

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

Period: January 1 – December 31, 2022

Dear IWC Family Members,

Blessed greetings in the name of Jesus!

*Acts 10:38* says, <sup>138</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." *Acts 10:34* says, <sup>134</sup> Then Peter began to speak: "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right."

God indeed does not show favoritism and His heart beats the same for salvation of everyone - young and old, men or women, slaves or free, educated or not, rich or poor. The Lord offers the same gift of life to everyone who fears Him and does what is right. Our vision as a church in reaching the lost continues and while challenges arose from the pandemic, the life of the church had thrived as we have adapted to the changing times even after it. The year saw people coming back to church in all sites and finances remained steady during difficult times. The year 2022 started to bring more face-to-face gatherings that were beneficial to all members and newcomers alike. Here are some of the highlights:

### A. DIGITAL TEAM

The Digital Team has been instrumental in ensuring the International Worship Center's strong online presence, adapting to the ever-evolving landscape of church and technology in the 'new normal.' Here are some noteworthy accomplishments:

- Sounds and Lights Tech: The team enhanced the media production by installing additional lights on the stage, effectively covering the expanded area. They also implemented a multi-camera setup using the ATEM mini pro, elevating the visual experience for our online audience.
- Social Media Creatives & Online Events:
  - Graphics and Videos: The Digital Team crafted captivating series intros for all preaching sessions, creating an engaging and immersive online experience. Additionally, they designed the graphics for the momentous 25th anniversary celebration, aptly titled "Since '97."
  - Online Events: The team successfully organized and executed various virtual events, including digital prayer meetings, a dynamic Missions month, weekly blogs on YouTube titled "Higher Life," and a virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM).

### B. WIN TEAM

#### I. KIDZTOWN/ SUNDAY SCHOOL

Kidztown successfully resumed face-to-face programming, providing a weekly gathering for children. As part of our efforts to adapt to the changing times, we expanded our team by welcoming

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new volunteers, including online teachers. Under the leadership of Marjory Miranda and the next generation of dedicated teachers, we created 40 engaging online videos for our children who couldn't attend church in person. Additionally, we organized a highly attended Vacation Bible School with the theme "Heart of a Champion," which took place from July 11th to 15th and saw the participation of both long-time members and newcomers to our church. To celebrate the joyous Christmas season, we also prepared a special Kidztown Christmas presentation.

## **II. UPRISING**

Under the leadership of Norman Relis, Uprising has continued to flourish, attracting a weekly attendance of over a hundred enthusiastic young individuals every Friday. Following the challenges posed by the pandemic, we successfully organized the first Youth Camp since its onset, titled "UYC 2022: Paradigm." This impactful event brought our youth closer to God, with an impressive attendance of 72 participants. We are delighted to share that 50 young individuals made the decision to embrace Christ, and an inspiring 45 of them were baptized in water, symbolizing their faith and commitment. In addition to these transformative experiences, Uprising also celebrated the Grade 12 high school graduation by providing the graduates with special "back to school" packages, ensuring they were well-equipped for their next chapter in life.

## **III. RENDEZVOUS**

Previously faced with a leadership vacuum, the Young Adults group found renewed direction under the guidance of the WIN Pastor. As a result, our monthly Young Adults event has experienced consistent participation, with an average attendance of 30 individuals. The Young Adults have been actively engaged in various outreach initiatives such as serving at the Lighthouse Mission and generously distributed packages through the Project Angel Tree program, extending support to the families of incarcerated individuals.

Furthermore, we successfully organized the first Young Adults retreat after the pandemic, aptly titled "Fresh." This rejuvenating event saw the enthusiastic participation of 42 young adults who were inspired and encouraged to deepen their commitment to Jesus and pursue transformed lives in His light.

## **IV. YDC – Youth Development Center**

The Youth Development Center (YDC) has been dedicated to its primary objective of reaching the unreached through sports. Here are some notable activities and achievements:

- **Open Gym and Neepawa Mini Sportsfest:** The YDC opened its gym to various networks & Winnipeg sites every Saturday, providing a welcoming space for community engagement. In August, Neepawa utilized the facility for their mini Sportsfest, further fostering a spirit of collaboration and sportsmanship.
- **Free Basketball Clinic:** In July and August, a successful basketball clinic was conducted, led by Coach Wendell Mozo and Ptr. Junie. With an impressive turnout of 40 kids, the clinic provided valuable coaching and mentorship in basketball skills.
- **Adult Open Gyms:** the YDC organized adult open gyms every Wednesday with an average attendance of 20 participants, these sessions offered a platform for recreational activities and community bonding.

