

INTERNATIONAL WORSHIP CENTRE

LEAD PASTOR'S REPORT 2020

If someone wrote about 2020 before it happened, no one would have believed it could be true. It would be considered a fictional story or a movie on Netflix. Looking in hindsight, what seemed fictional is the new normal we all live in. We were all strapped in a seat and rode a roller coaster ride without knowing when the ride would end. That was the general feeling for the year 2020. Even the church of Jesus Christ fumbled and tumbled and struggled to keep her spiritual footing. Anxiety, depression, and all kinds of internal struggles were an all time high both for Christians and non-Christians alike. However, those who fixed their eyes on Jesus have learned by grace how to walk in stormy weather.

I'm personally grateful to God, that instead of sinking in a miry clay of desperation and despair, He lifted me up and placed my feet on solid ground. There were people who never left my side. They lifted me up in prayer and supported me the best way they know how so I can lead the IWC Family. I would like to express my gratitude to the faithful leadership of our site pastors: Pastor Virginia Gonzales and her husband, Jimmy of North; Pastor Bong Sumayod and his wife, Mina, of Transcona; Pastor Cliff Borres and his wife, Wenie, of Neepawa; and last but not the least, Pastor Ed Santin and his wife, Edith, of Brandon. They all lead with godly integrity, humility, and submission - not only to God but also to the senior leadership of the entire IWC family. We are holding on to each other more tightly and helping each other during these turbulent times.

To the network leaders, Pastor Jojo and Chit Cochon, Pastor Jerome and Alfie Basa, your leadership is amazing. You inspire and empower your small groups to follow God's call to make disciples. To the small group leaders, to you I owe the pastoring of God's people. Your constancy in caring for others is the glue that keeps our people together towards a common cause. Even when social or physical distancing has become the new norm, you are leading well and are keeping the fellowship of the brethren and are even reaching out beyond geographical borders through virtual or online meetings.

The council members comprising our Winnipeg site and network pastors together with Mel Trinidad, Bella Madrid and myself are making decisions with such unity, character, integrity, and wisdom that we can honestly say that God is at the helm and steering the ship in the right direction even in the stormy waters.

To the church staff, Pastor Bong Sumayod, Pastor Jerome Basa, Eva Cabaltera, Erika Cruz, Bobby Fiñeza, Willie Landicho, and Cris Orido, I thank you

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all for going the extra mile in the service you provide. Some of you worked as volunteers when we decided to implement cost cutting measures to help keep our finances afloat. You did your very best with minimal resources and helped keep us on track. Gemi Mallari was provided a new employment opportunity towards the end of 2019. The entire IWC family is grateful for the more than 11 years that she faithfully and diligently served as the church administrator. We pray for God's blessing and favour upon her.

We also have many awesome workers who regularly make our services available online and in person (when permitted). Everyone of these precious people jumped at every opportunity to help with everything they got to serve behind the scenes. They patiently endured the very stressful season of ministry trying to abide by health protocols and the ever-changing landscape of providing Sunday services to both our members and visitors as well. We're also blessed to have people who provided support for the young generation such as Kidztown, Uprising, and the Rendezvous (Young Adults).

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. We are awed by the generosity you've demonstrated even in the most difficult financial times we've ever faced. You have shown the kind of faith and trust in God that is truly remarkable. The revenue collected in 2020 exceeded the revenue for the year 2019. Praise the Lord!

Most of all, I would like to express my appreciation to my family. The life of a pastor is not easy and, usually, the family is the shock absorber. I have an awesome wife in Fatty who is prayerful and wise, standing beside me from day one and, I believe, till the very end. She faithfully stayed by my side last year, even when I was at my worst. Now, our marriage has been blessed with the grace of God in Christ that empowers us not just to love each other with God's love but also share it around. I love her deeply and I am sincerely thankful to have her by my side. And to our children, Isaac, Ruth, and Zac, I'm thankful for their love and support. And in the midst of a pandemic, we welcomed the newest member of our family, our bundle of joy from heaven, my grandson, Caleb Brave. Caleb is a true sign of God's grace and favour to me and my family.

For all the details of what was accomplished for 2020, please refer to the Secretary's Report. 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 a privilege and

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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 build on the successes and failures of the past. Let us be loving vessels for Jesus till He comes. Together we are stronger. Together we are better.

Committed to lead till the end!



Ptr. Junie Josue

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Lead Pastor