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● SPRING/SUMMER 2015

# Storyline

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# just a few thoughts from Pastor James



## It's hard to believe it's really happening;

we are moving from Amsterdam to Calgary! That certainly means we have a lot to do but it also gives the opportunity for some personal reflection. We are both very grateful for the time God gave us in Europe ... to serve alongside a great team in a complex situation, to discover fresh approaches to ministry, and to share in wonderful stories of grace and life change. In so many ways it feels as though God has been preparing us for this move even when we didn't realize it.

This summer our *Reflections* teaching series will invite you to reflect on your journey with God. Parts of that journey might be exciting and filled with gratitude. Some of it might be painful and leave you with questions. As we read the Psalms together we're going to learn how to express these feelings to God and how to discover His presence and work in our lives when we least expect it.

Gillian and I are praying for all of you and anticipating great things as we begin this new chapter of our adventure together.

*James Paton, Lead Pastor*

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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.”

### We Value ...

**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.





5 children  
+ 14 students  
+ 12 adults =

31 BAPTIZED

on May 23/24, 2015!



BAPTISMS @ FAC



WANT TO SEE MORE BAPTISM PHOTOS ?

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# EASTER IN DISCOVERYLAND

Written by Helga Lempriere

**CHILLY. BLUSTERY. SNOWING.** The weather this year during Easter was certainly not what we would have ordered. However, ask any DiscoveryLand worker about Easter and their eyes will light up and their faces break into a huge grin. Why?

It was Salvation Weekend in DiscoveryLand where the message of Jesus Christ, His life, death and resurrection was the focal point.

It was a very exciting time! To quote a parent of one of the DiscoveryLand children, "I remember my son coming back from Preschool during the Easter week and telling me all about Easter and how the Easter bunny hides Easter eggs. Praise God ... by the time he came out of DiscoveryLand on Easter Sunday he was telling me a different story without asking. He told me about how Jesus died on the cross for us all. And he said, 'That's what Easter is all about.' That did put a big smile on my face for sure." •

**96** children asked Jesus to be their "Forever Friend" for the very first time over Easter weekend – 62 of them were in Preschool!

Why don't you take a moment to thank God for each of these precious lives, asking Him to continue His incredible work in each one?

Adison  
Joshua  
Adora  
Angel  
Hudson  
Tanner  
Nicole  
Samara  
Gavin  
Ruari  
Alvarez  
Lucas  
Vasti  
Daniela  
Jesse  
Adelaide  
Matthew  
Ane  
Emily

Cassandra  
Dominik  
Lizelle  
Benjamin  
Cassidy  
Ryder  
Warren  
Rogan  
Tyler  
Avery  
Avery  
Lawrence  
Taliah  
Clare  
Leah  
Warner  
Soleil  
Anika  
Christina

Logan  
Jelina  
Lucas  
Ava  
Christian  
Josiah  
Hazel  
Alexander  
Arwenn  
Jada  
Feyi  
Elin  
Zachary  
Abigale  
Kelvin  
Christina  
Marshelina  
Matthew  
Logan

Breanna  
Emma  
Rylie  
Daniel  
Caileigh  
Daena  
Sadie  
Rebekah  
Brody  
Leah  
Lane  
Nolan  
Lalyla  
Wyatt  
Brooklyn  
Benjamin  
Aziella  
Sophia  
Ava

Katrianna  
Alexandra  
Jasmine  
Jackson  
Carsyn  
William  
Noah  
Simon  
Kaleya  
Felicity  
Matthea  
Amara  
Genavieve  
Milo  
Kingston  
Emma  
Kaylyn  
Troy  
Adeline



Image Source: <http://www.surehatch.co.za/Products/Egg-Incubators-Surehatch-SH18000.htm>

"HE WHO BEGAN A GOOD WORK IN YOU IS FAITHFUL TO COMPLETE IT!" (PHILIPPIANS 1:6) AMEN.





# 10

# Fun Free Things to Do This Summer

Right now everyone is looking forward to soaking up some rays and relaxing during summer holidays but if you find the days getting long, check out these proven ideas for a diversion during the dog days of summer that will cost you absolutely nothing.

by Joyce Rempel



## 1. Have a Ball At the Beach

Enjoy real sand between your toes and a refreshing dip in Sikome Aquatic Facility (commonly known as Sikome Lake). Open June 14 - September 1 from 10:00 am - 7:30 pm daily. Access via Bow Bottom Trail S.E. or Sun Valley Boulevard S.E. and follow the signs.



## 2. Reader Rock Garden Historic Park

Visit one of Calgary's most unique cultural landscapes featuring beautiful flowers, the restored 1912 Reader house, rock pathways, bridges, benches and a café. Located at 325 25 Avenue S.E., open sunrise to sunset.



## 3. Cemetery Tours

Take a guided walk back through time through Calgary's historic St Mary's Cemetery, Union Cemetery and Burnsland Cemetery. Learn fascinating stories about the people, personalities and events that helped shape Calgary. For schedules and details, visit [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) and search "Cemetery Tours."



## 4. Inglewood Bird Sanctuary & Nature Centre

A 36-hectare (88-acre) wildlife reserve next to the Bow River. Over 270 species of birds have been seen here. Although most paths are closed due to damage from the 2013 flood, free one-hour guided walks still run June 27 - September 6. Space is limited, so please pre-register for these walks. Go to [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) and search "Inglewood Bird Sanctuary."



## 5. Bike, Roller Blade or Walk

Calgary's pathways, boasting more than 500 kilometres of paved pathways for cyclists and pedestrians, are the most extensive in North America. Scenic destinations only reached by the pathways include the top of Nose Hill (great views), and much of the shoreline of the Bow River, Elbow River, and Glenmore Lake. Bicycle rentals available from University of Calgary Outdoor Centre.



