

SHUSWAP COMMUNITY CHURCH

ANNUAL REPORT: 2020



We exist to declare and demonstrate the transforming power of the gospel.

We will do this by making disciples and planting churches.

WE VALUE:

- **Corporate Christ-Centered Worship:** *We will provide excellent and engaging worship gatherings that are spirit-led to the glory of God.*
- **Authentic Community:** *We will provide a place for everyone to build significant friendships that encourage spiritual growth.*
- **Compelling Mission:** *We will seek to proclaim the gospel in all we do for the purpose of seeing lives changed.*
- **Developing Leaders:** *We will target, train, and release leaders according to calling and gifting.*
- **Generous Stewardship:** *We will report the use of our resources with integrity as well as provide opportunities for people to give joyfully and generously.*
- **Purposeful and Expectant Prayer:** *We will seek out God's face and favour with an expectancy that he will answer us.*

SCC Lead Pastor Report

2020 AD. 2020 Anno Domini, translated the “The Year of Our Lord 2020.” The phrase “in the year of our Lord” has dropped from the common vernacular of modern society when describing the events of a given year. For the Church of Christ 2020 may be a year to reclaim it as a reminder that our God has a plan for all of time and Christ’s cross the climax of history. Those of us who believe that may want to dust off this old phrase, and give the “In the year of our Lord, 2020” because it was the year where we had to daily remind ourselves that it was true.

In the year of our Lord 2020: We didn’t have the opportunity to GO to church. But the opportunities to BE the church have been plentiful. In late March, at the beginning of the pandemic, there was plenty of unknown and therefore legitimate fear about how COVID would affect our communities. *How contagious is this? How many people will lose their jobs? How extensive would the deaths be? What effect would this have on our pantries?* We all saw how many in our society dealt with that fear, hoarding various items (ie. toilet paper OF ALL THINGS!) Thankfully, rather than self-protective hoarding, SCC became selflessly generous. Thousands of items, food and clothing, were donated and dozens of stay at home boxes were distributed. Tens of thousands of dollars were given to our benevolent fund which were shared with those in need quickly. So much came in that we were able to give a significant amount to partner ministries around the world where COVID had decimated economies and people were struggling greatly with hunger. All the while, the church never faced financial hardship because people kept giving regularly to the operations of the church. In addition, many reached out to neighbours and friends, with love and care, and taking opportunities to share the hope of the gospel. I pray that the ground that was cultivated and seeded with the gospel will produce the fruit of salvation in our communities for years to come locally and globally. .

In the year of our Lord 2020: We learned that COVID is not a threat to God, His worship or His church. When once the church GATHERED, we had to quickly adjust to become the church CONNECTED. In scattering, we had a greater understanding of how believers functioned in history. Ever since the church began she has been persecuted, gone underground, and even ceased gathering during natural disasters including pandemics. When we post our digital content to Facebook or YouTube, we are getting a taste of what it was like when the churches in Philippi or Ephesus or the province of Colossae did when they would receive a letter from the Apostle Paul. Obviously, the content we’re producing isn’t equal to His, but the methods by which that content is distributed is similar. The church scattered received love and encouragement through words sent to them. That’s how believers were encouraged in their faith. In the same way, when worship teams lead music, scripture is opened and preached and then is sent via video or livestream, believers have the same opportunity to be encouraged and built up. This technology serves our purposes even though the methods of meeting in one place, singing loudly, and hearing the word preached live are not available to us. I’m incredibly

proud of how the pastors and staff have adjusted to the changing times. Pastor Bob (Sicamous) led “Hope at 7,” a daily devotional time over Facebook. Pastor Steve (Sorrento) led worship, with his family, and preached from his living room in White Lake, before moving to multiple services in the summer. Pastor Spencer (Chase) rang the church bell in a mountain chapel each Sunday to open the livestream for those worshipping in Chase. Pastor Jordan (Salmon Arm), with his team, figured out how to produce gatherings at the Salmar Grand to feel like being at church. Pastor Dave (Salmon Arm) learned video production and editing on the fly in order to produce weekly “SCC Kids Presents” so that children would be able to participate in church. Pastor Kevin (Salmon Arm), who was just getting to know students in the Youth Ministry after relocating last December, moved to leading Zoom Bible studies and making connections over Instagram. LIFE Group leaders figured out how to have socially distanced get-togethers in parks, parking lots, or on computers. Children and youth workers reached out to kids, to see how they were coping and to offer prayer. Seniors looked in on seniors, because friends check in on friends.

In the year of our Lord 2020: We have remained united. Throughout all the challenges to conscience and convictions, Scripture has been our guide and unity our goal. To be honest, I never thought we’d be asking the questions we’ve had to ask over the last year. Questions such as: *“We’ll be open for Easter, right?” “How will we maintain ministry if we have little or no income?” “How many funerals will we be doing?” “How long will it take to sanitize the building?” “Is this the tribulation?” “How many people were a part of the Facebook watch party?” “Can we have church in a movie theatre?” “Should we wear masks?” “Can our staff team work from home?” “How many socially-distanced BBQ’s can we pull off in a month?” “Is there a safe way to have communion?” “What’s our position on vaccinations... resisting government orders... receiving federal subsidies...”* Wisdom is found through spirit-filled meditation on God’s word and through humbly seeking counsel from others. The Board of SCC has constantly sought out the best interests of the church, praying diligently and wrestling with the complex nature of the issues and questions that have been facing all of us. I am so grateful for the leaders on both our Board and Elders, as they live humble and godly lives declaring and demonstrating the transforming power of the gospel. Although we will never have uniformity on all the various issues, we have been and will continue to strive to be united with gospel principles and priorities led by leaders who are humbled by God’s calling but deeply in love with the church.

