

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

## SECRETARY'S REPORT Period: Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023

Dear IWC Family Members,

Blessed greetings in the name of Jesus!

*Acts 6:5-8* And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, <sup>6</sup>whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them. <sup>7</sup>Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. <sup>8</sup>And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people."

The disciples had chosen and commissioned Stephen and many faithful men to 'go and make disciples' of Jerusalem and the neighboring places. As Stephen and the rest of them obeyed God; signs and wonders followed as they preached the gospel of salvation. In the same way, IWC's vision remains the same even in the midst of the pandemic - 'to go and make disciples of nations'. IWC returned to its normal operations and programming following the hiatus. From face-to-face meetings while retaining its on-line live streaming, many people were coming to Christ and being baptized in water. One of the remarkable blessings in 2023 was the launching of the Portage la Prairie church, a daughter site planted by the North Site leadership.

Here are some of the 2023 highlights:

### **A. DIGITAL TEAM**

The Digital Team is headed by Erika Joy Cruz. The team's efforts in 2023, despite significant transitions due to the absence of staff and/or contractors, resulted in sustained and enhanced online engagement. The team managed the weekly updates for the church, edited videos, and uploaded them to the 'YouTube' page maintaining consistent and engaging online presence, resulting in steady growth for viewers on the channel. One of the major projects for the year was the 'Higher Life' with Ptr. Junie. The team successfully edited and uploaded the weekly episodes that resulted in 400 subscribers in just a span of one year. The team is looking forward to building on these achievements and continuing to grow IWC's digital presence in 2024.

### **B. WIN TEAM**

#### **I. KIDZTOWN -**

Kidztown led by Marjory Miranda, served in children's ministry at both services (Tagalog/English) from pre-school to pre-teens facilitated by 32 volunteers serving an average of 45-55 children every Sunday. The Vacation Bible School was held on July 10-14 attended by 92 students and volunteers with the theme "Stellar". It culminated with a children's fundraising concert where the proceeds went to sponsoring student's education at Frontline Ministries in the Philippines.

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

Training on Classroom Management and Dealing with Children's Behaviors' was conducted in November and was facilitated by Hailene Magtuloy and Micielle Salinas.

## **II. UPRISING**

The leadership transitioned from Ptr. Jerome Basa to the Vidallon couple, Michael and Eunice. Uprising suffered a slump for a while as kids started going back to church after the pandemic. However, by the end of December, the weekly Friday attendance now boost of 65-70 young people. The Youth Camp entitled UYC2023 "Resonance" was successful in bringing kids closer to God with an attendance of 79 campers, 44 were first-timers who gave their lives to Christ and 27 people baptized in water. We would like to extend our gratefulness to the 31 committed and passionate core team of volunteers who made this camp successful.

## **III. RENDEZVOUS**

This ministry led by Erika Joy Cruz is a testament to the faithfulness of God and the power of community. Aside from the monthly meetings, they coordinated with other outreach groups and participated in the Melo Soup kitchen & the Gilbert Park ministry. The Annual Camp with the theme "Username" brought individual transformation into the lives of 60 campers moved by the power of the Holy Spirit. As part of their ministry's outreach effort, 28 individuals embarked on a 12-week journey of discovery and dialogue about Jesus in the Alpha Series Course, resulting into 7 people giving their lives to Christ. In December, they partnered with the Prison Fellowship Canada for the Angel Tree program where the team brought smiles into the children of incarcerated parents by giving them Christmas presents.

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

The main purpose of YDC is to reach the unreached thru sports. Marcus Madrid was hired as a contractor YDC Sports Coordinator. In 2023, we saw the launching of Open Gym activities and increased in time slots. There were billiards games led by Aries Salinas, badminton by Jude Marcaliñas, young adults basketball by Jhude Ramirez, Kenn Pedraza, and Paulo Patena. The free taekwondo classes continued led by Mark Chornley. The gym was also used by Uprising kids led by the Vidallons while volleyball was led by Donna Vidallon Barasi. The folks who regularly lead devotions at YDC were Reno Valles, Marcus Madrid, and Marjury Miranda. To facilitate effective gym rental booking, IWC partnered with Catch Corner using their scheduling platform. IWC hosted visiting former PBA players who held a basketball clinic for the children. We also supported badminton and volleyball athletes who competed for the 2023 World Police & Fire Games hosted by Manitoba by providing the gym for their practices.

## **V. OUTREACHES**

Outreaches is one of the heart of IWC's mission to demonstrate the love of Christ through random acts of kindness. The bread distribution to families, friends and neighbors continued as bread supplies came in courtesy of Joel Villanueva and his company, BIMBO Canada. All respective sites had their own share of outreaches as they reached out to their neighboring communities. St. James was involved in different outreaches such as Gilbert Park headed by

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

Purple & Red Networks serving around 100 people; the Melo Soup Kitchen outreach to the North End led by Red Network where 80 people were served and Open Gyms. IWC thrives in its efforts to reach the poor, the widows, the single parents, the homeless and the disadvantaged people in society.