## 6. Library Connect

Borrow a book, use the computer or attend age-specific programs and events – all free, including your no-fee library card. The Calgary Public Library offers programs for almost everything and every age. Pick up a printed copy of the current Program Guide at your local library, download a PDF version or search online by date, audience, location and/or program type at [www.calgarylibrary.ca](http://www.calgarylibrary.ca).



## 7. Spruce Meadows

The Spruce Meadows grounds, gardens, and stables are open to the public for free 365 days a year. They host the best show jumping athletes and horses from throughout the world. Enjoy shopping, pony rides, face painting, wagon rides, and the family favourite RE/MAX Prairie Dogs. Many events and competitions are free. Check the schedule at [www.sprucemeadows.com](http://www.sprucemeadows.com).



## 8. Tour the Downtown Public Art Circuit

Free tour with a guide (5 pm the first Thursday of every month) or by printing a self-guided tour brochure. Audio tour available through your cell phone, iPod, or iPhone. Visit [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) and search "Downtown Public Art Circuit tour."



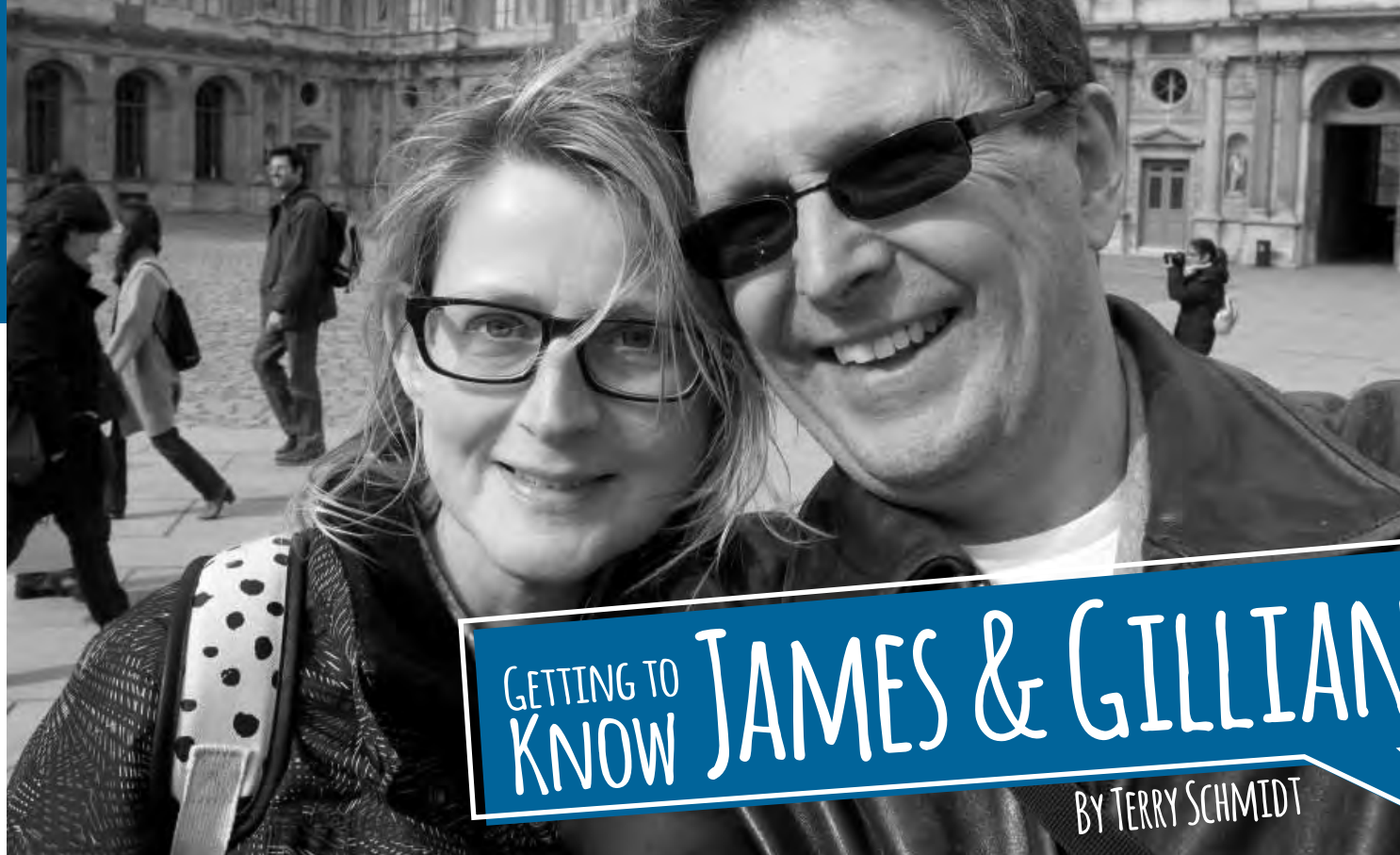
## 9. "Horde at the Hive" – A Viking Village Replica & Battle Reenactments

See how the Vikings were armed and armoured. Demonstrations and re-enactments at 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm each day include hand to hand combat with swords, spears, knives and shields. Following the battles, your young warrior can use pool noodles and take on the Viking warriors! Saturday, June 27 and Sunday, June 28 at the Chinook Honey Company, Okotoks. See [www.chinookhoney.com](http://www.chinookhoney.com) for map and directions.



## 10. Calgary Stampede

The Stampede parade is free to view downtown Friday, July 3. Free admission to the grounds for anyone on Sunday, July 5, between 6-9 AM. Free all day admission Tuesday, July 7, for 65 and older. Free admission Wednesday, July 8, for 12 and under and accompanying adults between 7-9 AM. Midway ride prices apply but many events within the park are absolutely free. Plan your visit at [www.calgarystampede.com](http://www.calgarystampede.com).



