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JULY 2012

Storyline



a letter from **Pastor Scott**



I heard a leader say that our experiences today are the fuel to our stories of tomorrow. True! Every experience can be shaped into a great tale about the power and love of God ... if you are living to make Him famous.

Tara and I are starting our fourth year together with the FAC family. Wow – time is flying by! Our experiences here are making great stories. Here's one quick one ... our first day here, May 19, 2009, we were standing in our driveway in Cranston and it began to snow. I know ... so what? But, remember – we were fresh from Florida; for us, snow in May was outrageous! But there was a deeper meaning to the weather that day for me.

That morning I was reading in 2 Samuel 23 about David and his mighty men. I read about Benaiah chasing a lion into a pit on a snowy day. My heart began to pound as I felt the frozen flakes hit my face. Like others who pursued God ... I too was chasing a lion on a snowy day. God used a bit of snow that day to confirm my calling here!

Our experiences become our stories.

Enjoy this edition of Storyline as we seek to make Jesus famous. Enjoy the summer – and I hope there is no snow! Get ready for the fall as we increase our reach to five services each weekend ... as we extend God's love into Calgary. Let's live to tell the stories ... let's make Jesus famous!

Pastor Scott Weatherford (Lead Pastor)



First Alliance 
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 think it's very cool that we get to participate with some amazing people in other parts of the world as they “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.



Written by Lynn Hookway

awake

As I entered the Good Friday service here at FAC, a vast canvas stretched across the backdrop of the stage. Luke Hunter and Valerie Thompson started bringing to life a mural that would unfold a story over the course of the Easter weekend. We contemplated Jesus' crucifixion through music and celebrated His resurrection with praise and worship, and all the while beautiful artwork transformed the blank canvas as we watched with anticipation.

As the mural unfolded, it was at first somber and dark, eventually adding flashes of white and streaks of colour. Before long, a young woman appeared in the centre, her head tilted back looking towards heaven. This intrigued me and captured my full attention. I thought of her as just becoming born-again. She looks to God with an expression of hope, wonder, and thankfulness and I imagine Him looking lovingly upon her as new life pours out expressed through streams of vibrant colours. Yes, I definitely wanted to see where this story was taking us.

When I saw the mural two days later on Easter Sunday, the imagery of young and old was connected with vines and flowers that intertwined through the scenes. To me, they represented the living vine, Jesus, who moves in and through us no matter where we are in life carrying a message of hope, redemption, and rebirth. In essence, the finished piece perfectly complemented the Easter message.

Luke shared these thoughts about his work: "Awake' is a journey of life, birth, connection, and discovery of creation. Bursts of colour and light in our darkness, finding truth, hope, and revelation." What impression did "Awake" have on you during our Easter weekend? Tweet us your thoughts: @facalgary #awakemural

[Photos by Jessika Hunter & Brad Young]

Only weeks before his 61st birthday, John Cucheron began searching for a church home. "I always considered myself Christian, but I didn't know what it was," Cucheron explained.

Years ago, arthritis pain had begun to settle in and pain and stiffness took over his body. A friend concerned for John's pain mentioned to him, "I'll pray for you." John politely returned the offering – "I'll pray for you, too." However, **that night, he realized that he had no idea where to begin or even how to pray.** He turned to the place where everyone seeks answers these days – Google. I'm sure you won't be surprised to hear that Google (or was it God?) gave him many options for "How to pray for a friend." This began his search for what being a Christian really means.

His next question was "How to worship?" While Google was no help on this topic, luckily his brother, Walter, was. **Walter has been attending FAC for years and cordially invited him to join him on Easter Sunday.**

John instantly felt the warmth of the church, as he was welcomed with a smile and a firm handshake. A picture of "What is Christianity?" slowly began to form, and it felt good – "scary good," he said. **Hearing the story of the resurrection on Easter morning moved him to tears.** John felt the Holy Spirit that day, and gave his life to God.

That night, he opened a Bible, read the Word, went to bed and actually slept. Sleep without aching joints is something that didn't happen often for John, but it happened. Awakening as a new man, with a new life, he felt refreshed, rejuvenated and alive. Now 61 years old, his life has only just begun.

John looks forward to learning more about being a Christian and growing his relationship with God. **"It feels so good to have a church home,"** he says, happy to become involved in all this church family has to offer. [**Written by Sarah McCoy**]



I must confess that my entire repertoire of musical culture is derived from my thousands of blues music CD's, and based on that I think I pretty much had no business covering something as upper-crust as opera. All that to say ... I was apprehensive.

Deep breath and onward through the doors to attend the annual Concert of Hope – this year, a benefit for Compassion Canada's Child Survival Program in Haiti.

Oh no ... evening gowns, ties and tuxedos. Fancy glasses on trays. Me, a wrinkled T-shirt ... I beat it backstage, hoping to mingle with the roadies. The sign above the door said Green Room. "Must be for plants. I should be OK in there."

It was occupied. And boy, was I feeling out of place.

Hello, Michelle Minke. Homegrown Calgarian, founding Artistic Director of the Cowtown Opera Company and the Calgary Song

Symposium, and a rising international star. We sat us down and got to conversing, and before I knew it I was completely at ease; Michelle absolutely emanates good will. We talked about how the Concert of Hope was a wonderful time to encourage others to "do good," a time to discover the music and to support a good cause. She told me her motivation to aspire to excellence in music came from God, her family and community and about how she believed that her art was a purposeful calling. We chatted about the future and how she wanted to someday get married, have a family and children.

A voice of down-home honesty, liberally coated in deep passion for the music that brings her closer to God.

I had to hear me some of this opera.

