

# The Summit



Banded Peak—Bragg Creek

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

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- Gayle Hodgkins
- Sandy Hodgins

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## Trail Notes

I'm reading a fun book. It's called *Summoned to Lead* by Leonard Sweet. What's so exciting about it is that it is a leadership book that is actually anti-leadership. (I kind of wonder what was going through the publisher's mind when he was pitching the idea.) But it actually isn't as far out as you might initially think.

His concept is this; Leaders aren't born nor made but rather they are Summoned or called. The child that ends up saving his family because he responds to the situation and goes and gets help doesn't necessarily have leadership training he just responded to the situation and people follow accomplishing his leadership role. I've just started reading the book so I don't know what he's going to be addressing (I'll keep you posted) but some of the implications and ideas surrounding his thesis are kind of exciting.

What I like about it as I think some of it through is that everyone at different parts of their lives will come to a place where they will be called by God to be a leader -- some in a large and overwhelming capacity, others in a simple

short task -- but all of us will be called on multiple times through out our lives. No one will escape His calling it's just for some of us we will respond and step up and others will fall back and miss the opportunity.

Something else I like about this leadership idea is that leadership isn't determined by training or personality, rather by calling and availability/proximity. So God uses those who are available at that time for that purpose. Not the brightest or most talented just faithful. (That theme kind of sounds familiar I should really see if I can find anywhere in the Bible God uses the weak or unskilled or common people to do things.) Also no one type of leader is greater in calling than the other. Some might have more responsibility, greater urgency, but all are equal in calling and therefore just as important as the next. No one has the corner on leadership. God calls us to tasks and when they are done he calls us to something else maybe relating to the same area maybe not.

So here's a question for you. (As if you haven't felt it coming.) What is God calling you

to? Is there anything he wants you to take responsibility for and step into? What opportunities are at hand? In the church, at work, in the home?

Can I be honest for a moment (cause I'm not honest all the time) I don't really like responsibility and leadership either. Sometimes it scares me, sometimes I just want to be lazy but the reality is it's not natural. (Maybe that is why I'm writing this letter "get me off the hook so I can go watch TV!!") I really think it would kind of be fun to be a Yes man. But God has called me to take some leadership and responsibility in this church. It's not always easy, I don't always feel equipped, many times overwhelmed, but I really feel fulfilled, useful and purposeful.

Maybe God wants to stretch you past your limits so You can see His kingdom working through you and He can be a greater player in your life. Until next time...

Pastor Dave.

## Streams of Thanksgiving

Thank you all for the generous gifts to the Tsunami relief in January. We have sent \$3,241 to the Church of God missions to help World Vision in aid and support of that area.

## Fellow Hikers - Profiles: The Wards

### AT THE PEAK

- Please pray for everyone who is going through health concerns this time of year.
- Pray for our missionaries in Mexico the Neufelds as they continue to serve.
- Pray about how God might want to use you this next season.
- Pray for our youth and children's ministers as well as our youth and children.
- Pray for new leadership and ministry teams.

Once in a while the worship team is lucky enough to have Janet Ward join us with her flute. We really are lucky, because Janet is hard to pin down. She also plays in the Calgary Fire Department's Cappy Smart Band, and has been filling in with the Center Street Church orchestra.

Not one to let moss grow under her feet, Janet also teaches skiing three days a week at Canada Olympic Park, along with her son and husband. Janet confided (so I'm telling all of you) that she was only somewhat interested in skiing, until she began to date Doug Ward. In her words, skiing was his passion – so it better be hers, too!

You might also see Janet at

the Painted Antler a few days a week in Bragg Creek, since she has so much time on her hands.

You'd never guess by looking at her where Janet was born – Montevideo, Uruguay, to a Methodist missionary mom and geologist dad! 6 weeks later, they moved to Calgary where Janet was raised.

Doug and Janet have two children, Nathan, 18, and Hailey, 15, and a Siberian Husky, Tosha. They spent 3 years building their timber frame home (using old siding from grain elevators and other antique materials) in Fawn Hills, West Bragg Creek. We are very blessed to have Janet, Doug and their family at Bragg Creek Community Church.



### Future Editions of Fellow Hikers

(We want to get to know you better, so we have put together a section of the Newsletter related to that. Kathy Edwards will be interviewing a member of the congregation bi-monthly to include it in the newsletter. We get to hear some of the stories that make up the church body and Kathy gets to have coffee with interesting people...and she doesn't even speak Spanish!!)

Kathy Edwards



Join us for our Maundy Thursday Service on March 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Around the Bend and over the Hill

Over the past few weeks, the congregation has been engaging a new message series, titled "Living Fit" by Pastor Dave.