## GETTING TO KNOW JAMES & GILLIAN

BY TERRY SCHMIDT

**Everyone at FAC is excited to 'meet the new pastor' and is eagerly awaiting his arrival. In an effort for their congregation to get to know them, James and Gillian Paton agreed to an international interview via Skype to answer a few burning questions.**

**When are you and Gillian going to arrive in Calgary and at First Alliance? James:** I'll be arriving for two weeks on July 7 and preach two weekends while I'm there. When we're going to arrive for good is still a little up in the air. We'll definitely be there for the beginning of September, but when we're actually going to move is a little complicated between selling a house here and buying a house there.

**James, apparently your favourite colour is orange, but that preference may have been forced upon you at some point.**

**What's the story behind the colour orange? James:** I'm not exactly sure it's my favourite colour. The story started because I bought an orange sports jacket when we lived in Kentucky after the Kentucky Derby. I got a great deal on it, and it's silk and really nice but it's screaming loud. Then I bought an orange car and then people starting buying me all sorts of orange stuff that I didn't need, and it's just kind of stuck ever since.

**Gillian, what's your profession and what work have you been doing in Amsterdam? What work do you hope to do here in Calgary? Gillian:** I have a music degree and I'm a trained teacher.

I taught in the UK. But as we traveled around teaching qualifications differed so I ended up in admin. I had an ideal job when we first moved to Calgary. I had an admin job at Ambrose in the music department. I was their events coordinator. Here in Amsterdam, I'm still in administration and I work in the British school here. I'd be happy to find a job like that in Calgary.

**Your family has had many cultural experiences. You were born in Scotland, raised in Northern Ireland, went to school in the United States, lived and worked in Calgary and became Canadian citizens and have now lived in Amsterdam and traveled around Europe for three years. What would be on the top of your list for favourite cultures? Gillian:**

I really like Italy and Italian food. We've always had a wonderful time going there. The climate is good, the countryside is pretty. It's a wonderful experience. **James:** I agree. For food, for culture, I love visiting Italy. Being a tourist there is just a beautiful thing to do.





**Before I ask you about parenthood and your three children, while we can say John and Callum fairly easily, how do you pronounce your daughter's name, Eilidh?** **Gillian:** Ay-lee. Like Kaylee but without the K. It's Gaelic, Scottish for Helen.

**What's the best thing about being parents?** **James:** Now! There's nobody home! **Gillian:** I think with having moved around so much, when we've gone somewhere new, our kids have been their first friends for each other in new places. They've always been there for each other and stuck up for each other. The three of them are really close. The two younger, Callum and Eilidh, are a year and a half apart and close because they're close in age and then John, the oldest by four and a half years, they look up to as that older brother. It makes us close as a family and we love spending time together. **James:** I love that they're all really adventurous and they drag us into many things that we might have a fear of going into on our own. Now we're separated and they're all off doing their own thing and chasing their dreams. But it's really cool when they come home, we just get to spend time together which we love to do.

**What have you both missed about living in Calgary and what are you most looking forward to on your return?** **James:** I miss doughnuts! Because they have terrible doughnuts here. And when I came in March all I wanted to do was go to Tim Hortons and get a doughnut and nobody even took me there! I was there a whole week and never had a doughnut. It was so sad. **Gillian:** My answer is equally as shallow. Alberta beef! The Dutch do many things well but beef is not one of them.

**What will you miss most about living in Amsterdam/Europe?** **Gillian:** The proximity of so many cultures. Everywhere you go each country has a different flavour and travel is so cheap. But there's still lots for us to explore in Canada. **James:** Yeah, I'll miss the traveling. I love to travel and exploring new countries and cultures. It's been real fun and we've taken advantage of it here.

**What's the most important thing we need to know about your spouse?** **Gillian:** James can't cope without coffee. That's really important. Coffee and chocolate ... if he has those two things, we're good. **James:** I told the elders at FAC that I might need an espresso machine. The better the coffee, the better the sermons. What am I going to say about Gill? She speaks a gazillion languages. She'll say she doesn't but she really does. She can survive in a lot more countries than I and she knows what people are saying before they do.

**Gillian, why do you run? (She completed a half marathon in May.)** **Gillian:** I run because I can. I know lots of people who are ill and suffering and who would love to be able to be outside and do it. And I don't have to pay any gym fees to do it! Just put your shoes on and go. It doesn't come easy to me and so it's a challenge and way to keep fit.



**Can you keep up with her, James?** **James:** No, I'm a lazy slob really. I've never really liked running. I wonder why people do this for fun or what the point of it is. But I do like hiking and did a lot of that when we lived in Calgary before and hope to do so again.

**What do you do for stress relief, James?** **James:** I watch movies. The movie company here has a monthly pass and for 26 Euros you can watch as many movies as you like. And you get reserved seating as well. I go to see everything that comes out on Sunday nights.

**Who is your hero and why?** **Gillian:** I don't really think about things that way. But if pushed I would say my mom. She's always been a very strong and stable woman in my life. Always able to deal with everything. Calm, organized. Whenever anyone says, "Oh you're just like your mom," I take that as a great compliment. **James:** I really enjoy reading about a fellow named Ernest Shackleton who led an expedition to Antarctica that all went wrong. Two things I admire about him. Someone tried to recreate his journey, rowing 1300 km from Antarctica to South Georgia Island and then make the climb he did and they could barely do it, trained seaman and climbers. Such amazing determination. Then the guys he left behind, when he left to find help, got up every day and did what they needed to do because they believed he'd come back. It's amazing the way Shackleton inspired them to that belief. I thought, wow, to be able to inspire people like that would be fantastic. He inspired me.