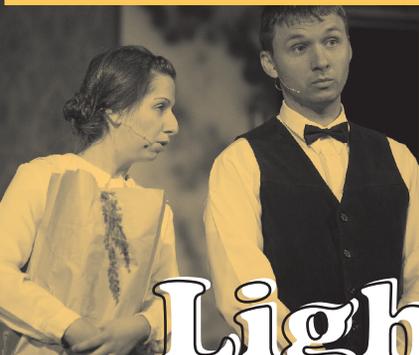
It was sorrowful – but it was better than laughter. It was sad, but it made me feel better. The notes played to the music of my soul. A story about a good man feeling down. It ended all too soon and I left with the buzz of an inner thrill that stoked the innermost recesses of my heart with living hope, warm and tranquil on my soul.

Thank you, Michelle – and all you other wonderful performers for the power-laden therapy and a job well done. I'll be back next year, and I may just even wear a tie.

Written by Darcey Jerrom



A NIGHT OF HOPE



Photos by Jill Hopkins

Lights, Dinner, Action!

Spring Dinner Theatre brings laughs, cultivates community and a chance to give back ...

“God’s Favorite” by Neil Simon “God’s Favorite” by Neil Simon was the comedy production chosen for this year’s annual Spring Dinner Theatre. Directed by Terry Schmidt, who is no stranger to the drama scene, “God’s Favorite” was a rousing success. Taking his cues from the book of Job, Neil Simon wove a “modern day” story about a very wealthy family-man living in the 70’s. With unexpected humor and even some moments of hilarity, the cast did a brilliant job of depicting the trials of Job and his tenacious faith in his Lord.

Terry Schmidt has volunteered in theatre at FAC for about 10 years. She currently acts, writes and directs for the stage at FAC. She has also worked with the junior high students in drama for the last nine years, doing monthly skits and the annual Christmas production (7 years) in DiscoveryLand.

Terry says, **“I liken the process of theatre production to that of building a championship sports team.** It begins as a ragtag bunch of unrelated participants who begin to work with a common purpose toward producing something of excellence ... together. In the midst of that, you build relationships ... when the process becomes difficult or laborious the team becomes tighter, more focussed. The end result is the home run in the ninth inning with the bases loaded.”

But why do dinner theatre as opposed to just theatre? Conversation happens around the table. Food is the great equalizer ... it’s familiar to everyone ... it’s comfortable and **it creates an atmosphere of intimacy where the beginnings of spiritual discussion can occur.** As I mingled amongst the guests on Thursday night, I was pleased to find out that many of them were guests of our own FAC family; Matilda was invited by a friend; she in turn invited two of her work colleagues and one of them brought another to create a fun foursome. Juliya brought two friends she had gone to school with. Elizabeth and

her husband invited two other couples they had met while camping. Over dinner, I met Shannon who does Stretching with Faith here at our church every Saturday morning – it was inspiring to hear her passion to show the healing love of Christ to people by combining physical fitness, exercise, prayer and faith. I met another amazing woman who is courageously writing her life story so that she can encourage and support others who are struggling with the same obstacles she has had to overcome. Conversation and relationship – meaningful “by-products” garnered over a fabulous dinner and compelling theatre.

Dinner Theatre also provides an excellent opportunity to serve. Our volunteer waiters and waitresses did such an excellent job of serving our meal – polite, courteous, cheerful. In chatting with Cheryl, we discovered that she and her Life Group had taken it upon themselves to volunteer for the dinner theatre. Everyone in Cheryl’s group is fairly new to the church and realized that not only was this a wonderful way to contribute to an outreach event, they would get to meet more of the FAC family while doing it.

As always, the Spring Dinner Theatre chose a worthy cause to support. This year, net proceeds from the show will be donated to Wheels for Wells, a bike ride held June 2 supporting World Vision’s Clean Water program (www.wheelsforwells.ca).

Money is raised for a commendable cause, community and camaraderie are built amongst the actors, and a comfortable opportunity is provided to cultivate relationships with friends and family who might not otherwise come to church. Home run! **Written by Helga Lempriere**

 *The word “chesterfield” came into use in Canada in 1903.*

{HELLO, MY NAME IS}



worship arts admin.
SAMANTHA BELL

SL: Tell us about yourself.

SB: Like most Calgarians, I am from somewhere else. Originally from the Okanagan, I have lived in Calgary for 10 years. I have been married to my amazing husband Scott, for 5 years. I have a passion for good food, and I am a triathlon enthusiast. Completing my first event was so satisfying, that I decided to train for an Olympic triathlon this June!

SL: What is your favourite memory?

SB: The moment that Scott and I exchanged vows is my favourite memory. We got married in the atrium in front of the fireplace at FAC. Even though we were in front of 200 guests, we felt like we were all alone in the room, we were so focused on each other. We were so intent on each other the officiating Pastor (our own Grant Sylvester) said “Am I interrupting you two?” Laughter rippled throughout the congregation and added to the sweetness of the moment.

SL: Did you have a favourite teacher?

SB: My grade 3 teacher, Mr. Parker. I was in public school and we had the Ten Commandments up and he read us the Bible every day. He stood up for his faith in a system that left faith out. Looking back, the lesson that I took from that is to be who I am in every setting.

SL: How about a favourite childhood memory?

SB: Every summer, all day long, we played “Rivers.” There was a big pile of dirt in the backyard and we would put the hose on the top and create rivers and float our toys down the rivers.

SL: What is your favourite thing about working at FAC?

SB: I love the variety, creativity, the people and most of all, Who we’re doing it for!

SL: Favourite scripture?