The series has been focusing on following whole-ness (holiness) and holistic and spiritual living as opposed to legalism. The Series started in February with:

February 6: New Identity  
February 13: Bowl or Birth-right

February 20: The Loss of Sensitivity, Control and Satisfaction.

February 27: The Workout Plan

The month of March continues with:

March 06: Getting Firmed Up and being born again.

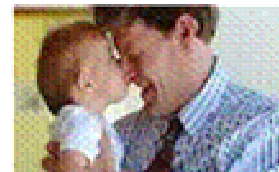
March 13: Staying Fit, and finishing with...

March 20: The Celebration

You can view summary lessons online at:

[www.braggcreekchurch.ca](http://www.braggcreekchurch.ca) and linking to the March Message series in the "What's New" portion of the homepage.

**Watch for the April Series: "The Dynamic Family".**



## PRACTICING PRESENCE: Hang time with BC<sup>3</sup> Youth

“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



### EASTER CELEBRATION

**HE HAS RISEN!!!**

**Join us as we celebrate the high point of our faith. Jesus Victory over death.**

**March 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 am**

The BC3 is full of Opportunities and Operations. We strive hard to obey the letter of the law when it comes to our purpose in ministry. How is this accomplished with so many youth and so little time? When asked to teach Sunday school, join a ministry team, or be involved in a life group we use busyness as an excuse not to do it. Yet when we are with family, hanging out with friends, and meeting people at the water cooler we are all involved in a very simple yet powerful form of ministry.

Jesus and His twelve disciples had something going that I think we often miss and often overlook. Jesus asked us to “go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything He had commanded.” (Pastor Cris’s paraphrase of Matt 28). This is the great commission and inherent in this commission is the secret to this powerful little ministry tool. I’m going to let you in how the BC3 purpose is accomplished in the lives of youth.

#### Practicing Presence

At a recent prayer and learning retreat for leaders I had a conversation with a couple of ministers that were talking about the presence of God. They said that it was a valuable aspect of their spiritual walks to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They also said that if they didn’t feel the presence of God they felt deserted, overlooked, and spiritually deprived. Both knew that God was there but their relationships with Him were affected by the feeling of His presence.

This conversation was an expression of a simple truth. If presence is felt then relationship grows. If presence

is not felt then relationship suffers. Ask Dr. Phil and he’ll tell you that successful relationships are based on the amount and quality of time spent in that relationship. The same truth is true of youth ministry.

Earlier I mentioned that Jesus and His disciples had something going that we often miss. I believe that thing is Presence. From the time they were called to the time He died Jesus was fully committed to them in His Practicing Presence. Jesus was there all the time. They had a question, He was there; they had an issue, He was there; they ate, sat, slept, drank, walked, talked, played, prayed, you guessed it, He was there.

There was the seemingly endless presence of their master all the time. The disciples were influenced and changed by the Presence of Jesus. Not just the amount of time, but the quality of time. Jesus spent most of his time in relational encounters with disciples, crowds, and individuals. He poured out quality every time he opened His ears or mouth. In youth ministry the same principle is true. Whether from a pastor, parent, Christian friend, mentor, or you; youth are being disciple-based on the presence they are in. If they are in good presence then they adapt to become good. If they are in spiritually poor presence then they adapt to become spiritually poor. Around youth a spiritually strong Presence goes a long way in moving them toward Christ as disciples.

This is where Practice comes in. You can meet with a co-worker once a week and get to know them slowly. Meet with that same co-worker daily and you get to know them a lot faster. The amount of time you spend with a person directly influences your relationship with them. So to create a relationship that allows you to influence them and draw them into God you may have to spend a lot of time with them, you may even need to become their friend, or heaven forbid

ask them to your house for dinner, or worse to church. You are Practicing Presence when you purposefully, intentionally, spend time with someone for the sake of the relationship.

Time is important when Practicing Presence but love is far more valuable. People know when you are faking it, trying to evangelize them or “get them saved”. Practicing Presence has to come from a real God filled heart. It is the out pouring of God’s love for and in you that will cause you to Practice Presence. It is this love that youth are drawn to. Show them you love them, like God loves them, and they will cry out for relationship with you. They will cry out because you are pouring your time, energy, talents, and Presence into them as individuals. You’re not out to get them “saved”, you are out to show them love.

How do you Practice Presence with youth? Spend time with them, quality time. Not the kind of time where we’re preaching to them about how evil they are, but the kind of time where we accept them for who they are and encourage them to become successful adults. It’s the kind of time that friends spend with each other listening, sharing, having fun, being open, and honest. This time of Presence creates loving relationships that allow us to disciple youth without them feeling like a disciple. We call this time with youth “Hang Time” but it should be known as Practicing Presence.

