

The River Christian Center Annual Report

March 2020

*A Church With A
Caring Heart*

Our Call
To be a Community of
Christ-Centered Believers

Our Mission Statement
Actively Seeking the Glory of God

Our Vision
To be an Apostolic-Prophetic New
Testament Community of
Spirit-Filled Ministering Believers

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The River Christian Center Annual Report

Core Values

Integrity & Influence
Salt & Light ~ Matthew 5:13-14

A Heart for the Lost
Each One, Reach One ~ Matthew 28:18-20

Biblical Authority
The Word Works when you Work it ~ Isaiah 55:11

Love for People
Let your Love Grow and Overflow ~ 1 Thess. 3:12

Intimacy with God
Snuggle up to God & He'll Snuggle up to you ~ James 4:8

Servanthood
Every Member a Minister ~ Mark 9:41

Discipleship
Healthy Sheep beget Healthy Sheep ~ 2 Timothy 2:2

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The River Annual Meeting

2019 Minutes

*The River Christian Center held an Annual Meeting on **March 24, 2019***

Dawn Oehler called the meeting to order and Pastor Tim Oehler opened in prayer. There were 23 people present.

MINUTES;

Marilyn Steininger read the minutes from the 2018 annual meeting. Adopted by reader. Seconded by Cassandra Betts. Carried

REPORTS;

Pastor Tim Oehler gave the Pastor's report. Pastor Tim spoke of a spiritual awakening happening, of taking big steps of faith spiritually, physically and financially. Maximize, utilize and the increase will come for 2019. Pastor Tim thanked everyone for their prayers.

Dawn Oehler read the Children's Ministry report as submitted by teachers; Rebecca Stott, Ariel Ward and Caitlyn Peters.

Cassandra Betts gave the Praise & Worship report and spoke of growing in unity and commitment.

Joyce Balaberda gave the Prayer Team report. 2 Chronicles 7:14-16. Pre-service prayer in Kidsville room is open to everyone.

Phyllis Stoll gave the Ladies Care Group report. The group has grown to fourteen ladies and the group has grown comfortable in sharing knowing they are in a safe environment.

Jed Reyes gave a report for the Canadian Filipinos for Jesus group. They have a weekly bible study, children's ministry, and annual family camp and Christmas Caroling sharing the love of Christ in the Community.

Pastor Tim Oehler gave the Men's Group report. Psalm 127. God is challenging and growing men. The Men's Breakfasts have two other churches involved. God is opening the doors and building leaders. Pastor Tim is encouraged and excited that the men are stepping up!

Dawn Oehler gave the Agape Meal report. It was a great success with some challenges that need to be addressed. Next meal December 14, 2019.

Dennis Novak shared about his work with the Gideons. The challenges of sharing the Gospel in schools.

FINANCIAL; Marilyn Steininger presented the 2018 Financial Statement and made a motion to accept as presented. Seconded by Harvey Kormos. Carried

Marilyn Steininger made a motion to appoint Miller & Co. as auditor for the 2019 Financial Review. Seconded by Cara Kushner. Carried

BUDGET & VISION; Dawn Oehler presented the 2019 Budget. Discussion followed. Dawn Oehler made a motion to accept the 2019 Budget. Seconded by Val Exner. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned and Joyce Balaberda closed in prayer.



The River Annual Report

a note from the Pastor

I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ephesians 4:1-6

First and foremost I want to thank God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit as it is His will for our church to prosper. I want to acknowledge my wife, all of the leaders and teams as you make me look good as your leader. I am only one person and it takes all of us to work as a team.

I just want to thank each and every one of you for your heart and servitude. The church this year has been so blessed with different leaders stepping into positions and finding interesting ways to share and our reach into the community. I am excited to see growth in the church body. I am excited to see how much more growth there will be. I was reminded that it isn't the size of the church but rather the health of the ones who are in it and how they are growing. We have seen a lot of new faces from inside the community and when they come, they say that "they felt loved and welcomed in". So we are doing something right.