Matthew 6:25-26: “If you decide for God, living a life of God-worship, it follows that you don’t fuss about what’s on the table at mealtimes or whether the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your life than the food you put in your stomach, more

Meet One of Our NEW Team Players @ FAC!

Written by Elizabeth Anderson

to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the birds, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, careless in the care of God. And you count far more to him than birds.” (*The Message*)

SL: What color do you like best?

SB: Antique gold yellow.

SL: Elegant, sophisticated, classic and timeless – just like you, Sam. Thanks for chatting with Storyline!

I Can't Live Without ...

Besides her awesome husband of five years (Scott), here's a few of Samantha's favorite things ...

1. **Good Food** (think local, fresh and drool-worthy)
2. **Biking** (vehicle of choice is a Devinci road bike)
3. **Books** (both fiction & non-fiction)



Hope for Jems

*"Much of why God does what He does and heals when He heals remains cloaked in divine mystery."*ⁱ Thus began an e-mail to FAC's PrayerNet from Jennifer Kletke. It is a significant quote, as it testifies to her acceptance of God's sovereignty over all of our lives, and the hope and trust that lies within His limitless grace and goodness.

Jemma Helena Hope Kletke was born November 9, 2008, the second child of three to Steve and Jennifer. Diagnosed with a large blood clot on the right side of her brain just two days after birth, Jemma has, as her mother wrote, 'already been through more procedures and surgeries than any child should bear.'

On September 7, 2010, Jemma underwent major brain surgery aimed at ending seizures threatening to damage the healthy left side of her brain. It was not successful. As Jennifer and Steve faced the devastating EEG report showing that the seizures had returned, Jenn wrote:

"I am still hopeful but on days like today I really struggle. I know in this world there will be trouble but some days I feel like enough is enough for my sweet Jemma's sake. Yet Jemma is the one who remains so content. It's her Mama that's a basket case and the one questioning God why he would make her blind and handicapped. She doesn't deserve it. What I would give to have her look me in the eye or play tag with her brother or enjoy a simple dinner with us. As much as I dream for a healthy girl, I know God is using my girl to further His kingdom. Jemma has impacted so many including myself. She has increased my faith and stretched my hope and made me focus on what truly matters in life. I'm desperate for her to be healed but realize I may never see that in this world. So, if you don't mind, would you pray for a renewed sense of strength and peace for us?"

Jennifer turned to God, recruiting more prayer and seeking wisdom. She continued:

"My very wise Mama encouraged me to go home and do something for myself, so I did and what I read was exactly what I needed to hear:

"Keep your eyes on Me! Waves of adversity are washing over you, and you feel tempted to give up. As your circumstances consume more and more of your attention, you are losing sight of Me. Yet ... I am fully aware of your situation, and I will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able to bear.

*Your gravest danger is worrying about tomorrow. If you try to carry tomorrow's burdens today, you will stagger under the load and eventually fall flat. You must discipline yourself to live within the boundaries of today. It is in the present moment that I will walk close to you, helping you carry your burdens. Keep your focus on My Presence in the present."*ⁱⁱ

... Please pray that we will live for the day and not dwell on tomorrow's stresses and what those days could bring."

Despite the severity of 'little Jem's' condition, Jenn and Steve choose to live in hope, relentlessly researching and pursuing cutting edge treatments and therapies with doctors all over the world. In the past year, Jemma has travelled to Toronto, Montreal, and Chile to undergo specialized physical therapy intended to increase mobility for disabled children by re-wiring the brain through repetitive exercises. Initially not expected to ever be able to even lift her head, Jemma has now taken her first assisted steps! In March of this year, Jennifer and Steve took Jemma to Georgia to try out a new therapy intended to stimulate the cerebellum that controls sight. Jemma once again astounded doctors and family by responding positively to the stimuli. As Jennifer reported:

"By the end of Monday, not even a full day here, Jemma's eyes dilated. A true miracle ... that means the light she's seeing is being processed ... On Wednesday, they put these goggles on Jemma's eyes so they could record her activity on the computer and put a screen in front of her of green dots moving up. Jemma's eyes tracked the dots!! Every day since Monday it's become better and better. Now, it's not like we are coming home and Jemma can see - but she's not totally in the dark, and that in itself is a miracle in our eyes ... We still believe Jemma's eyes will need a miracle to be totally healed but we will continue to walk by faith and not by sight."

The emotional heartbreak and physical toll of managing Jemma's day to day struggles and the concerns for her future are overshadowed by the sheer blessing she is to all who know her. Jennifer confesses that she has gained a new perspective from her three year old, that she has learned the meaning of contentment - and it is love, pure and simple. She states, 'I have a purpose. I know God is with me and He has a plan.'

As this family moves forward in that assurance, they have learned to take on the challenge of each day, leaning on the strength and peace of a loving God, and delighting in the miracle and blessing of Jemma. For more information and photos, please visit Jemma's website: www.hopeforjems.com. | *Written by Jill Hopkins*

ⁱJoni Eareckson Tada, *A Place of Healing: Wrestling With the Mysteries of Suffering, Pain, and God's Sovereignty* (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2010) 19

ⁱⁱSarah Young, *Jesus Calling* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004) 60



sunday nights @ fac

After almost three years as Director of Worship Arts at Saanich Baptist Church in Victoria, B.C., Caleb Delamont is returning July 1 with his wife Lyndsey to take the artistic lead as the worship pastor overseeing the new Sunday night service starting in the fall...