**What else would you like the congregation to know?**

**James:** I am really excited to be coming to FAC. A part of me is a little scared as I realize what a big task it is. But I'm really excited and looking forward to it. And to being back in Calgary. We both find that fun. It's a whole new part of the city that we don't know or understand. It's still the same city, but it's different. It's an adventure. We're ready for it. •



# A House of Prayer

**The Prayer Summit started in January 2015 with a group of believers who felt that God called us to pray.**

At the Prayer Summit, the Holy Spirit has revealed His power and authority through the earnest and fervent prayers of believers from all nations.

who had a rare type of cancer, has seen the Holy Spirit touch her body and their hearts. Doctors are amazed by the result. A brother who has been in and out of hospital for over 5 years because of a terminal cancer has been in the process of healing. Now he is praying for others and full of hope in Christ.

Jesus prayed regularly in the mountains during His ministry. He claimed that the temple is a House of Prayer for all nations. He prayed with loud cries and tears for three hours at Gethsemane before the arrest. Paul said, "Pray without ceasing, pray on all occasions with all kinds of prayers." Jesus said when His return is near, "be careful, watch and pray." We encourage you to join the Prayer Summit to pray together with all nations on the second Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm. • **Pastor David Kang gives leadership to Mosaic Ministries here at FAC. To learn more, visit [www.faccalgary.com/intercultural](http://www.faccalgary.com/intercultural).**

God stretched His healing hands upon the sick, broken families, people with addictions, and hardened hearts. People have been touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. The answers to prayer are not limited to Calgary. Family members in the Philippines and in Hong Kong have been healed from critical and complicated illnesses. A couple from China have accepted Christ and the wife,

Sensing the need to offer an intentional opportunity for people in our congregation to prepare their hearts for Easter, a team of 8-10 serving in our Prayer Ministry area organized a Prayer Retreat for Saturday, March 28 right here on location at FAC. The retreat focussed on the theme of forgiveness and offered a variety of interactive stations to engage people of all ages and backgrounds in conversation with Jesus. Here are a few comments from those who attended ...

"Thank you! The depth of artistic creativity was profound ... the sacrifice of time, energy, and prayer to create today's retreat is a 'sweet smelling aroma' to King Jesus."

"This is a great creative way of encouraging and promoting meaningful prayer."

"Let's do this more often."

"I met new prayer warriors ... enjoyed the time to pray with others."

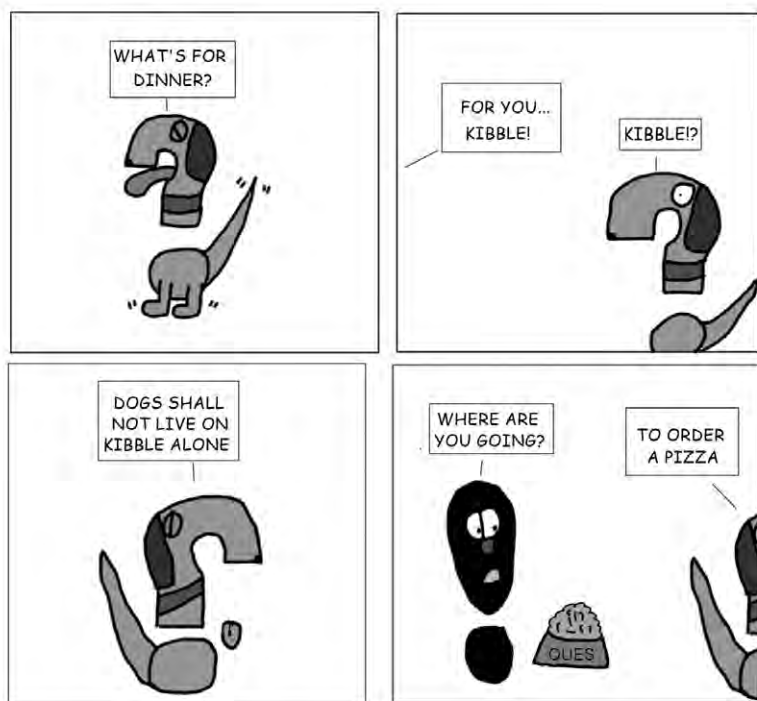
"The scripture and Holy Spirit-led prayer was inspiring and has encouraged me to make this a regular thing in my life."

"This retreat was a very beautiful experience and I am so thankful to have had this time and space with Jesus."

"Thank you for creating this time and space for community with the Lord and with one another; it's important and worthwhile."

Check out photos from the retreat on our Facebook page!  "Like" [facebook.com/faccalgary](https://facebook.com/faccalgary)





Joni Righthand

# ARTIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Inspired as an adolescent by a book about cartoonist Jim Davis (creator of *Garfield*), FAC's own Joni Righthand began drawing her own cartoons, *Punctuation Association*, as a way of expressing her unique perspective on life.



Living with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Autism and ADHD gave Joni a tendency to understand her world in a literal way – a characteristic shared by her cartoon character, Question the dog. As a follower of Jesus, she enjoys being able to tell stories and create drawings that make people laugh, and her goal is

to do that in a way that honours God – to provide her readers with moments of “good clean fun.” She also enjoys the challenge and independence of running the business of Punctuation Association – an endeavor she believes is what God has called her to do with her life. Contact Joni at [punctassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:punctassoc@hotmail.com).



# The Exchange — Gospel, Community, Mission

Written by Terry Schmidt

***There are a few things that the pastors of the Exchange want you to know.***

The Exchange is the church within the church that meets for services on Sunday evenings (5:30 pm) in FAC's Harvest Rooms. Brad Young, the Exchange's teaching pastor, says this growing congregation is pointed toward Jesus every week.