Some amazing things happened this year: We had people respond to salvation calls, prayer, baptisms, and even acts of obedience. The prayer room is filling up more and more. The prayers are getting powerful and we are seeing the effects of those prayers. God is so amazing to keep His promises.

We had an amazing out pouring of unity and the Holy Spirit in the agape meal. We had many people help out. It was amazing and it was refreshing. I am humbled and amazed always at what God does when we step into obedience and he honors that. That is really what last year was about being obedient even if it is uncomfortable. The church culture is changing and for the glory of the Lord. We are graced with God's Glory and His presence.

I thank God for allowing me to serve Him. I want to thank you guys so much for allowing me to serve you.



Pastor Tim Oehler

The River Annual Report

Children's Ministry

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

The 2019 - 2020 Sunday School year has seen some changes as we are moving forward and growing(number wise and Spiritually wise). We have implemented Children's ministry guide books in each room. Within them they include plan to protect, lesson plans, registration forms, attendance sheets, incident report forms, job description sign off sheets. These were put into place as of January 1st 2020 to help streamline our system and put protections in place for children, teachers and volunteers. Along with those changes we have brought on 2 new teachers. Nati Miller(7-12 age group) and Amy Poole(3-6 age group). We are meeting every 2 months as a group to keep in touch with important topics as well as team build. This year we have also started to implement more children geared activities and hope to continue to do so in the future. Movie nights, bible school days etc ... we all enjoy working with The River Christian Center children and can't wait until we are back in church to help them all further their relationship with Christ.

Rebecca Stott



The River Annual Report

Praise & Worship Team

Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true
worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in
truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.

God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in the Spirit
and in truth.”

John 4:23-24 (NIV)

This was a year of big changes for The River Worship Team. Joyce Balaberda, who was a vocalist, became the head of our Prayer Ministry Team, and Alan Puncia (with his wife and boys) moved to Edmonton. One of the highlights of this year happened very fast, in June, right before Alan moved. Our team entered a video into the “Take the Stage Contest” for the chance to play on the main stage at No Greater Love, an outdoor, weekend Christian concert in Alberta. From uploading the movie for entry, to being voted one of the Top 10 groups/artists, our journey took us to the semi-finals in Cochrane, Alberta. Although we were not chosen to perform on the main stage, the results of our “Old Church Choir” video were incredible. My entire class of grade 4 students watched it (and voted) almost every day, and the video link being shared on Facebook managed to reach many people who would not normally have searched for music like that. The Spiritual stretching and growth that our team experienced was amazing, and we were on fire for the Lord. This year we also started putting on our Freedom Overflow outreach on a more regular basis, aiming for once every three months. While we have had mixed numbers for attendance, there have always been new faces and new connections, so we will remain faithful in continuing to promote God’s vision of a unified body of believers. The amount of prayer, encouragement, and faith that we receive from our pastors, the board, and the congregation have allowed God’s Spirit to move in our church, and we are excited to see where He is taking us next.

Cassandra Betts

The River Annual Report

Prayer Team

“Then my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land. My eyes will be open and my ears attentive to every prayer made in this place. For I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be holy – a place where my name will be honoured forever. I will always watch over it, for it is dear to my heart.”

2 Chronicles 7:14-16

Over the past year prayer has been a strong foundation which continues to grow and develop within our church. God has answered many prayers and is growing the prophetic gift.

We continue to meet for pre-service prayer every Sunday. It is a time where we bring our petitions before the throne of God. Everyone is welcome whether you pray or just sit in the presence of the Lord.

Prayer has also been an important part of our Women's Ministry. As the ladies pray each week, God continues to answer these prayers. We hear "praise reports" regularly.

