



BCCC at Redwood House?



Inside this issue:

Way Off the Beaten Path	2
Around the Bend/Over the Hill	2
An Alien Among Us	3
YC 2006	3
New paths-off the Beaten Trail	4
Trail Maintenance	4

The Summit is a bimonthly newsletter for the Bragg Creek Community Church. Contributions made for the Feb./March edition:

- Pastor Dave Zimmerman
- Pastor Cristin Block
- Peter Hunt
- Norm Leong

We welcome articles, event listings or testimonials. Submissions or for more information, please email:

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The Summit

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 6

Feb./March 2006

Trail Notes

Do you have some balance in your life?

I believe that God has made a way for us to follow that will bring about the best, most fulfilling life we can possibly have. But I also think it's easy for us to get sidetracked. And unfortunately we get sidetracked not because we are anti-God or don't care about his direction for us, but many times we get sidetracked by well meaning motives.

It's like this, we plan to go for a hike (maybe on a Saturday maybe not) and we get excited about the adventure and what might occur, running into a bear, seeing some great sights, laughing with friends. Yet before we begin, we need to get ready with all the things that will help achieve this hike and adventure successfully. We make sure we have the right footwear, get a comfortable backpack, the proper clothing for the weather, and guidebook to help find the way. And for some of us this is as far as things go, studying the guide book looking at the pictures talking about how great this hike is, arguing which boots and equipment are right for the type of hike we are doing.

For others we get on the hike, but we rarely look up. We are again too busy studying the guide book or defending the choice of equipment or talking about everyone who didn't come that we many times miss what is right in front of us.

You see... boots are meant to be walked in, a trampoline is meant to be jumped on, and a car is meant to be driven. They are not the end themselves but rather tools used to take us to a place of enjoyment and wonder.

Jesus condemned the scribes and Pharisees who studied the scriptures a lot more in diligently than you or I, by saying....

39You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life.

These are the Scriptures that testify about me, Jn5

Are we too busy talking about the journey Jesus invited us on rather than actually taking some steps? It is possible to know a lot about Jesus and His ways and never actually take part know Him and be his follower. Are we missing the point? God is bigger than Scripture

I'm not saying that Scripture isn't a beautiful picture of the story of God and His people, that it speaks to the core of existence and gives answers and hope that we wouldn't possibly know any other way, it is all of that and more, but Scripture isn't God. It's not the end. We aren't suppose to worship it, even though you would think some people do.

The picture we get through scripture often leads us to ask more questions which is good because God is bigger than our understanding. He is still mysterious and "other than." I think there is a reason we haven't been able to fully translate His name Yahweh "I am who I am" or "I am who I will be" or somewhere in between.

Now the opposite and what I'm not saying is that we should throw it all out and find our way on our own. Being naked, shoeless, lost in the rain and sitting in a thorny bush isn't a picture of the best possible way to hike regardless how much we would like to convince ourselves we are free to experience.

What I am saying is I think we sometimes get fat. We need to exercise a little, actually live out the scripture and live in Jesus. The Scriptures are beautiful and deep and I encourage everyone to be prepared for the journey by studying them and questioning them, but let us not stop there.

Jesus, not knowledge is our end goal. Step out in the way of Jesus and worship Him. Don't settle with knowing a lot about the journey and never setting out to explore. There is great beauty and mystery offered and we should never stop truly enjoying it or rather "truly enjoy Him."

"I did not ask for success, I asked for wonder." Abraham Joshua Heschel

Until Next time,

Pastor Dave



Ready to take that next big step...

At the Peak
PLEASE PRAY

- For our plans to step out into Redwood. That the community would be ready and that all the details would be taken care of.
- For Everyone who is ill this time of year.
- For the AGM and all the details surrounding the church being good stewards of the things we been given to manage.
- For God's Leading this next year.
- For the people who have committed themselves to leadership in the following years.



Join us for our AGM Sunday Service on February 19th at 10:30am followed immediately by the AGM. This is a chance to Discover how we are doing, where we are going and how we are reaching our mission.

Way Off the Beaten Path!

This comes from a Catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected. Incorrect spelling has been left in.

1. IN THE FIRST BOOK OF THE BIBLE, Genesis. GOD GOT TIRED OF CREATING THE WORLD SO HE TOOK THE SABBATH OFF.

2. ADAM AND EVE WERE CREATED FROM AN APPLE TREE. NOAH'S WIFE WAS JOAN OF ARK. NOAH BUILT AN ARK AND THE ANIMALS CAME ON IN PEARS.