FAC has experienced considerable growth in recent years – so much so that there is need for an expansion of this already incredible building and the addition of two new services beginning this fall. FAC is blessed to have been uniquely positioned to reach a broad range of people. The leadership firmly believes God has birthed a desire to expand the scope of those whom we have opportunity to reach. That desire is the birthplace of the new Sunday night service – the realization that there is “a gap in the ethos of those to whom we currently have an opportunity to present the gospel” (Pastor Scott).

The intent of this service is twofold. The first is to **attract and embrace those who FAC is not currently reaching by intentionally extending the arm of the church into pop culture** through citywide marketing and through speaking a language synced to this missing facet of our culture. That language, according to Pastor Scott, is a “vibe”; in other words “a more raw energy, and a more casual and informal feel.” The goal is to create an environment that is “more engaging with a culture who have no clue who God is and what He’s about.”

One thing was very clear from everyone involved in the creation of this service – it is not targeting a specific demographic. “We are the fellowship of the broken” (Pastor Scott), and hurting is cross-cultural and cross-generational. The target is to reach those not currently being reached by generating an atmosphere in which hurting people can encounter the God of grace through a vibe that resonates with them. The current services are doing an excellent job of connecting with many Calgarians; reaching an even broader target culture may be as simple as creating an environment where the vibe is more “raw” or eclectic. According to Pastor Scott and Pastor Brad, **this service is by no means replacing or diminishing the role of the**

existing weekend services, but essentially creating a complimentary culture in our church.

The second intent of this service is to create a way for those who currently attend FAC to get involved in building something from the ground up. **“You can look at it like a church plant,”** said Pastor Brad, “and one positive of a church plant is that you can create a culture.” Through a number of collaborative volunteer teams (which will promote the development and use of God given gifts, talents, and passions), that is exactly what leadership hopes to accomplish. In line with this goal, Pastor Scott indicated that he is “going to lean into some of our younger leaders and start mentoring them through the process of how to lead this,” and that while the pastor delivering the message may change, the standard of teaching Jesus’ truths will be maintained.

Given the aforementioned intentions of this service, Caleb Delamont’s return to the FAC family is a welcome one. His passion for ministry is to bring the lost into an encounter with Jesus and to build up the younger generations to utilize their passions and gifts. In his words, **“I’m not interested in building a Christian club. I’m interested in creating a culture of those who have a hunger for transformation and to see God move, and to empower and equip believers to become missionaries.”** Caleb’s discipleship mindset began in his childhood in Germany where he and his family were missionaries. That mindset has done nothing but intensify over his years in ministry. As he was relating the story in Mark 2 about the men lowering their friend through the roof of the house so he could encounter Jesus, Caleb went on to say, “This is our mission field, those around us, that’s who we’re after, to bring them into the presence of the Lord.” And just as in



the story in Mark, we let the Lord do the work of healing the broken.

For those of you who don't remember him, Caleb spent a good portion of his young adult life at FAC. He got his start leading worship with the youth – back when Oxygen was called www.com. In 2005 he joined staff at

FAC as Worship Pastor and after almost three years as Director of Worship Arts at Saanich Baptist Church in Victoria, BC he returns on July 1st, with his wife Lyndsey, to take the artistic lead as Worship Pastor overseeing the new Sunday night service. Caleb will be working closely with Celeste Aviles and Ryan Gartner, who share the passion to see those who don't know Jesus fully encounter Him. They intend to achieve this by **combining Jesus' truths with a more raw approach to worship**, creating an atmosphere of free, open, intense and intimate adoration where people can enter into an encounter. According to those involved in the planning process over the last year and half, one advantage they will have in accomplishing this is the removal of the typical time constraints of the other services, creating liberty to move and respond to the heart of the Lord.

Caleb's time in Victoria has also allowed him the time and space to try new ideas using the principles of **1 Corinthians 14**, in which Paul talks about the order of worship and the use of the gifts as a means of encouraging and building up the body. To that end the volunteer teams mentioned will aim to accomplish this. Because there will be less staff involvement in this service than in the others, there will be many positions within the teams needing to be filled. They will be looking for those with artistic gifts to express and create, those with the gifts of service to serve as hosts and greeters, those with prophetic gifts to

minister, those with gifts of intercession to pray, and for leaders and teachers to lead and teach. **The belief is that equipping and empowering believers to walk in the gifts and talents God has given them will create a movement of intentional disciples** more fully engaged in walking out the callings on their lives. Thus creating a culture where people feel less like they are in church and more like they are in the presence of Jesus through His people.

Over the summer, Caleb and the launch team will be holding a number of meetings to cast vision. Interested in getting involved? Send an email to:

Caleb Delamont (calebdelamont@gmail.com)

Brad Young (byoung@facalgary.com)

Written by Heather Holt

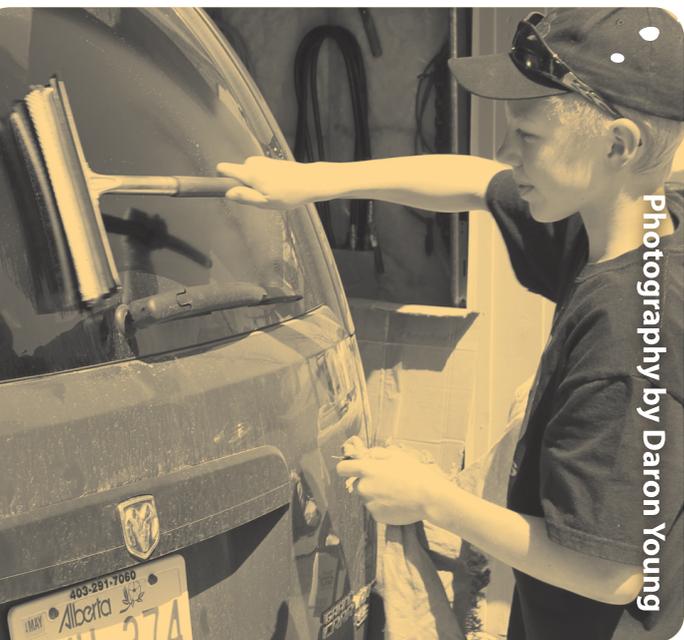


ryan gartner [musician]

