

# The Summit



Perseverance



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

- Pastor Dave Zimmerman
- Tom Hunt
- Pastor Cristin Block
- Norm Leong
- Sandy Hodgins

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## Trail Notes

εὐαγγέλιον OO-a-gellion. What a wonderful word! It was one of my favourite words to say in Greek class. How can you not get excited about it? OO-a-gellion, It sounds like something you would read in a Dr. Seuss book. Cheery and bubbly and guess what? It means Gospel or Good News.

I find it interesting it could have been called The ticket or The Insurance or The bridge or The Prozac (21st century) but no it's simply Good News. It's good because it offers so much beyond our comprehension, and it's news because we don't automatically know about it. Why is it that OO-a-gellion is so fun to say yet the sharing the gospel is sometimes uncomfortable, confusing and many times down right scary. Maybe part of the problem is that we have lost the Good News!!

Sometimes when we have walked the Christian life for a while we forget where we came from and what God has done and continues to do in our life. Maybe we should take a few minutes and ask a few questions. Why is the Good News good for you? Or is it? What if part of our problem in sharing the Good News is that we have forgotten or don't really KNOW why it is so good? Sure we know the words, we can draw a little diagram with the cross as a bridge, but that is really as far as it goes.

Deep down there is a bit of a disconnect between the pictures and your soul. And whenever you feel that maybe you should share it you feel like you're parroting empty words. I think sometimes it is easy to find ourselves in this situation because through the course of time in our Christian journey we have become comfortable were we are at, we have substituted fellowship with the savior for formula, we can quote the word but we don't know the Word.

What happens is that the longer you're a Christian, the more you tend to take for granted how good the Good News really is. The Good News has been put in the closet to cash in on at a later time. And we haven't allowed the one who not only gives life, but also SUSTAINS it to invade our lives daily. To allow God to shape, stretch, bend and break us into a complex mess of mystical awe and wonder. To look for Him in all aspects of our lives, to wonder when we can't find him, to cry and celebrate in his showing up. To let him in on the dark areas and lighter areas of your life. To have this deep, risky yet secure faith. To really KNOW the good news and to experience it everyday. This Good News is good!

When we don't live in it everyday it's hard to recognize and share anything good. When our boom box started to have issues it was easy for me to share about the digital surroundsound home theatre system replacement that fell on our

lap for \$50. Yes \$50! When each child arrived from the stork (that's how it happens right?) It was easy to share the experience.

This news is Good News of one who has forgiven your past. Repentance and brokenness even though there is sorrow and tears is good! Nobody likes to see the reruns of their hidden lives played before us. Nobody likes to live with the weight of guilt upon our lives or live with the pain of past brokenness. What if there was a way to have our sins removed?

The Bible says that when we are found in Christ we no longer have this baggage as part of our identity, rather we have a new one, one of Jesus Christ perfect, sinless, without spot or wrinkle.

This news also is Good News for today!! Your weren't made to go through life by yourself and in your own power. You were made for a purpose and it involves God's active presence today. Eternity today, His kingdom today!!

This Good News is also news of an incredible future. It's a future inheritance and reward that isn't earned. What's acceptable when it comes to perfect? Entrance isn't judged on a curve, perfect is

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## Streams of Thanksgiving

We received a great amount of food for the food bank from the local Curves. Thank you all for giving generously. Thank you Brenda Stitt for being a valued part of the Council. We will miss you greatly and are saddened Texas didn't let you stay. Blessings on your upcoming move.

## Fellow Hikers - A few words from Down Undah!

### 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.

To my brothers and sisters in Christ:

Hello everyone, Tom here, writing from Down Under, in the land of convicts and kangaroos. I hope that you are all keeping well and enjoying yourselves. I am doing great; I am having lots and lots of fun. Things here are a bit different from Bragg Creek down here; for one thing it's warm. People here are quite nice and it's a fairly friendly and enjoyable atmosphere.

My host family is very nice to me and I get along well with

them, they like to surf and go fishing and they enjoy waking up at horrendously early hours in the morning to do these activities on the weekends, I am still getting used to that. My host brothers are cool, but it can be a shock at times when they play fight, since I have never had brothers before, it was strange at first to see the large amount of brotherly rivalry that goes on between them at times.

I have found a great church down here; it is an Assembly of God church and is really into worship, the pastor who is

named James is a very good preacher and offers very good advice. The youth group here rocks, and I have gained much understanding about myself and God since I have come to Australia. I have some really awesome plans for the Youth Group when I come back, which I hope will really strengthen our youth on their journey and also bring some more new faces into our Friday night events. I gotta fly now....God Bless and stay safe everyone.

