



INCREASE
OUR
FAITH

WMB CHURCH
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

A LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP BOARD CHAIR



Who can say what “normal” is or means? In an ever-changing seemingly never-normal world, isn’t it fantastic that we look to a God who is never-changing?

As I reflected on the past year of returning to “normal”, a theme of growing in spiritual health emerged. The various Sunday series - Partnering with Purpose, Between the Lines, Lead me to the Cross, Filled by the Holy Spirit, Everywhere, Rhythms and This is Living - have been foundational building blocks. I, for one, am excited to see where God leads our church next!

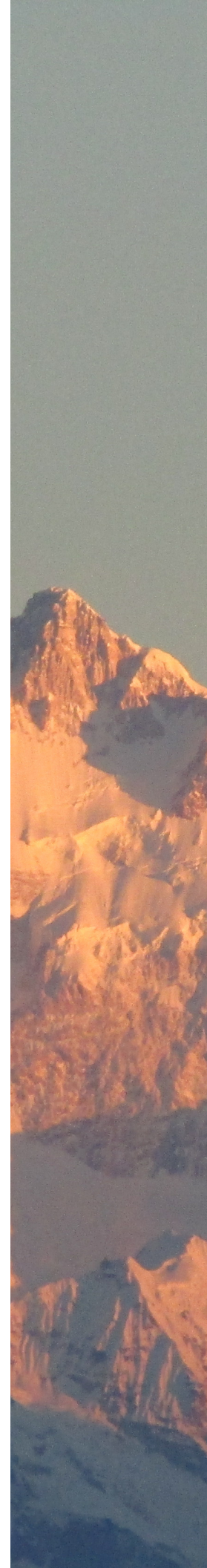
In the book of Numbers, we see the spiritually-infant Israelites having been recently led by Moses from Egypt. God provides very specific instructions for the building of His temple, the place where He would reside on earth. The people - who had seen Him at work with their own eyes and lived experiences, and who also witnessed what happened when they went their own way - worked together. They willingly gave the best of what they had and followed His call. Isn’t He asking us to do the same today? To bring Him our best?

We heard as well over the past year that seeking Kingdom life is not a solo event, but a team event, needing people willing to join. While the world tells us to go our own way, promotes self-sufficiency, and encourages us to be our own idols, Jesus is prompting us to consider another, fuller, Way. We need one another and we desperately need the Holy Spirit. As with every team, there have been, and inevitably will be, missteps and mistakes made along the way. We are fallible, broken humans who are redeemed only by the grace of a God who loves us more deeply than we deserve. The joy comes as we spur each other on in exercising our spiritual-growth muscles. Practicing and training comes easier when others are alongside. Can we, the team of WMB Church seek a deeper relationship with Jesus, as together we build rhythms that feed our souls? Are you there? Are you ready?

God, increase our faith, and bring us closer to you! Be with us as we seek to fall more deeply in love with Jesus and apprentice at His side.

It is thrilling that there are so many stories to share in this annual report. These take a different format than in recent years past. They are word pictures of moments in time where God has appeared, where we see glimpses of His great work in and around WMB Church. Come to the upcoming maybe not-so-normal annual general meeting to hear more.

Blessings and Shalom to you all,
Tammy Miller





A LETTER FROM OUR CO-LEAD PASTORS



To our dearest church family,

We want to thank you for once again partnering with us in a year of ministry where we have seen God at work in the life of WMB Church. In the past year, we have been grateful to see both new and familiar ministry activities growing in the life of the church. Kids Musical, Family movie night, Room to Breathe, WUMBA kids camp, Somos el Pueblo de Dios gatherings, Posture gatherings, Alpha, Ukulele club, Summer BBQs, prayer, bible study and home group gatherings name just some of the many things we have been busy with in this past year alongside our regular ministries. We are fortunate and thankful to have so many of you pressing into these areas of ministry.

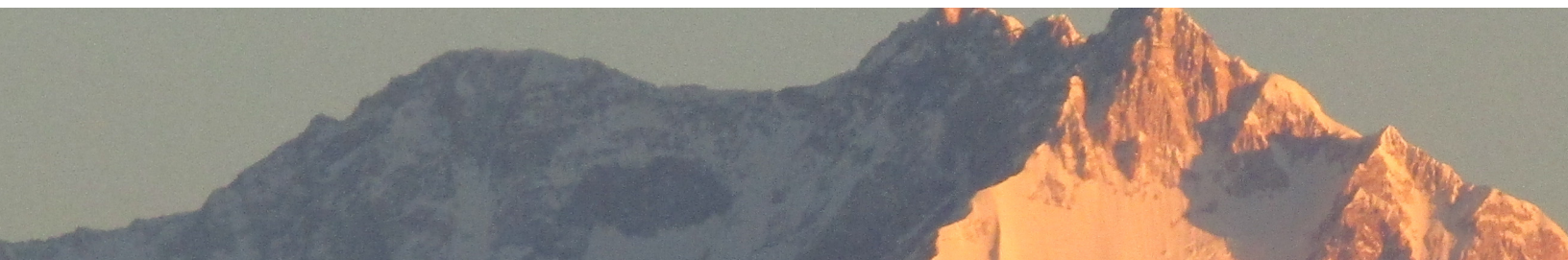
In Luke 17:5 after Jesus issues His disciples a challenging call to balance righteousness and forgiveness in the community of faith, the disciples reply emphatically, “Increase our faith!” Then, Jesus talks about having faith the size of a mustard seed (you may know the point Jesus is making here is that mustard seeds are very tiny, whereas mustard trees are quite large).