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- Open Badminton: The YDC hosted open badminton sessions every Monday, providing an opportunity for enthusiasts to engage in the sport with an average attendance of 6 participants.
- Free Taekwondo Classes: Taekwondo classes, led by Mark Chornley, were offered free of charge every Thursday at the YDC. These classes attracted an average of 15 children, providing them with an avenue to learn self-defense, discipline, and personal growth.

## V. OUTREACHES

Outreaches lie at the heart of IWC's mission, embodying our commitment to demonstrate the love of Christ through random acts of kindness. Here are some remarkable outreach initiatives that have taken place:

- Bread Distribution: In both January and May, we conducted bread distribution events, providing sustenance and support to families in need.
- Site-Specific Outreaches: Each site within IWC contributed to the outreach efforts, dedicating May as the month to actively engage with their respective communities. Here are some examples:
  - The Brandon site organized a barbecue event at the park, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for community members to connect.
  - In Neepawa, special attention was given to reaching out to new foreign workers and distributing packages to newcomers, extending a welcoming hand.
  - The Northgate site engaged in house-to-house visits, providing material and spiritual support through giving and praying for individuals and families.
  - Transcona site focused on offering gift packages to families living in MB Housing, bringing comfort and joy to their lives.
  - St. James site participated in various outreaches, including Gilbert Park initiatives, contributions to Melo Soup in the North End, and donating warm jackets, hoodies, sweaters, and socks during the winter months to support those in need.

Through these collective efforts, IWC remains dedicated to reaching out to the poor, homeless, and disadvantaged individuals in our society, extending a helping hand and sharing the love of Christ.

## VI. THE PURSUIT MINISTRY

Under the leadership of Mel and Ronny Trinidad, The Pursuit Ministry has remained dedicated to providing care and support for young couples. Here are some notable events organized by the ministry:

- Paint Night: A delightful event titled "No Paint, No Gain" was held, where young couples came together to enjoy a paint night led by Chit Cochon. This creative and interactive gathering fostered a sense of camaraderie and artistic expression.
- Summer Event at Bird's Hill Provincial Park: The ministry organized a summer event called "Hello Summer" at Bird's Hill Provincial Park. This outdoor gathering allowed couples to enjoy the beauty of nature and connect with one another.
- Couples Retreat: A transformative couples retreat named "Kindling" was held in September-October 2022. Attended by 20 couples, the retreat provided a special opportunity for couples to deepen their relationship with Christ and with each other. The Alpha Course was taught during the retreat, offering valuable insights and strengthening the spiritual bond among the participating couples.

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The Pursuit Ministry remains committed to nurturing and supporting young couples, creating opportunities for growth, connection, and a deeper relationship with Christ.

## **C. LEAD DEPARTMENT**

The Lead Department plays a crucial role in IWC's church growth and multiplication by focusing on leadership development. Its primary objective is to equip individuals and release them as Life Group leaders. In 2022, the department offered courses through online learning via a Learning Management System (LMS). The ENLIST (Membership) classes were conducted in person, resulting in 65 students graduating. The EMPOWER (Launchpad) was delivered via hybrid method of online and in-person classroom for Module 3. Across all sites, 25 members successfully graduated from the EMPOWER program. Here is the composition:

### ENLIST

- IWC Neepawa - 26
- IWC Bandon - 4
- IWC St. James - 13
- IWC North - 2
- IWC Transcona - 20

### EMPOWER

- IWC Brandon - 10
- IWC St. James - 10
- IWC North - 2
- IWC Transcona - 3

The Nurturing Series for newcomers and the Spiritual Growth which are both on the website were continually being delivered through our life groups focusing on the LGs whose membership were newly saved.