Have you noticed Ryan Gartner when he is singing or playing electric guitar on the weekends at FAC? He's the guy who really looks like a "rocker" with lots of tattoos and a nose piercing. When he's on stage, you really know his worship truly "makes God famous". Three years ago, his life looked a lot different. He was playing in clubs into the late hours of the night, with drugs and alcohol a routine part of his partying. Living the life of a rock star slowly began to take a toll though, and suddenly Ryan was faced with two overwhelming roles: husband and father – his new bride discovered she was pregnant.

One sleepless night, anxiety set in. This night would be the first of hundreds of panic attacks Ryan would face for the next couple of years, and it spiraled into depression. "Looking back, I believe the panic attacks were a wake-up call from God," Ryan comments. In a pivotal moment, he recalls being so frustrated with God that he prayed, "Just crush me! Or let me go!"

Concerned for her son, Ryan's mom invited him to FAC one Sunday. Pastor Scott was teaching on the topic of surrender. Ryan felt God speaking directly to him as he walked to the front at the end of the service, fell to his knees, and did just that – surrendered. The series of events that led him to that pivotal moment are not just a part of his past; they are pieces of who God is molding him to be, now, for Him. Ryan is excited to be a part of the creative team for the new Sunday night service, and to use his musical gifts for God's glory. If you're itching to learn more and hear some of Ryan Gartner's music, check out his website: **www.ryangartner.com**.



Photography by Daron Young



FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS, volunteers from First Alliance Church have helped families and single moms by providing free car care during **Oil Change Days** twice a year. This past spring, Oil Change Day volunteers served a record forty-four families in one day, marking their biggest event to date.

For Oil Change Day organizer Dale Sevcik, the free auto service is a labor of love. “When I was 15 years old, I purchased my first car with cash and there was a fellow in the church who would help single moms or families in need out of his garage,” Dale said. “He eventually passed away and there was no one to take his place, so I called his wife and told her that I was going to continue the work and not quit, because our Savior Jesus didn’t quit.”

Thirty-five volunteers worked to provide oil changes and a number of other services to those who registered their vehicle for the event.

According to Dale, if these families had to take their vehicle into a local mechanic for all the different services that were provided through the ministry, it would set them back nearly \$300, but thanks to sponsors and volunteers, all services were provided completely free. Sponsors for the day included ABC Restaurant, Auto Value, Castrol Oil, Integron, Mr. Detail and Polar Mobility.

Dale firmly believes that in order for each Oil Change Day to be a success, God has to be in complete control. **“The Lord always provides everything we need, from the volunteers, to people bringing food, to sponsors that are willing to provide all of our supplies for us,”** Dale said. “People were just in awe of how it all panned out. We prayed that God would bless us through the volunteers and the people we worked for and thankfully no one was injured and we were able to serve a record number of families.”

One of the people served was Kristie, who has experienced a turbulent year that has stretched her financial stability. For her, Oil Change Day was a true blessing. “It was so nice to sit outside and watch all these wonderful people help me out; it made me so happy,” Kristie commented. “And the way they did everything! Wow, it was so impressive - they didn’t just change my oil, they cleaned my car, put a license plate holder on it, washed my windows, and gave me a bottle of windshield washer fluid. I was floored.”

In addition to all the volunteers serving with the vehicles, another group of volunteers serves inside Dale’s house, providing food and conversation for those waiting for their cars to be finished. Dale’s wife, Barb, heads up the operations inside the home. “Our volunteers inside the house are very important because they allow us to welcome those who are unfamiliar with us into our home to sit, relax and socialize with others like them who are in need of the service,” Barb explains. “Most are very grateful to come in and have something to drink and eat, especially if they are scheduled around the lunch hour.”

All of the volunteers’ planning and hard work on the day of the event can be seen by Kristie’s reflections after having her car worked on. “Oil Change Day is such a great service and it comes from so many great people who love God and are serving him by helping other people. For so many years, I felt so alone and was so depressed ... I thought my life was over,” Kristie openly confessed. “But all of the things that happened to me in the past year have led me back to my old life, my old self and God was a big part of my life before I was married and I am so happy that I am able to return to that.”

Find out how you can get involved in the next Oil Change Day; visit www.facalgary.com and look under **SHARE > COMMUNITY IMPACT**.

Written by Emily Robertson
A LITTLE ELBOW GREASE GOES A LONG WAY

No Reserves, No Retreats and No Regrets

While flipping channels one Saturday evening, I randomly landed upon a biographical movie depicting one Sam Childers, also known as the Machine Gun Preacher. This former Class-A sinner finds God and thereafter, finds himself drawn to build an orphanage in South Sudan. He earns the Machine Gun Preacher namesake due to his extra righteous indignation, which is aimed quite literally at the armies of Joseph Kony.

The trouble with biopics is that a certain amount of fabrication is expected as events get condensed and altered to fit the storyline – and quite often, those events are portrayed more dramatically than the way they occurred. While “Machine Gun Preacher” had great adventure and heart-breaking moments of Reader’s Digest happy-sad, the truth is that there was much more dramatic embellishment than fact. Granted, this is not to say that there was no inspiration to be found; just that there are plenty of real life heroes of our faith to take our influences from.