3. LOTS WIFE WAS A PILLAR OF SALT DURING THE DAY, BUT A BALL OF FIRE DURING THE NIGHT.

4. THE JEWS WERE A PROUD PEOPLE AND THROUGHOUT HISTORY THEY HAD TROUBLE WITH UNSYMPATHETIC GENITALS.

5. SAMPSON WAS A STRONG-MAN WHO LET HIMSELF BE LED ASTRAY BY A JEZEBEL LIKE DELILAH.

6. SAMSON SLAYED THE PHILISTINES WITH THE AXE OF THE APOSTLES.

7. MOSES LED THE JEWS TO THE RED SEA WHERE THEY MADE UNLEAVENED BREAD WHICH IS BREAD WITHOUT ANY INGREDIENTS.

8. THE EGYPTIANS WERE ALL DROWNED IN THE DESSERT. AFTERWARDS, MOSES WENT UP TO MOUNT CYANIDE TO GET THE TEN COMMANDMENTS.

9. THE FIRST COMMANDMENTS WAS WHEN EVE TOLD ADAM TO EAT THE APPLE.

10. THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT IS THOU SHALT NOT ADMIT ADULTERY.

11. MOSES DIED BEFORE HE EVER REACHED CANADA. THEN JOSHUA LED THE HEBREWS IN THE BATTLE OF GERITOL.

12. THE GREATEST MIRICLE IN THE BIBLE IS WHEN JOSHUA TOLD HIS SON TO STAND STILL AND HE OBEYED HIM.

13. DAVID WAS A HEBREW KING WHO WAS SKILLED AT PLAYING THE LIAR. HE FOUGHT THE FINKELSTEINS, A RACE OF PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

14. SOLOMON, ONE OF DAVIDS SONS, HAD 300 WIVES AND 700 PORCUPINES.

15. WHEN MARY HEARD SHE WAS THE MOTHER OF JESUS, SHE SANG THE MAGNA CARTA.

16. WHEN THE THREE WISE GUYS FROM THE EAST SIDE ARRIVED THEY FOUND JESUS IN THE MANAGER.

17. JESUS WAS BORN BECAUSE MARY HAD AN IMMACULATE CONTRAPTION.

18. ST. JOHN THE BLACKSMITH DUMPED WATER ON HIS HEAD.

19. JESUS ENUNCIATED THE GOLDEN RULE, WHICH SAYS TO DO UNTO OTHERS BEFORE THEY DO ONE TO YOU. HE ALSO EXPLAINED A MAN DOTH NOT LIVE BY SWEAT ALONE.

20. IT WAS A MIRICLE WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD AND MANAGED TO GET THE TOMBSTONE OFF THE ENTRANCE.

21. THE PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED THE LORD WERE CALLED THE 12 DECIBELS.

22. THE EPISTELS WERE THE WIVES OF THE APOSTLES.

23. ONE OF THE OPPOSSUMS WAS ST. MATTHEW WHO WAS ALSO A TAXIMAN.

24. ST. PAUL CAVORTED TO CHRISTIANITY, HE PREACHED HOLY ACRIMONY WHICH IS ANOTHER NAME FOR MARRAIGE.

25. CHRISTIANS HAVE ONLY ONE SPOUSE. THIS IS CALLED MONOTONY.

Submitted by Peter Hunt

Around the Bend and Over the Hill

- Feb. 05 Soup Sunday
- Feb. 18 Boswell's Family Skating Party
- Feb. 19 BCCC Annual General Meeting
- Mar 01 Ash Wednesday
- Mar 05 Soup Sunday
- Apr 01 Palm and Soup Sunday
- Apr 13 Maundy Thursday Service
- Apr 16 He Has Risen Service

Watch for details about Services in Redwood Meadows coming in April!



AN ALIEN AMONG US

"The BC3 is dedicated to encouraging youth to become followers of Jesus Christ who are fully committed to His message, Church, and life."

If you are interested in getting involved in the BC3 or want more info about our Friday and special events then call me at 949-4976.

Pastor Cris



Join us for our
Maudy Thursday
Service on April 13th
at 7:00pm at the
Bragg Creek Seniors
Center. This is a
powerful, moving and
intimate time to
contemplate the
suffering of our
saviour and the glory
of God.

To all you parents out there. Do you often feel like your youth is in another world? As though some how they are alien to what you know and believe? Do you find yourself puzzled by their actions questioning their thought process hoping to find some way to get into their head? Do you wonder why they do what they do and why they think, feel, and respond so differently from you?

