

The Summit



Photo by Bob and Alvena Taggart



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The Summit is a bimonthly newsletter for the Bragg Creek Community Church. Contributions made for the July/August Edition:

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- Norm Leong
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Trail Notes

Why do we do what we do? I recently came across a new article by Rick Warren of Saddleback Church that I just couldn't pass up. I hope you enjoy it as much as me.

Sharing eternal truth with an ever-emerging culture

by Rick Warren

In ministry, some things must never change but others must change constantly.

Clearly, God's five purposes for his church are non-negotiable. If a church fails to balance the five purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism, then it's no longer a healthy church, and it's in danger of becoming simply a social club.

On the other hand, the way or style in which we fulfill these eternal purposes must continually be adjusted and modified because human culture is always changing.

For instance, when I first started Saddleback Church, fresh out of Southwestern Seminary, personal computers were in their infancy, slow and cumbersome and capable of very limited functions. The Inter-

net was just a crude academic network and nobody had even heard of e-mail.

Now I often sit in my pyjamas and have e-mail conversations with people across the globe. Today you too can become an "e-vangelist" just using the Internet to reach people for Christ.

In addition, you can get on a plane and within a few hours fly to almost anywhere in the world, and that means there's even less of an excuse for not being involved in foreign missions, even if just for the short-term.

The times, they are a-changing, and they'll keep right on a-changing whether we want them to or not.

And that's why at Saddleback, any time a new tool comes down the line, we embrace it. Right now we're using TiVo to broadcast our weekend sermon into several different venues on our campus. In other words, someone who prefers a choir and more traditional music can worship in that atmosphere, and then at the scheduled time, see the exact same sermon as those worshiping in our main auditorium. This is duplicated across our campus with an acoustic worship, another aimed at Gen-X, and so on.

The thing is: our culture has moved past the MTV generation into the

*Internet generation, and yet many of us are just now responding to the TV generation! **Our message must never change, but the way we deliver that message must be constantly updated to reach each new generation.***

In other words, our message of transformation must never change but the transformation of our presentation should be continual, adapting to the new languages of our culture.

Consider this: the word contemporary literally means "with temporariness." By nature, nothing contemporary is meant to last forever! It is only effective for a while and only relevant in that particular moment – that's what makes it contemporary. What is considered contemporary and relevant in the next ten years will inevitably appear dated and tired in 20 years.

As a pastor, I've watched churches adopt many contemporary styles in worship, programming, architecture, music, and evangelism. That's OK, as long as the biblical message is unchanged.

But whatever is in style now will inevitably be out of style soon, and the cycles of change are getting shorter and shorter, aided by technology and the media. New styles and preferences, like fashions, are always emerging.

Let me give you a word of advice.

Never attach your church to a single style – you'll soon be passé and outdated. One of the secret strengths of Saddleback Church is

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Streams of Thanksgiving

Great amounts of Praise to God for everyone who gave of their energy and resources to make this years Bible camp a success. Thank you! Thank you! As well, make sure you give Michelle Kroeker and Tara Zimmerman a huge thanks (which may look like flowers, meals out, money... whatever) for organizing and putting everything together.

Fellow Hikers

AT THE PEAK

- ✠ Pray for the fall ministry that we will be faithful to what God has called us too.
- ✠ Pray for more people to step up to the challenge and Partner with us in new ministries.
- ✠ Pray for the Tapestry church being planted in Redwood.
- ✠ Please pray BCCC continue to be united under Christ as we serve the community.
- ✠ Pray for our missionaries in Mexico the Neufelds
- ✠ Pray for everyone taking a break as they travel to family and friends over the summer holidays.

Saturday Hiking – Make sure you’re on Bob Taggart’s call or email list so you don’t miss out on any of the Saturday hikes. Or track him down for location and times. Call 851-6501 or rgtaggart@shaw.ca



Around the Bend and over the Hill

For anyone who will volunteer or is thinking of... or knows about... ministering with our children and youth. Don't miss renewing your police checks this fall! They are due mid-October, however we will be having a constable from Rocky View coming to Bragg Creek in September to issue the checks for you. Make sure you make it to the community center on that day and save yourself a trip to Cochrane.



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

OCTOBER 16

OCTOBER 30

“Lighthouse”

I’m looking forward to being a part of “Lighthouse” again this fall. For the past 4 years we’ve been able to get together with children at Banded Peak school. This is an amazing opportunity to be able to bring Jesus and the bible into a public school and I’m very excited about starting up again this school year.

If you are interested in spending 1 hour a week with the kids and myself please call me. A typical hour would include prayer time, a bible story, snack and a game or craft. Just know that even though we’re only with the kids once a week, they’ll be in your heart all week.



Thank you to everyone who has been praying so faithfully. Just because its summer- don't quit!

Anne 949-7099

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that we're constantly adapting; we've changed styles of worship, programming, and outreach many, many times in the last 25 years, and we'll continue to do so because the world keeps changing. **The only way to stay relevant is to anchor your ministry to unchanging truths and eternal purposes but be willing to continually adapt how you communicate those truths and purposes.**

As an example, let's look at the purpose of evangelism (I believe that every church should be balanced between five New Testament purposes: worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry and missions). In many traditional churches, evangelism remains confrontational rather than relational.

There is planned visitation of this sort: "We'll all come Thursday night and go knock on doors." Now this strategy worked years ago because you could knock on someone's door and be invited in. But now people don't want a stranger knocking on their door; they get home from work and all they want to do is eat dinner and veg out. When you knock on their door, it disturbs them, and so they're already defensive before you even say a word about Jesus Christ.

Why would we continue to employ a strategy of evangelism that is no longer effective? I think it's because we continue to confuse the things that must never change with the things that must constantly change.