***"We celebrate Jesus every week and we are not just for 'young adults'..."***

"We celebrate Jesus every week and we are not just for young adults," he proclaims. "We are an open door to anyone who needs Jesus. And that's everyone. When we preach the Gospel, the greatest unifying force on the planet, we should see people from every tribe, tongue and nation – and hair colour – walk through the door." But this church body is not about just the Sunday service. It's about being the church every day and it's about community.

The Exchange has fostered a number of community groups that meet weekly to study and pray together in the style of traditional Life Groups but with a difference. In the choosing and training of leaders to intentionally shepherd these small flocks, Brad and Exchange worship pastor Caleb Delamont are promoting a greater vision.

"Community groups are not just groups that meet, but groups that go," Brad says. "They are defining their own mission to reach out to those around them; in their city, in their communities, to their next-door neighbours." These pastors want their congregation and community groups to feel like home to 'the nominal, the broken and the unsaved.'

"These community groups are becoming places where someone can belong no matter where they are on their journey," Caleb

adds, "even before they know Jesus. It's about creating family."

Josh Rans, a 20-year old university student who calls the Exchange his home church, shares his pastors' strong vision for mission.

Josh grew up within a Christian family attending Southview Alliance, but during his teen years, he felt that while his faith 'looked good on paper' it was lacking confidence. After high school Josh attended a Capernwray school thinking it was a great way to see some of Europe, but he ended up meeting Jesus head-on instead.

"God wrecked me that year," he quips.

When Josh returned to Calgary, he found the Exchange and over the first few months of attending, his connection to the community grew. But he was looking for more. He joined up with a missional group called Kingdom Night, a Holy Spirit-led group that focuses on revival in Calgary.

"The first night I went out with the group to do street evangelism, I had so much fear and knew I wasn't capable of doing any of this," Josh shakes his head. "God just showed up." Josh wanted his church family to share in this experience.

Josh founded *YYC Evangelism* with the support of Brad and Caleb and put the call out for others to join him in a mission foray to downtown Calgary one Sunday evening in late December 2014.

"That first night 16 people showed up and we loaded up a van and took everyone downtown," Josh recalls. "We were giving out Bibles and sandwiches and we ended up in a McDonalds and thought we were done for the night."

Over thirty people wandered into the restaurant. One woman wept over the Bible she received as she turned page after page. Others received meals and had conversations about their lives and trials.

"The last hour was so crazy with the McDonald's being full of people looking for food and for some love. It got so packed, we got kicked out!" Josh recalls. "At one point there were about ten





*“These community groups are becoming places where someone can belong no matter where they are on their journey...”*

people getting engaged with the gospel with our group.”

Over the past five months *YYC Evangelism* has gone out into the city in boldness and watched God work miracles ... healings, new believers, life transformations.

Brad and Caleb are not surprised.

“When Jesus is clearly preached,” Caleb says, loosely quoting Tomothy Keller, “the nominal are convicted, the sleeping awake and the lost are saved.”

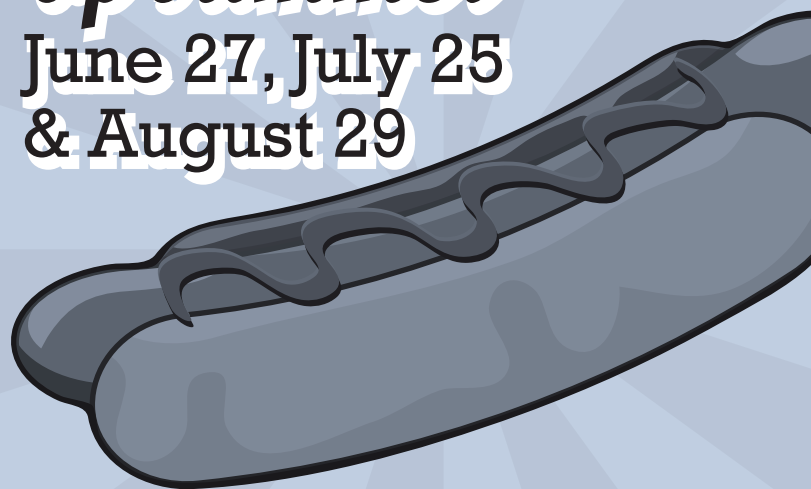
“This is who the church is and what they are about,” Brad continues.

“Gospel, community, mission.” Josh concurs.

“All the glory goes to God. None of this would have been possible without Him.” • ***The Exchange currently meets Sunday nights, 5:30 pm in the Harvest Rooms at FAC.***

# DOG DAYS *of summer*

June 27, July 25  
& August 29



Invite a neighbour to enjoy a deluxe hot dog and pop for just a few bucks **after the Saturday 6:30 pm service** outside in the West Parking Lot.  
**\*NEW\*** Ice cream now added to the menu!

**“There’s no WAY he can eat all those pancakes!”**



## STAMPEDE *breakfast*

**Saturday, July 4**  
*served from 8:30-11:30 am*



# JESUS *loves* ME

By Sterling Hunter

## ***I am the fattened calf, ready for sacrifice.***

I can say that now. I can say that I understand now what Moses was telling the newly emancipated Israelites, when He spoke to them of God allowing them to hunger that He might feed them with manna and bring them to this: Man shall not live on bread, but on the Word. I have binge-fed myself on this worldly fare long enough and now have a much more Eucharistic appetite. I am plump, always hungry yet never quite sophonsified, filled to overflowing, and now zealous to "... present my body as a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God ..."

