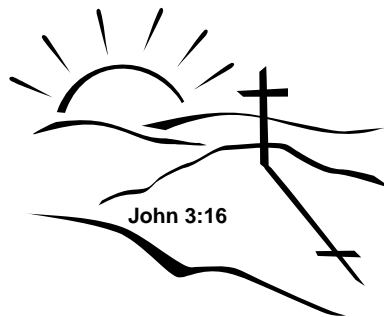


# BRAGG CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

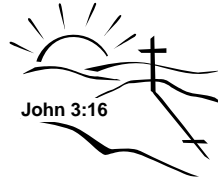


**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 28th, 2010**



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## **BRAGG CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Annual General Meeting  
Sunday February 28th, 2010

### **AGENDA**

Open in Prayer

Vote for Waiving Voting Requirements

Roll Call

Review of and vote on the AGM Minutes of February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

Treasurer's Report.....Shirley Haist

Budget Presentation 2010.....Lowell Harder

Vote to accept Treasurer's Report  
Vote to accept 2010 Budget

Pastoral Report.....Pr. Zimmerman

New Council Members – Nominations with Election/Vote

Laying on of Hands for New Council Members

Ratification of Tellers

Vote to set the 2011 AGM date

Call for any Other Business

Adjournment

## Minutes of AGM held on February 22nd, 2009

The Annual General Meeting of Bragg Creek Community Church of God was held on February 22, 2009 at the Bragg Creek Community Hall.

Steve Overell called the meeting to order at about noon and opened it in prayer. Joanne Crook took the minutes of the meeting.

All reports, statements and other documents had been made available at least two weeks prior to the annual meeting and were available again for congregants to obtain copies.

The roll call was held and there were 31 congregants registered and present at the meeting. The voter registration list is filed with these minutes. No motion or vote was required to waive voting rights.

No reading of the 2008 AGM minutes was necessary and there were no questions or comments that arose. Roy Wuitschik moved that the minutes be accepted, Grace Wright seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

The 2008 Treasurer's Report and 2009 Budget were next presented by Shirley Haist.

- Shirley provided highlights of the Report and noted that there was \$11,000 less in contributions than expected but there was still a \$10,815 net income because the Church kept expenses conservative.
  - There was a one time donation of \$5,000 to the youth group.
  - A photocopier had been donated during the year.
  - With respect to the 2008 budget for Manse maintenance - we did not spend all of that amount and there is still some work to be done - the main thing being the flooring in the Manse. We will put the amount not spent into the 2009 budget for continuing repairs.
  - The numbers for the Youth Ministry of are separated out.
  - The 2009 Budget was basically left as it was for 2008 due to the economic times.
  - \$166,000 income is still anticipated for 2009.
  - Pastor Dave Zimmerman and his family were asked to leave the room while the Pastor salary increase was discussed. It was noted that the proposed increase was 6%.
  - It was noted that the Council had looked at locking in the building fund investment for one year and decided to do so given that there were no immediate plans to purchase land or a building. The funds can still be accessed if required within this year.
- It was noted by a congregant that this year may be a good one to look for and purchase land if prices are down.

Megan Stuart moved that the 2009 Budget be accepted as presented. Cathy Edwards seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

Malcolm Scarratt moved that the year end Treasurer's report for 2008 be accepted as presented. Linda Overell seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

Pastor Dave Zimmerman presented his report as prepared and distributed in the meeting package. He noted that there were new ideas from the Council and congregation for things to do in the upcoming year and that we are trying to break out of the normal mode and bring in new ideas in keeping with Carol Scarratt's thesis. Pastor Dave noted that he is excited about the upcoming year and the renewed passion he feels.

Melissa Edwards was not present but she had provided a Youth/Student Ministry Report which was in the meeting package. It was noted that it had been an exciting year - both past and upcoming.

The New Council Members agenda item was then discussed and it was noted that Steve Overell and Grace Wright's terms with Council expired and Steve Hiebert was resigning from Council. It was also noted that Shirley Haist was currently a voting Council member and also Treasurer and she was willing to step off Council if there was a congregant who was able to take her place. Council brought forward a list of names of persons who had agreed to be on Council, namely Megan Stuart, Carol Scarratt and Lowell Harder. Anne Wilson was nominated from the floor.

