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APRIL 2013

Storyline

What has God been doing in your life lately?
**SHARE
YOUR STORY**
Email: azacharias@faccalgary.com

a letter from **Pastor Scott**



In 1949 my dad was coaching high school basketball in Linwood, Mississippi. He was thirty-one, single, and good-looking. One of his buddies was a principal in Bond, Mississippi, where my mom was teaching music. My dad's buddy decided that my dad needed to meet my mom, so he set up a blind date. The

only problem was that he didn't tell her about it. One Sunday evening my dad arrived at my mom's door and announced that he was there to take her out. My mom had no clue who he was or how it came about that he was standing on her doorstep wanting to take her out. Was it a gift from God, perhaps? After a few awkward moments, my dad invited her to go to church. Little did he know that he couldn't have said anything more perfect. They drove to the nearest town and went to the evening service at the Methodist church. After going out for a hamburger, he kissed her. She was embarrassed because she wasn't that kind of girl. But like my dad said, "You see a good thing and you just gotta take care o' that."

From that time on, they were together. They saw each other every chance they could. They dated for four weeks before my dad proposed and two weeks later, on December 23, 1949, they were married. Just like when he decided to kiss her for the first time, my dad knew that he had a good thing and had to take care of it. Their marriage ceremony was a simple affair at the local pastor's home with four people

in attendance including the pastor, his wife, and the best man and his wife. After the ceremony they left for their honeymoon in Panama Beach, Florida, with its beautiful white sand beaches. They didn't have a plan ... but that was the blueprint for their relationship to come. They never had a plan – but God did.

This month we are in a teaching series called Crazy Love, where we'll dig into some of what God had in mind when He created us to walk through life in relationship with one another. Crazy Love ... His idea, His plan!

 *Pastor Scott Weatherford (Lead Pastor)*

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a christian & missionary alliance church

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First Alliance Church ... building lives that honour God.

What makes us tick? In a nutshell, God – and you! Thousands of us come together each week, from all walks of life, with ethnic diversity and from all ages, to “build lives that honour God.” The Bible is our plumb-line ... the absolute truth that sets in motion our teaching, our music and how we relate to each other and to God. We want more than anything as individuals and as a church to impact the city of Calgary and beyond. As part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada, we also think it's very cool that we get to partner with some amazing people in other parts of the world as they also “build lives that honour God.”

Our Values ...

CONNECTING in Life Groups – small groups of people who meet regularly to study the Bible, pray, serve and build relationship together. **GROWING** in our understanding of who God is and who He wants us to be – learning through prayer and the Bible how to live in vital connection with Him. **SERVING** God by serving other people within the church and our community. **SHARING** the love and hope of Jesus Christ with others, both locally and globally.

A CRAZY LOVE STORY

crazy love

“How did you two meet?”

A simple question for many couples ... but Matthew and Michelle Fordham's answer is unusual. “Our lives became intertwined many years ago,” Matthew says. Michelle was born in India where her parents, the Peters, ran a Bible school. Matthew's dad, Doug, also born in India to missionary parents, met the Peters for the first time in 1981 when they visited Canada. He travelled to India each year, and the families kept in touch.

“One day, my mom and dad told my sister and me that they wanted to help Michelle's family in India,” Matthew recalls. “When we got an allowance, we had boxes for saving, tithing, and spending – and then we had another box that had the name “Michelle” on it. I had no idea who Michelle was. All I knew was that she was taking some of my allowance each week.”

“I knew Doug Uncle's family on the other side of the world was praying for us and helping us go to school,” Michelle says. Matthew and Michelle met for the first time in 2002 during another visit the Peters made to Canada. The encounter was not memorable for either. “At that point of time, I was not a big part of my family,” Matthew explains. “I didn't get to know Michelle, and she didn't care to get to know me.”

However, Michelle stayed with the Fordhams for three months. “During that time, my sister was getting ready to get married, so they had my mom's wedding dress out of storage,” says Matthew. “My dad said ‘I bet Michelle would fit into Mom's wedding dress. We should take a picture and send it to her dad.’ And they thought it would be even better to have me stand next to her in the picture.” Obviously, the picture holds more significance looking back.

Michelle returned to India and the two would have no interaction for nearly seven years. In 2009, as Matthew wrestled with issues in his life, he decided he needed a “time out” of sorts. He stumbled upon an internship in India where he would work with Michelle's parents. Michelle was away at school at the time, but she returned home for holiday and saw Matthew again. This time, though, a connection began to form.

“It was strange at first,” Michelle says. “My folks had said, “Guess who is here?” and when I saw it was Matthew I wasn't really excited, but ... I was curious. And then we met and we got chatting right away.” A friendship began to blossom.

Soon after, Matthew's visa expired and he returned to Canada in March 2010 to attend and work at Capernwray Bible School. A month later, Michelle also decided to go to Capernwray for the summer to work and later attend the school. She visited Matthew's family regularly, and even spent Christmas with them. Matthew remembers, “My grandma was there and after she met Michelle, she made a point to tell my

mom, ‘Now that is a girl for Matthew.’ Little did she or we know, two years later we would be married.”

“I had no idea who Michelle was. All I knew was that she was taking some of my allowance each week.”



It wasn't until the two began serving in ministry together that the Lord began to draw them closer. Michelle, a singer, and Matthew, a piano player, connected in music as they traveled and performed. “We both stayed at school and worked over the summer in 2011,” Matthew says. “The Lord was working in both our lives and ... I realized that our friendship was not just about music. The thought of Michelle going back to India made my stomach turn and I didn't ever want to lose her. So I decided to let her know that.”