I love talking about youth. As a youth pastor who's been working with them for six years (two around Redwood and Bragg Creek) I find it interesting to see how they relate to their world. Some of the time I find myself wondering what the stink they are doing. The rest of the time I have an internal understanding of how their world and subsequently mind work.

It truly does seem sometimes that a foreign creature descended from the dark chasm of space and landed in the body of your once charming, cute and lovable young child turning them into the bizarre being you see before you. No, not all the time of course but often youth do, say, and think things that seem ridiculous to parents. In the mind of the youth though what they do seems entirely logical, right, and even a really good idea at the time.

Why? Why is there such a gap between the way parents believe their youth should behave and the responses you actually get from them? Don't be alarmed. Your youth is not possessed by an alien from a galaxy far, far away. In fact your youth, like most others, is likely normal. Bizarre behaviour and strange responses are the fodder on which parents live when it comes to dealing with their youth. Understanding the youth mindset is a journey into a world that truly is foreign to the average parent.

"No way," You say, "I know how my youth thinks and I understand his responses." Then uber kudos to you. Understanding your youth takes time, dedication, and an in-depth walk through their cultural experience. The youth universe is so far from the culture that

even I grew up in (I'm only 28) that it often surprises me. I'm used to words like vorpal, awesome, and totally righteous dude (add hang ten sign here). Terms like uber, sick, and STI's are a new language.

In fact the world your youth lives in every day is a distant galaxy compared to what you experienced at their age. Statistics from Stats Canada in 2002 show that 35% of teens from 13-18 are sexually active and that one in four of them have a sexually transmitted infection (disease). That's up drastically from 1977 (the year I was born) from a mere 12-14% sexually active and only one in ten with an infectious disease. They also show that 80%+ would lie to their parents to get what they want. I'd hate to share too many stats so I'll save drug, crime, and consumer facts for another discussion.

The stats above are simply mentioned to indicate the distance we as a society have come and the effects it's having on the youth universe. Youth face pressures and decisions harder, earlier, and from more sources. Their decision making process is affected by peers, movies, TV, advertising, music, Hollywood, politics, populace, family, and sometimes parents. Sure I made decisions about drugs, sex, and rock and roll but not when I was 12.

So where are we? Common knowledge (and Dr. Phil) tells us that the most influential person in your youths' life is their same sex parent. The most binding and heavily weighed advice given comes from you. Sure the brain gap is big but what you say and do has great impact on your youth. In fact as adults wouldn't you say that some of the most influential people (positive or negative) in making you who you are today are your parents? The life you live, the example you set, and the words you say are big weights on the decision scale in your youth's life.

I'm not saying that once you tell your youth to do something that it'll happen. And I'm not saying

that your youth will zombify and make all the right choices in life because you tell her to. What I am saying is that as a parent you have a powerful position in your youth's life and before they become pod people you need to use it.

Tell them you love them. Give hugs. Say things like, "I'm so proud of you son." "I'm excited about your game tomorrow." "How did school go?" "How's Aaron your friend, did his test go ok." "Let's play X-Box together, you can show me how to get 'The Flood'." "Tell me about your boyfriend. Is he treating you nice?" "When I was younger I did crazy things..." As bizarre as it seems 80%+ of youth say their parents don't take enough interest in their lives; the same percentage that will lie to you to get what they want.

There is no pull it off fast, zip drive, quick answer to understanding your youth. Understanding your youth requires a journey into their lives. Become their ally (remember you are their parent, not their best friend). Become their encouragement.

Become a person they can trust to be a positive influence in their life. Spend time with them talking about them. Play with them, eat with them, and hang with them. A wise man once said, "I have become everything to everyone, that I might save some." Enjoy what they do. Watch what they do. Listen to what they do (at least while they are around).

Becoming an integral part of your youth's life will help ensure that they will take heed to your suggestions, listen to your life stories, and confide in you about what they are going through. Your youth doesn't need more guilt they need more attention. I encourage all you parents to take time today with each of your youth. Talk with them, share your life and they will share theirs as bizarre and alien as it is.

It's back to the space port for me. I'm launching into that far, far away galaxy again. If you would like to contact me with specific questions e-mail me at crisblock@hotmail.com.

Even aliens use e-mail.