Would it surprise you to know that in 25 years at Saddleback, we've never had a planned, organized visitation program? Yet, we've baptized over 1,000 people a year for the last decade! We reach them through lifestyle evangelism. Our church has grown simply by inviting one person at a time – friends from work, from school, and from the neighbourhood.

Our members are constantly on mission to bring their friends and neighbours to our weekend services, where we reach out to non-believers – particularly those who have no real church background – by singing songs they can embrace, by voicing prayers that help them relate, and by preaching messages they understand. We make Christianity available on an introductory level to any visitor to Saddleback.

You might wonder if we attract these visitors by watering down the gospel, but we don't; we simply communicate it in ways that non-believers understand. Jesus drew enormous crowds (called multitudes) without compromising the message. He was clear,

practical, and loving, and he presented his timeless message in a contemporary fashion. Lost people have a need for meaning, a need for purpose, a need for forgiveness, and a need for love. They want to know how to make right decisions, how to protect their family, how to handle suffering, and how to have hope in our world. These are all issues we have answers for, yet millions are ignoring the message of Christ because we insist on communicating in ways that make little sense any more.

In a sense, we've made the gospel too difficult for a changing culture to understand. Let me give you this analogy: Imagine a missionary going overseas and saying, "I'm here to share the Good News, but first you have to learn to speak my language, learn my customs, and sing my style of music." You can immediately see why this strategy would fail!

Yet, we do that all the time in a culture that is in radical flux. If we want to reach people in the 21st century, we must start thinking differently. Paul said, "I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22b, NIV). And I think that means if you're in California, you should have a California culture church. If you're in Ohio, you should have an Ohio culture church. If you're in Mississippi, you should have a Mississippi culture church.

But I also think that means if you're in the 21st century, you should have a 21st century church. **I believe the most overlooked requirement in the church is to have spiritually mature members** – members who unselfishly limit their own preferences of what they think a church should look like in order to reach lost people for Christ. As Jesus said in Luke 5:38 (NIV), "New wine must be poured into new wineskins."

Here's a simple tradition to break in the 21st century: stop thinking of the church as an institution. Regardless of the language we've used, we boomers have tended to see the church as an organization, but the emerging generations – and a lot of us Beatle-era boomers – are desperately looking for community (a major secret to Starbucks's successful strategy: community in a coffee cup).

We need to present the church as a place where you belong, a family where, as they sang on Cheers, everybody knows your name. Now you and I may know that the church is a community, but emerging generations have never seen it that way. They've seen a list of rules, not a loving community. This is a prime example of an opportunity to restate the eternal truths of the Bible in a fresh, contemporary way,

Emerging generations are also focused on the experiential, and that means we have to adjust the way we teach and preach because most traditional

churches focus almost exclusively on the intellect. In the 21st century church, we not only want people to know about God, we also want them to actually encounter God. Of course, this means rather than preaching simply for information, we should also preach for action. Our message is not meant to just inform, but to transform the lives of those in our congregation. In almost every single sermon I preach every point has a verb in it – something to do. What are you going to do now that you know this godly truth?

Why do I do it this way? Because God says, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22, NKJV), and our entire purpose driven process at Saddleback is designed to move people, not only into intimacy with God, but also into service for him, where they'll experience a deep and broader faith in the midst of community and ministry.

Since planting Saddleback, spiritual seekers have changed a lot. In the first place, there are a whole lot more of them! There are seekers everywhere! I've never seen more people so hungry to discover and develop the spiritual dimension of their lives. That's why there's such a big interest in Eastern thought, New Age practices, mysticism, and the transcendent.

Today seekers are hungry for symbols and metaphors and experiences and stories that reveal the greatness of God. Because seekers are constantly changing, we must be sensitive to them like Jesus was. We must be willing to meet them on their own turf and speak to them in ways they understand.

Remember: the world changes but the Word doesn't. To be effective in ministry we must learn to live with the tension between those two.

My prayer is that God will use you the way he used David, as described in Acts 13:36, to serve God's purpose in your generation. The good news of Jesus is too "Good" to just keep to ourselves or be lazy and sloppy in how we communicate it.

I pray we at Bragg Creek Community Church continue to be outward and relational focused as we try to engage this community with its own unique quirks and culture.

Great talk'n, (well actually I didn't say too much but anyway...)

Pastor Dave.

**BRAGG CREEK
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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**

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

Here's the very basics of what you need to know on how to lead a small group.

The Mission of a Small-Group Leader

- † Build Relationships.
- † Help people grow in Christ.
- † Encourage people to express themselves.
- † Give people a living example of what it means to be a Christian.

Before a Meeting Begins

- † Know your vision so you can keep your group on course.

- † Prepare your meeting location and minimize distractions.
- † Choose the method of ministry and the timetable for your meeting.
- † Pray and prepare yourself spiritually.

During the Meeting

- † Set the course, letting group members know what to expect.
- † Get people talking through relevant and creative discussion.
- † Lead a discussion, keeping your comments to a minimum.
- † Encourage honest prayer requests.

Ending the Meeting

- † Leave people hungry for more instead of trying to cram in too much.

- † Bring closure, addressing any questions and any unresolved tension.
- † Make time for ministry after the meeting.

Bare-Bones Meeting Essentials

- † a way to introduce the topic
- † group interaction
- † instruction from God's Word
- † a spiritual element, including prayer
- † smooth transitions between elements of the meeting
- † a conclusion

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Detour - Report on Bragg Creek Days

Another exciting outreach opportunity in participating in the annual Bragg Creek Days. Thanks to all that put in extra attention in making the parade float, riding in the parade (with minor incidents) and the outdoor Sunday Service. Thanks to all—too many to mention!

Although the weather did not cooperate it was capped off by a great Chili Sunday luncheon at the Hughes. Thanks Bob, Brenda and Ryan.

**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