Ruth Groves moved that nominations cease, Lil Norbert seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

It was noted that it would be good to have a another male congregant on Council but currently there was no man who felt they were able to take on that position this year.

Norm Leong moved that the slate of Council members be accepted as presented, Judy Boswell seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

The Council and others who wished to lay hands on the new members did so and prayed.

The Council for the 2009 year is as follows:

Norm Leong, Joanne Crook, Megan Stuart, Anne Wilson, Carol Scarratt and Lowell Harder. Shirley Haist will remain as Treasurer but will not be a voting Council member.

Outgoing Council members are:

Steve Overell, Grace Wright, Shirley Haist and Steve Hiebert.

The list of tellers for 2009 was proposed by Shirley Haist as follows:

Gayle Hodgkins, Ruth Richman, Judy Creaser, Grace Wright, Steve Overell, and Carol Gray

Lou Norbert moved to accept the list of tellers as presented including current Council members if required. Roy Wuitschik seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

Judy Boswell moved that Council have the authority to delay the 2009 AGM by up to one month from the bylaw stipulation which says that it must be held 30 days after the end of the year. Linda Overell seconded the motion; passed unanimously.

Norm Leong thanked the outgoing Council for their hard work and particularly the outgoing chair, Steve Overell, for six years of service on Council.

Norm Leong moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 12:45 pm.

## ALPHA 2009 UPDATE

If you go to [alphacanada.org](http://alphacanada.org), the homepage opens with the following lead. “Over 300 Alpha Courses are starting across Canada in 2009”. Bragg Creek Community Church was one setting for this enjoyable Christian Ministry.

As our start date approached, registrations were slow to come in. Once we got going, however, we had eighteen participants with both singles and couples attending. The evening followed the traditional format starting with a wonderful dinner, opening remarks, an interesting and engaging video by Nicky Gumbel, dessert and coffee, and then our discussion groups.

On one evening, the power had gone out in the Bragg Creek area. The evening progressed as usual with the larger group snuggled around Pastor Dave’s MacBook and an array of candles. Dinner was warmed on the BBQ.

The last evening, the “celebration dinner”, was preceded by Peter’s quickly aged Mulled Wine. The evening chatter was suitably lively and everyone went home happy!

It was a good Alpha and it received favourable comments from the participants.

Peter and Joanne were again gracious in opening their home to another Bragg Creek Alpha course.

Thank you to the following for supporting us in bringing us good food:

Malcolm S, Amber T, Kathy E, Anne W, Linda O, Gayle H, Judy C, The Harders, Carol M, Julie H, Julie L, and Melissa T.

Thank you also in particular to Judy C for helping to tidy up after dinner week after week to enable the Hunts to focus on the course.

**Roy, Peter, and Pastor Dave**

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# Children's Ministry Report

Council Representative - Megan Stuart

How our church is growing and changing - Our congregation is now 30% children under the age of 12! We have seen tremendous growth in this area, both through numerous births this year, as well as new families joining our congregation. Without question, one of our challenges over the coming years will be to ramp up our Children's ministry and make sure we are nurturing and instructing the next generation in God's Word.

## Nursery Report

The Sunday morning nursery has become a very busy place. **Amy Wright** continues to be faithful in caring for our babies and toddlers, and we now have a rotating schedule so that at least one parent is present every Sunday to help her. Having Amy as a constant presence has worked very well as the children get to know her and we seem to have less separation anxiety than in previous years. On an average Sunday we will have 10-15 youngsters present, which is beginning to make the room we occupy a little tight. We will continue to monitor our numbers and address this situation if necessary. In the mean time, it is thrilling to see so many little people who are making friends and loving attending church!

## Sunday School Happenings

*Dear family,*

I am happy to announce that things are going swimmingly with the Sunday school program this year. We've made a big switch from the previous year during which we followed an Awana program. We are now participating in a program developed by Kid's Sunday School Place. Not only is this a solid and biblically based program, but it has also been made available to us at low cost, which is always welcome. For more information regarding the program, please feel free to noodle around the website [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com). It should be noted however, that the short length of our program does not allow for all aspects of each lesson to be followed. It has been left to the discretion of our valuable teachers as to which object lessons and stories are presented.

Although the program is apt to vary in details, depending on the teaching style of the leader and the mood of the children, a typical day in the Sunday school would look something like this...