Pastor Cristin Block
Bragg Creek Community Church



YC2006

YC Alberta 2006
May 26 - 28, 2006

Edmonton <http://www.ycgeneration.com>

**BRAGG CREEK
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We're on the Web!
www.braggcreekchurch.ca



**An opportunity to DELIGHT
in God, to GROW in a life-
style of worship and SERVE
others with the sacrificial
love that our Saviour showed
us.**

- *Walking in Expectation!*
- *Come and celebrate Jesus.*
- *Serving residents of Bragg Creek, Redwood Meadows and surrounding areas.*

We encourage new people to join our Church services, where you will find a warm welcome and a community of people who enjoy our worship together.

Our passion is to hunger and thirst for God, delighting in Him and Him alone. To experience Him in our lifestyle of worship and obedience. To search the Scriptures for God's leading in our lives and obey them. To serve others with the sacrificial love that our Saviour showed us, bringing peace, mercy and reconciliation to a hurting and broken world. We desire to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and enjoy Him forever.

New Paths off the Beaten Trail

"The time has come: the Kingdom of God draws near. Open your hearts and believe the Good News."

These are the opening remarks of Jesus in Marks Gospel and it was loaded. Here is a brief but concise breakdown of the message they heard. The Time – The time for God to fulfill the Jewish dream that had been promised. The Kingdom – God's kingdom here on earth setting things straight, which was also promised. Open your hearts – metanoite which is literally "change your minds" usually translated "repent" or "convert" however, with the Greek imperative it isn't that harsh rather a need for openness in thinking, an invitation to join something. Finally, euaggelion - not just good news but literally The Good News.

And this message hasn't changed and is still available to us today. "The time has come: the Kingdom of God draws near. Open your hearts and believe the Good News." To all people living in this world, to you, to me, to this community...

Now is the time a time for hope in this broken world.

God's rule and reign has come and is coming, it's available through Jesus. One that is not of this world in a world of failed human kingdoms of corruption and failed politics. Follow a different way rather than following kingdoms that don't relieve oppression, that don't set things straight and don't provide peace because they don't connect people to God, the One who put this together and sustains it.

Open your hearts and change your minds, turn from buying into what society and what the

kingdoms of the world tell you. Turn from the voices of the world telling you what will bring you peace, what will bring you freedom and what will bring you success.

Accept The Good News and begin to live in it.

I think when it comes to our commitment to this thing to The Good News and God's kingdom we need to ask ourselves a couple questions. Are we living it, are we living in it? Do our actions reflect the kingdom of God, even when it demands sacrifice and discomfort? Secondly, are we inviting people to be a part of it? It's not just a proclamation, but an invitation. It goes beyond words and helps people see the kingdom of God, His glory, His presence at work with them and around them. See, it's not as if we are hanging around and then God shows up. He's present everywhere, "The whole world is His and everything in it." It's more that He's doing His thing and we show up. Like Jacob waking up and realize God has been there all along.

Do you remember what it was and is like to wake up to God? To have your eye reopened to his truth and presence? It is an awe inspiring, freeing beautiful unable to put into words experience, that begins to reshape your actions and outlook in this world. And everyone should be given the opportunity too take part in it.

I'm excited about providing that opportunity to others in new a creative ways. Just one of those ways is our second service in Redwood. If one person, one family, because it is more available, a greater convenience to them, because it was brought to their front door and a constant presence in their life is able to recognize God at work and be-

come a follower of Jesus then no amount of change and reshuffling is too much.

We have an opportunity to bring the Good News to this whole area by following Jesus command to GO! That's why the leadership (council and elders) wanted to commit to a year of intentionally being in Redwood. They feel God is calling us to sacrifice for a year and be a continued presence in the community.

Will you think about your commitment to the Good News and how you can be a part of inviting people to open their hearts up to it? Will you pray for our leadership as they continue to work out details? And will you please proclaim the kingdom in action?

Check out other churches in Alberta affiliated with the Church of God in Western Canada
Links

Calgary
www.glamorganchurch.ca

Camrose
www.camrosechurchofgod.ca

Edmonton
[www.firstchog](http://www.firstchog.com)
or
www.millcreekchurch.ca

[http://www.chog.ca/](http://www.chog.ca)

Family Snow Day!!

@ The Boswell's
813 Suncastle Road. SE
Calgary
Contact: Judy B. @
201-3874

Saturday, February 18th
2:00pm start
5:00pm POTLUCK

An opportunity to DELIGHT in GOD, to GROW in a lifestyle of worship and SERVE others with the sacrificial love that our Savior showed us.



Family Snow Day on Lake Sundance!