In the year of our Lord 2020: We marked the end of the Overflow campaign. After years of praying, preparing and giving pledges, the vision of planting churches and developing resources came to an fulfillment. After everything is tallied we will have come very close to meeting the giving targets for Overflow and have almost completed each of the initiatives that we sought to do by faith. The Chase campus was planted and is thriving, in spite of challenges. Redemption Counselling was launched and is serving people with biblical, clinically-informed, gospel-centered counsel, of which half of the appointments are with people from the community, not associated with SCC. Administrative systems and structures have been overhauled so that the church business would function effectively and efficiently. Leadership development has grown with additions to our Gospel Leader program, as well as the launch of Elders-In-Training and Equipped To Counsel. There are still a couple to “check off” the list including launching a

campus in Enderby and a Discipleship Tool that will help each person at SCC grow in their walk with Christ and understanding of the gospel. Early efforts have been made to establish a core group in Enderby, with hope that formal ministry can begin in 2021 and the Discipleship Tool is very close to being distributed church-wide. Both of those things were affected by COVID, but we trust in God's timing on them. Looking ahead we continue to believe that God will provide for the needs of the church which have grown through the Overflow Campaign but are incredibly grateful for His provision thus far, even having funds remaining to apply to our 2021 budget.

In the year of our Lord 2020: We have seen the work that God had done in previous years provided us with the ability to care for our community and find stability through adversity. This is what we trust God will continue to do, as we look to 2021 with a lack of clarity as to how our lives will be. So what can we pray for in the "year of our Lord, 2021?"

In the year of our Lord 2021: May we continue to be focussed on declaring and demonstrating the transforming power of the gospel. Our methods may have changed, but our purpose has not. The challenges of this year have given us the opportunity to deepen our faith, to wrestle with our calling, to fight for our convictions, and to love our neighbours.

In the year of our Lord 2021: May we model hopeful patience and perseverance. To date, it is still very unclear as to when the church will be able to gather corporately. And when that happens it will certainly be interesting to see what the church looks like. But the object of our worship will remain the same. As we wait, we do so with a hope like an anchor for our soul firm and secure.

In the year of our Lord 2021: May we be ready for the opportunities that cross our paths. Although we're unsure when things will get back to normal, we are looking to see our church grow. Plans are being made for the possible purchase of property in Sicamous. Outreach events are being initiated in Enderby, while building up the core group and planning for services sometime this year. These are just a few of the exciting things that our church has on the horizon, and though timelines are fluid we will continue to pursue the expansion of the kingdom.

In the year of our Lord 2021: May we be ready to answer those who are asking the reason behind our hope. The way you have lived your lives through this time will have a great effect on the people of the Shuswap for generations to come. I am convinced of this. In 2020 I saw an urgency begin to develop in my prayers for the revival of the church, for the salvation of souls and for the return of Christ. Unless each of those three things happens in 2021 I know that my prayers will not change until they do.

On a personal note, I just wanted to let you know how much I have missed each of you. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your patience. Thank you for your words of encouragement. Thank you for understanding. Thank you for your questions and concerns. Thank you for loving the church and trusting the leadership. Although much of this report has been positive, the year has been filled with threats and pitfalls and the temptation of discouragement always near. On those many days when I've thrown up my hands and come

close to giving up, inevitably one of you has reached out via email, text, or phone with a word of encouragement. That's been life-giving for me and my family.

You are always in my prayers. I continue to pray for the faces that I see in the crowd as I regularly remember those Sunday mornings in Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Sorrento and Chase. I thank the Lord for your partnership in the gospel from years ago through today. And I pray that you would be strengthened in your faith, for the full assurance of hope until the end of time.

Respectfully submitted:

Ben Hall, SCC Lead Pastor

SCC BOARD REPORT

2020 was supposed to be a year of excitement. A monument of sorts, possibly due to the hype of society, but God had different, unimaginable other plans for 2020, for His people and His church. For SCC it was our final year of the Overflow Campaign, the second year for the Chase campus; the beginnings of a new Church Plant in Enderby; and the planning and dreaming ongoing work of discerning God's will and formulating plans for SCC future years.

As of March 2020, nothing had really changed at the SCC Board. Talk of COVID was becoming more prominent. The following day changed everything. The Government had reduced group gatherings to 250 people. With much prayer and consideration for the safety of the SCC community we decided to cancel our regular church gatherings and went to an online worship platform. Thanks to our amazing leaders the transition went fairly smoothly. Then in June through October, in compliance with government health rules, Salmon Arm was able to host groups of 50 people to collectively view our online Sunday services, using multiple auditoriums in the Salmar Theatre. Sicamous, Sorrento and Chase also adapted their Sunday services to smaller gatherings and online platforms.

Business went ahead as usual and for a period of time the Board met weekly instead of monthly, via ZOOM, to plan and strategize in regards to SCC finances and what to do in regards to staffing during the time of the initial lock down.