1. Prayer - Children are given the opportunity to share their concerns and celebrations with the group and then present them to God. This portion of the lesson teaches children the practical skill of identifying God's work in their lives. It also allows for all generations to participate in the spiritual community of our church.
2. Lesson - Through a variety of approaches, the children are presented with a biblical concept for daily living. At times they will act out a skit or perhaps play a game. They may also listen to a story. Whatever the format, the focus of this portion of the program is to show how God is actively participating in our lives.
3. Discussion - This part of lesson may be 1 minute in length or 5 minutes, depending upon the students. It is during this time, that the children discuss how the lesson applies to their lives. The importance of discussion, is that it allows the teacher to make the lesson applicable to all the children, regardless of their ages. Due to the broad age range of our group, this is particularly valuable.
4. Activity - Children can't sit forever, and whether this activity is a craft or a game, everyone wins when there's a chance to move, groove and create.
5. Handout for home - Included with every lesson is a handout for the children to take home and show to their parents. The handout includes a review of the concepts studied in class as well as a memory verse supporting that concept. How the children are awarded for memorization of the verse has been left to the discretion of the teachers.

So that's the scoop, but before I end this note, I'd like to acknowledge the very generous contribution that our teachers are making to both our church and the daily lives of our fabulous children. Love and blessings to all of you...

**Carol Mertens, Ruth Richmond, Steve Overell, Linda Overell, Cara Haar, Tara Zimmerman, Pam Pritchard, Caylee Pritchard and Rebecca Joyce.**

As well, we are still in need of 2 teachers for the month of June. Please speak with me should be interested.

***Alex Hodgkins***

### **VBS - Wildwood Forrest**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) took place the week of July 6th-10th this year and was once again, a huge success. We had between 50 and 60 children attend, many of whom do not attend church regularly.

Each morning from 9-11:30am the children would meet at the community center where they started the day with worship. They would then break into their assigned groups to participate in crafts, games, snack-time and bible stories. There were specific bible verses that were memorized and shared during assembly time. The children also took part in the annual "boys against the girls" Mustard Seed donation time where they weighed the food donations brought in to see who brought the most!

VBS is an event that the children and parents in the community look forward to every year. It includes children from pre-school age right up to grade 6 and is a tremendous outreach for people who do not regularly attend a church, as well as being a great opportunity for members of our church to get involved.

Many thanks to ***Michelle Kroeker and Tara Zimmerman*** for coordinating this year's event, as well as to the multitude of volunteers who gave of their time to help create a God-honouring time of fun and learning for our community's children!

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## Congregational Care Report, 2009

With the changing demographics in our church community and increasing need in the BCCC and greater Bragg Creek communities, there is often some aspect of the congregational care involved in the church's mission and it has been another busy and wonderful year!

Carol Scarratt Congregational Care Coordinator leads BCCC Congregational Care and regularly reports to Church Council and updates the congregation through announcements at service.

We usually meet as a group four times each year where we liaise with Pastor Dave, plan and organize upcoming projects and events.

Our committee has two main areas of responsibility. Members and their duties are loosely grouped into two main sub-committees:

**a) Fellowship Events Team:**

Judy Creaser (Team Lead), Lil Nobert, Linda Overell, Amber Tsoi and Gwen Taylor

The main roles are:

- Plan and organize Soup Sundays
- Meals Ministry- to contact and organize volunteers in our general congregation to prepare meals for families who are in need of this ministry support.
- Organize the Christmas banquet.
- Purchase and maintain the supplies, table coverings and seasonal decorations in the storage area in the Community Centre.
- Provide Church coffee service

Team members set up for various church and community events this year including:

Soup Sundays are generally held on the first Sunday of each month except during the summer months. (In 2009 held on Feb 1, March 1, April 5, May 3, Sept 13, Oct 4, Nov 1)

On Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> we partnered with Bragg Creek Community Association to plan, organize and carry out a very successful Bragg Creek Centre Family Easter Event Pancake Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.

Team members set up for various church and community events this year including:

A successful Annual Christmas Banquet held on Sunday evening, December 13 at Bragg Creek Community Centre with 110 in attendance.

Many times this year members organized cooked-meal donations for families who were experiencing difficulty. While some families are members of our congregation, others were from the general Bragg Creek-Redwood Meadows area.

A grateful thank you to everyone who participated and provided donations.