When the two told their parents about their relationship, both families were in awe of God's provision. “It was exciting to my parents,” says Michelle. “But they had been praying for the both of us all along, so when they found out they were thrilled.”

They were engaged at the end of 2011, and married in September of 2012. “Our relationship is really a testimony of God's love in our lives,” Matthew states. “It's a simple question – ‘How did you two meet?’ – that opens up the door to share not just what God did in our lives, but what He can do in anyone.” | **Written by Emily Robertson**



Hear more of Matthew's story; check out the video featured during our Easter weekend services! Scan this QR code with your smartphone or go to www.faccalgary.com, click on WEEKEND RESOURCES and select the “EASTER: AWAKE” archive to watch.

TAKING THE PLUNGE

Backstage before each service,

excitement mixed with nervousness for those who came to proclaim their faith in Christ through baptism. As witnesses, our hearts were moved by their obedience to publicly declare Jesus as Lord. But it didn't stop there. The Holy Spirit swept through this place, stirring many, many more to come forward in obedience. Forty had planned for baptism; over thirty more spontaneously added to their number. God was glorified this weekend! *Hallelujah!* To give you a taste of the excitement and work God has been doing, here are some statements we managed to catch from those baptized over this amazing weekend:

Reid learned about Jesus through DiscoveryLand, has a new life now, and wants to serve God. "My favourite verse is Genesis 1:1. I like it because it tells how God made the heavens and the earth and all the animals."

Emily: "My faith became my own."

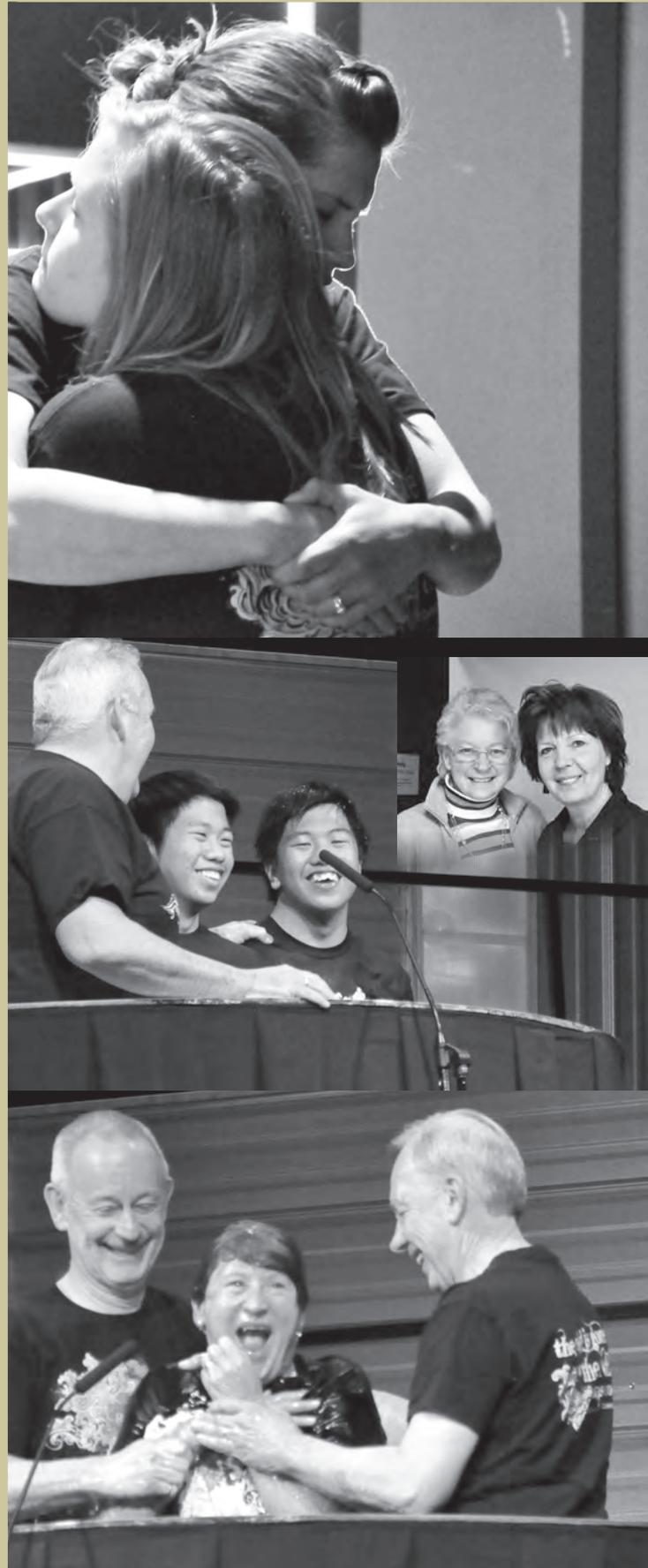
Her favourite verse is Jeremiah 10:11.

Jill: "I was talking one night to God and felt that (baptism) is what He wanted me to do. So, I did!" She shares that when she was younger she "heard in Sunday school that Jesus is my forever friend. I always felt He is with me through hard times. I am glad I have Him." Her favourite verse is Exodus 14:14 *The Lord will fight for you ...*

Julie and James: "This is the most important decision of our lives. It is perfect." James shared, "I can't even put into words how I feel right now."

Bethany: "I want to show the world that I have accepted Jesus into my heart. I want to be the woman that God wants me to be." She is 13 years old. After her baptism, she said, "This sums up my faith!" | *Written by Lyn Hookway*

Our next baptism weekend is May 18/19; if you are ready to take this step of obedience in your walk with Jesus, you're invited to a baptism info session on May 6. Contact jlloewen@faccalgary.com/403-252-7572.





WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is for believers and did we *ever* have a coming together of the body on March 15/16! Biblically, baptism is the first act of obedience in service to the Lord and is where we publicly identify ourselves with Christ. This fingerprinting opens the doors to greater fellowship and ministry and is essential for service and spiritual growth. To be baptized, you have to believe in Jesus and confess that He is Lord and Saviour (Romans 10:9). One baptism story really spoke to me and it went something along the lines of ***"I've only said it to myself, but now I'm saying it out loud."*** And then he went down into the water and came up out of the water (Acts 8:36-39) and became one with the many in the body of Christ. This last baptism weekend our house was full of the Holy Spirit, the shared joy of brothers and sisters in Christ, and grace like rain. | *Written by Darcey Jerrom*



Better start
breakin' in

YER
cowboy boots.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR ANOTHER UNFORGETTABLE
STAMPEDE BREAKFAST @ FAC ON SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2013!

Written by Darcey Jerrom

CAMP IN A BOX

What is *Camp in a Box*? It's pretty much a portable summer camp for kids that fits in a forty foot shipping container, including 75 beds, tents, a fully equipped kitchen, heated showers, meeting tents, toilets and all your necessary accessories required for a truly Christian Bible camp.

Developed in Calgary by a group of volunteers, it is currently being used in Latvia by Stephen Janz and his family. Their mission basis is to "introduce people to Jesus Christ as early in their lives as possible, and to encourage them in their desire to follow Him together in healthy relationships with other followers of Christ."

And they do just that.

One of the problems they came across early on was that even though summer camp was a great thing for the local kids, their Christian walk sometimes faded when camp ended. One of the initiatives they have taken has been to train local Christians to be leaders and mentors to the younger campers – and it appears to be working.

The leaders encourage the children to meet on a weekly basis after camp is over to continue to build on those relationships. They teach the Good News and show what it means to be living in Christ. The leaders meet once a month for prayer and further discipleship training.

And it all starts with a Camp in a Box, a unique idea formulated to spread the Gospel. For more information, please visit www.campinabox.ca.



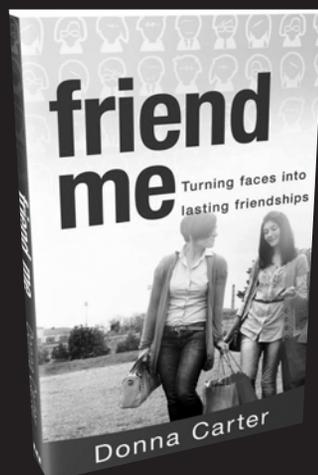
ARTIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT



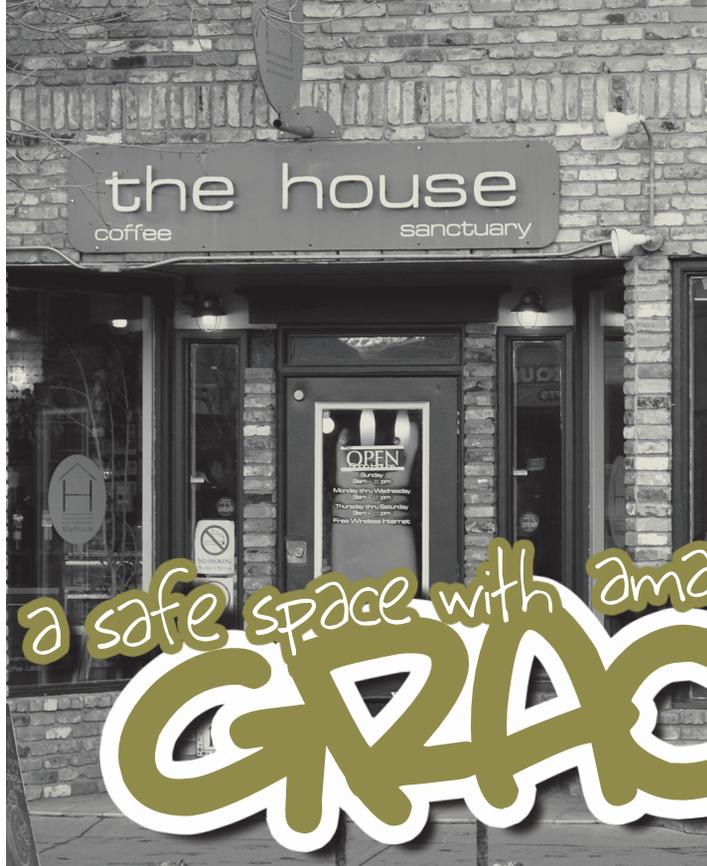
ARTIST: *Donna Carter*

Donna is a gifted inspirational speaker, painter and author who is one of our own. She currently has an oil painting series displayed on the 2nd level "bridge" of the church, and is excited to be launching a her new book, *FRIEND ME*, May 3 at 7 pm here at FAC. Be challenged to enter the danger of vulnerability in order to gain what every soul craves: emotional intimacy. The book will

guide the reader out of relational "stuckness" through practical steps to a place of healthy emotional openness. Be motivated and equipped to conquer the loneliness experienced in a busy, transient, and relationally shallow culture! Look for copies at Cornerstone Resources. For more about Donna's work, visit www.donnacarter.org



Are you an artist that would like to be featured? Send an email to: storyline@faccalgary.com



a safe space with amazing
GRACE



In the heart of Kensington is an amazing mission endeavour called The House Coffee Sanctuary. It was originally established in 2001 by FAC's Ryan Graham, with a vision for a coffee shop to create relationships and share Jesus. Since its creation, FAC has always supported, funded, and staffed this ministry. Without this support, the ongoing efforts of this endeavour to further God's kingdom in downtown Calgary would not be possible.

