



Dear Contributor

This newsletter is to communicate what is happening with River City Vineyard. Please take the time to read it as this is the best way we know of to communicate to you what we feel you should know. If this is the first time for you to receive it - welcome. Your tax receipt and yearly statement is also enclosed for your interest and verification. If you have any questions regarding your receipts or statement, please contact Ann Postma at 519-344-3969 or email at [apostma2@cogeco.ca](mailto:apostma2@cogeco.ca).

## **Year in Review**

It has been an interesting year. In December 2009, we finally got the city, the fire department and the architect "happy" and we finished the necessary renovations for the shelter. The biggest problem was the building code. But we managed to get this all behind us. In January 2010, we went back to city council and obtained another temporary zoning to expire 1 year after the Inn of the Good Shepherd opens their shelter scheduled for June 2010.

Spiritually it was quiet for most of the year with a quiet increase towards the end of the year. We saw the start of the healing room, some more kinships starting and some salvations and baptisms. Worship has stayed consistent and is still in the forefront of our services.

## **Membership**

We currently have around 400 members. In the last few years we have seen some of our more affluent families, with younger children, leave. There were a few "leaders" that left and many others followed. While we don't like to see that, we also realize that people need to go where they want to. I do know that some of them were afraid of the people who are in the shelter. This grieves me but it is the way it is. Reaching out to the poor has cost us a lot. However, I really believe we are doing the right thing. I believe the church is poised to grow and that 2010 will see more growth from new Christians.

## **Sunday School**

We moved all the Sunday school rooms to upstairs. The 3-5 year olds are now beside the nursery and close to the private bathroom for the kids. The new 3-5 class room is now in the room we formerly used for storage. We never used the front offices for much and decided that they would be more suited for our storage requirements. We would like to redo the 3-5 year old room this year including, insulating the wall, replacing the window, new ceiling, paint and a new carpet on the floor.

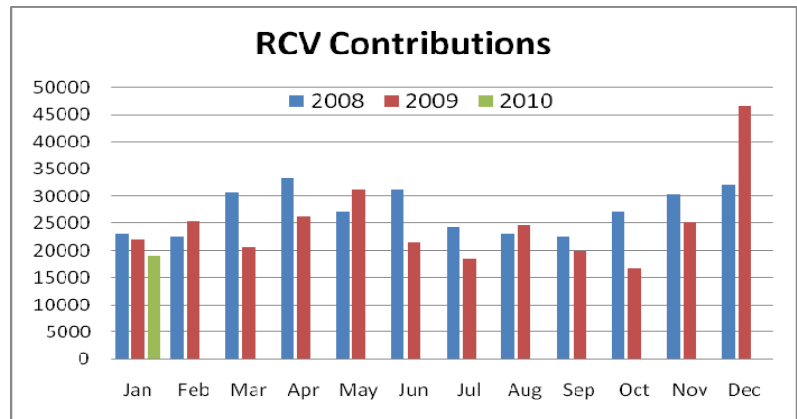
## **Flags**

You may have not seen many flags lately and wonder where they all went. Well we are looking to replace the existing ones with something that doesn't resemble a weapon. We have had it more than once where some young flag bearer has seriously hit someone over the head to the point of concern. We are looking to get away from the long sticks and use a combination of a flags made on a shaft like a nerf pole and ribbons on a large ring. The person who was to get this done has stalled. If you would like to help out with this project, please contact George.

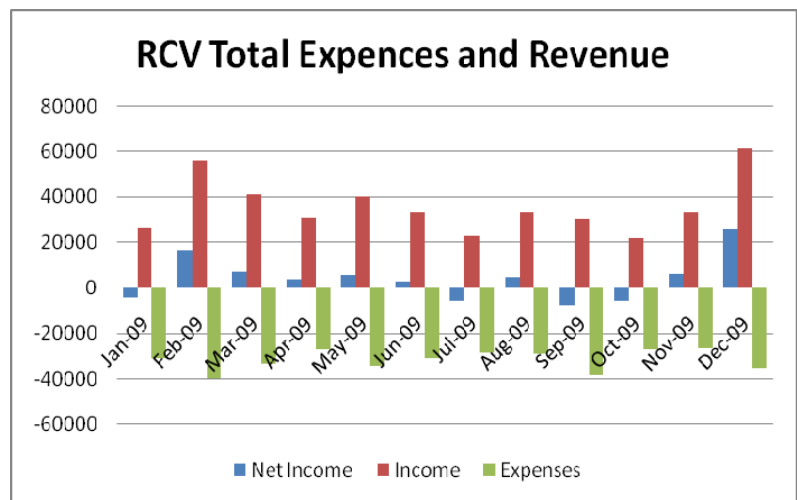
## **Finances**

By the end of the year, we ended up with the best year financially I can remember. Every year, except last year, we posted a surplus over expenses. This year we posted about a \$48,000 net income for Church, Shelter and supportive housing. With the first half of the year being good

and the second half shaky, we ended up great with over half of this net income coming in December. The church's income was around \$300,000 and the total income for everything was around \$430,000. Shelter income was \$34,400 and expenses were \$36,000 leaving a shortfall of \$1,600. By January 15<sup>th</sup> we took in another \$1,600 so we are at a break even with no more renovation requirements. Of the shelter expenses, \$20,000 was operational and \$16,000 was in necessary renovations. Another \$10,000 in renovations was done as a gift.