It has been almost 100 years since the passing of William Whiting Borden, one of history’s famous missionaries. What makes him unique is that in spite of being born the heir to a multi-million dollar fortune, he left his millions to follow his true passion – serving God.

Between high school and college he spent a year traveling around the world. As he ventured through Asia, the Middle East and Europe, he wrote home, telling his mother that God was calling him to be a missionary. William’s father however, was adamant that he attend university and so upon his return, William enrolled at Yale. There, he started campus prayer and Bible study groups that grew to include 1,000 students.



BORDEN WITH YALE CLASSMATES (ABOVE)



His father passed away while William was at Yale. During his final years at college, he used a portion of his family fortune to found the Yale Hope Mission, where he changed hundreds of lives through reaching out to the poor and others in need.

In time, he found himself drawn to minister to Muslim groups in China. Prior to embarking on that journey, he moved to Cairo in early 1913 to study Arabic as well as Muslim literature.

His dream of going to China was cut short when he contracted spinal meningitis and passed away one month later on April 9, 1913 at the age of twenty five.

William’s legacy extended beyond his life; upon his death, he left millions to Christian missions, in order to carry on with the people he had hoped to serve.

Though William Borden was born into a life of great earthly inheritance, he lived and died for the incomparable excellencies of an eternal inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.

In his Bible, which was found after his death, it is said he had written ‘No Reserve’ during the period when he had stepped away from his fortunes to be a missionary. He later wrote ‘No Retreat’ when diagnosed with spinal meningitis. Finally, just shortly before his death, he added the words ‘No Regrets’.

The story of William Borden is a far cry from the dramatics of the Machine Gun triumphs of Sam Childers. But it should be noted that Borden continues to inspire selfless service in God’s name today. The echoes of his achievements are real, they are obtainable and for many modern heroes serving today, they are a source of vision.

Written by Darcey Jerrom



"Oh Canada, our home and native land!"

True patriot love...! Admit it, you just sang the next part. And now you can't get it out of your head. You're welcome. 'With glowing hearts...! And now it's stuck in my head, too.

Besides our super catchy anthem, what else makes us Canucks blush with pride? When discussing the greatness of our nation, we naturally gravitate towards key words like democracy, freedom, diversity, GST. Hmm ... maybe scratch that last one. But let's be honest, our true national anthem goes something like this: 'Dum da dum da dum,

Dum da dum da dum ...!
Since you can't hear me, I'll give you a hint; it's the theme from 'Hockey Night in Canada' (I guess that's really more of an answer than a hint). Okay, go back, do you hear it now? Great, now that's lodged in your brain on loop for the next 30 minutes. Do we care that we're going on 20 years since a Canadian team hoisted the coveted cup? No, we just say what we always say when the finals roll around: 'Most of the players are from Canada anyway.'

The pride doesn't stop at hockey; we export some of the world's greatest natural resources. For example: Alberta Beef, crude oil, BC lumber, maple syrup, honey, Justin Bieber, and the list goes on. How excited do we get when we find out someone's Canadian? 'Did you know they're from Canada?' I believe that's a direct quote from the Canadian oath of citizenship.

But, enough about hockey and celebrity, it's time to discuss what really matters. What really makes Canada the best place to live? Well, to start with, Canadians consume more macaroni and cheese than any other nation on Earth. We put gravy and cheese curds on our French fries. We hold the record for the most doughnut shops per capita. And, we have Smarties® - now that's genius.

The beaver was declared a Canadian symbol in 1975. 

There's more - Canadians have been true pioneers when it comes to inventing. In 1926 Dr. Archibald G. Huntsman invented frozen fish. Invented or accidentally left fish outside in January? Anyway, he's claiming it, I guess. How about the zipper? Where would all those people who suffer from ATD (All Thumbs Disease) be without the zipper? And let's not forget about Standard Time; before that, people measured time in freckles. You know, 'half past a hair and a freckle'... Maybe that was just my mom.

Canada is also home to some of the most picturesque, magnificent, glorious, breathtaking vistas on Earth such as West Edmonton Mall, the CN Tower, and Confederation Bridge. Trailing not too far behind are the Rocky Mountains, Niagara Falls, and Green Gables. With our enormous landscape we're fortunate to provide a home to roughly 55,000 species of insects. Do you ever feel *Deep Woods Off* just doesn't go deep enough? Now you know why.

Beyond the accomplishments and beyond the beauty that makes Canada remarkable, the one thing that I feel truly puts Canada over the top is her people. We are known for being polite! In fact we are mocked because of it. I love it. We are made fun of for saying 'please' and 'thank you'. It's so absurd - yet fantastic - that we as a nation are known for our manners. Our skyscraper might not be the tallest anymore, our mall may no longer be the biggest, but nobody apologizes like a Canadian. Sorry if I've offended anyone.

No other place on Earth compares to the splendour of Canada, but if you still remain unconvinced may I suggest one last thing? Drive, walk, ride your bike, whatever your mode of transportation, go to the bank and ask to see the new fifty dollar bill. We have the coolest looking currency on the planet. And, we're phasing out the penny! It's *aboot* time. If that isn't reason to 'stand on guard for thee,' I don't know what is. That song is still stuck in my head. 

Melissa Abusow performed as "Rose Benjamin" in our Spring Dinner Theatre and is one of our writers on our Storyline team.

<http://www.canadiangeographic.ca/kids/fun-facts/default.asp> | <http://www.weirdfacts.com/world-facts/111-country/3226-canada-facts.html> | <http://www.strange-facts.info/interesting-facts-about-canada>





Women 2 Women HOME & GARDEN EXPO

See more photos! "Like" us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/faccalgary

A Baby Story

Have you ever found yourself on a path that didn't exactly fit your plans? Mike and Mydene Cuevas have.