Tom

## Around the Bend and over the Hill

### May

8th: Mothers Day. Don't forget to honor your mothers and thank them for all the blessings they have given.

13th & 14th: Bragg Creek Trade Show come on out and support your local businesses. As well, Don't forget to sign up to host the Bragg Creek Community Church hospitality booth.

15th: Drama Event - We will be hosting "Dear Diary by the Gardener College Drama Group at 10:30 am.

18th: Alpha Dinner at 7:00pm Redwood house.

28th & 29th: The Worship Team Garage sale in Redwood Meadows.

Sunday Morning Series

The Apprentice May 1-June 12

A look at money, time and power and how to make eternal investments with it that is greater than anything Trump could offer

### June

5th: Graduates Sunday Service.

19th - July 24th: Summer Adventure. Take some risk and get equipped to share your faith with those around you.

### July

4th -8th: Children's Bible Camp. Michelle Kroeker is currently putting together this year's Children's Bible camp. This is a great opportunity to reach the children of the community with the love of Christ and has been used in great ways previous years. If you would like to be a part of the team in any way please contact her.



Join us for our services at Redwood House in Redwood Meadows on the following dates:

**MAY 29**

**JULY 24**

**OCTOBER 16**

**OCTOBER 30**

....Trail Notes continued

required. And I don't know about you, but on my good days I fall far short. But the good news is that we can be identified by the one who is.

I like what Rick Warren says about the issue. "There's only one way you can get into heaven: on somebody else's ticket. Since none of us are perfect, God came to earth in human form and that form was called Jesus Christ. He lived a life of perfection. He died on the cross, paid for our sin, and then went back to heaven. Now you get into heaven on his ticket - if you trust him."

Think about it, if you're willing to get to know Him trusting him with your life. We can be assured of forgiveness for our past, a purpose for living in our present, and a heavenly inheritance in the future. Does anything here sound like Good News? I guess so! Hey do you think anybody you know would be interested in that?

Pastor Dave

## “96 Ounces”

Have you ever heard this phrase? Go big or go home. I have. A former professor of mine talked about it in college. He was comparing different styles of people, events, and successes in youth ministry. His final take on the phrase was, “As a youth minister you need to go big, or go home. You will not be successful without it. Go big or go home. It’s that simple.” Let me share with you what he did and did not mean, because I fully agree with him.

He didn’t mean to say that the only events that will draw youth today are the big ones; YC, youth camp, joint services, and events focused on fun or friends. He also did not mean that youth ministry won’t work unless you have the big events. Youth ministry will and does work without them even

though they are an asset. What he was talking about had nothing to do with program at all.

It has everything to do with who you are and what you give.

Here’s a simple analogy. When you go to Texas hit a local diner and ask for the 96oz steak. It’s huge. I’ve heard that some places will give you your meal for free if you eat the whole thing. Compare that 96oz steak with a 6oz steak. Most of us would do quite well with 6oz. It would fill us, but not too full. The 96’r would cram us up for weeks. In fact most of us could never finish it.

In youth ministry we need to pour out all 96oz whether the youth eat it or not. 96oz is the total amount of self that one can give every week. 96oz is the largest amount of energy, administration, spirit, and strength that one can give. People have no more time than 96oz worth. People have no more money than 96 oz worth. There is nothing more one can give when they have given 96 oz worth.

Go big or go home is a matter of pouring out all of yourself. It’s complete self sacrifice for these youth. My professor was saying that youth ministry will not succeed unless you pour out 96oz of self. This means doing and being the very best all the time. He didn’t mean to say, “Be perfect” but he did mean to say, “Be real”. He didn’t mean to say, “Burn yourself out” but he did mean to say, “Give all you can”. Pour in all you have for the lives of the youth under you. Give it all. Hold nothing back.

Go big or go home means give it all or get out. This means that all of me is in relationship. This means sharing my failures, successes, personality, friendships, knowledge, everything. Youth are professionals when it comes to fake relationships. They will chew you

up and spit you out if you are false, fake, or have poor motivation. If someone is going to be fake they might as well quit before they start. With all their games, TV, books, drugs, music, and escapism they know the difference between real and unreal better than any generation...

...And this is what youth want; you being yourself.

### Here’s two pieces of good news.

The first is that you really can be yourself, all the flawed you in the world will not turn youth off. They want to see who you really are and respond best when you are true to who you are, where you came from, and where you are in God. This good news means you should strive to set the example but it’s okay when you fail.