In July we had our annual Prayer Walk around Melville. We started at Community Works and continued walking around the city, covering it in prayer. Again, this year, we had the opportunity to pray for Mayor Walter Streeelasky. I believe this walk is essential in bringing down strongholds and allows the Holy Spirit to permeate our community.

In January we held a Day of Prayer and Fasting. This was a time of praying for our church, province, country and world. We also prayed for individuals and their needs. God moved and gave us new insight to the working of His Spirit. We want to continue holding this time of prayer and encourage all to join us for the next one.

As we continue in prayer God remains faithful by leading us into the deeper things of the Spirit. Prayer is the foundation upon which God will move in our midst.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "Never stop praying." This is especially important during this unprecedented time in our world. I believe God is calling our world to turn to Jesus and pray like never before.

As we go through 2020 I still believe this scripture is a promise from God to our church.

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Joyce Balaberda

The River Annual Report

Life Groups

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

River Women's Ministry

God is Launching us Forward!

What started out in 2010 as a small home based 'Ladies Care Group' reaching out the hurting and broken women; has now, by God's love and grace, expanded into a ministry with a community focus outreach ... this 'lifeboat of survivors' has been renamed the River Women's Ministry.

Our 2019-2020 year began with an outreach movie night showing 'Breakthrough' on Sept.27/19 with an attendance of 26 women.

In October, we began a book study on 'The Search for Significance' by Robert McGee, facilitated by Cassandra Betts. We gather on Tuesday evenings with a safe closed group of 21 ladies.

On Dec.27/19, we hosted another outreach movie night, showing 'Overcomer' with 16 gals attending.

As Robert McGee took is deeper into 'The Search for Significance', we decided to pamper ourselves and the women from the community to a Self-Care Spa Night on Feb.18/20. 39 women were not only pampered but were blessed with guest speaker, Serena Evans. Serena delivered a message about loving ourselves, and demonstrated the truth that we can't 'love your neighbor as yourself' if you do not extend yourself the same grave Christ extends to you. The event was well received with a responsive salvation call given at the end of the night.

Our book study will take us to a summer break.

With the changes and expansion of the River Women's Ministry, we are excited to see what God has in store for 'His daughters'!

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Phyllis Stoll

The River Annual Report

Life Groups

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Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

Canadian Filipinos for Jesus

Year 2019, was a year of “*Thrust*” for CFJ.

The plans made for the year 2019 show much of the progress and growth of the group compared from the day it started. We’ve proposed a Children’s Bible study while simultaneously having the adult Bible study every Saturday, Couple’s Night for the community for Valentine’s Day, Family Camp in summer, and Christmas play plus the Christmas caroling before the end of the year.

We have learned that part of the process as you take full responsibility to thrust or move forward, “*adaptability*” and being “*selfless*,” is very important as you move forward towards God’s plan for the year. We have decided this year, that we will also not look into quantity when it comes to meeting together for Bible Study but we will focus on being “*consistent*.”

Year 2019 was indeed a year of Thrust for CFJ. We have adapt to every changes necessary, we’ve prioritized other’s needs above us as individuals and as a team. By the mercies of God, and the constant support of The River Christian Centre headed by Pastor Tim and Dawn Oehler, we never failed to move forward consistently.

Here are the following highlights for the year 2019:

- 1st Children’s Bible Study
- Couple’s Night
- Bible Study Guides:
- Seven Letters to Seven Churches by Michael Fletcher
- Gospel of John series by Dr. Tony Evans
- Practical Christian Living Book by Bertram Lim
- Family Outdoor Fellowship at Ravine Adventures
- Family Fun Day at the Park
- Christmas Caroling
- Year-End Fellowship and Christmas Celebration



Jed Reyes

The River Annual Report

Life Groups

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24-25 (NIV)

Men's Group

First I would thank God for the blessing of men and this burden on my heart. As I had two fathers but my heavenly Father was the one I really looked to. It was here that birthed the heart for men.