You see, for Jesus, what matters is having faith not how much faith. Because faith sets the stage for what God wants to do both in us and through us. In this past year, we have focused our teaching directions to help us to understand and live out the call to:

KNOW THE TRUTH — BE THE CHURCH — LOVE THE LEAST

Message series like *Between the Lines*, and our 180-day reading challenged helped us to emphasize the priority to know the truth through elevating the importance of reading and understanding God’s word for direction and wisdom in living our lives for Him.

Our *Rebuilding* series reminded us to be the church, the cornerstone of God’s plan to reach the world with the message of the gospel. As we grow in faith as a community of believers, we serve one another and demonstrate God’s blessing to the world.



Through our Partnering with Purpose series, we expanded on the Kingdom principle of shalom leading up to our annual Barnabas Sunday. There, we shared stories and vision for how we can partner together to love the least in our local neighbourhoods. We are grateful to God and to you for sacrificially giving to fully fund this mission once again. We look forward to sharing this coming November of what God has been doing in this area and to again invite your support and participation.

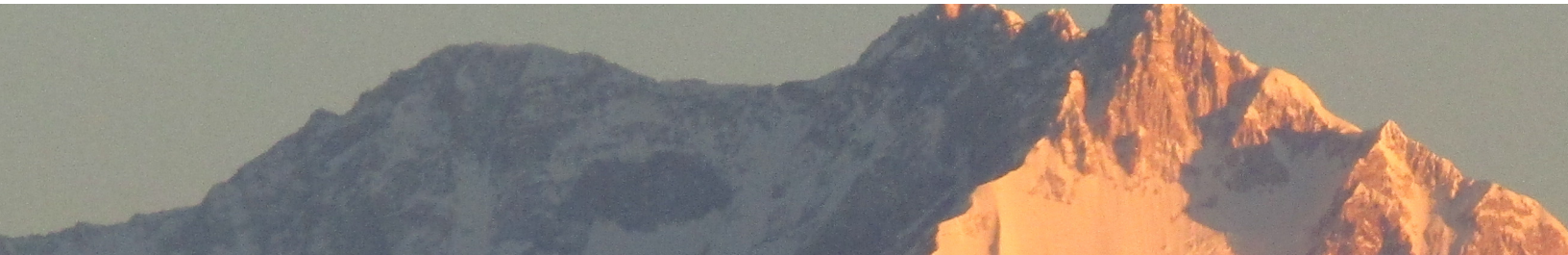
Other message series such as Lead Me To The Cross, where we examined the first few chapters of the book of Romans in order to see our common ground as broken people in need of the healing of Jesus, and Filled by the Holy Spirit, where we began to explore the person and work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, have complemented not only our understanding of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit but have continued to push us towards faithfully living out His purpose in our lives.

Again, we can't express enough how grateful we are that you are on this journey with us. It has also been a pleasure to lead the gifted staff team here at WMB Church over the past year under the direction and guidance of our Leadership Board. In the past year, we have made some changes to the shape and number of our staff team and we're thankful for the diligence and faithfulness of those who have departed as well as those courageously trusting in God to take on new challenges.

We have continued to model and value collaboration and have seen growth in the positive culture and environment amongst our staff team. As well, we continue to emphasize the need for a church that is able to empower leaders from the bottom to the top, rather than the other way around. We highly value our lay leaders, the priesthood of all believers, and we're demonstrating our willingness to see new ideas, new leaders, and new methods brought alongside existing structures and programs to grow as God is leading us.

We've begun to articulate six cultures in complement to our Know-Be-Love priorities, which will point WMB forward in accomplishing God's mission both here in the KW Region as well as in the world and look forward to sharing more about these in our Vision Sunday Message on October 15th. So, we pray, Lord, "increase our faith!" We hope you the small stories which represent deep expressions of God at work in our community throughout this report and welcome you to join us as we cry out to God for increased faith!