We definitely were planning for the worst case scenario but our God continued to show blessings and provisions around every corner. The leaders did have to lay off some ministry assistants for a time, but every time we had payroll for our staff the money was present. The faithful giving, of you, SCC church has been, and continues to be, a big blessing as we come to the One Year anniversary of the COVID Pandemic.

Our ministry expenses have been drastically reduced because of the changes since COVID, and SCC has qualified for the Canadian Government Wage Subsidy Plan for many months which means we have received funds from the government to help keep employees employed when our church income has been lower than the previous year. All this said, the Board is happy to say that, even in all this uncertainty with COVID, God has been gracious to SCC for our needs, through you His church.

Despite COVID and the many changes we have seen through 2020, church business has continued as normal as possible. We have continued to interview and welcome new members into SCC, we started a Sicamous Long-Term Facility Plan, we completed and accepted a new Board Policy Manual along with an SCC Contingency Fund Policy, Pastor Andy's Sabbatical was approved for June to August and we completed a performance review of Ben Hall, our Lead Pastor, and are happy to be blessed by his leadership and God focused heart.

Unfortunately we were not able to hold our annual Board retreat where we pray, plan and discuss God's future for SCC. Truth be told it is hard to really dream when we don't know what will be or not be allowed. This by no means diminishes what God is doing through SCC and through His church in general. Our benevolence fund has never been fuller. The church has been able to help many people in the community and in the church who have been in greater need due to the Pandemic.

2020 was not an easy year, but we are very thankful for a good God who loves His people and is in control even when everything feels in chaos. We, as a Board, continue to pray for our SCC family and hope that we will be able to meet as a church sooner rather than later. We also pray for all those affected by the COVID pandemic and for SCC to be a light in our community reaching out with compassion to spread the Good News of Jesus.

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

Don Cundiff, *SCC Board Chair*

SALMON ARM CAMPUS

We started the year with optimism, focused on discipleship, leadership development and building community.

In January, the women of SCC met at IF:Pray for a planned quarterly initiative based on the desire of women to gather, worship and learn. Leah Campbell, a grad student at Millar College of the Bible, taught on Biblical Submission (and why it doesn't have to suck!) and followed this up with monthly teaching on Women in the Word. We were planning on offering more of these courses to equip our church in how to read Scripture as effective disciples of Jesus. In this, we saw a demonstration of the desire our church has to know Christ through His Word - as evidenced by a desire to be part of something like this.

Some men in leadership of our church met at Fairhaven for training and discipleship in January and on Feb. 14-15th, a group of 126 men demonstrated their desire to know Christ and consider their personal discipleship led by Jared Wilson and Pat Sczebel at Men's Advance.



We began a new training initiative, called “Elders in Training.” Men were chosen to be trained as a way of exploring what it means to faithfully shepherd and serve the men and women of SCC. This entailed monthly teaching sessions accompanied by ongoing mentorship in seeing these men flourish in their understanding of Biblical eldership.

Our vision remains to see disciples made throughout the Shuswap - emphasized in men and women declaring their identity in Christ through the waters of baptism. We witnessed three baptisms March 8th - encouraging us once again that Christ continues to seek and save lost people.

***Covid Timeline:**

-March 12th - Letter to SCC re: washing hands and refraining from shaking hands

-March 13th - Letter to SCC re: further restrictions with respect to service size

-March 14th - Letter to SCC re: cancellation of Sunday service.

In 3 days, our world changed.

Ways the church needed to pivot on account of no longer meeting for Sunday services in our building:

- We needed to learn how to record worship music and our sermons for online platforms like YouTube and Facebook, both in the hopes of seeing the lost hear the gospel as well as encouraging and challenging the church through the Word and through the songs.
- The church would gather online - through Zoom prayer, 30/30 teaching sessions, and through a Zoom Alpha course.



- The people of SCC assembled and distributed Stay-Put boxes filled with necessities for those in need in our church and community. We had volunteer drivers picking up pre-packed boxes from families in SCC who were led to contribute in this way. We were able to serve and get to know some new individuals and organizations - and contribute towards the good of Salmon Arm through meeting tangible needs.
- There were some fun initiatives for Connection throughout the summer: Doughnut Runs, Ice Cream delivery, a parade for Melissa Henderson as she finished her job as Children's Ministry Assistant.



- Throughout the summer, our elders and staff hosted 15 BBQs at various locations and served 623 people in an effort to enjoy some community. The spirit of community was high as old and new friends mingled and enjoyed a meal together. We welcomed a few new people to town that had never entered our church building because of restrictions. The church still grew even though we couldn't hold Sunday services in person!



- In the fall, we began meeting at the Salmar Grand theatres to accommodate the 50 person maximum, providing a children's area and hospitality tent to facilitate community space safely. The experience of singing with one another was a welcome and joyful one.
- We saw a significant increase in new volunteers wanting to take on hosting and welcoming roles.

- Our SCC Prayer team increased in size as a result of growing desire to pray for and with each other as we were separated physically. One person said 'even in the midst of a pandemic, everyday suffering is still going on, we need to pray for those with illness, isolation, grief and give thanks as we always did.'