Manager, Derrick Mitchell, has been with The House for over 10 years reaching out to the community, not just with a terrific cup of coffee but with the love of Christ, providing a warm, safe haven for those who are struggling in ways many of us could never imagine.

Derrick explains, "Kensington has lots of atheists, the poly-religious, and 'anything goes.' God did not design us to be comfortable. It is an opportunity for us to be used by God and see Him at work. It is transforming to us. We become more Christ-like."

A handful of street people, former street people, and community people frequent this place. In contrast to similar establishments, The House welcomes these hurting hearts. Derrick shares, "Everywhere there is need for redemption. This is all around us."

You don't have to look far at The House to find someone who has been touched by God's love through this ministry. Alex (bottom right) shared how this place saved him. A few years ago, he lived in a tent by the Bow River. He was only 14. He came to The House looking for a place to keep warm, found himself a chair, and fell asleep. He was woken up and told, "I'm sorry, you can't sleep here, but I can buy you some coffee and you can stay to keep warm." He started building relationships with the staff. He shared how one Christmas he had no

family to buy him a present but Derrick did. Derrick would also go with him to his court dates. "My mom never went with me. She was never there for me. But Derrick was." Though Alex does not know Jesus personally – yet – he sure can see Him through the hard-working men and women at The House whose patience and love speak to the heart of this hurting soul. He exclaimed, **"I'd take a bullet for this place! See that guy over there, and that girl, and that one over there? They all wouldn't be here if it wasn't for this place."**

So, what will you find at The House Coffee Sanctuary? Hurting souls transformed by the real love of Christ through those who are willing to be uncomfortable enough to bring it. Isn't that amazing love?

The House Coffee Sanctuary has church services held every other Sunday morning, small group Bible studies throughout the week, and open mic sessions on Thursday evenings (top right). For more information, visit www.thehousecoffee.ca. •

Written by Lynn Hookway; Photography by Simon Hookway



MOTHER'S DAY vs. FATHER'S DAY



The pitter patter of little feet on tile.

The soft murmuring of hushed voices. The tinkle and clang of pots and pans knocking together. It's that time of the year again ... Mother's Day. This year, the family is going to surprise Mom with breakfast in bed. Bacon sizzles on the stove top, bread slowly tans itself in the toaster, the eggs cook quietly in their cast iron nests. Mom waits patiently in bed, pretending to be asleep while little elves in the kitchen help to prepare a morning meal. She closes her eyes for a minute, not asleep but enjoying the quiet. Then all goes silent. It's time.

The door to the bedroom slowly opens and there is excited movement as the family invades the space. They're trying to be quiet but they're holding back too much energy. "Happy Mother's Day!" They all scream and Mom jumps even though she knew it was coming.

She sits up in bed, faking surprise and yet is legitimately happy to see her husband and kids each holding a portion of her breakfast. Dad is carrying a tray with a plate heaped full of food on it. One kid is carrying a big glass of orange juice and the other is holding a flower and a card. They fight to be the first to give Mom their gift and juice spills out of the cup. **Dad places the tray in front of mom and sits down beside her. He reaches over and snags a crisp piece of bacon.** The kids jump in on the other side squeezing Mom into the center of the bed, pinning her arms to her side.

She sits this way, cramped and crowded while the orange juice dries on her pajamas, watching as her breakfast slowly disappears into the mouths of her family and thinks, "This is the best Mother's Day ever." Because that's what moms do. They never stop giving.

Even on the one day set aside especially for them, they never stop. We could celebrate our Mom every day of the year and we still wouldn't be able to repay her for what she has done for us. And the really crazy thing is, she would never ask us to.

| **Written by Phil Abusow**



It's the one day a year where the meat gets burned on the barbecue

because we figure the best way to honour dad is to let him sit back and relax while we serve him charred beef. And if you wait until the day before to get that perfect card, you'll discover that all that's left is a card that says something like 'Hey, Dad, it's Father's Day, so ... Happy Father's Day.' It's been my experience that Father's Day cards are all really about the person giving the card. The funny ones usually say something about getting 'my' good looks from dad, whereas the sentimental cards will include something like 'Thank you for making me who I am today.' Really, you're just giving Dad a card to let him know how awesome you think you are. So here's a few helpful hints for Father's Day ...

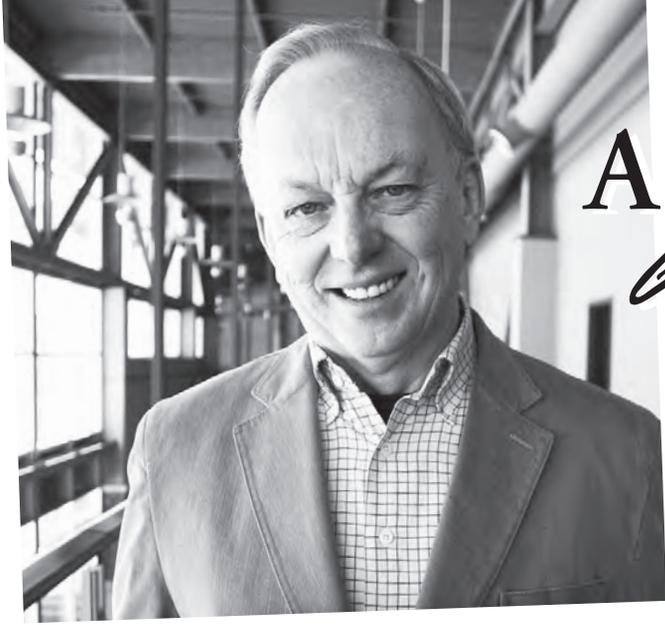
Make dad something for dinner you're good at making. Don't try and barbecue – that's his thing, and all that says is, 'See, we don't need you.' I for one make a mean spaghetti sauce, so I think that's an acceptable meal.