- b) Congregational Care Team:** Carol Scarratt (Team Lead)  
(Communications) Betty Garside  
Val Johnson  
Carol Mertens  
Lil Nobert  
Amber Tsoi

The main roles are:

- Each year, a message of encouragement is sent to every family on the members' list.
- Cards and/or flowers are sent on behalf of BCCC; on the birth of a child, a bridal shower, illness or bereavement.
- Co-ordination of the signing of the Pastor's Love gift and Christmas card. collection and presentation of the cash love gifts from our congregation each year.

In 2009, Congregational Care continued to send cards to comfort the sick, to mark celebrations and also to send flowers, cards and condolences to several bereaved families on behalf of everyone at BCCC. Members frequently minister prayer, comfort and compassion to those in need. Thank you for keeping us informed of needs as they occur and lending a hand in all of our activities – we appreciate you!

Personal invitations were extended to all our families to attend the Christmas Banquet, and one member of the committee, Val Johnson regularly provides breakfast for our volunteer set-up crew each Sunday. A graduation gift-giving and cake marked this significant event for graduating members of our church.

Thank you everyone for the gift of your service in caring for our congregation and greater community. Please consider joining us in this most worthy mission.



On behalf of everyone on the Congregational Care Team  
Blessings to you all.

**Judy Creaser and Carol Scarratt**

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## **Council Chair Report, 2009**

Bragg Creek Community Church has seen its share of challenges and opportunities in 2009. It has been a year of growth for me as Council Chair, both in terms of commitment and in learning about the history of our church in the community.

The church celebrated its 25th anniversary the previous year (2008) and it appears that the cycle of new families coming, for the first time, to realize a smaller, intimate community church experience is evident. We see how our community is excitingly blessed with younger children attending Sunday morning, a larger demand for Nursery and continued numbers attending Vacation Bible School during the first week of July. It is important to know and trust that the efforts and resources will be there to meet the demands in these areas of service.

Peter Hunt, Roy Wuitschik and Pastor Dave organized a new Alpha Course this past Fall (have not done one in a couple of years) which has seen a number of new people join in our corporate worship services and in serving ministries.

Youth services and ministry has also seen a change as well with a greater emphasis on "serving the least of these" in both our immediate community as well as in a challenging environment, such as east-end Vancouver. Another trip to Vancouver and Abbotsford Life Teams is planned again for July 2010. Under the leadership of Melissa and Jeff, it is bound to result in some of our youth to come to some life changing commitments.

Capital spending on the Manse (which was postponed from 2008) included extensive work on floor replacement and continued issues with water systems. 2010 will hope to see a more moderate plan of expenditure on the Manse, but Council is committed to conduct some form of lifecycle assessment on the building to prioritize capital expense planning in upcoming years.

As with other non-profits organizations in 2009, BCCC had its share of fiscal challenges through the economic downturn. The Lord provides, as long as we trust that all our worries, challenges and opportunities are given to Him in blessing others.

I look forward to working again with Council to meet some of these challenges and also look forward to continued growth in knowing Him. In closing, we ask that you please lift up this leadership ministry of the church in your prayers.

*submitted by*  
Norm Leong  
Council Chair

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## Pastors Report

**We are dedicated to be and make followers of Jesus Christ in authentic community for the sake of the world. (Matthew 28)**

### **Year at a Glance**

*"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."*

I don't think I fully escaped the genetic code passed down from my mother's family. Coming from good Iowa farmers I can't help but love watching things grow. I'm fascinated and awed by it, but as for myself carrying the green thumb, I missed that part of the DNA. (maybe that's why I have children.)

I love the fact that things are growing here. Over this past year I have been seeing more and more good soil developing in Bragg Creek. Good soil is a good start for a good harvest. It's not that we haven't seen growth in the past it is just that it seems God has and is taking us through a time of maturing. People are in a great place to receive, to go deeper with God. Hebrews 10 makes it clear we are to continually advance into an ever deepening relationship with God through His Son and our Lord Jesus Christ.

*19Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, 20by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, 21and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith,...*

Over this next year I would like to see us proclaim and follow Lord Jesus with an ever increasing passion and focus. The statement, "Be with Him, in order to learn from Him, so we can live and look like Him," will hopefully take on new life over the coming year.