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

EPHESIANS 6:18

- LIFE Groups and IF:Tables continued to gather in the ways they were able through either finding safe spaces for smaller groups to meet, meeting online, or maintaining relationships through texting, phoning, and emailing.
- Our staff made phone calls to 754 people/families - desiring to encourage, pray for, comfort, and teach as many as able in the ways they were able.
- Spencer Gray became our fourth Immerse Grad, obtaining his Master of Divinity degree and is prayerfully seeking opportunities to serve the Lord in ministry.

- SCC gave financially towards Christmas Hampers through our benevolent fund. We packed and gave 40 hampers of goods, gift cards and food to individuals and families. One family reported the monetary gift one LIFE group gave them was almost exactly the amount of an unexpected dental bill and another family with a single parent living in a motel with her 5 children was blessed with a custom made gift basket from one of our IF:Tables.

SCC Kids

Children's Pastor Dave Yeo enjoyed visiting families this past year and producing the fun and engaging SCC Kids Presents... Videos each week. It has been a huge encouragement to see families watching and learning together to become more passionate followers of Jesus. Our volunteer leadership is strong and growing, even in this pandemic year.

'God will build His church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.' Matt. 16:18



SCC Youth

The youth ministry at SCC benefitted from the leadership of Germiko Hill and Kim Freckleton who were joined by Kevin Hardy in December 2019 as he stepped into the role of Youth Pastor for the Salmon Arm campus. The youth enjoyed regular weekly gatherings where they could hang out, have some fun and hear from God's Word. One highlight was the All-Nighter that took place in January. Both the Senior and Junior youth ministries are blessed to have solid volunteer leaders who love our students.



SCC Worship

Corporate worship looked very different in 2020 for SCC. While we were not able to sing together much, we saw Christ's bride come together to serve each other so very well. Of course, everyone on our team would much rather lead worship with 300 people in a building all singing loudly praising Jesus together side by side, but they have continued to serve this local body of

believers every Monday night in front of a camera (not an easy task) for the following weekend's livestream. And thanks to the individuals who came together to troubleshoot the "livestream beast." What a privilege to see Christ's followers serving each other.

2020 in Review

In January, our campus began the year with a Town Hall - focused on the vision the Lord had given us for the year ahead. Our primary consideration was this: are we making disciples? Is the community of Salmon Arm aware of our existence, and secondly is our staff equipping the men and women of SCC for ministry (Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-12)? No one predicted the year that laid ahead for us, and yet God in His faithfulness kept us attentive to that primary question: Are we? Are we making disciples, Lord?

There really is no way of answering that size of a question with a concrete yes or no - there are always more people in need of Christ, the nature of discipleship is more of a journey towards Christ than a destination, and the equipping of people for works of ministry will carry on until the return of Christ. Yet as I reflect on the year prior - I call to mind once again the kindness and faithfulness of God in our campus. Be it people praying frequently and boldly, be it groups discovering truths of Jesus through His Word, be it through salvation being known by friends and coworkers on account of the saving power of Jesus accompanying the faith of those in our church, or be it simply the honest seeking after God in how we might be faithful in this season - there was ample evidence of discipleship taking place in our midst.

Doesn't that create gratitude, wonder, and thankfulness in your heart? 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 says, "Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it." Church - Jesus sustained His bride once more! Why? Because He is faithful to His Word and to His promises. He continues to bring glory before the Father through each and every evidence of grace at work in our church - each conversation of Christ, each minute of worship and prayer, through every lament brought before Him in faith - He shows us over, and over, and over again: I am faithful.

It can't be overstated how challenging and difficult last year was to endure for many of us - and those challenges certainly implied the staff and leadership leading and shepherding imperfectly through the various hurdles. And even there, I am thankful. That truth causes us to rest in verses like this from Psalm 115:1 "Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!" I'm thankful to God for His kindness and faithfulness in leading this Campus in 2020, and thankful He will continue to do His work in our midst in 2021.

Jordan Gold, *Salmon Arm Campus Pastor*

SICAMOUS CAMPUS

2020—a year that will live in infamy. We won't soon forget it. It will be the year we talk about—but maybe not in a negative way. Emerson once said, “When it is dark enough, you can see the stars.” And because I am a movie fan I will quote a line from Apollo 13. When things go awry with the APOLLO 13 Mission the Director of NASA says, “This could be the worst disaster NASA has ever experienced—Mission Controller Commander Gene Kranz responded, “With all due respect sir, I believe this going to be our finest hour.”

When we prayed that God would make the Church stronger, and that He would do whatever it takes to save the lost around us He answered with a Pandemic. Only something as long and drawn out as the Covid-19 pandemic could begin to shake the world, especially the West from its slumber. Most ideas of a successful church were something like a polished mega-church with crowds of people sitting in a theatre type seat consuming great sermons and live music by a band that has just been signed to a three record deal. The bigger the better—that is the West. Pastors who wanted to have the biggest church in the area—pastors like me who were getting cocky and liked dropping the number of people coming to church on a Sunday—were all humbled. Churches big and small, pastors well-known and obscure, were all in the same boat. God took us down to our roots. Churches meeting in small numbers and people having to connect to one another because we couldn't gather in full numbers any more. The early church met in homes and in the town square. For a while we couldn't even do that.