Save your \$5 on a card and write your dad something meaningful from you – like a story about him that makes you smile. I remember watching a movie with my dad, our hearts racing, and, at a particularly scary moment, he jumped up onto the back of the couch and shouted 'Oh, no!' It always makes me laugh because it's one of those moments that reminds me my dad is totally capable of having the living daylight's scared out of him – just like the rest of us.

My final piece of advice is to **always make sure you buy Dad a tie.** Whether he wears them or not. Dads love ties. He may say not to because the Sponge Bob one you gave him last year is still his 'go-to' for casual Friday. Don't listen to him. Get him another tie. This is a totally serious and genuine suggestion.

Our dads are certainly fallible, but when they get it right, it's God's way of giving us a mere glimpse of himself. So celebrate the man that God placed on this earth specifically with you in mind. He has impossible shoes to fill and if he is able to get a toe in there once in a while, he should at least get one day a year of recognition. | **Written by Melissa Abusow**





A day in the life of *Pastor Ray*

Written by Leanne MacDonald

Ray Matheson. The name is spoken with equal parts reverence and joy;

people soften and smile. As Pastor of Congregational Care at FAC, he officiates weddings, funerals and baby dedications, visits hospitals and hospices, and conducts counselling sessions, home visits and compassion ministries.

Ray always knew he was going to be a pastor; as a child, before he was even sure of his salvation, he knew. He was the firstborn of 7 children whom Lloyd and Kaye (Catherine) Matheson raised with strong Christian values and morals.

While he can't describe a 'typical' day, this is one of the things he loves about what he does. The other day, he met with someone whose brother had just been murdered; the day before that he'd spoken with someone who wanted to be baptized. If someone is in critical condition, he rushes to their side. Today, he visits people in three different hospitals. Pastor Ray believes his role is to shepherd the sheep, guide them in their walk with Christ to spiritual maturity and fruitfulness. Obviously.

On Main Street at FAC, you'll see him either surrounded by people or in an in-depth one-on-one conversation, but always engaged and fully listening, his attention only on the matter at hand.

While the story is better heard from him, he was asked once to sing at the bedside of someone in the hospital who was having their last moments on earth. He insisted no. They insisted yes. Really, what is a pastor to do but comply with the wishes? So he sang. And not very well, apparently, judging by the reactions from the others surrounding the bed. So it was a solid 'no' when I, tongue in cheek, asked if he'd ever duet with Pastor Scott. "When musical gifts were being passed out, they missed me!"

You really get a feel for how deeply Ray loves Christ when you talk to him about his work. You see this man week in, week out, always so interested and concerned about our lives. What you don't often

see is how hard it is for him to see people resist the promptings of the Holy Spirit; his sadness when a couple with marriage problems isn't willing to forgive or reconcile; his discouragement when people reject Christ.

Highly visible in the church and community as he is, I wondered how he reacts to rumours directed towards him and his work. I loved his answer: "I tend to live for God's approval and not focus on what others think or say."

Ever so humbly, his tone turning serious, he addresses what he believes is the biggest misconception about him. "I don't like the expression 'One a Day Ray' (the moniker given to him years ago referencing his affinity for bringing people to Christ). I wish it were true, but it's not." Maybe not ... but Heaven will be more crowded because of him.

It shouldn't surprise you that his favorite Bible story is Jesus walking with two disciples on the road to Emmaus after the resurrection, discussing current events. "I'd have loved to be part of that discussion." You can picture that, can't you?

Every pastor has a few books on the go at once; Ray is no exception. The morning we spoke, he had been reading a book on marriage by Timothy Keller and was in the middle of *Radical* by David Platt. An all-time favorite of his is *The Shadow* by Elizabeth Elliott; the story of her husband Jim inspired him as a young person in setting goals for his life.

He describes his wife Dee as an amazing woman who has put up with a lot. He praises her teaching gift and proudly tells me that she founded a preschool prior to their marriage and says it gave her great preparation to be the incredible mother and grandmother she is to their sons and grandchildren. He loves her devotion to God and her deep focus on prayer.

Pastor Ray. Son, Big Brother, Husband, Father, Grandfather, Uncle, Cousin, and Friend. He loves being all of these, but more importantly to him, he is a Child of the King. He loves his job, he loves the church and he loves his congregation. And we love him.

BETCHA DIDN'T KNOW ...

Favorite Colour: Blue

Favorite Pizza Topping: Chicken

Favorite Time of Day: Morning





prostitution is not a choice

On January 31, 2013, a ministry of the Christian & Missionary Alliance called "Defend Dignity" presented an Information Forum on prostitution in Canada here at FAC. Representatives from the RCMP, the Calgary Police Service, the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and Servants Anonymous Society in Calgary, as well as a formerly prostituted woman spoke about a variety of facets of this issue, giving a holistic picture of the reality sexually exploited women face in our country.



Katarina Macleod, a woman who was prostituted in the Greater Toronto Area, stated plainly that prostitution is not a choice. She serviced 10 men a day, 7 days a week, in both indoor and outdoor settings. Of the hundreds of women she encountered during this time, she says not one of them would have chosen this kind of violent and degrading lifestyle for

themselves. This is why the Defend Dignity team advocates for the same stance on prostitution that countries such as Sweden and Norway have taken, which seeks to end prostitution by attacking the demand for paid sex, rather than by blaming the women, who are often forced to provide these sexual services.