There were days in my boyhood and possibly into my early adolescent life in which I felt bound to behave as the third-gen FAC'er I was – albeit an honourable duty, obligatory and ultimately disingenuous nonetheless. However this wore off as my passion for the faith increased and multiplied of my own accord. Cocksure and sophomoric in my faith, I marched the halls of my high school recruiting the saved for my ends and preaching to the unsaved for God's. I co-founded Bible studies, outreaches, and services with other willing believers at the church opposite my school. I soared with meteoric intensity to a young Christian rock star status, at least in my own head.

It didn't take long though, for the insidious ambivalence growing in my head and heart to take hold of me, tempt me to act, and lead me

astray. I didn't seem to see, or acknowledge what I saw, as fruits of my labor, my faith, and my vulnerability. I toiled, I prayed, I gathered, I organized, I read, I learned, I put myself out there ... I saw nothing. As a gambling addict would increase the stakes to make returns on an unlucky streak, not knowing when to quit, so too did I "up the ante," wanting to redeem my previous failure to produce the God of which I boasted. In this case, the winning hand would be answered prayer resulting in huge visible gains and proof of the intercessor's immense faith. This too failed.

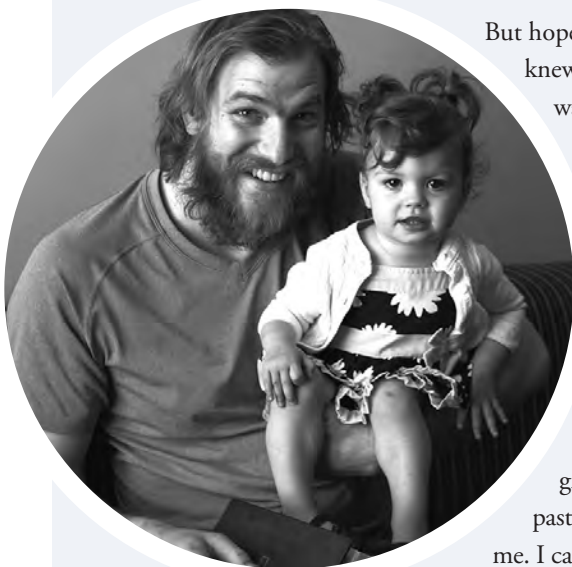
From prayers for healing in the midst of certain death, to audacious demands for celestial signs to cure the infidels of their unbelief, I received from God only silence and embarrassment. I think your view on God becomes evident in how you live your life, and I became ineffectual, disenfranchised with the human enterprise, and unfocused.

I didn't fall away from the faith, I ran directly perpendicular from it. I could never bring myself to denounce the truth my parents faithfully planted in me, but I sure did everything I could to confuse and forget it. I searched for pleasure, and I found it waiting for me with open arms and warm reception. Selfishness now filled my thoughts, drugs my veins, partying my purposes, smoke my lungs, and bitterness my perspective. The only edifice of a once God-bent life making its way



past my grimacing lips was an acknowledgment of my earlier, immature morals, now vanquished by vanishing character.

I died – not physically, and certainly not in the gloriously humbled way an evangelical does for their Messiah; my death was the passing away of an ability to see the right, let alone to choose it. I had been compromised, marginalized, and virtually buried alive in my own sin.



But hope – a hope I didn't even knew existed, or better yet was aimed square at my heart – was growing, literally, in the womb of my sister-in-law. As she and her husband asked godparent-hood of my wife and me we gladly accepted, not knowing what it really meant or how it would allow God's grace to circumnavigate my past to unlock His future for me. I can't tell you necessarily when

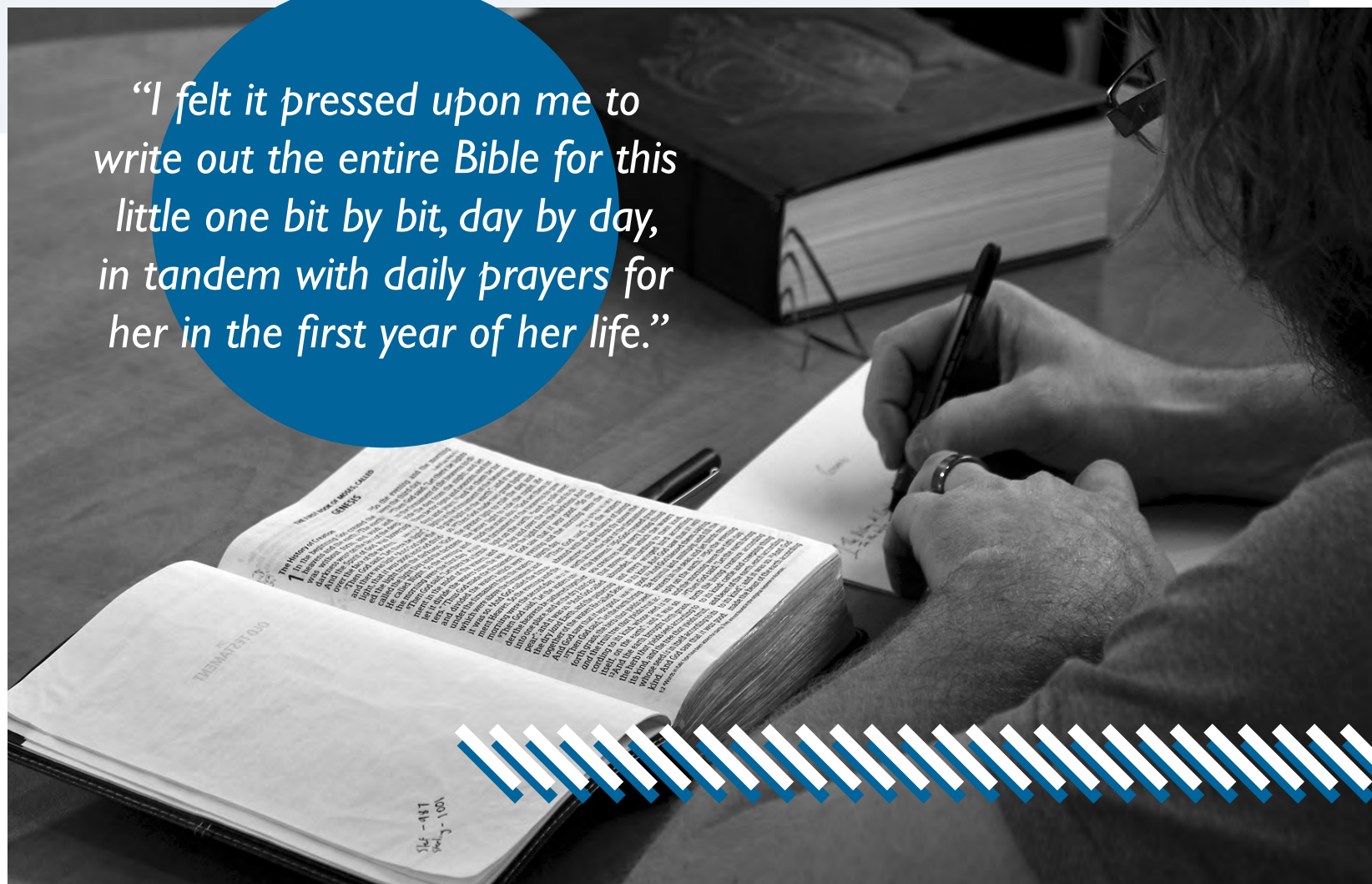
or how it happened, but I can tell you that I felt it pressed upon me to write out the entire Bible for this little one bit by bit, day by day, in tandem with daily prayers for her in the first year of her life. And I did. And it changed me. For the first time in my entire "Christian" life, I came face to face with the gospel – namely, Jesus. A Man who lived the life God required me to live, died the death God sentenced me to, and raised Himself from the dead so that I can have an inheritance in the eternity God created me for.