The men's group has been an amazing quiet powerhouse. The guys are drawing closer together in their manly ways. Not really deep but there is a bond between the guys. There has been some growth in the guys that are coming. We are challenging each other. Pastor Doug has come into the fold as well as one of his elders Oliver. They are a blessing to the group.

We have been trying to build the Lord's army within the brotherhood of believers. The men's breakfasts have been great as we are having guys stepping into different places and there are connections being made all over. We had an opportunity to pray with 25 guys together for 2 specific things and see the answer two days later. It was amazing to see men step up into what God calls us to do. And to lay aside our pride and fears for another brother.

I see so many great Godly men that are being called out and in that place of comfort there is still resistance, and I am praying for that breakthrough. Leaders and protectors will be brought forth out of their obedience. So praying for that to happen is crucial. There have been a few challenges to the study as to what it really is and what it is about. But it is getting easier and seeing men that are usually sitting on the sidelines stepping up into bible reading and out of their comfort zones. I pray that God continues to stretch and grow these men. That they see their God given potential and step into those places God is nudging them into.

It has been my blessing to serve my brothers!



Pastor Tim Oehler

The River Annual Report

Outreach

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

James 2:15-16

Annual Agape Meal

The River Christian Center hosted its annual Agape Meal on **Saturday, December 14, 2019**. The free Community Supper event was well attended with approximately 250 people counted, including serving volunteers. There was food, fellowship, music and small gifts for guests.

Food donations were provided by River Church members, Prairie Co-op, Vahagn's Independent Grocer, and other individual community members. A total of 9 turkeys were prepared along with the fixin's and nobody went away hungry. We had 2 sittings to accommodate the large turnout and avoid some capacity issues from last year and God showed up to make things run smoothly. Any expenses incurred for incidentals (plates, napkins, cranberries, etc.) and added touches such as decorations were handled through our church's community outreach and fellowship budget.

The organization, setup and serving was all done by Volunteers and coordinated by The River Church. The volunteers were largely assembled from The River Church members but included some other community members as well. It is awesome to be able to share God's Love within our community in this way and we are grateful for all the donations and help serving to make this event possible. This year the Agape Meal will be held on **Saturday, December 12, 2020**.

Dawn Oehler



The River Annual Report

Outreach

Gideons Update

How fortunate and blessed we all are that someone took the time and spoke to us about Jesus. Now we know where we are going and are not afraid of death. Because we know the way, we are destined to follow the Great Commission of leading the lost to Christ. Like the Scripture says, we are overseers of God's church. Our Lord commands it. He purchased the church by His blood and it is our duty to offer the free gift of salvation to the lost.

2020 began as a challenging year with the threat of the COVID -19 virus and all activities we had planned with the Gideons has been canceled or postponed. The past year saw leadership conference in Regina which we attended. The conference showed us all how sharing the Gospel is changing and we have to adapt to the changes. School distribution is seeing a change in the number of students and schools as a whole who are no longer accepting bibles. So some chapter members see themselves distributing bibles outside the school as students come out of the school boarding the school bus.

Also the conference saw for the Gideons to change their name from "The Gideons International of Canada" to "ShareWord Global Canada". Because of rules and law changes over the years between Canada and other countries bibles could no longer be imported or exported back and forth. To always see the Gideons as one ministry there was the need to do that. The bibles of course will now be stamped ShareWord. It was felt at the international level to emphasize what we do rather than who we are. Between us we will always go and be known as The Gideons.

In the past year we saw two new members join our Yorkton Chapter. Which was encouraging. We are always in need for new members to join us in this Ministry.

For upcoming plans for the rest of the Gideon calendar is a booth at the Yorkton Exhibition in July where bibles and Jesus can be shared to our brothers and sisters. Dessert Night which is our annual fundraiser will be held on April 25th. This entails music, guest speaker and dessert to follow.

Melville Trade Show was to see a Gideons booth set up to distribute bibles and share Christ. This however was canceled due to the COVID – 19 outbreak.

