

September
2007

Issue 8

The *Emmanuel*light



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We had a great time at SonForce Kids Vacation Bible Camp

With the help of many members of our own congregation and some from St. Johns, Oak Ridges, the VBC was a huge success.

This year 38 children attended including seven children from MacKay Drive, four of whom were not Robinsons.

Throughout the week the children focused on five different themes:

- Trust** in God's plans,
- Unite** with God's people,
- Train** for God's service,
- Follow** in God's path
- Lead** other to God's promises.

Each theme was focused on a different bible story. The children were encouraged to learn memory verses and many, especially in the oldest group, were able to learn all five.



VBC was a lot of fun this year. The snacks, games and bible studies all worked together to create an overall experience that left the children smiling from ear to ear. And while the weather was not perfect, God blessed us with the ability to play outside each morning.

Thank you to all our volunteers and helpers. Without you, none of this would be possible. A *'Thanks be to God'* for such a successful year!

by Robyn Symons

**Roast Beef
Barbeque
September 15th
3:30 p.m.**



**Bring your
Lawn
Chairs!!**

And a friend
or neighbour...

Everyone is
Welcome!

**Treasurer's Update ~ Cathy Dunn**

All figures are year-to-date as of August 26th, 2007		2007 Actual	2007 Budget	Difference	2006 YTD
Income	Donations	85,551	95,890	(10,339)	73,596
	Interest	626	560	66	649
	Rental	8,050	8,100	(50)	8,875
	PST & GST from prior years	1,561	1,317	244	953
	Internally restricted funds received	4,152	820	3,332	5,868
Total Income		99,939	106,687	(6,748)	89,941
Expenditures	Budgeted expenses	106,784	115,220	(8,436)	101,533
	Internally restricted fds used	6,799	540	6,259	5,905
Total Expenses		113,583	115,760	2,177	107,438
Difference		(13,644)	(9,073)	(4,571)	(17,497)

1. Emmanuel is still \$10,000 behind budget in contributions as well as in expenses. We have weathered the summer better than last year, however, we have spent \$13,000 more than we have received. The shortfall is being covered by our savings.
2. The new dishwasher donated by Margaret Quance has finally been installed. Many thanks for her generosity .
3. Emmanuel is part of a pre-authorized giving program. If you would like to make monthly donations to the church through this program, please ask Sheila or Cathy for a form. Withdrawals are made from bank accounts around the 15th of the month. You can change the amount simply by telling Cathy Dunn.
4. Another additional unexpected expense will be building updates to meet the Fire Code estimated at \$7,000.

God has blessed us with a new Intern!

I'm sure that many of you have been wondering exactly who I am and what I'm doing at Emmanuel this year. Here is a very brief introduction to me and to my role at the church.

My name is Robyn Symons and I'm an intern here at Emmanuel. I'm originally from Bradford Ontario (south of Barrie) and in April I graduated from Queen's University with a degree in politics. As well, I'll be beginning my masters in theological studies at Wycliffe College this fall. I have very recently become engaged to Keith Brooks (the lovely gentleman you'll see me holding hands with) and I live in the basement of the rectory.

This year at Emmanuel I will serving in many ways. I've already enjoyed helping out with this year's VBC where I functioned as the MC and ran the games center. I will also be helping during the service and with Emmanuel events. One area that I'm especially looking forward to helping with is the youth group. I am hoping to build on the momentum created last year to create a weekly bible study and a monthly event (ie. Laserquest, videogames, movie nights etc.)

I'm so very excited to become a part of the fantastic community here at Emmanuel. I would greatly appreciate your prayers for my ministry, studies and especially for the youth group—that God would work in the hearts of the young people of our church and that we would be able to create and sustain a weekly bible study. Thank you so much for your warm welcome! I look forward to meeting you all.

- Robyn Symons



Peter's Epistle

It has been a busy summer and it will be a busy autumn. This issue of the Emmanuellight lists some of the many things that are coming up and highlights the Vacation Bible School. We had a fabulous team organizing, leading and doing a great job with the children at our VBC. Many of the parents and children came to our Sunday celebration service on August 26th where the children shared some of the songs and the verses they had learned during the week. It was a privilege to be involved in such a good program.

We are very pleased to welcome Robyn Symons as a student intern at Emmanuel. Those of you who have met her or seen her in action at the VBC know that she brings with her a lot of energy and enthusiasm. We are looking forward to her involvement and leadership with different people and programs this year.

God has been good to us. Nonetheless there are lots of issues we are facing both individually and as a local church within the wider Anglican Church. We don't know all the things that God has planned for us but we can be confident that he is faithful. Jeremiah 29:11 says *For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.* These words from God came to the people of Israel who were in exile in Babylon. In exile many of the people were wondering what God was doing or even wondering if he had abandoned them. God reminds them of his faithfulness and promises them that even if the short term looks bleak or uncertain he will fulfill his plans for them.