I cannot, I did not live on bread alone; indeed it wasn't living – I tried and was found wanting. In one year I painstakingly and arduously forced myself the Word, the true Word, and thereby have been made a new creation, with the old things passed away. I am not dead, I live; I live for God's glory and not my own, and I can tell the difference! I wrote out the Bible in a year and ingesting that story, the story of God's redemptive success over His beloved, has forever clutched me.

• **Sterling Hunter is our Chef de Cuisine here at FAC and is married to the love of his life, Stefany.**

*"Jesus loves me / This I know / For the Bible tells me so / Little ones to Him belong / They are weak but He is strong .." Anna Bartlett Warner (1827–1915) © Words: Public Domain*

*"I felt it pressed upon me to write out the entire Bible for this little one bit by bit, day by day, in tandem with daily prayers for her in the first year of her life."*





# CUBA 2015



"We went there to serve them, but they ended up serving us more than what we could have ever asked for." – Samuel Russell



"It was cool learning more about the lives of the people in Cuba from the previous year. I feel so blessed to have gone to Cuba again because He taught me so much more this year!" – Emma Petropoulos



Watch for other upcoming short term mission trips you can join or support: [www.facecalgary.com/globalimpact](http://www.facecalgary.com/globalimpact)



19 Sr. High students and 4 adult leaders headed down to Cuba over spring break with WorldServe (March 20-27) to build into the lives of the locals and help out with a construction project.



"God's shown me what I want to become as a man of God." – Noah Stretch



"God has shown me how to treat people, how to love people, and what it looks like to live in a church community and how to love everyone around you." – Adrianna Good

"It doesn't really matter what condition you live in or what you have because He [Jesus] is everything!" – Sara Apostoei



CONNECT with SHS (Sr. High Students) at FACL! Follow @SHSStudents or "Like" facebook.com/seniorhighstudents



# THIS IS MY STORY

By Ryan Gartner

**‘Son,’ he said, ‘ye cannot in your present state understand eternity ... That is what mortals misunderstand. They say of some temporal suffering, “No future bliss can make up for it,” not knowing that Heaven, once attained, will work backwards and turn even that agony into a glory. And of some sinful pleasure they say “Let me have but this and I’ll take the consequences”: little dreaming how damnation will spread back and back into their past and contaminate the pleasure of the sin. Both processes begin even before death. The good man’s past begins to change so that his forgiven sins and remembered sorrows take on the quality of Heaven: the bad man’s past already conforms to his badness and is filled only with dreariness. And that is why ... the Blessed will say “We have never lived anywhere except in Heaven,” and the Lost, “We were always in Hell.” And both will speak truly.’**  
(C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*)

When I was asked to reflect and write about my spiritual journey thus far in my life there were several things that came to mind. One, I have never really thought about my journey. Two, I thought about this book, *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis which paints an incredible picture of our opportunity to choose God and begin a great journey that will see our lives made new again.

I’m not sure I had really thought about my relationship with Jesus as a journey. I had certainly shared my testimony more than a few times. Several years back I had the opportunity to share the gospel in Tel Aviv, Israel. For that trip we were all encouraged to have a two-, a five- and a ten-minute version of our testimony. I feel like in the first year or two after coming to the Lord I had shared my testimony a million times. I know this may be wrong of me to say, but there are times when I hope I might not have to ever share my testimony again. A

***“I had never thought of it before, but to follow Jesus means we are going on a journey, one that will ultimately lead us home.”***

guy starts to feel like a broken record after a while. You feel like “that guy” at a party who is always telling the same stories that everyone has already heard a dozen times.

My testimony has always been my experiences and circumstances that brought me back to the Lord, to a place where I ultimately surrendered my life to Him. It’s what happens after that which interests me, “being confident of this, that He who began a good work in me will



carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 1:6). In Matthew 16:24 Jesus calls us to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. I had never thought of it before, but to follow Jesus means we are going on a journey, one that will ultimately lead us home. In the everlasting presence and Glory of God our Father. In loving relationship and worship. Forever.