Although a greater commitment to discipleship might seem like a only a portion of what it means to be Missional, I strongly believe our Christology informs our Missiology which will inform our Ecclesiology. The more we get a handle on Christ, the more it will keep us on His mission the more it will shape how we are the church.

With it all we will continue to discover and talk about what it looks like to have our organizational structure formed around mission, rather than the worship service.

### **Community**

Partnership: This is the heartbeat of the church. Jesus stressed the need to love God and love our neighbor. We love God by accepting His free gift of Grace and we love others in community. We feel that the most effective life development isn't done in isolation but by having people stretch and challenge you. The body is made up of different parts and as we interact with different personalities and convictions we are challenged beyond how we typically see things.

*35By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35*

One of the defining aspects of discipleship, of being identified as a follower of Jesus, is found in how we love one another. Community is not only talked about throughout scripture, it is expected. In fact most the Scripture were written to God's people living in community.

In a world of hyper individualism and consumerism we are committed to showing a different way, the way of Jesus on how we treat each other with love and respect, taking on the pattern of Jesus. We emphasize the participatory aspects of community, not "a community for me", but "me for community," where we give up comfort for community.

### Future works in community

- Developing a culture of blessing one another.
- Continuing to develop a pattern of hospitality.
- Public celebrations of kingdom events. (Baptisms, Christmas, Easter)
- Bringing back Pastor New family Lunches.

### Commune

Discovery - Connected to God: Spiritual growth is a life long process and requires us to be in a place of discovery. So we strive to be continually connected to the one who can transform our inmost character, Jesus Christ.

*"I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." Jn 14:6*

I'm looking forward to a year of Jesus! Over this next year I would like to see us take some significant time on the life and teachings of Jesus and the Kingdom he was proclaiming. Over this past year we have emphasized the need for "The Jesus Truth & The Jesus Way = The Jesus Life" and the necessity of the need to be students of Jesus. However, this next year I would like to get in to some of the details of discipleship "a path of following." This involves both learning to do the things which Jesus explicitly said to do. It is quite literally nonsense to call Jesus "Lord," and not do what he said. " It is also learning to conduct the usual activities of life—in home, school, community, business and government—in the character and power of Christ. "In the Kingdom of the Heavens."

### Future works in communing with God

- finding more opportunities for allowing people to be, learn and live with Jesus in the smaller group setting. (Men, women, life group.)
- Taking a look at what Discipleship for family involves, equipping parents for building faith at home.
- Being committed to pre-Christian discipleship with our friends and family.
- Partnering with other groups to allow BCCC to become a learning origination for the community how can we take Biblical concepts to our community (Parenting seminars, Finances and stewardship classes, Art classes)
- Continuing to encourage all the disciplines both of abiding and action.

### Commission

Adventure - Committed to Mission: Our life purpose is to pass this gift of grace on to others. To give it away. And we believe every believer is called to help spread this good news of Jesus Christ. We believe ministry belongs to everyone not just the "clergy". God asks us to live the message of Jesus faithfully serving others through our whole lives, and that means committing to generously give from our time, talents and treasure to bless others and glorify God.

*"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (Matt. 5:14-16)*

Developing a good understanding of the Kingdom and Jesus' commitment to it will help us in fulfilling His mission. We are apprentices in the Kingdom and therefore we continue to be people of Kingdom living. As we develop a kingdom mindset we will have greater

commitment to the missions and ministries that don't directly connect back into the church.  
(See missions report)

#### Future work in Commission

- Providing Exercises in Kingdom living as we provide opportunities to get involved in local ministry works.
- Encouraging and equipping people to live radical Kingdom living in regards to stewardship and Mission.
- We invite the community to participate in the work of mission (BCCC food bank, mustard seed collection at Christmas Eve service)
- Fortify our council meetings with Kingdom outlook as we spend time in Bible study, discipleship, and leadership development so that when we our business it is framed by the Gospel and the Mission of the church.

#### Personal

Personally, I've truly enjoyed this passed year. I had come from a season of distraction and tiredness and I was excited to have a sense of vision and excitement again. My family is doing well, and T and I are continually trying to seek what God wants for our family.

