

Immanuel News

**Immanuel Baptist Church, Vancouver, BC
109 East 40th Avenue, 604-327-4010**

BUILDING BRIDGES OF LOVE AT IMMANUEL BY PASTOR CHARLIE WORLEY

“ ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-39 NIV)

How can Immanuel become a more loving church? That’s a big question.

Every local church can use some improvement in their love quotient. The reality is that in any family, more love is needed, and that is true especially of the family of God. What is needed is biblical love that can be seen, felt and personally experienced at all times and in all places.

So what are some things that

hinder us from developing more authentic love relationships at Immanuel? Think in terms of bridges that need to be crossed.

There is the bridge that needs to be built that will help you get outside of your circle of close friends or people with whom you are most comfortable. In schools, these relationships are known as cliques. In church, before you know it, you find yourself sitting at the same



Crossing the ethnic bridge

tables or in pews near the same people all the time. The result is you might become close friends with only ten to twenty people, most likely people who are most like you. That is a very human tendency and it becomes part of your relational comfort zone. To help Immanuel become a more loving church, you need to take the initiative and build a bridge to other people outside your comfort zone, not just once or twice, but repeatedly. The key is taking personal responsibility to show love.

Have you observed the wall that exists between people of different ethnic groups or cultures? Spoken language doesn’t have to be a barrier when you can build a bridge using the



Crossing the age bridge

universal language of love. Try inviting someone you do not know well from another people group or congregation out to eat or over for tea or coffee. Introduce yourself to someone new during the fellowship time after the English service. Do something really radical like visiting another congregation service at Immanuel and ask



ANNA LI IS HOME FROM OTTAWA

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I want to sincerely thank you for your prayers and heartfelt wishes for me during my internship on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. It was a great learning experience and a real eye-opener into the Canadian government. Through the Laurentian Leadership Center, a renowned Trinity

Western University political science program based in Ottawa, I was able to learn about the Canadian government, public law, ethics, and political philosophy, a knowledge that was applied in my practical internship. I had the opportunity to work with Alice Wong,

Conservative Member of Parliament for Richmond BC and Parliamentary Secretary of Multiculturalism.

I believe that as Canadians we each need to contribute to our country whether it is volunteering, voting, advocacy or simply being aware of the cur-



EASTER SUNDAY APR. 12, 2009 BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES



Kwang Ho Chae

I've been going to church since I was really young. One day, in grade 3, I learned that Jesus was crucified because of my sins, and I was amazed by how much Jesus loves us. Then, I decided to truly accept that He was my Saviour.



Ji Hoon Jang

I am happy to be a child of God. I know that I'm here to give the rest of my life to God and for his service, and you are my witnesses.



Sung Hye Kim

When I look upon the Lord, I am nothing but an unworthy sinner, but as the prodigal son returned to his father's house, I too want to dwell in God. I pray that my words and actions testify to God's glory.



Werner Gartner

God used to come

second in our daily lives, but that all changed when we started attending church services at Immanuel Baptist, and I found my way to the Lord.



Ruth Gartner

With the help of many brothers and sisters in the congregation and information received from the Bible

through the studies led by our pastors, I receive God's love and forgiveness every Sunday. The presence of God is refreshed in my heart

Immanuel Church presents

A Mother's Day Bouquet

An evening of songs featuring
Lambroula Maria Pappas *Lyrical Colorature Soprano*
with Winfried Rompf *at the piano*

Songs
Celebrating Motherhood
by
Mozart
Dvorak
Grieg
Strauss
and many more

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2009 7:30 PM
IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
109 EAST 40TH AVENUE
VANCOUVER, BC

Admission by donation to benefit the Church Piano Fund

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Building Bridges of Love

someone from that congregation to help you understand what is happening. Be creative and ask someone from another language or cultural background to teach you a few simple phrases in their language.

Then there are the traditional barriers of age and the culture of that age that can so easily prevent Christian love from developing in a church. Like many churches, our church has at least four very different generations represented in it. This is a tough bridge for many to build because it crosses the style and volume of worship music, the

dominate ways we communicate to one another, our definition of commitment, what we do together in public vs. what is private, what we value most, how we approach work and the way we spend or save money, to name a few. We cannot build generational bridges unless we show love and acceptance by seeking to learn from and understand different generations while rejecting any notion that the way "we" do something is the "best" or only biblical way.

All people who call Immanuel your church home, it's time to be bridge-builders. The Great Commandment from our Lord points the way.

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Anna Li Home

rent issues. As Christians we need not steer away from involvement in government due to fear of corruption, but rather be proactive. Having met many faithful Christians working in government, it is with power and influence that one can effectively bring about positive change and aspire towards bringing the Kingdom of God to the dominion of Canada.

Please continue to pray for Canada, Prime Minister Harper and Canadians as a whole during this time of economic flux. I believe that Canada can be redeemed by and through Jesus Christ.

COMING EVENTS

May 1 & 2 BC Association meetings at Ebenezer Baptist Church

May 1—3 Refresh Retreat at Loon Lake, Maple Ridge.

May 7 Refresh Launch at El Shaddai's Book Store

May 9 Piano Benefit Concert

May 12 German/English Women's Fellowship

May 16 Korean prayer meeting

May 30 Men's Breakfast