Most life groups were meeting on-line, and a few life groups opened including attendees around the world with families, school mates, etc. One life group is completely composed of newcomers. With the highest concentration of young adults and youth under the mentorship of Cris & Gigi Reyes; they were encouraged to start doing life groups. A young women's group was established and thriving, thanks to the commitment and dedication of Marianne Madrid. Outreaches such as giving to Union Gospel, caring for members financially and giving groceries; Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes and others continued. Giving was reduced to \$233K in 2021 as compared to \$253K in 2020.

IWC-Transcona under the dedicated leadership of Ptr. Bong & Mina Sumayod and the dynamic support of the core leaders and ministry teams strived to consistently aim to advance God's Kingdom at the east side of our city through leading people to become Christ-followers. Since the pandemic began in 2020 which carried over to 2021, the church gathered at Rossmere Golf and Country Club. Since our October 2021 re-opening, the site had a maximum of 90 people in attendance with an average attendance of 55 people and twenty-five (25) active volunteers taking their turns on a weekly basis. Life group gatherings continued regularly via Zoom. One particular life group gather members from 4 separate locations across the world regularly. Three young adults are being mentored for Next Gen leadership namely Christine Rivera, Myrell Dipaling, and AJ Ocon. Outreach activities were conducted such as: one-time house to house distribution of Why Magazines and \$5 Mc Donald's and Tim's gift cards given to 30 families. Transcona supported the annual campaign of the Operations Christmas Child Shoebox give away. Giving increased from \$117K in 2020 to \$146K in 2021.

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Let me end with this scripture in *1 Corinthians 2:9*, *“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*

I believe that IWC’s next 25 years journey will not only be exciting and fruitful, but quite significant and impactful demonstrating the compelling love of God and reaching a harvest that is possible only with God’s intervention.

On behalf of the Pastor’s Council -- led by Ptr. Junie Josue, our Lead Pastor, members -- Pastors Bong Sumayod, Jojo Cochon & Jerome Basa, Bella Madrid, Melinda Trinidad, Fermel Distajo and Rob Villafranca; the Pastoral and Church Office Staff; we are truly grateful for your continued support and faithfulness amid these challenging and changing times.

Truly, we can demonstrate unity in the spirit through walking in love, submission, humility, and commitment in fulfilling our God-given vision *“to reach Winnipeg and Canada with the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples through life groups, church planting and all effective means.”*

The best is yet to come in 2022 God bless us all!

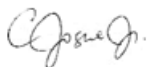
Together with you In Christ’s Service,

Ptr. Bong Sumayod
Assistant Council Secretary



Ptra. Virginia (Ghigie) Gonzales
Council Secretary
June 8, 2022

Noted:



Ptr. Junie Josue
Lead Pastor