We needed expanded reliance upon God and the Holy Spirit's work to build the church—and we have had no choice in the matter except to do just that. We have seen God's guiding hand in getting The Gospel out there like never before with the “Digitization” of the Church. This has resulted in almost every person on the internet seeing some form of the Gospel online. People who would have NEVER darkened the doorway of a church have heard The Good News somehow. Why? Because they know some friend who has shared the Good News through social media or Facebook or Youtube or Instagram or TikTok. It has stretched us to be sure—but in spite of the fact that we have had many glitches—there have been many more gifts from this all. God has used His Word, spoken online by weak humans to proclaim His strength in being able to rescue us. I truly believe—that if Jesus doesn't come back soon—that when this stretch of history has run its course that we will see a lot of new faces at church. These will be people we didn't know were out there listening—but they are.

We had to think outside the box when it came to SicaMouse being cancelled. So the Lord provided us with the means to make Four Floats for the at home Canada Day parade. SicaMouse spread joy and the music of “Jesus Loves Me” echoed through the streets of Sicamous while children looked on with big smiles as Germiko and I tossed out prizes to people in their driveways.



It has also been a year of changes on the staff in Sicamous. Kim Freckleton, was our youth director for nine years and has become a mom and has switched careers from youth director to homemaker. Germiko Hill finished his internship of two years and has become the associate pastor in his homeland of Bermuda. We were blessed with retaining Aidan Twa as our part-time assistant pastor and our new interim youth director and Gospel Leader Michelle Karst. They are doing a great job. And I value their partnership in the gospel.

God has shown me that little by little adds up to a lot. A little bit of the Gospel seed, scattered digitally, or through a dropped-off, stay-at-home-care-kit at a front door finds good soil. People are more scared than I have ever seen them. The news is forcing them to consider truths they have never considered before. I am seeing people who had no idea about who Jesus is come and ask questions. They ask online, through text, through phone calls, through emails. They are scared. They need a hero. And they are coming to Jesus and finding him to be the hero and Saviour that they have always needed.

I am confident that he is at work through the Holy Spirit, drawing men and women to himself.

We got to baptize two of them in the summer, who discovered through COVID-19, that they needed a saviour and they needed to be baptized and commit their life to him.



I have seen someone who was up-and-down like a yo-yo in their shallow faith for years decide that Jesus was the only way to live. She urgently requested that she be baptized before she went back to work in northern Alberta—and got baptized in Mara Lake in January to make sure it happened. She is all in.

When the Lord gave us the idea to do church online, he also gave me the idea for a daily devotion broadcasted over Facebook live called “Hope At 7”. A couple hundred episodes later we have had many different guest speakers from all over the world share The Good News over this medium. We have seen people come to Christ. People who were watching from the sidelines, are now commenting, sharing and liking it publicly. This tells me that there is work going on in their heart—when they watch they take it in.



We have seen the online work bring in a family to The Hub full of questions about God and Jesus. We gave them a Jesus Storybook Bible. They realized that they needed some hope in their life and that Jesus is the missing piece and the missing peace in their family. He is even bringing them a better sleep. If we keep casting the net out there, Jesus is going to make the fish swim into the net. If we keep casting the seed of the Gospel it is sown in the good soil that Jesus has waiting for it. And we will see the fruit of salvation—as well as the fruit of a deeper call to discipleship for the Christian. The net we cast in the Sicamous area is in the net of broadcasting SCC Online at 9, KidZone on Tuesday nights, Hope at 7 on Tuesday Nights and Hope at 7am on Weekday mornings. God has used a new TV series based on the life of Jesus to reach many people as well. It has been a very easy tool to communicate the gospel to people who have never heard it before. If you haven’t watched “The Chosen” Get the app and share it with your friends. The first eight episodes of season one are on the app for free and it can be cast on your TV. I know of one man that has become a Christian from watching it. It is no mistake that The Chosen was finished filming its first season just before the pandemic broke.

I will never complain again about having to set up a chair or a sound system or having a box of church stuff in the back of my car. I miss gathering in the school gym with God’s people and hearing their songs echo off the four walls. To be able to gather again with God’s people will be perhaps the biggest joy of my life. God is in charge of history. He knows what he’s doing. He is the mighty chess player with a strategy that will culminate in the name of Jesus Christ being glorified and the Gospel proclaimed.

In 2021 we look forward to “The Hub Project.” To raise money to buy the facility that we have been allowed to use for 10 years for free from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. The hub is for sale at a good price and it is definitely the hub of activity for SCC in Sicamous. We look forward to the Provision of God as he pours out enough to obtain The Hub. For ten years the Hub has hosted hundreds of people who have been to parties, youth events, movie nights, game nights, Christmas dinners, community board meetings, Coffee Houses, basketball games and outreaches like Strike Camp in 2014 when there was no school in the fall—the Hub was open. When we are able to host Hot Lunch, half the High School shows up!

God is at work through this little building. In the Summer we have outdoor services at The Hub as well and at one point We even had a skating rink, when it was cold enough. I'm excited to see what God does through the Hub over the next 10 years as we secure it for the next generation of the church out here in Sicamous. Details on how we are raising money to buy the Hub will be announced at the annual business meeting. Please continue to pray for the work of the ministry out here and thank God for the open doors that he is keeping open. Even small open doors like the high school allowing me to come in and cook lunch for the kids on Mondays. And this in the middle of a pandemic. God is good.