So consider how your Presence is felt and acknowledged by those around you. What kind of Presence are you; in your family, at work, in church, with youth? Are you the kind of Presence that feels like it doesn’t care, the kind of Presence that causes people to feel deserted, overlooked, and spiritually deprived? Or are you the kind of Presence that shows its love, draws people to you and God and encourages youth to cry out for relationship.

## Dram Event - May 15th

We will be hosting the Gardener Collage Drama Group Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to house some of the students that Saturday night (May 14<sup>th</sup>) please talk to Pastor Dave.



**Re-Create yourself and others !**

This week exert time and love by Practicing Presence; with your family, co-workers, and even youth. This simple reality changed the lives of the Disciples and it can not only change the lives of those around you, but change you too.

Pastor Cris

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We're on the Web!  
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**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.**

- *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.

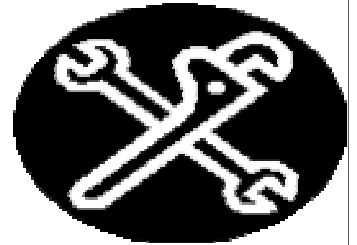
Our passion is to hunger and thirst for God, delighting in Him and Him alone. To experience Him in our lifestyle of worship and obedience. To search the Scriptures for God's leading in our lives and obey them. To serve others with the sacrificial love that our Saviour showed us, bringing peace, mercy 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.

## Mission News — International

(Mission Minutes)

Through Compassion Canada our church is sponsoring 2 children, Katerin del Rosario (age 9) from the Dominican Republic, and Elias Quispe (age 6) from Bolivia. The monthly cost is \$ 31.00 per child. This enables the child to receive medical and dental care ( including immunization ), wholesome snacks, handicraft skills training, and tutoring. Children and their parents are also offered instruction in

proper hygiene and nutrition, and how to maintain good health. Most importantly these children also hear the gospel message through the center's Bible classes, camps, spiritual retreats and prayer groups. Besides corresponding with the child several times a year we are also updated on his/her progress by the field staff approximately every 2 years.



*Nuts & Bolts behind the scenes*

## Trail Maintenance

Council met in February and had a fond farewell to Peter Hunt on council. He was a much-valued member and will be missed. We welcomed Roy W. He makes an excellent addition to the team and will be our representative for ALPHA. Positions were voted on and Gayle once again will act as chair for 2005. Ryan accepted the position of vice chair and Steve agreed to stay on as secretary. Alvena continues as Congregation Care, Bob T. as

treasurer and Brenda S. as Sunday School Superintendent. Many of us wear other hats as well and I would like to highlight these individuals through future newsletters.

It's an exciting time for BCCC. We want to get the word out that the church is here in the community center and that we are a great bunch of people. While we invite the community to come see, we realize that it is our responsibility, both corpo-

rately and individually to bring Gods Kingdom to the community. We are looking for new ways to do this while supporting the venues we have already established. God will build his church.

-Gayle

## Life Groups (Partnership Community)

Okay, since coffee shops and specifically Starbucks have been coming up a lot in these devotionals (and in your responses), I feel compelled to tell you another story inspired by the caffeine bean. I recently heard about a group of guys who meet regularly at a Starbucks to study the Bible, pray and share their lives together. Since their experience is so much like church, they have come to rename their meeting place "St. Arbucks" instead of Starbucks. It's a very clever idea and something that might catch on, especially when you consider how important small group fellowship is in the life of a believer.

The report of the early church in the book of Acts has believers devoting themselves to "the apostles' teaching and fellowship, sharing in the Lord's Supper and in prayer." It goes on to say they "met together constantly and shared everything they had. They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity-all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:42-47 NLT).

In other words, church for these early believers was a lifestyle. With the exception of "worship in the Temple" the rest of this could have happened anywhere. Indeed, most of it seemed to take place in their homes, but I have no doubt, were there a Starbucks around the corner, that a good deal of this could and would have happened there. A small group experience of faith with other believers is one of the great privileges and purposes of being a Christian. It provides a context where each person's giftedness is an important part of the whole, and it allows for an intimate sharing of each other's lives. And on top of all this, the passage in Acts says they were "enjoying the goodwill of all the people," which would mean they were having a positive impact on the community as a whole. Their meeting together did not isolate them from the rest of the world. "And each day the Lord added to their group those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47 NLT). By simply being who they were in their communities, they were having an impact on their culture.

You know, those guys who meet regularly at "St. Arbucks" are on to something. Maybe it's the new model for the church: from Starbucks to "St. Arbucks." If anything, it's a great way to keep a small group alive and relevant. Of course if you don't have a Starbucks nearby you may have to work on the name. St. Peet's will do fine, but Seattle's Best? You'll think of something.

*John Fischer is the Senior Writer for Purpose Driven Life Daily Devotionals.*

If you are interested in getting involved in a life group then please see Pastor Dave or sign up at the Greeters table during Sunday Morning Celebration