This approach, called the Nordic Model, involves the criminalization of the purchase of sex, and it has significantly decreased the consumption of paid sex at a street level. The Nordic Model works on the principles of supply and demand; if those who purchase sex are criminally charged, it will decrease the demand for paid sex, and eventually, there will be no need to supply the bodies of women for the sexual gratification of others.

As it stands right now in Canada, prostitution itself is legal, though activities surrounding it are not. Recently, however, sex workers' rights advocates in Ontario who endorse prostitution as a legitimate career choice have begun to fight for full decriminalization regarding our prostitution laws. These advocates claim that Canada's laws are unconstitutional and do not offer adequate protection to the women involved in the sex trade. However, the statistics clearly indicate that countries that have legalized prostitution have only seen an increase in the prevalence of those being exploited. Legal prostitution drives the exploitative side of the market underground, making it even more dangerous for the majority of women involved. The Ontario court case is tentatively set for a hearing at the Supreme Court level on June 12, 2013. As this date approaches,

we as Christ-following Canadians need to make our voices heard that sex is not viable 'work' for any woman, and urge our government to stand up for these women.



Why should the church care about this issue? As Glendyne Gerrard (left), the founder and director of Defend Dignity reminded us, **"We need to care because Jesus Christ is the hope of the world"**. We as Christ's body have

the opportunity to bring life to women who are being exploited. We have the opportunity to defend their dignity because of how Jesus views each of these women: pure, beautiful, and worth fighting for. • To learn more about Defend Dignity, visit www.defenddignity.ca.

Written by Katelynn Hunt

{HELLO, MY NAME IS}



Meet One of Our NEW Team Players @ FAC! Written by Dayla Brown

What is your favorite part / verse of the Bible?

"You haven't done this before. Ask using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy." (John 16:24). And you will have abundant joy!!! It's this little add on sentence that I find so unexpected. God knows what we need better than we do. He doesn't just give us what we need to survive - He gives us what we need to be joy filled. When I accept His provision, He always goes beyond my expectations.

What has God done in your life?

Wow ... what a question. In short, He's held me with a tight grip. I've asked Him to never let me go, and He hasn't. When I find myself straying, He inevitably reels me back in, and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Edmonton, but left Canada when I was 3. I grew up in Darwin, Australia (the area where parts of "Crocodile Dundee", "Australia", and "10 Canoes" were filmed). I studied music in Sydney, and as soon as I graduated I moved to New York City, where I lived as a musician for four years. I felt like a change of pace but wasn't ready to move back to Australia, so I moved to Calgary in December. I still have lots of family in this area so to me it felt like an obvious next step.

What are your hobbies / passions?

This is a tricky one, because my hobby has always been my work (playing guitar). Lately it's been distracting other people while they try to work ...

What is your favorite childhood memory?

Darwin is a monsoonal city, so it has two seasons - wet and dry. I grew up on the outskirts of the city, and at one point I lived next door to a good friend from school. We would explore in the deep ditches when they flooded with water, which was a lot of fun because it was like a mini river system that would appear when it rained, and disappear a couple of days later.

What do you like about FAC?

Two things attracted me to working here: the amazing team of people, and being allowed to wear jeans to work. I feel valued here on a personal level - that's very uncommon for work environments.

What is your favorite work memory?

Coming in to work the day after being baptized, and receiving lots of congratulatory hugs, handshakes and pats on the back. It was a good reminder that everyone here is on the same page when it comes to valuing a personal relationship with God.

I Can't Live Without ...

Here's a few of Ben's favorite things ...

1. **Travelling** (Nothing like a good ol' road trip!)
2. **My Guitar** (Nylon string; think classical)
3. **Mr. Noodles** (it's actually amazing how filling they are ...)



INN FROM THE COLD



Did you know that we have homeless people spending a night in our church every other week? For the last ten years? I didn't. They are politely called the disenfranchised but the simple undressed truth is that they are homeless.

I had heard about *Inn from the Cold* a number of times in passing over the past year and just assumed that the program took place somewhere downtown. A couple of months ago I found myself compelled to find out more and got a much different story. There is a base shelter downtown, but in addition, there is also a number of churches across Calgary acting as rotating "Community Inns" and this takes place every single night. Here at the First Alliance, we take our turn every second Monday.

I've found it to be a great opportunity to continually remind myself to see the world as it really is. Sometimes in life we tend to put on rose coloured glasses and live with comforting illusions that displace real life and therefore real wisdom.

A person's wisdom brightens their face and changes its hard appearance (ECC 8).

In order of appearance we see families with children and sometimes there are a lot of them. Next up are single women, seniors and then single men. Those who do not make the capacity cut are herded off to other facilities such as 'the seed' and the 'drop-in centre' which, by a number of accounts, is not the place to be. And if they don't make it in over there, there isn't really anywhere else to go.

Those that can be taken in are met by a staff of loving and loyal volunteers who work together to feed, clean, clothe and comfort the newly but temporarily franchised. For on these nights we are their home ... and a home to many needs many things: clothes, toys, books, and always a few extra loving hands.

Find out how you can get involved!

Contact Bill Rubel 403-870-9785/wmrubel@shaw.ca.

Written by Darcey Jerrom

Kairos: an appointed time of intercessory worship

"I finally found where I belong – in Your presence."

(Cory Asbury) When Kairos began one year ago, I couldn't have realized just how true that statement would become for me. Starting Kairos was an act of obedience; responding to what God had been awakening in me over the last few years. He challenged me to come out of my complacency and to hunger for things that are deeper. I knew something was missing – those Kairos moments when God invades the fabric of life – and in order to find it I knew that God demanded my 'appointed time'. God wants us to have the Spirit-filled life, and to give us purpose, but we have to acknowledge His call, surrender ourselves, and pursue Him – together.