## **D. DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT**

Highlights of the accomplishments of this department for 2022 were:

- User-friendly Life Group outlines on the following preaching series: Compelled by Love, Conversations, Strength, and Trailblazers.
- Conducted the "Jesus On Leadership" on-line training for new church leaders in March 2022.
- A team building event attended by 150 Winnipeg Life Group leaders was conducted on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> entitled OMG - "Oh My Gulay!" with the goal of building each other, knowing your ministry colleagues and being encouraged in serving the Lord.
- Training specific to the Worship ministers was conducted last December attended by 100 people from all sites with Dan Macaulay as speaker.
- IWC LIFE LINKS - The official communication among all LG leaders as a means of sharing information, encouraging them and providing regular connection amongst each other.
- In 2022, there were 86 Life Group leaders in all 5-Sites and have grown to 104 after completing the Empower that launched them as life group leaders and apprentices. Currently, IWC has total 70 actively meeting life groups.

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- On going Virtual Engagement Process & In-person follow up. Regular Sunday online attendees as well as in-person new visitors were being followed up through phone calls, emails and “Thank You” cards, praying with them, and encouraging them to be part of a life group.
  - Total of online first-time attendees - 26
  - Total of In-person first time attendees - 165
  - Total of all people followed up through phone calls - 185
  - Total number of people who responded to our calls and emails - 72
  - Total number of people consolidated in life groups - 36

## **E. MULTI SITES REPORT**

**IWC St. James** - In 2022, IWC St. James experienced fluctuations in attendance due to the pandemic. However, when in-person services resumed, the average Sunday attendance increased to around 120 for Tagalog services and 160 for English services. The site had a dedicated team of 120-135 volunteers supporting the ministry efforts. Thirteen new members completed the Enlist (Membership) classes, and the site successfully launched 10 new leaders into LG leadership roles. The site celebrated three individuals being baptized in water and conducted 19 child dedications. There was a notable influx of newcomers, with 165 visitors attending the services. Additionally, 19 individuals joined the life groups, indicating successful integration into the church community. There were two additional life groups birthed and the Pink Network, led by Lito & Cristy Rodriguez, was launched.

Spiritual vitality was a priority for IWC St. James, as demonstrated through various outreach activities. These included Gilbert Park summer and winter outreaches, Melo soup kitchen outreach, and bread giveaways. The site also spearheaded the Operation Christmas Child, generating 970 Shoeboxes across all sites. Additionally, the networks organized summer camping and outdoor meetings, fostering community engagement and fellowship. Regular prayer and fasting were integrated into the site's activities, and Pastor Junie led a basketball open gym three times a week, providing an opportunity for community members to gather, play, and receive prayer and devotion before the games.

Discipleship and mentoring played a significant role in the site's ministry. Each network within IWC St. James had its own mentoring and life group programs to strengthen and equip the saints. The site also held weekly pre-service prayer meetings on Sunday mornings, facilitated by a committed group of intercessors.

Leadership development and discipleship were prioritized through the Leadership Training Track, offering mentoring and coaching opportunities. However, there was a recognized need for more mentors to guide and support the younger generation within the church.

Overall, IWC St. James demonstrated resilience and adaptability in navigating the challenges of the pandemic. The site experienced growth in attendance, successful integration of newcomers, and active engagement in outreach and discipleship activities. The leadership's commitment to mentoring and coaching was evident, but there was a continued need for more mentors to support the church's growth and development.

**IWC Brandon** - Ptrs. Ed & Edith Santin have made the decision to step down from their leadership roles in order to extend their stay in the Philippines and plant a church in Nueva Ecija. The

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leadership has been successfully transferred to Erick & Grace Villanueva, with Erick appointed as the Ministry Coordinator. Brandon currently has 70 individuals who consider it their primary assembly, with an average Sunday attendance of approximately 50 people, all supported by a dedicated team of 15 volunteers.

To foster community and growth, three open life groups have been established, and weekly prayer meetings are held. Notably, 6 people were water baptized and 14 visitors have been warmly embraced into these cells. Brandon is a multi-generational church, with families, youth, and children all represented.

With the new leadership and core team in place, the expectation is for Brandon to experience further growth and development. It is also worth celebrating that giving has increased by 15%, from \$70K in 2021 to \$80K in 2022. Congratulations to Brandon for this achievement!