### *“All I ever I felt from sin was ... nothing.”*

I’m not very far along in my own Journey. The person I was and the way I lived is not so far behind. There are still remnants of him that linger around. I still use bad language. I still engage in inappropriate jokes and conversation. I still struggle with lust, pride, envy, entitlement ... This list could go on forever. I struggle with sin. Every day of my life. But here is one thing I recognize. One thing that reminds me I have embarked on a journey with Christ and that I do not have to look back at that person any longer. I recognize the sin. Every F-bomb I drop, every second look I take at a pretty girl, every dirty joke I crack or laugh at, every time I choose my own wants and needs over those of my wife or children, every time I decide I deserve something. It stares me directly in the face, it feels gross, dishonorable, vile. You see, before I accepted Jesus’ invitation to follow on this journey I felt none of those things. All I ever I felt from sin was ... *nothing*. That’s a scary thought. I did as I pleased and when I was finished with one thing I moved on to the next. I wanted what I wanted, when I wanted it. I was Godless.

I’m encouraged when I think about this. It’s not of my own accord that I recognize the sin in my life. It is the presence of God. It is His work, the help of the Holy Spirit who is ever gently reminding me or in most cases outright crying out in warning, pleading with me. It is a sure sign that although I may be on the very first leg of this journey, I am now on one that God has set out before me. One that He is directing.

There have been times in my walk with Jesus where I have questioned everything about my Salvation. Why am I still sinful? Did I miss something when I accepted Jesus? I’d be lying if I said I didn’t pray to accept Christ into my life about a hundred times after the first ... just in case. The enemy loves to whisper all sorts of lies. He wants us to dwell in our sin and feel as if there is still no hope for us. I want to encourage you if you struggle with these sorts of thoughts or feelings. Maybe some of the things I have said resonate with you in your spiritual walk. If you have given your life to Jesus, He has begun a work in you. He is faithful to complete that work. He IS the way on this journey and He will not let us go. •

*“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” (2 Corinthians 4:16)*

# What’s Your Story?

**Storyline** is all about telling the stories of what God is actively doing in and through the people of FAC – and we’d love to hear yours!

Fill this out and drop it in the offering basket, or email this info to [storyline@faccalgary.com](mailto:storyline@faccalgary.com) and we’ll be sure to follow up with you.

Hello, my name is ...

This is how God’s been at work in my life lately ...

Here’s how you can contact me for follow up ...



"...obviously this wouldn't have been my choice but God kept prompting me..."

# GOD'S PLAN

for me, my husband and a new Nicaraguan friend

Written by Bobbie Bilous



**A**fter one of our Nicaragua meetings where we were asked to sign up for lead roles for our Nicaragua trip I felt God prompting me to sign up for head of construction. Being that I'm a female with very minimal construction experience and had no idea how to build this water filtration system, obviously this wouldn't have been my choice but God kept prompting me. I mentioned it to Craig, our team leader, with sarcasm; he smiled and didn't say too much so I thought, "See, Lord? I'm not meant to take this role." But it was still on my heart long after the meeting so I thought, "OK, if nobody steps in to take it then I guess it's Your will." Sure enough, Craig sent out the email with who had signed up for what role and construction was still open. I told Craig that I would lead in that role, and he said, "I've been waiting for you to!" It didn't take me long to realize that God had multiple blessings to show me through all of this!

The first blessing was that my husband, who hasn't gone to Nicaragua and would be staying home again, helped me to purchase the tools because I had no idea what any of the tools were or what to get. It allowed us to bond and connect over this trip and prompted him to get his company to donate the funds for the tools.

The second blessing came while we were down in Nicaragua. My family had missed the cut-off for donating to my trip but sent money anyways. **So I took the money down to Nicaragua with me and prayed that God would give me His eyes to see where it was needed.**

**Being head of construction not only forced me out of my comfort zone, but it also gave me the opportunity to get to know the Nicaraguan construction guys that we worked with, which wouldn't likely have happened.** When I chatted with Ricardo, the boss of the site, he told me that he had two sons and one that was born paralyzed from the waist down. He also proceeded to tell me how his son, now fourteen, was too big for this wheelchair. I asked Ricardo how much a wheelchair was and he said that he didn't know because the one that he was in was donated. His family had been praying for a new one. I went and found Craig, had a long cry and asked if he could find out if there was any possibility of getting a wheelchair for Ricardo's son and what the cost would be. God provided – just like He always does – and provided a wheelchair within the donation amount; it was shipped to the FEMCA compound for us to deliver after the weekend. Praise God! **When we step out and follow Him and His purpose for our lives He allows us to be used by Him to accomplish His work! •**



**CHECK OUT** this video slideshow from the team's mission trip: [vimeo.com/125540495](https://vimeo.com/125540495)







On Saturday, May 2, 30 volunteers serviced 45 vehicles and provided hospitality for people in need in our community with the help of local sponsors. Learn more about Oil Change Days: [oilchangeday@facalgary.com](mailto:oilchangeday@facalgary.com)/403-212-8847.

# OILCHANGEDAY

**DINNER THEATRE 2015**  
Over 600 enjoyed a live performance of "12 Angry Jurors" May 27-29. Our Harvest team served up a delectable meal, a sell-out crowd enjoyed conversation and laughter around the tables, and this thought-provoking story of protesting injustice was brought to life onstage. Thanks to all for making this a great evening once again this year! For more photos ["Like" facebook.com/facalgary](https://www.facebook.com/facalgary)





# SUMMER *reflections*

JOURNEY THROUGH THE PSALMS STARTING JULY 4/5



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