Our Chapter was planning to set up a booth at the Canadian Tire mall in Yorkton to distribute the Word, however this was voted down by the executive members at the mall.

All these events may still see themselves be canceled or postponed as this virus unfolds.

In summary, the rural school districts. Prairie Valley and Regina have shut the Gideons down and prevented them from distributing any Bibles. We ask you to continuously keep us in your prayers first for encouragement and boldness that the enemy cannot come in and take away what we have. Secondly that schools and school districts would not harden their hearts and be open to letting the Word of God into their building and into the hearts of their students.



Thank You - and God Bless You, *Dennis Novak*
ShareWord Global Canada - Yorkton Chapter

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER INC.
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019
(UNAUDITED)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Revenues		
Offerings and tithes	\$ 72,201	\$ 59,680
Loose offerings	1,905	1,784
Miscellaneous	356	780
Interest	19	20
	<u>74,481</u>	<u>62,264</u>
Expenses (Schedule 1)	(75,571)	(63,914)
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$ (1,090)</u>	<u>\$ (1,650)</u>

THE RIVER CHRISTIAN CENTER INC.
SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019
(UNAUDITED)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Pastoral care		
Pastoral services	\$ 18,559	\$ 18,047
Housing allowance	8,400	8,400
Employment benefits	1,356	1,310
Honorariums	876	1,530
	<u>29,191</u>	<u>29,287</u>
Worship and outreach		
Fellowship	2,440	1,805
Outreach	7,655	9,568
Music festival	845	Nil
Donation - Melville Food Bank	5,000	Nil
Sunday school and Bible study	640	2,216
	<u>16,580</u>	<u>13,589</u>
Administration		
Advertising and promotion	1,813	2,048
Conferences and education	4,295	2,189
Memberships, licenses and fees	2,900	2,384
Miscellaneous	500	897
Office	21	271
Professional fees	1,377	605
Telephone	733	705
	<u>11,639</u>	<u>9,099</u>
Occupancy costs		
Rent	11,455	10,374
Insurance	326	493
Asset purchases and maintenance	6,380	1,072
	<u>18,161</u>	<u>11,939</u>
	<u>\$ 75,571</u>	<u>\$ 63,914</u>

The River Annual Report

2019 Financial Statement

Board Approved Unaudited Financial
Statement for 2019
Review Prepared by Miller & Co.

The River Christian Center
2020

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
1 Salary / Wages	\$ 30,000	\$ 28,289	\$ 33,000
2 Leadership Development (Training & Education)	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,795	\$ 5,000
3 Speakers & Teaching	\$ 3,500	\$ 876	\$ 3,500
4 Facility / Occupancy	\$ 14,000	\$ 12,843	\$ 14,000
Children's Room / Office Space	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,277	\$ 3,500
5 Administration / Office (General Memberships / Licenses)	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,790	\$ 2,500
6 Communications / Marketing (Advertising)	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,813	\$ 2,500
7 Ministries			
7.1 General	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,487	\$ 5,000
7.2 Children / Youth	\$ 1,500	\$ 423	\$ 1,500
7.3 Small / Home Groups	\$ 1,500	\$ 504	\$ 1,500
7.4 Praise & Worship	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,948	\$ 1,750
7.5 Missions / Outreach	\$ 14,700	\$ 13,081	\$ 14,700
	\$ 24,450	\$ 19,443	\$ 24,450
	\$ 86,950	\$ 75,125	\$ 88,450

The River Annual Report

2020 Budget - Vision

In their hearts humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps.
Proverbs 16:9

The River Annual Report

Closing Prayer

Father, we thank you for blessing this ministry in Melville and are privileged to be Your vessels at such a time as this. We commit our lives to you Lord and we offer ourselves for you to work through us, as you continue to reveal your perfect plan. All to the glory of the Father through Jesus Christ. Amen.

But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:7

