



www.faccalgary.com/storyline

● SPRING/SUMMER 2016

Storyline

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Summertime and the livin' is easy ...



Something unique is happening here at FAC in June.

We're hosting the nationwide gathering of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada. It's going to be a wonderful opportunity to hear stories of what God is up to and to be challenged in our own faith.

It's a huge undertaking for us as a church family but since we are being reminded that our God is indeed "Limitless," we know all things are possible. What a practical way to live into God's great promises!

Over the summer we hope to install the additional 600 permanent seats in the Sanctuary. Thank you all so much for your generosity in making this happen. We continue to grow at a significant rate, *Building lives that honour God ... all for Jesus!* **In the fall, we'll launch our church plant, The Exchange Church.**

God is on the move and He is inviting each one of us to partner in His mission. Maybe this spring you can take some time to reflect on how God will use you in this amazing venture we are on.

Our next teaching series is called *Plain Talk*, reflecting together on some of Jesus' teaching. It's found in Luke chapter 6. Jesus doesn't hold back –

so hold onto your new seat and get ready for your thinking to be turned upside down ... or is it right side up? Finally, a HUGE thank you for your prayers, love, and support during my recent hospital stay. I love you guys, and I love being your pastor. •

JAMES ONLINE :



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First Alliance
a christian & missionary alliance church

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FACCCALGARY   

Building lives that honour God ... all for Jesus.

Who are we? Several thousand come together each week from all walks of life, cultural backgrounds, and 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 – all for Jesus. As part of the Christian and Missionary Alliance of Canada, we also think it's pretty amazing that we get to partner with people around the world as they also "build lives that honour God."

We honour God by ... CONNECTING in small groups for regular Bible study, prayer, serving others, and building relationships **SERVING** God by serving other people within the church and our community **GROWING** to understand who Jesus Christ is through the Bible so we become more like Him **SHARING** Jesus and His love wherever God places us locally and globally.

**"We read to know
that we are not alone."**

– C. S. Lewis in the William Nicholson film, *Shadowlands*.

Storyline is a platform for stories to be shared here at FAC: stories to make us smile, cry, laugh – and ultimately to guide us toward a transcendent hope in Jesus in the midst of a broken world. This quarterly publication also leverages the talent of volunteer photographers, writers, and graphic designers from within our church community, giving them the opportunity to serve God by connecting their passion and skills to the people behind each story. What has God been doing in your life lately? Have a story to share? We'd love to hear from you:
storyline@facalgary.com. •

Baptized in March :

Megan Befus Ed Ouahil

Grace Befus Rene Reiss

Darius Beshir Niki Robertson

Analyn Bisou Kaitlyn Rodriguez

Brin Eck-ert Andrea Salamon

Tahneal Eck-ert Ryan Salamon

Catalina Fernandez Beverly Shatosk-y

Abby Flowers Jennifer Silliman

Brenden Flowers Mya Tak-enaka

Paul Gracia Ava Tak-enaka

Rachel Lempriere Tamar Tchicaya

Katriana Loberg Adam Williams

Rachel Lusk Siena Wiseman

Eduardo Malabad

Lucienne Mandahan

Jennifer Nielsen



29 people took the step of baptism on
March 19/20, 2016! More photos on Facebook:
[facebook.com/faccalgary](https://www.facebook.com/faccalgary)

through the valley

WRITTEN BY JANEEN ROBERTSON

As we all know, rarely do our journeys take us where we think they will.

More often than not, curveballs, roadblocks, detours, and flat-out demolitions alter our perfectly planned lives. Five years ago my husband Gordon and I were eagerly embracing the pregnancy of our third child. Ten monumentally difficult months later, we stood graveside to this precious child as we gave our son Samuel back to the Lord (*pictured below*).



Only by desperately grasping onto our faith did we survive as a family, a couple, and as individuals. Our grief journey continues to this day and I expect will never end, but merely change and

present itself in new ways as life marches on. Gordon and I have been to some very dark places, but the grace and unrelenting love of our Lord has brought us through time and time again. God blessed us so richly with His children, our children, entrusting us to nurture and raise them in the way of Jesus while we are on this earth. Healing for us has come in so many unique ways, usually when we least expect it. We are constantly astounded with how good God is, how He gives us what we need when we don't know we need it.

Recently our whole family has gone through another highly emotional time supporting my brother and sister-in-law, David and Katelynn. While they battled with the fear, pain, and extreme uncertainty surrounding the health of their unborn child, **God surprised us by forcing us to walk down an old path we thought had been long left behind.** With those old memories, we realized the things we thought we had dealt with had

actually been festering, hidden beneath our busy lives, threatening to resurface and break us all over again. Our healing was nowhere near complete.