***In Him,  
Pastor Dave***

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## **Worship Ministry Report, 2009**

This past year has seen significant change and loss to our worship team. Both Grove families, Bill and Ruth, as well as Tynann and Shelly have moved on to other fellowships (Bill and Ruth – Saskatchewan) and (Tynann and Shelly – Calgary). Although the door is always open for them to participate with us, the reality is that we need to release them to their new church families.

Leadership is now rotated between Michelle, Megan, and myself. We continue to greatly appreciate the faithfulness of Kathy, Joanne, and Clint for their support with the singing.

Amanda Lottermoser's vocal assistance has been a blessing both for the Christmas Eve service and other services she has been involved with this fall past fall.

Supporting musicians has primarily involved Samuel, Timothy, Jesse, and Don when available. Both Caillie Pritchard and Leanne Gildemeister are willing to be involved when available as well.

Janet Ward's flute was enjoyed at the Christmas Eve service, and will hopefully be heard more frequently this next year.

We desire to work with budding musicians, facilitating their growth and development in using music's primary role to bring glory and honor to Jesus. If you would like to work with us in the area of worship, you are more than welcome.

Another area of worship that we would like to see developed and released in our midst is that of dance as an act of worship. With the depth of experience in Heather, Carol, and Amanda, and the budding talent of some young ladies we are excited to see how this will unfold.

Thank you for your patience in our limited ability to practice, and musical deficiencies. That being said we are beginning to make an effort to gather at least once per month this next year to review music, look at, and practice new music, and generally build ourselves as a music team.

We all make a concerted effort to ensure that the music used has a solid theological foundation, a focus toward God, His splendor, and the work that He has accomplished on the cross. We have endeavored to bring a balance of new music, familiar favorites, and older hymns. There will be concerted effort to bring further new songs into our mix over this next year. The psalmist wrote; "praise the Lord with a new song", and we believe that there is something that God brings to us as we express ourselves to Him in a new melody of praise to Him.

We are looking forward to this next year to see how God will be directing our path specific to the areas of praise and worship.

***Thank you and God Bless  
Lowell Harder***

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## **Youth & Student Ministry Report, 2009**

We invaded the Hodgkin's house in mid-March with fuzzy pillows, pizza and a PJ party, hosted by BUGirl, a group from Manitoba that we brought in to put on an event for the young girls in our community. The message of the night was that they were all beautiful, unique girls (B.U.Girl) who were created by God. We had about 20 girls from the community come out, some of whom I'd never seen before, and by the end of the night we had girls lined up for prayers! For a few girls, this was the first time they were hearing that God loves and cares for them.

I opted not to take our group to the Edmonton Youth Conference in May because I felt that it no longer met the needs of our group. My desire was to see them confront God's word head-on and wrestle out some solid answers.

Instead, I decided to take them out of their comfort zones to the grittiest place in Canada: downtown Vancouver. In July we did an 8-day urban missions trip to various locations in the GVA, working with homeless people.

This experience was a massive turning point for our kids. They were not simply consumers of God's word; they were pouring out, being poured into, forming relationships and learning about God in personal and quiet ways. They all still remember the names and stories of people they met; one student mentioned that she often thinks of a man we met and still prays for him.

Other students started opening up about their past experiences, marked with pain and suffering, and shared how they could now see ways in which God was present during those times. Four students asked to be baptized while on the trip.

A few youth made some major decisions about their future plans as a result of what they experience on the trip.

- Amy Wright began volunteering regularly for the Mustard Seed, brought awareness to issues of homelessness in her school, and started an after school bible study/discussion group for her peers.
- Amanda Chidwick made a last minute decision to attend Lifeteams (an urban school for missions), instead of taking a year off to travel, and
- Ryan Russel-Timbrell found purpose and meaning in the work he did serving homeless people. Before the trip Ryan viewed salvation, as many people do, as a "get - out - of - jail - free" card. After actually experiencing what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ, Ryan's perspective radically changed. He is now pursuing a career working with homeless people, starting his own ministry and working towards attending Lifeteams for the 2010/2011 school year.

For other youth, the trip might have been the first time they tried praying or even the discipline of getting up early in the morning without complaining. Since then, there has been a marked deepening of maturity amongst our youth group. More students are willing to lead discussion groups and offer insight, pray openly for each other, and be honest about issue that they are wrestling with. It has been quite a privilege to walk beside them during this time in their lives.

***Melissa Teeuwesen, Youth Worker, Bragg Creek Church Student Ministry***

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