Bob Evans, *Sicamous Campus Pastor*



SORRENTO CAMPUS

One of my favourite passages to end church services with is Colossians 1:9-14. Rather than copy and paste it here I want to take a moment and highlight some of its content. This past year has been one of constant prayer for God's people. We have endured much change and loss of "normal" in life. Despite that disruption of life, we have had to struggle to hold firm to spiritual wisdom and understanding. We have fought for that, and adapted to new ways of experiencing gospel ministry. But that constant prayer has been the same, that we would bear fruit, grow in knowledge of God, and to be strengthened in His power. Why? Because Jesus has rescued us! He rescued us, and brought us into his kingdom, redeemed us and forgives us! 2020 was a rough year, but that timeless truth still rings true, we have a redeemer, a deliverer and He was at work all year long ... as He always is!

After arriving in Sorrento in the fall of 2019 we entered 2020 with momentum and a tremendous amount of excitement for what God was doing in the congregation in Sorrento. As 2019 came to a close and we headed into the new year attendance was pushing towards 100 with great engagement from the congregation.

In the congregation ministry life we had several growing and life giving ministries such as; Prayer breakfast, healthy kids ministry, Precept studies, multiple care groups, and many points of social contact.



January was kicked off with a town hall session led by Pastor Ben Hall as he went to each campus to help prepare for the AGM meeting for SCC. We had several men join in the Central-run mens retreat at the Fairhaven Retreat Center. February saw the Men's Advance Conference with Jared Wilson and Pat Sczebel. It was a great time for many men that were able to participate in the weekend. These events all came together to launch the Elder In Training program across all the campuses.

All of these early programs were running well, and the church was growing. Then Covid came. The shutdown was quick and the fall out was a little chaotic. Like every other church we had to sort out how to transition to online services. In Sorrento we moved to Facebook videos and added YouTube to the mix shortly after.

While I would like to say that the transition was easy and clean, it was not all that smooth! What followed was a flurry of online classes, and services ... and a bunch of disappointments. One of the bigger disappointments was the end of the planned trip to Guatemala for a missions trip with the Compelling Love Ministry run by the Chupa's. The folks in Sorrento have been travelling down to join in the work of the ministry over the last several years. Pat and Lawrence Lepp worked hard to get the trip set up. Covid caused a switch to supporting a school build and sponsoring extra kids at their orphanage.

Figuring out an online church was a process of learning very quickly to record services, post them on Facebook and YouTube and then connecting people to the services that we placed online. As the summer progressed we moved from recording services to return to in person services once we were able to gather in groups of 50.



The schedule of Zoom programming was interesting to be involved in and it was wonderful to see the congregation gather together for the 30/30 teaching sessions and the online prayer session. Despite the inability to physically gather together, we did have the opportunity to gather online. It was a great time of innovation, but a pale comparison to gathering together.

That is why in Sorrento we jumped to return to in person gatherings. Dealing with the Covid protocols and switching to live streaming rather than recording services was again more learning hurdles to clear. We made the transition with BBQ's to celebrate and as the summer progressed we needed to add a second service to accommodate the people who wanted to attend church.

God is always at work and we started to realize that He had added multiple families to the SCC Sorrento congregation. In the midst of a pandemic when government health protocol called for us to be separate and careful, God was (and is) continuing to build His kingdom and His church.

One of the realities of the new and growing congregations was a shift in the demographics of the group. Suddenly as we looked out it was clear we have several high school students. This led to the conversations about youth ministry and how to launch a Sorrento specific group that would join in with the Salmon Arm group with Pastor Kevin as well. Things were going great, we gathered for a bonfire to launch off the ministry ... and the second Covid shut down came.

Back to recording service and doing ministry via email, text and phone. As we came to the end of the year we decided that Sorrento would move to a full live-stream service. This shift would be to place value and emphasis on the idea of community and gathering together. The push to value Sunday morning at 10am as the time we have set aside to gather with one another to worship has been an amazing life giving process. I am excited for what God is doing in the congregation and how he is building his community of believers here in the Sorrento.

That is an overview of what the year was like, but nothing gets done without help. This year it seems that if I was to list all the people that have been able to help in ministry I would literally list the entire church family. Rather than do that and miss folks, I just want to say that I appreciate and love each one of you, when help is needed, we have a line of people willing to pitch in. Without you so many ministries and events would not have been possible. Thank you for your willingness to "put your hand to the plow" and not be distracted or dissuade from the work of the Gospel!

Also I could have talked about so many more ministries that the church participated in; care groups, Precept classes, worship ministries, tech and sound ministries, children's ministry, hospitality, social media, care ministries, prayer ministries, and the list goes on. So much is done in the course of a month at SCC Sorrento is an absolute blessing to serve such a commitment group of believers!

It never ceases to amaze me just how Jesus stitches people together into a church congregation. He is always at work, despite the circumstances that we find ourselves in, the

surprises and disappointments that we face, He is at work. And that is the most comforting thought about 2020 that we can have. Also, I have realized that in 2021 we need to take a lot more pictures of what happens at church!

