

# INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

## Lead Pastor's Report 2023

***“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:12-14 NIV***

In 2023, we viewed the pandemic in our rearview mirror as we moved forward with the opportunities the Lord presented to further our vision. Thanks to the leadership of Pastora Ghie and IWC North, our 6th site was successfully planted in Portage La Prairie in April 2023, with the help of the Guinto family. I had the privilege of speaking during the launching of the site on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Since then, we have seen a steady increase in attendance. Currently, Pastora Ghie serves as the site pastor for both IWC Portage La Prairie and IWC North. She is actively working to raise a new site pastor to take over at PLP as soon as possible.

Additionally, after eight years, we held another Vision Conference themed "Into the Deep." Pastor Jerry Berenguer of Champion Life Centre was the keynote speaker. He shared his heart and expertise in making disciples and planting churches as the pastor of a multi-site church. Pastor Prime Espiritu of Every Nation also spoke during one of our breakout sessions. Everyone who attended was blessed and inspired to pursue our vision with renewed vigor.

Without any major fundraising efforts, we have surpassed the total revenue of 2022 by more than \$270,000 and are on track to pay off our mortgage by the end of 2025. Running a church of our size and achieving all that we have in 2023 would not have been possible without the dedication of our leaders, staff, and volunteers who faithfully serve at IWC.

I am deeply grateful for the dedicated leadership of our site pastors who are not just partners in ministry but also friends: Pastor Virginia Gonzales and her husband, Jimmy, of North and Portage La Prairie; Pastor Bong Sumayod and his wife, Mina, of Transcona; Pastor Cliff Borres and his wife, Wenie, of Neepawa; and our newly installed pastor for IWC Brandon, Eric Villanueva, and his wife, Grace. Pastoring a site is not an easy calling, that is why they deserve all our love, prayers and support.

The Council members—Pastor Ghie Gonzalez, Pastor Bong Sumayod, Pastor Cliff Borres, Mel Trinidad, Fermel Distajo, and Marie Gravoso—along with myself, have done well in our role to create policies that are aligned with Biblically sound financial stewardship and management of all the resources entrusted to us by God and the members of IWC.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the staff's exceptional dedication and service that went above and beyond the call of duty. You have been invaluable companions and teammates in our shared mission of serving God's people and embodying the essence of the church in our community.

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Regrettably, we bid farewell to Pastor Jerome, along with his wife Alfie and son Elijah, as they embark on a new journey in Calgary, guided by God's direction for their lives.

We are blessed with numerous dedicated workers who tirelessly ensure the smooth operation of our services, both online and in person across all our locations, and manage various ministries associated with these services. Other than our weekly services, we have leaders and volunteers who oversee our weekly Uprising youth nights and monthly young adults Rendezvous gatherings. Additionally, our Youth Development Centre is supported by workers who facilitate daily sports open gyms and community programs. And across our six sites, our life group leaders play a vital role in leading small group fellowships and guiding the discipleship journey of our members. I am grateful to all of you.

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. As I mentioned, we performed well in 2023, with the revenue being 270 thousand more than in 2022. We are awed by your generosity and the kind of faith and trust in God that is truly remarkable.

Most of all, I would like to express my appreciation to my family. 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. Our grandson Caleb, and granddaughter Zoe, gave our family such joy in life. I'm so thankful to the Lord beyond words for our growing family.

For all the details of what was accomplished for 2023, please refer to the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports. 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 follow the Lord's leadership. Greater things are ahead of us in Christ Jesus the Lord and Head of the Church.

Committed to Lead till the End!



Ptr. Junie Josue  
*IWC Lead Pastor*