As we celebrated our beautiful niece Ellie's safe arrival into this world, Gordon, the kids, and I drove up to Edmonton to see the new family (*pictured below*). On the way, we talked about the fact that in just a few hours we would be walking back into the hospital where so much of our journey with our son took place, for the first time since his death. We were so fearful. We wanted to be strong for Dave and Katelynn and not make this time about us. We wanted to be able to give them what they needed.



"the things we thought we had dealt with had actually been festering, hidden beneath our busy lives, threatening to resurface and break us all over again."

As our gracious God always does, he gave us just what we needed: strength and healing.

As we walked the halls, we felt the presence of the Lord walking with us, giving us a sense of peace and closure. It was an amazing sense of comfort as we saw the familiar landmarks and experienced the smells and sounds that had been normal while Samuel was alive. What a miraculous Lord we serve. Thank you, Jesus. **Not only did He bring His child Ellie into this world so strong; He closed a chapter in our grief journey that we feel is going to allow us to move on, to realize a finality we had been fighting for the past five years.** I'm constantly brought back to a line in the song "How He Loves" by the David Crowder Band, "I realize just how beautiful You are and how great Your affections are for me." So as we turn to the next chapter of this tale, we praise the Author of our life for this amazing story. •

ARTIST IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Singer-songwriter and FAC member, **Ryan Gartner**, recently released his first full-length solo album, *White Flag*. A versatile musician, Gartner has worked with a number of notable bands and producers in the past but, in recent years, he took a deeper look at the stories closest to him and realized there was more he wanted to say. He began writing an intimate collection of very personal songs. The finished project is sobering and beautiful with messages of hope woven through tough themes of transformation.

Describing the songs, Gartner explains, **"I call it alternative Christian music. Not that the things I talk about on this album are alternative to or contradict the gospel in any way. Rather, they might not be things you hear on your local Christian radio stations."**

For Gartner, the album's honesty is also its strength and reflects "how I understand God, try to grasp what Christ has done for me, the highs and lows of my relationship with my wife—all that fun stuff! The ten songs on this record are really where my heart and mind have been and I think there are a lot of people out there who will identify." **Discover more about Ryan and his music at ryangartner.com.**

Written by Molly McCue

Written by Jaret Giroux & Bonnie Eckert

Finding Home

Jaret: I was new to Calgary and FAC. I moved from Revelstoke, BC on my own, knowing no one, and met my future wife, Brenda, at FAC. We soon married and joined a small group with a number of young couples.

Bonnie: We were new to Calgary when we slid into balcony seats at FAC's old Elbow Drive and Glenmore Trail location. It was our second week attending and we had a solid game plan: take in what God has for us and slip away without anyone noticing.

Jaret: It was another typical Sunday; I woke up and got ready to go to church. I had no game plan – just an ordinary Sunday. I fully expected to meet my friends, worship, and hear the pastor's message. It was just another typical weekend service, very full of routine. Was I really thinking 20 years in the future about someone else's journey, and more importantly, about someone's life eternally? Not at all. But I learned a lesson from 20 years ago this month ...

"All we wanted was to consume God's teaching, let His Word soak into our souls ... and meet no one."

Bonnie: We had both grown up in churches and, while there is no question we loved the Lord, people had become another issue. People just aren't Jesus and sometimes we hurt each other even when that is not our intent. At this point in our walk with the Lord, we were hurting. All we wanted was to consume God's teaching, let His Word soak into our souls ... and meet no one.

Jaret: I like people, and I have always wanted to ensure those around me felt valued, heard, connected, and part of a team! I remember in grade school I would be picked in Gym as a team captain. I hated watching the less able athletes get picked last. I could see the pain in their eyes as they knew they would be last and it really bothered me. So I would pick first those that would always be picked last. I knew my team would lose the game but to me somehow I knew giving those who seemed to be the least in those moments a chance at being first outweighed a game in Gym class. I can't explain why God wired me that way, but He did ... to pay attention to those around me always.

Bonnie: At the end of our second service we slipped out of the balcony and, keeping our heads down, made for the exit. **We looked up once and our eyes met Jaret Giroux's. His face lit up with a crooked grin and he introduced himself. I honestly think we froze.** Jaret asked our names, confirmed we were new and, after a little chit chat, invited us to his small group. He and Brenda were going bowling with a bunch of other young couples and it would be great if we could join them.

"I wasn't on a guest services team or wearing a name tag or even a member of the church when I met Bonnie. I was just attending my church."