## **VI. PURSUIT MINISTRY**

The Pursuit Ministry headed by Ian & Genee Reyes with their core team of couples continued to take care of the young couples. The team hosted an event called “LoveStrike”, held at Chateau Lanes. Around 30+ couples attended with 70% newcomers. They used this event as a time of fellowship and connecting with the visitors to share the love of Christ to others especially visitors.

## **C. LEAD DEPARTMENT**

Leadership development is key to IWC’s church growth and multiplication raising new leaders for the harvest. The primary goal of the Lead Department is equipping the saints and releasing leaders to becoming Life Group leaders themselves and in turn raising an Apprentice Leader. In 2023, the courses were offered in various forms: on-line learning, a hybrid of on-line and face-to-face meetings and in person classes. We had 115 people who graduated from ENLIST (Membership) and 26 people from the EMPOWER (Launchpad) across all Sites. The Nurturing Series for newcomers and the Enrich Spiritual Growth which are part of the Leadership Training Track (LTT) were continually being delivered through life groups focusing on the LGs whose membership were newly saved. In Portage la Prairie, both were delivered thru Zoom.

## **D. DISCIPLESHIP DEPARTMENT**

New and updated user-friendly outlines were completed for the use of all Life Groups from the different topics such as Vessels, Grow, Essentials, God of our Fathers, Thrive and Prepare series. Total number of Life Groups (LGs) for the entire IWC including that of the sites is sixty-seven (67). An OMLG – Oh My Life Group meeting with all life group leaders and apprentices, as part of Refuel, was conducted on March 25<sup>th</sup>, with 100+ people in attendance. As a vehicle to connect with all LG leaders via social media, the IWC Life Links continued to provide information and encouragement, having 112 LG members and Apprentices. The 2023 Vision Conference entitled “*Into the Deep*” brought powerful speakers such as Ptr. Jerry Berenguer from Champion Life Centre based in Ontario, one of the fastest growing multi-site church in Canada and other countries. We had also Ptr. Prime Espiritu who is the Lead Pastor of Every Nation in Winnipeg and our very own Ptr. Junie Josue. There were 250 attendees from all six (6) sites who had the new-found revelation of planting churches and following Christ into the deep of sharing the gospel and making disciples of all nations. In following up new attendees, the St. James Site welcomed 199 visitors where 70 responded and 46 people were brought into the life groups.

## **E. MULTI SITES REPORT**

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

**IWC St. James** – led by Ptr. Junie & Fatty Josue with Cris Orido as Site Coordinator had a steady attendance of 200 in the Tagalog and 300 in the English services. More Ukrainians were coming to church, started membership and serving in different ministries. Two new networks were released from the Purple Network - the Pink led by Ptr. Lito & Cristy Rodriguez and the Magenta led by Hailene & Rael Magtuloy. There were 28 people who were baptized in water and 16 baby dedications officiated. Being the Centralized church, all ministries such as Kidztown, Uprising, Rendezvous, Pursuit and 60+ are led out of the St. James site and consistently were being run well. YDC continued to be the evangelistic arm of the church where people engaged in sports were given opportunities to hear the gospel. Monthly prayer meetings were held from this location and “Prayer and Fasting week” were done throughout the year seeking God in intercession for people’s needs and salvation.

**IWC-Brandon** - the leadership was transferred from Ptrs. Ed & Edith Santin to Ptrs. Erick & Grace Villanueva with the support of Anayn Calar as Site Coordinator. Ptr. Erick was commissioned as pastor in November 2023. Sixteen visitors came, 13 were assimilated into the life groups and five new opened cells as life group gatherings were crucial in relationship building and spiritual growth of the members. Camping and winter activities were held to develop further friendships with newcomers. The team extended the love of God thru outreaches in the Brandon Filipino Community. Uprising and Young Adults had regular meetings mentoring the next generation. There are around 70 people who consider Brandon their home church. Giving increased from \$80K in 2022 to \$104K in 2023.

Well done Ptr. Erick and your team.

**IWC-Neepawa** - thru the exciting leadership of Ptrs. Cliff & Wenie Borres supported by Rob Villafranca as Site Coordinator, Neepawa continued to be a growing church with an average weekly attendance of 140 where 90 people were welcomed as new members. There were 120 visitors; 35 of them were assimilated into the life groups and 3 new LGs established. Many were involved in the life groups as they grew deeper in their relationship with Christ and with one another. Their outreaches were focused on welcoming new immigrants and newcomers to the town, giving them groceries and thru visitation. Some of the members participated in the Los Angeles Dream Centre mission where transformation took place in their hearts seeing the needs of people in that city. Michelle Otoc’s leadership in community outreaches brought the church into the forefront engaging on Heritage month, Sportsfest activities and Sports leagues. Giving increased from \$89K in 2022 to \$136K in 2023. Kudos to Ptr. Cliff and his team!