Kairos is a united pursuit of those desiring an intimate encounter with the living God through intercessory worship.

We come together to search God's heart, and He faithfully gives more of the Spirit to those who ask (Luke 11:14), transforming them as disciples. There are many at FAC that understand the importance of praising and petitioning Him in prayer on a regular basis, including our After-Service Prayer team and Ladies' Afternoon Prayer group that meet on Wednesdays. Kairos is just an additional great expression and day of the week to do this.

I've heard men weep for a burden uncovered by someone else's prayer, and women who had never battled in spiritual warfare

intercede for angels to be released. As we surrender more fully to the supernatural, the Holy Spirit has room to invade our hearts, redirecting our petitions, declarations, and actions to serve the will of God ... and that is where we all belong.

Kairos has a four-member intercessory worship team who lead throughout. We read Scripture, sing, and pray as the Spirit leads. Sometimes it's aloud, sometimes it's more devotional; either way I know it's in the surrender of my time, when my heart is open and my spirit is eager and waiting, that the Holy Spirit comes and I am where I belong. We invite you to encounter God in whatever way you are comfortable, but our prayer is that you join us in our declaration: ***"We will pursue your presence, God, at every cost."*** – Kim Walker Smith

Kairos meets most Tuesdays, 7-9 pm in the Rehearsal Room.

For more about this and other prayer opportunities at FAC, contact Heather Brown hbrown@faccalgary.com /403-212-8854.

Twitter:
[@KairosYYC](https://twitter.com/KairosYYC)

Facebook:
[/KairosFAC](https://www.facebook.com/KairosFAC)



Written by Heather Holt



EASTER 2013



AWARDS



Alive! Alive!
Hallelujah, Risen Lord

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Connect

Men | Women | Seniors | Singles

Sisterhood (Mentoring)

May 6, 7 pm, Action Ctr.

A once a month gathering of women young and old who want to build relationship while going through the book, *True Womanhood 101*. Contact Tara Weatherford tweatherford@facalgary.com /403-258-8292.

Seniors' Luncheon

May 16, Harvest Rooms

Join us 11 am-2 pm for a delicious meal, community and more. Cost: \$15 at the door; RSVP to Pastor Ed Dyck edyck@facalgary.com /403-212-8841.

Father/Son Retreat

May 31-June 2, 2013

Calling all dads, grandpas, sons and grandsons! Mark your calendar for an "Amazing Race" weekend of fun and quality time. More details to come! Contact Grant Sylvester gsylvester@facalgary.com /403-212-8843.

Fuse@First Singles' Ministry

Tuesdays, 7-9 pm, Prayer Ctr.

We're passionate about growing together in community through dynamic activities and meaningful service. We're from all walks of life (single, single again, single parents) aged 30 to 45. Contact fuse@facalgary.com.

Serve

Serving God by Serving Others

Volunteer Appreciation

June 23, 4 pm, Harvest Rms

It takes a lot of time and passion from hundreds of people to keep our various ministries running! All volunteers are invited to this night of fun and food as we say "thank you" for serving. Contact Cindy Bartlett cbartlett@facalgary.com /403-258-4355.

Share

Global Impact | Ethnic Ministries

Summer Mission Trips

We already have 3 short term mission trips planned for this summer! Watch for weekend fundraisers and learn how you can support these teams in prayer. Contact Pastor Craig for details: globalimpact@facalgary.com /403-258-7274.

Grow

Classes & Courses @ FAC

The Power of a Day Retreat

May 4, 9 am-1 pm

Learn how to have a life of purpose and balance under the Lordship of Jesus in this half-day workshop. Cost: \$30/person (includes workbook & healthy snack); register online. Contact Bill Westmacott fivefold@shaw.ca /403-455-3776.

Preparing for Baptism

May 6, 6:30 pm, Harvest A

Learn about baptism at FAC! Join us for this info session to be baptized May 18/19! Pick up a packet from the Info Desk before the class. Register online, or contact Janet Loewen jlloewen@facalgary.com /403-252-7572.

Support & Recovery

Being There for Each Other

NEW Life Interrupted

Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Join us as we look at 8 principles for moving through life's hurts, habits and hang-ups to find wholeness & healing in this open group, 12-week ministry. No cost or registration! Contact Heather Brown hbrown@facalgary.com /403-212-8854.

Grief Support

Wednesdays, 7-9 pm

Get the support and tools you need as you grieve the death of a loved one, April 24-June 5 in Harvest A; no cost. Register online; for more info contact Janet jlloewen@facalgary.com /403-252-7572.

Widows' Connection

May 25, 1 pm, Southbend Rm

Join us for conversation about financial planning with guest speaker Mona Schoenfeld, 1-3 pm. Contact Janet Loewen jlloewen@facalgary.com /403-252-7572.

Enduring Hearts

facebook.com/EnduringHearts

If you are a young mom who has experienced the death of a child, has a sick/terminal child or have suffered multiple miscarriages, this Facebook support group is for you. Journey with other Moms in conversation. For more info contact Janeen Robertson janeen.robertson@gmail.com /403-669-0753.

DiscoveryLand

Infants | PreSchool | Grades 1-4

DiscoveryCamps

July 2-5, 2013 @ FAC

PreSchool Camp/Grade School Camp/Sports Camp/Sewing Camp/Afternoon Adventure
Online registration now open!
For more info, contact Cherie Merryweather cmerryweather@facalgary.com /403-258-8287.