Jaret: I wasn't on a guest services team or wearing a name tag or even a member of the church when I met Bonnie. I was just attending my church. I have never thought about the outcomes when being nice, or extending a kind smile or handshake, or

wishing someone a wonderful day, because it's who I am. God gave us all special gifts, with the intent of using them. I can't help but let people know I see them and value them. It's just how God made me. You also have gifts ...

Bonnie: We went and our trepidation started slipping away. By the end of the evening we had literally a dozen new friends, and we are still connected with many of them two decades later.

Jaret: I didn't for a moment think about changing a life. I just did what was natural to me. We all have those natural gifts. God wired you – you are gifted whether you think so or not. Are you using your gifts? Do you know how God wired you? Maybe it's time to find out.

Bonnie: We don't know how our lives might have played out had Jaret let us pass by that morning so long ago. *Maybe we would have eventually met some people and maybe not. What we believe is God nudged Jaret, Jaret responded, and our wounded hearts found a new home at First.*

Jaret: To this day, hearing Bonnie share a part of her story humbles me. I went to church 20 years ago not expecting, but just ready to say hi to a new person. God did the rest. Bonnie and Ron's two daughters were just baptized at FAC in March 2016 ... What if I hadn't said hi and invited them bowling 20 years ago?

I am reminded every day that each of us has been invited to be Jesus to those around us. A smile, a hand-shake, an invitation to go bowling ... Are you ready to jump in and be intentional to all our guests, your colleagues, your neighbours, coming and going, looking for that place of love, connection and belonging? They walk among us wanting to be brought into the light of life so that 20 years from now many more stories become a powerful witness to the cross of Christ and His fellowship! •



In the spring of 2014 I made a decision to listen completely to God; not to pick and choose what I wanted to hear, but to be obedient and try my best to follow His lead. I started to feel a need for complete surrender to what I thought my vocation was. He was asking me to resign from my job of 16 years at the Calgary Board of Education and step into the unknown. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done. That was over two years ago, and I'm still seeking after Christ daily. Not trying to make a way happen, but rather watching and being expectant that God really wants to use me every day. In this season, one of the doors that opened was being called to FAC. But the heart of my adventure is yielding to Christ and trusting in the path that is unfolding.

I love this quote by Walt Disney: "When you're curious, you find lots of interesting things to do." I've been reminded in recent years that life is dynamic and is best when we allow each moment to be an opportunity. We can take part in a much bigger unseen world if we are willing to open our eyes and look at what God places before us each day. •

Jaret Giroux the Director of Guest Experience here FAC. He loves surfing and spending time with his wife and four daughters.

"All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it."

1 Corinthians 12:27





Oil Change Day

Sometimes it's the simple things – like a free oil change – that can make all the difference in the world to someone who is struggling financially.

A team of about 30 volunteers were here at FAC bright and early the morning of Saturday, April 30 ready to serve those who had signed up to receive much needed oil changes and a little TLC.

Brothers Ken & Les Edwards are among the many sponsors of this event, and having provided many of the tools, Ken decided to come to see the impact their sponsorship made.

One of the 57 vehicles that was serviced belonged to a single father who came with his four kids. He'd heard about Oil Change Day through a local community resources centre, and was visibly moved when given a food hamper and gift cards beyond the basic maintenance on his vehicle.

Another woman also tearfully expressed her gratitude to Dale Sevcik when she was also given a food hamper and gift cards in addition to having her vehicle cared for, explaining she had only \$80 left to her name and wasn't sure how she was going to afford groceries.

This was the first time Oil Change Days was on-site at FAC, thanks to our recently expanded garage in the south parking lot. "Moving the event here has given us more room for the vehicles, allowing us to serve even more people than before," comments Al Hall, Pastor of Community Impact. ***Learn how you can get involved with this practical ministry; visit faccalgary.com/communityimpact.***

Written by Julie McPhail



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WELCOMING FRIENDS & NEIGHBOURS TO **LAUGH** WITH US



For 10 years we've been welcoming our friends and neighbours for food, fun, story, and a taste of church at our **Spring Dinner Theatre** – because at FAC, we believe we don't just GO to church – we ARE the church! There's still time to invite your friends, your colleagues, your family, to join you (May 25-27) for **The Matchmaker by Thornton Wilder**, the comedy that inspired the Broadway musical, *Hello Dolly!* 6:00 pm for dinner (tickets: faccalgary.com/registrations) or 6:45 pm for dessert only (\$10 at the door, no advance registration) •

[forgiveness]

Just before 10:00 am on October 22, 2014, Michael Zehaf-Bibeau walked up behind the *Tomb of the Unknown Soldier* by Parliament Hill and shot the Ceremonial Guard, Corporal Nathan Cirillo, twice in the back with a .30-30 Winchester lever-action hunting rifle.