They are experiencing a journey of joy, confusion, fear, and ultimately trust as God leads them along an exciting but tumultuous new path.

On Valentine's Day, God lavished love on these high school sweethearts in the form of a positive pregnancy test. Married for eight years, the Cuevas' were living life to the fullest – and busiest. Mydene was months away from graduating law school and Mike was in his third year of an MBA. Both were eager to begin their careers and plan for a family. Mydene says, "We had gotten to a comfortable place in life; then God changed the plans."

The elation and shock they were feeling at this news was replaced with fear and confusion when a radiologist informed them there was in fact no sign of a viable baby and the pregnancy would terminate.

Mike and Mydene knew in their hearts that God would provide, that they could embrace God's love and rely on Him.

After a service about healing, the couple approached Pastor Craig for prayer and support. What Craig prayed for shocked them; he asked God to bless the health of their baby. Stunned, Mike and Mydene walked away thinking, "But there is no baby." God gave exactly the right words to Craig, words that would come to reassure Mike and Mydene. On the drive home that evening, the Northern Lights shone gloriously, a gift from God, His voice letting them know He had this baby lovingly protected.

Further encouragement came in the weeks to follow as blood tests showed Mydene's pregnancy hormone levels increasing. She also began to experience obvious signs of morning sickness. Within two weeks, the same radiologist was able to concretely say, through his own shock, that there was in fact a growing and healthy baby! **How amazing our God is.**

Life is now full of anticipation and newfound joy as the Cuevas' embrace the miracle. They know that nothing is certain, but they do know that God has their growing family wrapped in His loving and protective arms. Mike and Mydene pray that others going through difficult times are not afraid to reach out to people for support and prayer. By reaching out, this Godly couple received the reassurance they needed that God had everything under control. | **Written by Janeen Robertson**



'...your eyes saw my unformed body.'

Psalm 139:16a

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Connect

Men | Women | Singles | Seniors

Life Connection Desk

Stop by this kiosk located on Main Street here at FAC after any weekend service and someone will be there who would love to meet you and help you get connected in a Life Group – a small group of people that meet regularly to pray, study the Bible and just “do life” together!

Marriage

Preparation & Enrichment

Preparation for Marriage October 5-6, 2012

This 2-day workshop for engaged couples offers a fun “date night” atmosphere as you participate in practical talks. Cost: \$115/ couple (includes meals & coffee breaks). To register, contact Sharon Teichroeb steichroeb@faccalgary.com/403-212-8847.

Dynamic Marriage Course Mondays, 7-9:30 pm Register by September 24

Are you ready for your marriage to go from good to great? This 8-week interactive course will build trust and openness and recapture the passion and excitement of falling in love again. Cost: \$200/couple; pre-session on October 1 (course runs Oct. 15-Dec. 3). Register with Sharon Teichroeb steichroeb@faccalgary.com/403-212-8847.

Serve

Opportunities to Volunteer

DiscoveryLand SummerServe July-August

Help “fill in the gaps” in our infants-Kindergarten classes this summer! Can you be a SUPER Summer Server and commit to volunteer during 1 service/wk 4-10 times in July-August? Contact Crystal Sylvester csylvester@faccalgary.com/403-258-8289.

Share

Global Impact | Ethnic Ministries

Short Term Mission Trips Summer 2012

For a full listing of upcoming mission trips this summer, go online and look under SHARE > GLOBAL IMPACT or contact Craig globalimpact@faccalgary.com/403-258-7247.

Info Night with Portells

Craig & Sarah Portell (Lang) invite you to come and learn about their involvement with the Nova Lingua English School in Ulgii, Mongolia on Sunday, August 12, 7-9 pm in the Prayer Centre.

“Perspectives” Course Fall 2012 @ FAC

Gain a true perspective on the world Christian movement during this 3-weekend course offered this fall @ FAC. For more info, email globalimpact@faccalgary.com.

Nicaragua Mission Trip 2013

A team of 24 will be returning to Nicaragua in late February-early March in 2013 to continue construction, run an eyeglass clinic and share the gospel. To find out more, contact Marinus Hus mghus@shaw.ca/403-278-9499.

Grow

Classes & Courses @ FAC

Summer Prayer Gathering August 22

Come for an evening focussed on personal and group prayer as we gear up for fall 2012!

Preparing for Baptism July 11, 6:30 pm

Come to this info session in Harvest Room A if you'd like to be baptized July 14/15! Register online, or contact Janet Loewen jloewen@faccalgary.com/403-252-7572.

Precept Bible Study Begins September 12, 2012

Join Elaine Pusch for this in-depth Bible study course. Each week includes 90 min. of home study with group discussion on Wednesdays in the Action Centre (12:30 pm or 6:45 pm). For study topic and cost, contact Elaine: epusch@gmail.com/403-931-3968.

Support & Recovery

Being There for Each Other

DivorceCare / DC4K Begins September 12, 2012

A safe place for anyone separated or divorced; includes weekly video lessons. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm in Room 247. (\$5 registration + cost of workbook.) DC4K helps children (5-12 yrs.) recover from the hurt of divorce, running alongside the adult class (\$20 per child, or \$50 per family). For more info, contact Janet Loewen jloewen@faccalgary.com/403-252-7572.

Grief Support

Begins August 29, 2012

This support group offers tools and resources as you grieve the death of a loved one, Wednesdays, 7-9 pm in Harvest B (no cost). Contact Janet Loewen jloewen@faccalgary.com/403-252-7572.