We are not in the same position as the exiles in Babylon. Nonetheless, in good times and in bad we can have confidence in God and we can know who we need to turn to. In Jeremiah vs 12 and 13 God says to the exiles: *Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me; when you seek me with all your heart.* Our hope and our confidence do not come from being able to predict or control the future but from the one who is Lord over all.

IFES WORLD ASSEMBLY 2007 AS SEEN FROM THE PRAYER ROOM By Ruth Copland

Tucked away in a sunny spacious youth room of a local Hamilton church, forty one intercessors from many walks of life, met together over nine days in three hour prayer shifts to support the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students World Assembly this summer. Over one hundred written prayer requests from the delegates were brought over to the church and prayed through. Each prayer shift had a designated Inter-Varsity Staff leader and an ever-changing blend of staff (French and English Canadian, American and Columbian), students, area supporters and local Hamilton intercessors. Through worship, Bible reading, intercession and personal story, each intercessor partnered with God and one another to pray blessing into the assembly. We were aware of numerous people praying with us off site and around the world.

This brief article will give you just a little flavour of the many answers to prayer and the tender mercies of God as over 600 people from more than 150 countries mingled together on the beautiful Redeemer University College campus. At the last minute Visa's were granted through the Prime Minister's office and many delegates from distant countries persevered to obtain flights. Travel was safe and customs clearances were smooth. Representatives from 18 countries stood to become official new members of IFES. Many local friends helped with transportation, home stays, donated generously to cover the budget, attended Canadian day and pastors day and were enthusiastically brought into the IFES family in a transformational way. International friendships were forged and prayer partners continue to be in touch across the ocean. Our hearts were opened to unanimously welcome our new General Secretary from French Africa.

What seemed like challenges, God turned into blessings. The first plenary Bible teacher experienced a severe tooth abscess that required dental care and shifting the schedule around. As a result he later acknowledged before us all that he had prepared a "painless, academic talk" and God challenged him through his pain.

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A Project Proposal and a Forgotten War

By Peter W. Dunn
Director, The Barnabas Venture

In my meeting in Kenya (August 8-10), I met a California professor, who recounted that shortly after the events of 9-11 the international students were consoling the Americans in his class. A Congolese woman stood up and addressed the Americans stunned by the recent slaughter of over 3000 people and frightened by the prospect of a war against terrorists. “We are very sorry about your losses,” she said. “But you must understand that over two million people have died because of the war in my country and no one has cared.”



A Congolese child soldier
(source telegraph.co.uk)

Since 1998, the Democratic Republic of Congo has been the stage of an international conflict which has been called alternatively the “Forgotten War”, the “War of Seven Nations,” or “Africa’s first World War”. The International Rescue Committee (theirc.org) estimates that the crisis in the years 1998-2004 had resulted in about four million deaths and two million refugees. Much of the fighting has been in the Eastern, mineral-rich part of the country. The various armies have competed to exploit the region’s diamonds and coltan (necessary in cell phones and computers).

Faustin RUGAMBA, a Master’s student at Bangui Evangelical School of Theology (BEST), wrote to me on August 15, 2007: “I come humbly before you to tell you of the crisis which is happening once again in our country, Democratic Republic of Congo, above all in the region surrounding Bunia. There is total insecurity, especially in the villages on the border with Uganda. Last week, my village Boga, where my family is living at this moment, barely escaped a confrontation between our military and that of the neighboring country, being only 35 km away. The Ugandan forces say that they want to return to Congo to seek out Ugandan rebels hiding out in Congo.”

For his own peace of mind and for his family’s safety, Faustin has decided to move them to Bangui as soon as possible. By selling all their possessions, his wife was able to raise US \$405 but lacked \$335 to cover all the travel expenses for herself and two small children. Therefore, the Barnabas Venture sent US \$500 directly to Faustin’s wife Josée via Western Union. We hope that this will suffice in helping the family make the long journey across the DRC to Bangui, Central African Republic. But when they arrive Faustin will face increased expenses for food, water, housing and electricity, not to mention tuition for his children and his wife.



Because Faustin is an Anglican priest and because Moussa Bongoyok, now Director of Communications at BEST, recommends him highly with regard to his academic ability and his Christian character, I thought that Emmanuel Anglican Church might wish to contribute to this worthy project. The executive committee has approved the raising of \$2000 for Faustin and his family. Such a contribution would be our church’s small way of remembering the poor who have been displaced by a Forgotten War.