Students

Jr. High | Sr. High | Young Adults

elevation Gr. 7-9

Contact Dennis V. dvel@facalgary.com /403-212-8840.

Oxygen (Gr. 10-12)

Friday, May 3: Wide Games & Bonfire, 6:30-9:30 pm @ Glenfield Park Cost: \$2. Contact Dave Conrad dconrad@facalgary.com /403-258-7248.

Accelerate (Gr. 5-6) Retreat May 24-26 @ Camp Chamisall

Join us for a weekend of fun and be challenged to grow in your faith. Cost: \$120; register online by May 12. Contact Jon Caldwell jcaldwell@facalgary.com /403-258-4353.

The Source (Young Adults)

Saturday, May 11: "Whose Line is it Anyway?" 8:30-10:30 pm in the Harvest Rooms; cost: \$2. Contact Jonathan Klein jklein@facalgary.com /403-212-8851.

Community Impact

Making a Difference

Need a Helping Hand?

Tool Team offers practical help for anyone with financial/physical challenges, including appliance

The Bible says to encourage one another ... **what's God doing in your life these days?**

We'd love to hear from you! We're always looking for stories of life change for our next issue! Email: storyline@facalgary.com

FAVORITE EASTER MEMORIES

& household repairs, basement/garage clean-up, snow removal & more. Contact Dave Bruce team@facalgary.com/403-256-1995 or drop off a request in the “help” box in the Action Centre.

Harvest

Baking & Breaking Bread Together

TUESDAY CAFE LUNCH

11:30 am-12:30 pm in the Atrium; select from a variety of sandwiches, salads, soups and more. Hot/cold drinks also available, including specialty coffee!

WEDNESDAY FAMILY SUPPERS

5-6:30 pm in the Atrium/Harvest Rooms; Cost: \$8/adult; “Gourmand” Menu 1st Wed. of the Month (\$10). Upcoming menu posted online under SERVE.

HARVEST BRUNCH

1st Sunday of the Month

A delicious hot brunch after the Sunday services (Harvest Rooms)!
1st seating 10:30-11:15 am
2nd seating 12:30-1:15 pm
\$12 per adult plate, \$6 per child plate (age 4-10); Children under 4 yrs. old eat FREE.

WINGS 'N THINGS

3rd Saturday of the Month

Stick around with family and friends after the 6:30 pm service and enjoy a finger-licking snack and pop for \$3, available in Harvest Room E.

Special Events

What's happening @ FAC ...

Spring Dinner Theatre

May 30-31 & June 2 @ FAC

Invite your friends for this fun night out including a delicious 3 course meal and live theatre! This year's production is AN IDEAL HUSBAND, a classic British play about marriage and love in the light of our mistakes. Tickets: \$20 available online starting May 4 (reserved & limited seating).

Jim Cymbala & Brooklyn

Tabernacle Ensemble

June 6 & 7, 7 pm

You're invited to a free evening with Pastor Jim Cymbala and enjoy the sounds of The Brooklyn Tabernacle Singers here at FAC (Sanctuary). No cost; tickets now available online. Rush seating; doors will open at 6:15 pm.



“It was our first year of marriage and my new husband and I were visiting my in-laws in B.C. My mother-in-law went all out – Easter was her thing! They had a big house in Whiterock and in the spring the weather was warm and welcoming

for Easter morning. She would get up early and hide baskets around the outside of the house. We had to find a basket and then search the yard for Easter eggs. It was so much fun. This Easter I was telling this story to my kids. One of my kids spoke up and said, “**But Mom, it is not all about Easter eggs!**” I have had so much fun watching my kids hunt for their eggs over the years – and I know that they know the true meaning of Easter. I love that they know that Jesus is the reason we celebrate, but the Easter eggs are still a great part of the fun – even for the adults!” - *Jen Jantzen (DiscoveryLand Grade School Small Group Director)*



“When we were kids our mom would hide Easter baskets for us. Upon finding our baskets containing our new spring jackets, we would do our annual Easter egg hunt. It was always exciting because Easter meant that spring was here and everything was new. Also, I have always loved the Easter meal. We have such busy lives and go off in our own directions. It often takes a special occasion to get everybody together. **I love being with my family around the dinner table** enjoying each other's company and sharing Easter dinner. I think that creating special family memories are what keep our family close.” - *Heather Brown (Pastor of Adult Education and Development)*

Written by Elizabeth Anderson

IN LOVING MEMORY

Funeral Information Line

Find out details about upcoming memorial services here at FAC; call anytime: 403-258-4362. For recent sympathy notices, please refer to the current FACcommunity newsletter (available at any Sanctuary entrance or online: www.faconline.tv).

CHILD DEDICATIONS

If you're interested in dedicating your child(ren) to the Lord, pick up a brochure available at the Info Desk or contact Angela McCombs amccombs@facalgary.com/403-258-8289.

BELONG@FAC

Membership Matters and is an important step of deepening your commitment to your church family! For more info, stop by the Action Centre after any weekend service or contact Heather Brown hbrown@facalgary.com/403-212-8854.

BAPTISM@FAC

Our next baptism weekend is **May 18/19**. If you've put your trust in Jesus and are ready to take this step, join us May 6, 6:30 pm in Harvest Room A to learn about baptism at FAC! Sign up online and don't forget to pick up an info packet at the Info Desk!



AGONY



HAVE FO



GOOD FRIDAY

THE AGONY OF A WOUNDED HEART.

“DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME.”



STANDING UP FOR WHAT HE WAS TO YOU



AGONY



GOOD FRIDAY



Find more photos from Good Friday & Easter on Facebook! www.faccalgary.com/faccalgary