**IWC Neepawa** – Under the leadership of Ptrs. Cliff & Wenie Borres, the church in Neepawa has experienced tremendous growth and vitality. With the dedicated support of core leaders Rob & Aleli Villafranca, Neepawa has flourished, with a congregation now numbering around 140 individuals and an average Sunday attendance of 110+. This thriving community is sustained by a committed team of 46 volunteers.

During this period, twelve new individuals embraced faith and were baptized, while forty-five members completed the membership process. Neepawa has also been successful in attracting over a hundred newcomers, with fifteen of them finding their place within the church's life groups. The mission to reach Filipino workers has been vibrant, as welcome packages distribution has facilitated their integration into the church family and encouraged attendance. The acquisition of a church van in June has further supported Neepawa's outreach and transportation ministry.

Furthermore, there has been a remarkable increase in giving, with a growth of approximately 20% from \$68K in 2021 to \$89K in 2022. These achievements are a testament to the exceptional leadership of Ptr. Cliff and his team.

**IWC North** – Under the leadership of Ptrs. Ghigie and Jimmy Gonzales, supported by dedicated core leaders and Life Groups (LGs), pastoral care and shepherding of the members have remained a priority. The average attendance ranges from 120 to 145, with a high of 230 during special events. The leadership team is assisted by 90 regular volunteers, primarily from the younger generation, who actively serve in various ministries such as Praise & Worship, Outreach, and Kidztown. Many of these young adults also lead their own LGs and are trained across different ministries, including serving as Sunday service emcees.

Friday prayer meetings and Sunday intercessors have become integral parts of the church's routine. The warm and welcoming atmosphere has attracted twenty visitors, with ten of them joining the life vgroups. A young couple LG led by Benjie & Wendy Cabading has been launched, along with another LG specifically for young adults. Furthermore, two LGs comprising new believers among friends and co-workers, led by Nepz Nepomuceno and another leader, have been rapidly multiplying.

Outreach efforts have included serving and giving to organizations, extending help to members in need, distributing groceries, and conducting house-to-house prayers in the community in the Northgate area. The site's giving has remained consistent, with \$233K recorded in both 2022 and 2021.

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**IWC Transcona** – led by Ptrs. Bong & Mina Sumayod, is thriving in the east side of the city by actively leading individuals to become followers of Christ. The congregation has relocated to the Valley Gardens Community Centre, where the average attendance is around 80 people, with a composition of 55% adults and 45% youth. The ministry is supported by a dedicated team of approximately 30 volunteers.

During this period, six individuals made a decision to follow Christ, and four were baptized in water. The site also welcomed twenty new comers, with ten of them integrating into a life group and even witnessing the birth of a new life group. Weekly prayer meetings have been held to foster spiritual growth and unity among the members.

IWC Transcona has continued local church outreaches, with a special focus on the Manitoba Housing Complex. Through the distribution of bread and the WHY magazine, the love of Christ has been extended to many in the community. Additionally, some life groups have utilized Zoom to gather virtually, with one particular group bringing together members from four separate locations around the world. The site's giving has remained strong, with an increase from \$146K in 2021 to \$156K in 2022.

Mother Theresa said, *"We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something."* Indeed, what we are doing as a church through the grace and mercy of God was made possible because of your prayers, commitment, loyalty and serving in the spirit of servanthood to Christ. With that, you all are making a difference in the kingdom of God and in the lives of the people only you can touch! We might be just drops in the ocean, but we're making ripple effects.

On behalf of the Pastor's Council -- led by Ptr. Junie Josue, Lead Pastor, members -- Pastors Jerome Basa, Cliff Borres, Jojo Cochon, Fermel Distajo, Marie Gravoso, and Bella Madrid and myself; the Pastoral and Church Office Staff; we are truly grateful for your continued support and faithfulness not only in serving but giving. As leadership, we can't do ministry without the unrelenting support each one of you gives. We thank the Lord for each of you - the real blessings behind what IWC is now!

Our hearts are expectant for the greater move of God in 2023 and beyond. God bless us all!

Together with you In Christ's Service,



Ptra. Virginia (Ghigie) Gonzales  
Council Secretary  
May 28, 2023



Ptr. Junie Josue  
Lead Pastor