September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 8am BCP HC 10am BAS HC	3 1:30-3pm Intercessory Pr.	4 1 pm Bridge	5 10:30 am Leisure World	6	7	8
9 8am BCP HC 10am BAS HC	10 1:30-3pm Intercessory Pr.	11 1 pm Bridge	12 10am Study, Communion & Healing Prayer (C.E. Bldg.)	13	14	15 3:30 pm Beef BBQ
16 8am BCP HC 10am BAS HC	17 1:30-3pm Intercessory Pr.	18 1 pm Bridge	19 10am Study, Com- munion & Healing Prayer (C.E. Bldg.)	20	21	22
23 8am BCP HC 10am BAS HC	24 1:30-3pm Intercessory Pr.	25 1 pm Bridge	26 10am Study, Communion & Healing Prayer (C.E. Bldg.)	27	28	29 8:30 am Men's & Ladies Breakfast
30 8am BCP HC 10am BAS HC						

IFES World Assembly 2007 continued from page 3

As IFES members, he called us to be like Jesus. "Jesus took enmity into his body on the cross, did not kill the enemy but took the enmity". We heard stories of much pain and suffering for the gospel and were encouraged through one another to stand firm with Jesus in the reality of our lives. The Brazilian Bible teacher who stepped up to take the first plenary invited us all to come to the table with Jesus. He pointed out that gathering people around the table with Jesus - not the desk, is God's preferred way. We celebrated much around the table.

Small coincidences of blessing continued to happen. On Canadian day with 200 additional guests present we had prayed God would send **weather that would build his kingdom**. During lunch a cool breeze blew as folks ate outside to the joyful music of the steel drums. At 2 pm a light rain brought people inside to enjoy the different displays of the world, hear stories and pray through various regions. In general the weather was comfortable and refreshing. During the excursion day, delegates traveled safely to and from several points of interest including Niagara falls and Ontario Pioneer Camp. In the midst of some travel chaos, the travel co-ordinator went into the bathroom where the graffiti on the door clearly stated "Everything will be OK" and it was! One former staff signed up to join a prayer shift and without knowing it three of his former students were also on that prayer shift. So often I would say "I need to find someone" and within a minute they would show up!

The registrar from the Oxford office of IFES writes in her closing newsletter: *Thank you for being faithful in your prayers for WA07. I believe they made a difference. A colleague of mine said to me 'Wasn't there an amazing presence of God's peace throughout WA07?'*

Thank you Emmanuel for your prayers, support and encouragement. Thanks be to God for His great faithfulness!

Ruth Copland



You are invited to attend a Men's and Ladies Breakfast!! Saturday, September 29th at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

Our special guest speaker is Lisa Robinson!

Lisa has been involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for many years as a leader at Ontario Pioneer Camp as well as holding various leadership positions with the IVCF group at McMaster University while studying nursing there. Lisa graduated from nursing in 1999, and has been working for the past eight years at BC Children's Hospital and the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. Three years ago she started volunteering again with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, as the director of a global partnership with the Christian student movement in Malawi called SCOM. Global Partnership's are short term mission trips that involve taking IVCF students from Canada and partnering with Christian student movements around the world, in order to provide opportunities for students to work with and serve other students. These GP's to Malawi were the first to focus on HIV/AIDS education as well as the first GP for IVCF to Sub Saharan Africa. It was through these experiences that Lisa was confronted with the reality of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, and it was at this time when she knew she needed to be more involved. Since returning to Canada last year, Lisa began working for IVCF in the World Services department as the HIV/AIDS coordinator. In this role, Lisa is responsible for helping students, staff, alumni and the church become more actively engaged in the HIV/AIDS pandemic both nationally and internationally.



Mark it in your calendar NOW!! and invite a friend to come with you...

Seniors' Thanksgiving Luncheon Wednesday, October 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

We start with a short service of Holy Communion right at 11:30, then a delicious lunch followed by some entertainment which is enjoyed by everyone.

Roast Beef Barbeque Saturday, September 15th at 3:30 p.m.

You won't want to miss the annual get together.... Delicious food, good entertainment and fun and games for the whole family.

Bring a lawn chair and if you are able to bring a salad or dessert, please let Cindy D'Hollander [905-862-3126] know. Hope to see you all there!

Fire Safety Building Updates:

After inspecting our church on June 29, the Richmond Hill Fire Department requested a number of mandatory upgrades to meet fire code requirements. There needs to be a new door installed at the bottom of the stairs at the east entrance to the parish hall and several other doors need to be replaced to meet the fire code. The work will cost approximately \$7000 (of course this was not anticipated in our 2007 budget.) The executive committee has approved this expenditure with the work happening over the next couple of months

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The Emmanuellight
Emmanuel Anglican Church publishes "The Emmanuellight" monthly, except for a single July/August issue.
Deadline for Notices & Articles for the October 2007 Issue is Sunday, Sep. 30th and can be left with Sheila Craig at the Church

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 1:00-5:00 pm