

# Immanuel News

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

## NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT SURVEY RESULTS

Last month, 26 people at Immanuel participated in the Natural Church Development (NCD) survey. These people were chosen by Pastor Worley to participate in the survey because they best fit the qualifications dictated by the survey designers. To be included in the study, church members or attenders needed to be active in attendance at Immanuel, be involved in doing a ministry and participate in a small group.

The NCD survey is designed to measure eight characteristics of church health. This survey has been used in over 50,000 churches world-wide including a large number in Canada. In doing this survey, we were looking for the characteristic that scored the lowest out of all eight so that we could begin to work on this

“minimum factor” as a church. The results are in, and we now know that we need to work hard at improving “loving relationships” at Immanuel.

The Great Commandment of the church is that we love God and love one another (Luke 10:27). As followers of Jesus we are to love each other as Jesus has loved us (John 15:12-13). And, Jesus said, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:35).

Loving relationships are to be at the heart of a healthy, growing church. Speaking practically, what does this mean for Immanuel? What do we need to work on in the coming months? Here’s what it means for Immanuel in part.

All of us need to prayerfully become more loving people who share the love of Jesus Christ

with one another. We need to work hard at developing healthy interpersonal relationships. We need to cultivate authentic loving community as a church. This will most likely happen as we develop and improve our small groups. We need to celebrate our life of God together as we meet in large gatherings such as worship and fellowship meals and events. And, we need to learn together how to be better at sharing the love of God to a lost world around us. As you know, this will be a big challenge because of the different cultures and languages and ages at Immanuel and in the city of Vancouver.

To get started, we have formed an “Immanuel Focus Team” that will begin working on identifying how we can best identify what loving relation-

ships need and make recommendations on how we can and will improve with God’s help and direction. This team will need your input as we make this a church-wide journey of progress and growth.

Will you be in prayer that God will show us how to become much better at our loving relationships and help us to have the courage and desire to make the changes needed in our church? And, will you become part of the solution by working together to show the love of Christ to one another and to those who are not yet part of Immanuel?



## HOW TO ENCOURAGE OUR MISSIONARIES

During the month of March, we are honoured to have 2 missionaries or missionary families that we support as a church come for a visit. On March 8, Neal and Darcey Alsbach participated in a full Sunday at Immanuel. What a special treat to see not only Neal and Darcey, but all their children with them.

Darcey grew up in Immanuel and was baptized here. Neal and Darcey were also united in marriage at Immanuel.

On March 22, Jerilyn Bayer from Chain of Love Homes in Brazil will share with us during the Adult Bible Class, and then will bring a greeting during the English worship service.

With these dear servants of Jesus Christ here to remind us of our job as a church in missions and ministry, it is good to reflect on some practical ways to “support” these and other of our missionaries who have given up so much to do God’s work on our behalf. Here are some ideas:

Continued on next page:



## MISSIONARY ENCOURAGEMENT

1. Pray at least weekly for an Immanuel missionary by name(s). Ask others at Immanuel if they too will pray for them.
2. Ask them to be sure to send you a regular prayer letter and/or newsletter.
3. E-mail them a short message that you are praying for them and what is happening with you, at Immanuel and in Vancouver. Do this at least monthly and try it on the same day of the month so you don't forget.
4. Find out their birthdays, anniversary dates and other important times in their life and send them a card or e-mail to honor them on that day.
5. Encourage your children or grandchildren to become pen pals (e-mail or text messaging pals) with their children.
6. Find out their Facebook address and keep in touch with them on Facebook.
7. Collect small change during the year for a special birthday or Christmas gift for them.
8. Offer to do something for them here that they need done but cannot do because they are away.
9. Once or twice a year, call them to say hi or share news. With Skype and a computer with high speed internet, it's easy and real cheap.
10. Offer to scholarship their children to Green Bay or another Christian camp when they are home on furlough during the summer.

And did we say, PRAY for your missionaries? The missionaries that Immanuel supports can be found at the back of our church directory on page 34.



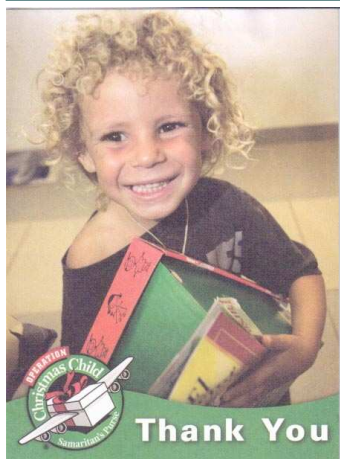
Neal and Darcey Alsbach and family



Check out the web site link to find out more about

**Ken and Jerilyn Bayer**

<http://www.nabconference.org/pages.asp?pageid=805>



## SAMARITAN'S PURSE BULGING

Thank you note from Elaine Mostat, Operation Christmas Child representative

*Hello to all at Immanuel Baptist Church,*

*I apologize for the lateness of this note, but I was waiting for the final count on the number of boxes received from B.C. That number was 112,240 and of those, 4,543 were sent from the Richmond Bethel Collection Centre !*

*Thank you so much for your involvement in this project and I look forward to connecting with you again in the fall of 2009. Blessings to you and thanks again.*

### NEW AND IMPROVED WEB SITE

The site of Immanuel's church has been around since 1956, but the web site is brand new. Hosted by E-zekiel.com, the interactive web page boasts a constantly changing picture bar, and links to lots of church interest pages.

See the Calendar for coming events, the youth page for all youth related activities. See the staff page for photos & write ups about our pastors. Browse the missionary page to read letters from our missionaries and see photos. Check the details on coming events—times and places. Read the announcements from Sundays bulletins. Also to come are streaming audio of sermons.



**[www.immanuelbc.ca](http://www.immanuelbc.ca)**

### COMING EVENTS:

- March 22 Piano Benefit Concert with Kabok Strings
- March 28 Baptism Training
- April 2 & 9 Choir practice for Good Friday Service
- April 5 Combined service with English German and Korean congregations
- April 10 Good Friday Service
- April 12 Easter Service and Baptism
- April 26 Korean Church anniversary and celebration
- May 9 Piano Benefit Concert with Lambroula Pappas

For all those interested in hearing encouraging reports from

### Lighthouse Harbour Ministries

you are invited to attend the

#### Spring Dinner

Friday, April 24, 2009

6:30 pm at the

North Vancouver Armoury.

1513 Forbes Avenue,

North Vancouver

There will be a free will offering. For tickets, please contact Thomas Li 604-324-1428

email: [GoVanTom@gmail.com](mailto:GoVanTom@gmail.com)