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Branton and Jeff MacLeod



MINISTRY STORIES



Gareth Goossen

This spring a senior widower, having endured the closer of his former church, began attending WMB. He has found several people he knows from his past and describes his experience since coming as “finding a home again.”



Mary Ellen

Talking to Janet Hoffman always reminds me that God is a God of miracles. It is absolutely incredible how God meets the needs of refugees desperately requiring stuff for their home and person. Recently God met the urgent car seat needs of two new babies in the shelter system in order to be able to leave the hospital.



Stefanie MacGregor

When I first met my friend, she never left her apartment and didn't talk to anyone in her building. She surprised me by signing up for a virtual baking class led by a neighbour, participating with her camera off. Since then I have seen my friend move towards flourishing, moving from isolation in her apartment to helping with the kids program, cooking a full course Christmas meal for 100 people, attending the neighbourhood bible study, and taking the Alpha course.



J.E.

I've seen God at work this year amidst the palpable pain of tragedy; in lives freed from the shackles of addictions; in His beautiful Presence throughout creation. His provision, protection and strength continue to grow my faith.



Renée Serez

I love showing up on a Sunday morning and seeing youth at work! We have teens manning cameras, leading worship, and absolutely loving our kids ministry. It is such a joy to see kids' faces light up when they see a teenager, and for youth to be so eager to share their faith.



Derek Klumpenhauer

Almost 5 years ago as the new expression of the Kitchener Site began, Lisa and Margaret started to lead their WMB Kids program. In all the challenges and excuses that could have been had to give up during the pandemic, they continued to serve: loving the kids, families, and volunteers. One piece of evidence of their leadership is the amount of graduating kids who begin serving in the kids ministry right away; it is a community they continue to want to be a part of.



Adam Knowles

Nothing was more exciting this year than being a part of Alpha in the spring and seeing people come to know Jesus. Watching the Holy Spirit meet people as they seek God and bring them into the Kingdom of Heaven.



Emily Winger

You know you're a Jr. Youth leader when... you stop to look around and listen during worship, because you feel the presence of Jesus in the room.



Wayne Porty

Catherine just put money into her emergency savings for the first time in her life. After meeting with a Barnabas Coach for years, faithfully paying her loan each month, and painstakingly tracking her expenses, she is now debt-free for the first time in as long as she can remember. She has always been generous with her time, and now she is able to also give back financially.



Brad Sherk

Our rag-tag band of young adults stayed the course through a year of transition, trials, learning and relearning. At the foot of the cross, we are all equals.



Renée Serez

A word I would use to summarize this year of youth ministry is joy. There is such life, energy, eagerness, and excitement when we gather on Wednesdays or Fridays. Our first full year post-pandemic has been one of building relationship, loving community, and celebrating each other. May the Lord use this community to deepen our ties to Him!



Derek Klumpenhouwer

For the second year in a row, WMB Kids held Easter Jam bringing over 70 families from WMB and the community together! In just two years, this event has already become a tradition for families. Between kids running throughout church, parents conversations over a cup of coffee, or everyone proclaiming at the top of their lungs that “He is Risen!”, Easter Jam is an exciting part of WMB families Easter Celebrations



Emma Fuller

I've witnessed God's presence in my life, the word that resonates with me is 'near.' Throughout the many ups and downs experienced during my mission work in Kenya, God has consistently felt remarkably close. His constant reminders of His nearness have been a source of comfort and strength



Mary Ellen

In the ministry, we are heading into some difficult situations, but we trust that God will be present, active and save.



Margaret DeHart

We have been able to visit some Afghans in the USA during our home assignment whom we knew from this past year in Albania. All of them have contact with Christians as they settle in. What an answer to prayer from our Faithful Father!



Stefanie MacGregor

A member of our congregation became friends with a single mom and three kids. A financial burden exists, but the member wants more than to hand them material items, she wants friendship. Friendship celebrates accomplishments and encourages an understanding of the importance of each of them to offer something in the relationship. This looks like celebrating a successful first trip on the bus with big hugs and the member accepting her friend's offer to pay for lunch.



Neil Denison

As a family we chose to serve, connect, and worship at Camp Crossroads for two months. Donna was the Barn Manager for the horse program, I rebuilt and extended their campus wireless network, and Philip was digitizing the camp photo albums. It is a blessing to work and serve with joy in this summer community.



Adam Knowles

Easter weekend felt like something had changed, been lifted. As we served communion to the congregation, there was something powerful in the interaction, the freedom to celebrate together was such a gift.



Alex Suderman

I have seen God at work as I listen for his voice in prayer, leading me to take new risks in mission. This has led me to trust him more deeply, becoming patient in times of challenge and doubt.