So what are we going to do with this surplus? Well it all went to pay short term debt and payables. We still owed a loan for a furnace and some other debts from last year. In the last 3 years we spent about \$96,000 in renovations on the shelter and it was all paid for by money that came in designated for the shelter. Our "cash" position (money in the bank minus money we owe to bills, etc.) is in the black for the first time since I can remember. It has been my goal for the last 5 years to get it to this place and it is my future goal to keep it there. We have worked on a lot of cost cutting measures including areas like utility bills and phone bills. Our only real debt is our mortgage at \$214,000



This year financially, we will work on roof repairs and work towards renovation of the 3-5 Sunday school room. We will also continue to work on projects that will reduce our heating costs.

### What are we sensing for 2010

I personally really sense salvation in the air. I feel like Elijah when he was praying for rain (I Kings 18:41-46) and he saw a cloud the size of a man's hand. The Greek word sozo means healing, restoration, salvation. It is the root word for both healing and salvation. I don't believe that the healing room, happening at this time, is an accident. Along with the salvations we have seen, it is the beginning of a terrific rainstorm.

The Goodison Threshing Company was established in 1882 on the Mitton St where our church is now. I came across a photo of the building one day and I felt that it was not by accident that the site was to be a threshing company.

The photo said "Is an internationally known concern. They located at Sarnia because they knew that Sarnia had 'arrived' as a great commercial centre." A thresher was a piece of machinery that took the grain on the stocks (sheaves) and separated the grain from the stalks. I felt like the Lord was speaking to me about evangelism and that the harvest is ready. The



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song that came to my mind was the old gospel song *Bringing in the Sheaves...we shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves*. I gave this to my Saturday morning team one week and these are some of the thought we came up with.

You are an apostle (messenger of God i.e. you, a member of River City, is messenger of God) and you have the rights of an apostle I Corinthians 9:1-14

Ruth 2:2 The Law of Moses instructed land owners to leave what the harvesters (threshers) missed for the poor, alien, the widow and the fatherless. This is one of the callings of our church, to provide for these people

Ruth 3:15 – Boaz gave Ruth grain from the threshing floor. She was allowed to glean from his fields.

2 Samuel 24:18 Threshing floor of Araunah; future site of the Temple of God. (Because we worship God in our building, it is a Temple of God.)

"Take your son, your only son—yes, Isaac, whom you love so much—and go to the land of **Moriah**. Go and sacrifice him as a burnt offering on one of the mountains, which I will show you." Gen 22:2

So Solomon began to build the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount **Moriah**, where the Lord had appeared to David, his father. The Temple was built on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite, the site that David had selected. 2 Chron 3:1,

When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the LORD was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, "Enough! Withdraw your hand." The angel of the LORD was then at the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. 2 Sam 24:16

We believe that through all these verses he Lord is saying, "Enough, enough pain, you are on a safe place, on Moriah street, a healing place and a temple of the Lord.

River City is at the corner of Maria (pronounced Moriah), Mitton, and Essex. I always wondered why Maria was pronounced Moriah and I now believe that this was prophetic. Moriah means “the chosen of Jehovah”

### **Healing your financial soul**

Our friend Nancy lost over 110 lbs and looks fabulous. What was her diet? Well she did have to restrict her intake that is not what helped her to lose her weight. It all started with what was up in her head. Her relationship to how she felt about herself, her relationship with food and her belief system.

*Healing Your Financial Soul* has the same approach to finances as Nancy had with to weight loss. It all starts with your relationship with money, your beliefs about money and how you feel with money. Just like there is no magic diet for weight loss, there is no magic budget for financial health. It all starts upstairs.

We are hosting another *Healing Your Financial Soul* seminar with David Hicks February 26-27, 2010 at River City. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> time we are bringing him back. The seminar is based on a book David wrote about finances. The cost is \$45 per person and \$80 per couple and includes a book for each person. Alumni get in for \$25 per person and \$45 per couple.

### **Shelter**

The shelter is doing well with a current average of 7-8 men per night. We have helped over 580 different people over the last 3 years. Our goal this year is to maintain what we are doing and to help people overcome the behaviours that sabotage their success.

### **Supportive Housing**

We also started a Supportive Housing project that helps people transition from the shelter to their own place. River City rents from various other land lords and sub rents to the persons in need of shelter. We work on placing one to three people together and help them to maintain their housing. We currently help about 21 people with 13 different units.

### **Clean up**

We have been working on a massive cleanup of the basement and other areas of the building. There was 30 years of “stuff” including much junk left over from the former owner the YMCA. We did this mostly with volunteers from the shelter. We also have been dismantling the old boiler system along with the obsolete pipes and duct work. We believe that getting rid of the clutter increases the value of our asset, helps inspectors to give more favourable reports and helps people to respect the space more.

Thank you for reading this news letter, please drop me your thoughts on this newsletter including what you like and don't like. We appreciate and love you and look forward to working together in 2010.



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