Steve Mclean, *Sorrento Campus Pastor*



CHASE CAMPUS

2020 was a challenging, yet exciting year in the life of our campus. We faced many unique challenges as a fledgling church plant in the midst of a pandemic but were also able to see the tremendous grace, provision and blessing of God. Jesus told his disciples in Matthew 16:18 that, “He would build his church and that the gates of hell would not be able to overcome it.” This statement comes after Jesus asks His disciples who they believed Him to be. When the pandemic hit many of us, too, were confronted with who we believed Jesus to be. I was worried about what was going to happen to our campus, how would not meeting in person affect our growing congregation. What would the fallout be? Would we survive? Then God’s Spirit led me to this promise. Who did I believe Jesus to be? Did I believe He was bigger than a global pandemic, of course I did. The year progressed and this promise has been my rock through it all. God will build His church and no pandemic, restrictions on gatherings or my own fears are going to get in the way of that because God is good; God is great; God is gracious; God is glorious. God is God.



2020 began with God preparing us for what was to come. In February we signed a lease to rent an office space in the community to be a “HUB” of operations for us. The HUB was to be a launching point for ministry and care in the community. When everything shut down in March the HUB proved to be worth its weight in gold for the life of our church. The space served as a meeting place for those seeking Pastoral care, Biblical counseling, through Redemption Counseling, a launching point for our Youth group, a collection depot for “stay put boxes” and a studio for us to produce online content for our congregation. It was the grace and blessing of God to provide for us in this way. God knew what was to happen and gave us what we needed to weather the storm that was to come.

When it rains it pours sometimes and in the spring of 2020 the pandemic was not the only heartache our church faced. God was good through it all though. We were able to see a man come to faith, a lady from the community be baptized, another lady came for the first time in her life and once we re-opened the doors in the Fall we saw many new faces that continue to be a regular part of our church community . Our youth group faced a few challenges, with kids doing school online, “zoom fatigue” set in fast for them. But when we re-launched youth in the Fall we saw our core group return, many of which began attending church regularly before things were shut down again. During the shutdown we were able to build new relationships with our neighbours and be the hands and feet of Jesus providing help and support to those struggling to make ends meet in these uncertain times. The church grew both in size and in depth as the weeks went on. Jesus was building His church in every way.

We, as all churches, had to find unique ways to adapt during the pandemic. Video production is not rocket science but it does have a learning curve. We, through the support of our Salmon Arm campus, were able to get the tools we needed to produce online content for our campus and continue to do so. We have been blessed with an amazing core of young leaders in Chase who have really stepped up to the plate to help serve and bless our church through this time whether leading music, youth, preaching or reaching out to build a welcoming environment. To partner with our young core has been a stable and mature group of faithful saints whose continued prayers, wisdom and words of encouragement have helped shape the culture of our campus. This provision of God has helped us to welcome new people from all ages and stages into our congregation over the past year. We have seen all aspects of our church grow in 2020. We have truly seen God honor His promises in so many ways.

In October we were able to celebrate our 2nd anniversary. It is crazy to think of how quickly time has passed but also to know that we have much work yet ahead of us. Our campus is still young in many ways and there is still much growing to do. As I reflect on the year it has been amazing to see all of God's fingerprints on SCC in Chase. God has kept His promise to build His church and the growth we have seen is a true testament to His unwavering blessing and faithfulness. We are back in a shut down but God is continuing to work in the life of our campus. We are continuing to see the fruit of God's Spirit at work in the lives of His people and are looking forward with joy and anticipation on what is yet to come. Thank you all for your previous and continued support, and prayers.

Blessings,

Spencer Coers, Chase Campus Pastor



REDEMPTION COUNSELING

As Redemption Counseling has now wrapped up its first full year ministering to the congregation of Shuswap Community Church and the surrounding communities of all four of its campuses, we are excited to report that we are growing in spite of the global pandemic going on in the world around us. We have continued to meet in person throughout both lockdowns, while also offering the option of meeting via

Zoom for clients who are immunocompromised, or concerned about the possible health risks. We felt this was an essential service to our new and existing clients who may be suffering from the additional isolation involved in lock-down periods, and the anxiety that a global pandemic may have triggered. As you will see from the attached graphs our new and existing clientele have slowly but steadily grown in spite of Covid-19.