**IWC-North** - thru the leadership of Ptrs. Ghigie and Jimmy Gonzales supported by Bella Madrid as Site Coordinator, North continued as a growing church. The leadership was keen in mentoring the younger generation. Majority of these YAs became leaders in Uprising and Rendezvous’ core and participated in conferences and outreaches with the entire IWC. Sixteen (16) people got saved and 8 were baptized in water. Around 33 visitors came, 7 were assimilated into the life groups and 7 new open cells were established mostly in the YoungerGen group headed by Marianne Madrid, Kim Paul Rivera, Gino Pursina and Oman Guillarte. North’s very good leadership team and volunteers’ base were demonstrated in the outreaches organized in the

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

Manitoba Housing in Mapleglen and the Riverbend Area that gave groceries and cheers of joy to the residents. Giving increased from \$233K in 2022 to \$262K in 2023. Following the church's vision to plant churches, after seeking the Lord thru intercessory prayers every Friday; our cries were answered when North eventually planted the Portage la Prairie (PLP) site in 2023. From a humble beginning of a micro-home based church, PLP opened its doors and was formally launched in June. We give God all the glory!

**IWC-Portage la Prairie** - thru the leadership of Ptrs. Ghigie and Jimmy Gonzales, as interim pastors, and supported by the entire leadership of the North Site; PLP was birthed in April 2023. With the help of Rey & Mayeeh Gravoso in their relationship with Erick & Aggie Guinto, the latter accepted the call of God to lead this congregation. The site was formally launched in June and in July moved to Highway Pentecostal church where the late Ptr. Rob Lagrove was the Pastor and welcomed PLP into their church's space. An average of 40 people, mostly young families with small children, attended every Sunday. Fourteen (14) people were saved and four were baptized in water. We would like to thank the North leadership from the core leads to the Life Group leaders/members who were faithfully driving every Sunday to pick up folks from the farm and supporting the work of Christ in this town. Our appreciation to Alvin & Joanne dela Cerna's worship team for their dedication in serving. Giving was \$21K in its first year of operations.

**IWC-Transcona** - under the leadership of Ptrs. Bong & Mina Sumayod supported by Emiline Santillana as Site Coordinator, Transcona has a steady average of 75 people every Sunday that culminated in lunch fellowship after at Valley Gardens Community Centre. Thirteen (13) completed the membership class and 4 graduated from Empower ready to take the helm of Life Group leadership. Ten (10) people got saved and 8 were baptized in water. A campaign called "Empty Seat Challenge" was launched and as a result around 80 visitors came; 30 of which were assimilated into the life groups and 5 new open cells were established. Out of the five, 4 cells were in the young gen and one with Young Couples. One life group moved beyond the boundaries of Canada, led by Lorna Sioson who had Zoom meetings that included participants from Canada, US, & Tokyo. Nine people took part in the LA Dream Centre mission trip where they experienced life giving transformation that they continued to do personal outreaches in Winnipeg after. Giving increased from \$156K in 2022 to \$217K in 2023.

Dave Ferguson, a known visionary leader who founded Exponential and the Lead Pastor of the Community Christian Church, Chicago, said that *"Church growth is good but it's only good if it leads to multiplication, which is best." Multiplication church planting leads to movement and movement is how we accomplish the mission of Jesus.* We only accomplish the great commission when we move together as a church that is discipling someone who in turn discipled others leading to church planting that can impact and change the world for Christ.

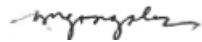
On behalf of the Pastor's Council -- led by Ptr. Junie Josue, Lead Pastor, members -- Pastors Bong Sumayod, Cliff Borres, Mel Trinidad, Fermel Distajo, Marie Gravoso and myself; the Pastoral and

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

Church Office Staff; we are truly grateful for your continued support and faithfulness in both giving and serving. As we celebrate our 27<sup>th</sup> year as a church in Canada, we thank the Lord for each of you - the real blessings behind what IWC is now. Together with Christ, as a team, we are headed to a more meaningful journey in 2024 and the years ahead.

Greater things are going to happen as we intentionally focus on the vision that God has given us as a church – **Follow Jesus, Make Disciples**. It is my hope and prayers that as members, you will be ONE with us in this vision for the expansion of God's kingdom in Canada and beyond. Let's pray for hundred thousand souls for God's glory & honor!

Together with you In Christ's Service,

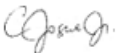


Ptra. Virginia (Ghigie) Gonzales

*Council Secretary*

*May 31, 2023*

Noted:



Ptr. Junie Josue

*Lead Pastor*