The second piece of good news is this. God will never leave you nor forsake you. God is dedicated to making you a better person; more like Christ. God is with you always even to the end of the age. God has way more life, energy, success, personality, Spirit and strength than you will ever have and all of it is right there with you all the time. People wonder how youth ministers can give all they have every week and still have more for next week. It’s simple. I eat a 96oz God steak every day. Then I give it away and I know that the God of a thousand hills never runs out of steak.

Youth are crying out for real relationships and sometimes we offer them something fake. All they want is for us to ‘go big’ if we don’t we might as well ‘go home’. I say that ministry happens in a moment but moments are based on relationship and relationship is built around you.

“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.

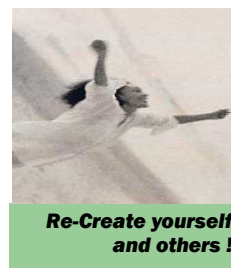
Pastor Cris

The **Alpha** Course  
 an opportunity to explore the meaning of life  
[www.alphacanada.org](http://www.alphacanada.org)  
 An introduction to the Christian faith.  
 Starting soon near you!  
 For details call...  
**Pastor Dave**  
 Alpha

**INTRODUCTORY DINNER**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18 at 7 P.M.**  
**REDWOOD HOUSE, REDWOOD MEADOWS**  
**949-2072 PLEASE RSVP**

## Drama Event - May 15th

Gardener College Drama Group presented “Dear Diary” on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>. A courageous look at a young woman’s life as she faces the pressures of at home, school, with family...and experiences an epiphany of what sacrifice is all about.



Hold nothing back. Be yourself.

Go big or go home. It’s that simple.

Pastor Cristin Block

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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 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.

**We're on the Web!  
[www.braggcreekchurch.ca](http://www.braggcreekchurch.ca)**

## Mission News — International

As I sit down to prepare this update for you I can't help but think about the "Where is your heart?" mission mall we had last Sunday. When we were sitting around brainstorming at our February mission meeting we didn't anticipate the wonderful response we would have from all the rest of our church family. We had over 15 families respond with a desire to share information about the various mission organizations God has lead them to support- with their prayers,

and their time. One of the tables I was most excited about was "our extended family," an opportunity to post the picture and information about the children you support through World Vision and Compassion Canada. Response on Sunday from all who walked through the door was really supportive, so much so that the mission committee will be considering doing another mission mall in the future. I praise God for each one of you,

and your compassion for those who need the touch of God. He earnestly wants each one of us to be His hands extended to the rest of the world, whether it be in Jerusalem (Bragg Creek), and in all Judea (greater Calgary area,) and Samaria (Canada) and even to the remotest part of the earth (the rest of the world)."

Sandy Hodgins

## Detour - Special Announcement

*Hey everyone, did you know we love you guys and we love special milestones in your life, but we are sorry to say that the Birthday song in all glory will no longer be part of Sunday Morning Celebration.*

*With our current and continuous growth we are finding it is getting increasingly hard not to miss birthdays. As well as we have tried to provide more opportunities to pray and minister during the service so*

*finding an appropriate time to sing is getting difficult.*

*So, as a result we will no long try to keep up with any sort of corporate celebration, however we would very much like to encourage you to make an announcement as a point of praise and feel free to bring in as much cake as you would like (no really I mean that) to celebrate a loved ones birthday during the coffee time after the service.*

*So one last time for everyone "A happy birthday to you a happy birthday to you may you something... something... something..." (Ok even if I did know the words, my singing in my head is off key so I wont disturb anyone anymore, why couldn't I have been one of those singing preacher guys?). Anyway, thank you for your understanding.*

Pastor Dave

### **Life Groups (Partnership Community)**

Spiritual growth is a life long process and requires us to be in a place of discovery. Feel free to get involved in something that will help you become a life long learner. Here are some of the growth opportunities available:

- ✠ Sunday Adult Bible study 9:30 am at the Community Centre
- ✠ Sunday morning Youth CORE 9:30 am at Cinnamon Spoon
- ✠ "What was that all about?" Discussion group. Monday nights 7pm at Dave's Pizza
- ✠ Precept inductive Bible study." This Fall—the Book of Revelations
- ✠ 10 week Alpha Course in Redwood Meadows
- ✠ The Journey—Thursday evenings
- ✠ The Journey—Weekday mornings
- ✠ Friday Night Youth activities

If you are interested in getting involved in a life group then please see Pastor Dave, Pastor Cristin, Elders or sign up at the Greeters table before and after Sunday Morning Celebration

Or visit our website and email contacts listed in the Ministry Mall