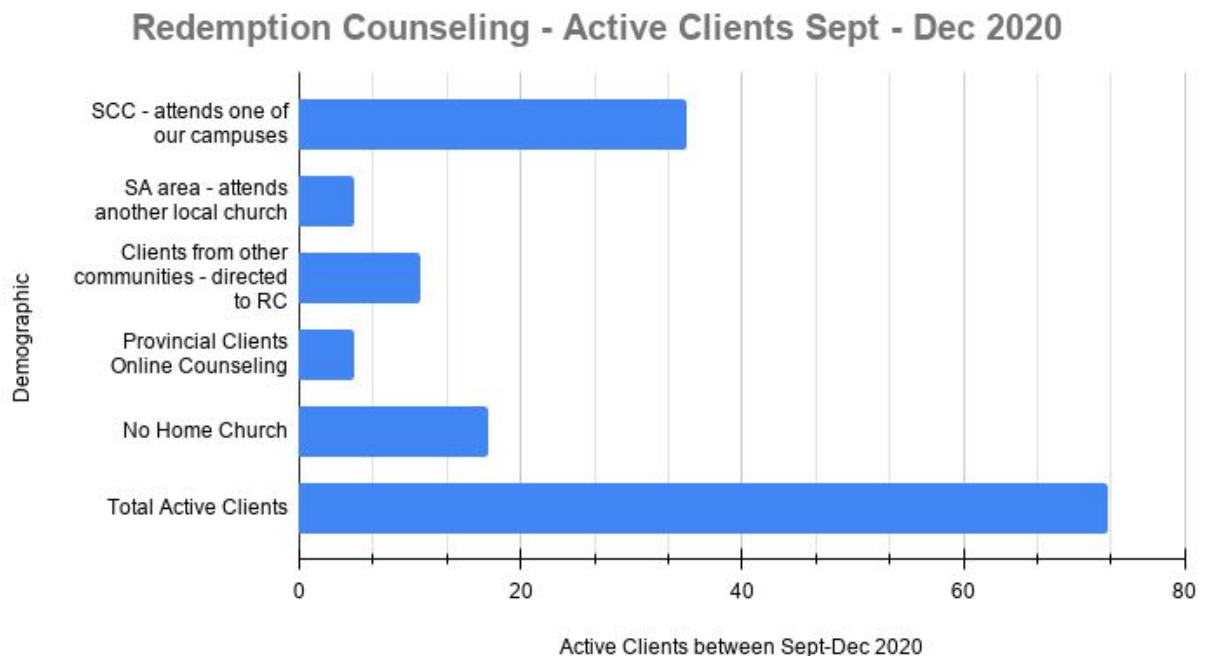
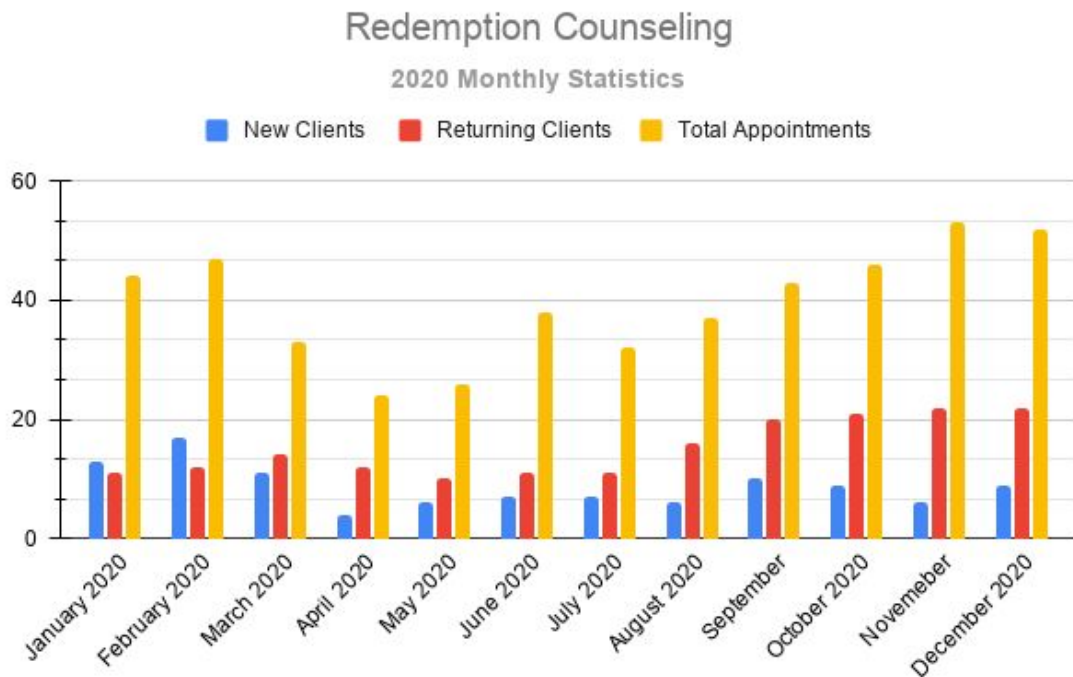
Interestingly, our clientele apart from the SCC congregation has been growing more quickly than our clientele from the congregation itself. As of the end of the year, roughly 50% of our clientele comes from outside of our congregation. If our ministry follows the path of other similar ministries we can expect our broader reach from outside the congregation to eventually grow to about two-thirds of our clientele.

In addition to our counselling services, we have been continuing in our efforts to train counsellors, lay-counsellors, and informed disciples through instruction by way of "Equipped to Counsel." Unfortunately, Covid-19 has slowed down the second year of what was meant to be a two-year class, but we are still hoping to finish our first cohort by December of 2021. It is our desire that these graduates will be able to fill essential roles in the counselling ministry, such as one-on-one advocacy for our clients, table-group facilitators and instructors for our upcoming crisis groups, and crisis assistance within our existing small group structure. Additionally we currently have two Immerse interns: Mikayla May, and Rachel Coers. Also, Mark Hollowachuk is interning as a fourth-year Millar student.

To support the current ministry load and leave room for anticipated growth, we currently have one full-time counsellor/instructor: Richard Magill, and three part-time counsellors: Ben Hall, Kirstin Hall, and Sylvia Siemens. In addition, the above mentioned interns will be increasingly utilized as care support for our new and existing clients.

We look forward to the work God has planned in advance for us to be part of in 2021; as we allow Him to refine our vision and guide our steps in this growing ministry.

Richard Magill, SCC Counselling Ministry Pastor



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