Leah Sherk

It has been a blessing being led in worship by our younger generations on Sunday mornings! From our kids ukulele club to our youth leading our congregation on a regular basis. God is building up the next generation of worship leaders, and we can't wait to continue to see them using their musical giftings for His glory!



Colin Suggett

I have learned to lean on God in situations of intense work pressure with a major launch of new BLOOM software features. God gave Dot the energy and creativity to complete a 4-month project of creating teaching videos to help Wycliffe Canada missionaries connect with and care for their partners.



Nevine Samy

Praising God for the change I have seen in a newcomer/single mother's countenance after connecting with more people that speak her language and getting some of the basic needs for her and her son met. Many Sundays, she would meet me with tears in her eyes in gratitude to what God has been doing in her life through the church. God is looking after this small family and is using the resources He has given us and the hearts He has nudged to be part of His provision.



Kimathi Kaai

During the grade 8/9 boys small group, one of the biggest concerns was that we did not have enough time to play games. During the past year when they were grade 10/11, the biggest concern was that there was not enough time to have discussions in small group.



Mary Ellen

A new believer was in the middle of a shift on an assembly line and was so exhausted that she didn't know what to do.

Then she thought "Oh, I can pray to God for help!" She prayed and God gave her renewed strength to finish her shift. She was so excited to see God work!



Wayne Porty

A parent and their family "thank you for Tools for School! You have no idea how important this is to us - this is a massive help." They volunteered at the event and chose to also pay the reduced cost for school supplies that you generously contributed. Many of the 82 children that came to shop were very excited to pick out their own items and are now eager to get back to school.



Mya Crawford

I have built relationships with some campers from non-Christian homes who came to know Christ at Wumba in previous summers. The Lord placed a strong desire and passion in their hearts to seek Him and walk with Him. Answering their big questions, praying with them, hearing them pray, witnessing them read the Bible, and seeing their faith grow over one summer was such a blessing to experience.



Dale Horst

Gathering to sing and worship in Spanish was a meaningful experience for many of us this past year. If worship is to be an expression of our hearts, then tuning into our “soul language” is important. We came together as the people of God (somos el pueblo de Dios) and our friendships deepened as we experienced God’s presence among us.



Nevine Samy

Seeing people experience emotional healing and becoming more aware of their true identity in Christ is the highlight of what I have experienced in my past year at WMB. I have seen people daring to face their hidden wounds, escape mechanisms, lies they believed about God, themselves and others, due to hard circumstances, hurts and traumas. The joy of being delivered from the bondage of a cruel master and being led to the arms of the loving Father has been a privilege to witness and celebrate.



Phil Chenier

God is faithful, and His promises are true. I do not believe this because I am here, I believe this because He has allowed me to be here to see how He has used people to demonstrate His faithfulness and the truth of His promises in ways I would have never have believed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

We praise God for His continual, abundant provision for the ministry He calls us to at WMB Church. Thank you, our church family, for being faithful and obedient in giving out of the finances He has given to you. Below you'll find highlights from our financial year. The complete financial package, including our audited year-end financial statements, is available at wmbchurch.ca/give or through the WMB Church office.

Revenue

WMB Church's revenue is generated through donations from Members and adherents and other supporters of our ministry. We also receive some revenue in the General Fund through facility rentals, retreat and day camp registrations and various fundraising.

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE
General Fund			
Donations	1,738,370	1,798,398	-3.3%
Other	106,230	128,029	-17.0%
Government Subsidy	304,907	-	
Barnabas Missions	326,477	273,400	19.4%
Short-term Missions	8,793	19,000	-53.7%
Nehemiah	81,317	70,000	16.2%
Seminary	-	-	
TOTAL REVENUE	2,566,094	2,288,827	12.1%

Expenses

Expenses are budgeted in alignment with our Strategic Priorities and ministry plans. We seek to be good stewards and carefully plan spending in order to invest in the long-term ministry of WMB Church.

GENERAL FUND	ACTUAL	BUDGET	VARIANCE	PERCENTAGE
General Staff (not including Barnabas Missions personnel)	1,264,378	1,221,851	3.5%	60.8%
Better Disciples (Internal Ministry)	45,594	110,778	-58.8%	2.2%
Building + Operations	195,352	242,933	-19.6%	9.4%
More Disciples (Outreach Ministry)	112,844	167,162	-32.5%	5.4%
Denomination + Partnerships	133,364	133,689	-0.2%	6.4%
OTHER FUNDS				
Barnabas Missions	311,061	333,400	-6.7%	15.0%
Short-term Missions	1,463	39,000	-96.2%	0.1%
Seminary	-	-		0.0%
Nehemiah	14,484	22,500	-35.6%	0.7%
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,078,540	2,271,313	-8.5%	

**CREATED BY DARBY MILLS
DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS**