Special Events

Canada Day Tailgate Party July 1, 3-6 pm @ FAC

Instead of a Stampede Breakfast, this July we're celebrating Canada Day – tailgate style! Mark your calendar for another church-wide outdoor event in our parking lot! This is a FREE community event, so invite a friend!

5th Annual Show 'N Shine July 21, 10 am-3 pm @ FAC

Do you like cars? We sure do! We like huge community events even more, so don't miss this amazing car show including a BBQ lunch, door prizes, burnout competition, face painting, People's Choice Awards and so much more. Visit www.show-n-shine.ca.

DiscoveryLand

Infants | PreSchool | Gr. 1-4

Grade School Summer Blast July 21/22 & August 18/19

Hey, Grades 1-4! Come have a blast and stay connected with your DiscoveryLand friends during these summer weekend services! (Remember to sign in at the Admin Desk upstairs). Contact Colleen Hoare choare@faccalgary.com/403-258-8285.

“Oh Canada” officially became Canada's national anthem in 1980.

Students

Jr. High | Sr. High | Young Adults

Kart World

July 12, 2-4 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Drop-off and pick-up at Kart World (5202 - 1st Street NW) Cost: \$20. Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

"Float the Bow"

July 19, 12-5 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Drop-off and pick-up at FAC (South Ent.), cost: \$20. Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

Worship Night

July 26, 7-9 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Come for a night of summer worship in the Gym. No cost. Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

Sikome Lake

August 2, 2-5 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Drop-off & pick-up at Sikome Lake (15979 Bow Bottom Trail SE) Cost: \$2. Contact svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

Wild Rapids @ Sylvan Lake

Aug. 9, 10 am-8 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Drop-off and pick-up @ FAC; register by July 27. Cost: \$30 (plus money for food). Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

Worship Service & Games

August 16, 7-9 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Gym @ FAC; no cost. Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

Drive-In Movie Night

August 23, 7-10 pm (Gr. 7-12)

Play some fun games and catch a fun flick all @ FAC! Cost: \$5. Contact Sara Vanderveen svanderveen@facalgary.com/403-212-8849.

The Source (Young Adults)

"Wednesdays in the Park"

Join us every Wednesday, 7 pm at North Glenmore Park (Snowy Owl Picnic Site, Parking Lot J) from June 20-August 29!

CommunityLink

A Little Bit of Everything

Badlands Passion Play

July 13-22, Drumheller, AB

Experience the greatest story ever told in a breathtaking outside amphitheatre! Call -888-823-2001 or www.canadianpassionplay.com.

Need a Helping Hand?

Tool Team offers practical help for anyone with financial/physical challenges, including appliance & household repairs, basement/garage clean-up, snow removal & more. Contact Dave Bruce toolteam@facalgary.com/403-256-1995 or drop off a request in the "help" box in the Action Centre.

RIDE 2012 (July 22-28)

Support this nation-wide bike /motorcycle ride this summer in support of C&MA inner-city church planting. Sponsor Pastor Grant Weber and 40 others who are riding from Calgary, AB to Kelowna, BC July 22-28! Pledge, pray or ride – there are many ways to support this cause; go online: www.ride2012.ca.

CAMP CHAMISALL

Various Staff Still Needed
Sign up to serve online:
www.campchamisall.com



Please Pray for this Summer:

Wk 1 (Elementary) July 3-9
Wk 2 (Elementary) July 10-16
Wk 3 (Jr. High) July 17-23
Wk 4 (Jr. High) July 24-30
Wk 5 (Jr. High) July 31-Aug. 6
Wk 6 (Elementary) Aug. 7-13
Wk 7 (Jr. High) Aug. 14-20
Wk 8 (Sr. High) Aug. 21-27

IN LOVING MEMORY

Condolences - to friends & family of Kara Parent who passed away unexpectedly on June 3. A funeral was held at the church on June 8 in the Sanctuary.

Sympathies - to Susan Weir whose mother, Marg Weir, passed away in Guelph, ON after a long illness.

Funeral Information Line

Find out details about upcoming memorial services here at FAC; call anytime: 403-258-4362.

CHILD DEDICATIONS

We celebrate with the following family who dedicated their child to the Lord in the month of June:

Kaetlyn Eliah Wutzke (Oct. 3/11)
Daughter of Jason & Darla Wutzke

Child Dedication Service

If you're interested in dedicating your child(ren) to the Lord, pick up a brochure available at the Info Desk or contact Sharon Teichroeb steichroeb@facalgary.com/403-212-8847.

NEW MEMBERS

Membership Matters and is an important step of deepening your commitment to your church family! For more info, please contact Heather Brown hbrown@facalgary.com /403-212-8854.

ANNIVERSARIES

Congratulations - to Eugene & Bertie McCrackin, who are celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on July 11!

Check out more photos of what's happening @ FAC! "LIKE" us online: www.facebook.com/faccalgary

Join the Storyline Team! Contact Andrea Zacharias: azacharias@faccalgary.com/403-258-4353



serve day 2012



On June 9, over 150 people from FAC built new relationships in the community, offering landscaping, painting, cooking and repair services at various organizations in Calgary. "You guys can't believe what a difference your serving makes," said staff at the Ogdan Community Centre. Serve sites included Ogdan Community Resources Centre, Sherwood/Banting & Best School, Servants Anonymous Safe House, Fish Creek Park, Teen Challenge, Sonshine Community Services and more. Find out how you can plug in and make a difference year round; contact Pastor Grant Weber gweber@faccalgary.com/403-212-8842.