The day prior, Zehaf-Bibeau was in a busy registry office and was overheard arguing with another man. According to witnesses he said "If soldiers bombed your family, wouldn't you want to kill them?"

Zehaf-Bibeau had recorded a video just prior to the attack which was quite deliberate and purposeful in articulating that his motivation was revenge.

Somehow I knew it was my nephew Nathan whom my kids had grown up with and had spent many holidays. My brother called later that morning and verified the sad news. From that moment on I was filled with hate and distrust – until I came to faith in Jesus a few months later. Attending FAC I was exposed to my new family of all cultural backgrounds who lovingly took me in and supported me. I never knew there were so many good people around.

"With help from the church and Christ in my heart, the hatred was washed out of me."

With help from the church and Christ in my heart, the hatred was washed out of me.

I now know how to fight terrorism – the same way God removed every ounce of it from me – with love, which gave me understanding and compassion for our fellow man. •

Written by Gary Thompson with the help of Darcey Jerrom.

40 DAYS AWAY FROM SOCIAL MEDIA

CONFESSIONS ON GIVING UP FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM FOR LENT

40 days of being unable to communicate to the world what I ate for lunch, how far I ran, and what I was up to on a Friday night ... *How. Did. I. Ever. Survive?!* Well, the answer is ... quite well, actually! I decided to give up Facebook and Instagram for Lent this year. For a long time, I had given up on Lent (I guess you could say I was fasting from fasting), thinking that it was a strictly religious process, and that it wasn't something I needed to partake in. This year, however, Pastor James challenged our staff to fast from something that took our time or attention away from Jesus, and to put it into spending time with Him instead. I had never thought of it like that ... **As silly as it sounds, I never understood fasting to be a process that would bring me closer to God** (I always used to give up chocolate – which, let's be honest, is a divine gift from God). I thought about where I spent my time, and the answer was simple; face down, eyes glazed over, staring at my phone, on Instagram and Facebook.

Week one was an eye-opener, to say the least. I was so used to scrolling through pictures and statuses first thing in the morning before I really woke up, or before bed before I fell asleep, that not getting to do that was profoundly boring. All there was to do now was stare at my ceiling and count how many stucco dots were along the top edge of my bedroom ceiling (2563 if you're wondering). This trend would continue throughout the day – having nothing to stare at when I had a spare moment to myself. I noticed it especially when my husband was watching a hockey game, when I had nothing to look at except the white blur on the television ... *How was this supposed to bring me closer to God?!*


Well, around week three, I found the answer. I began to notice the world around me. I noticed the irony of how, in an effort to be more connected, we have become so

disconnected. People sit at a dinner table, texting but not talking, FaceTiming but not face-timing. Slowly, as the weeks progressed, I began to lose the desire to update everyone on every aspect of my life. My husband and I were driving to Banff, and I didn't feel the need to tell the world! We were just simply going to Banff together because we wanted to; not because it would make for a good picture. I began to wonder ... how much of my life had I been living for the picture? How often would I go somewhere just to get a cool picture? The more I thought about it, the more I realized that it was a little more often than I cared to admit.



I also noticed that I felt great about myself; not proud ... just confident in myself. When I took away the daily comparison media (Instagram and Facebook), and stopped looking at my life through different filters, I realized how blessed I truly was. I wasn't worried anymore about how I looked, what I ate, what I did on the weekend; I was just so content with the life God had given me. **He never intended for us to do life strictly via the highlight reel on social media; He intended for us to do life, all of it - the good, the bad and the ugly - together.** No one ever posts pictures of themselves watching endless hours of TV, or doing laundry, or caring for a grieving friend, so we feel like no one else does that stuff. We get so caught up in the great things of other people's lives that we forget that they have normal lives like us.

What did I learn from forty days away from social media? In a culture that seems to emphasize being connected at all hours of the day, the best moments of connection happen away from a phone, in the moment, and with those you love most. •

Follow Rosalind Coben on Instagram:
 @pho_real_yo



Surviving graduation



High school graduation – to some it's just another milestone or perhaps a time to celebrate the end of an era. But to others the day has grown to grandiose fairy tale proportions as a passage into adulthood.

For a girl, it begins with 'the look'... the hair, the nails, the makeup, and the dress. Then one must have the date of her dreams. And don't forget the limo, the corsage, and the most fantastic after-grad plans. Graduation IS a big deal but pop culture and media have romanticized the notion of the picture-perfect graduation to the point where grads are anxiety-driven to create an ultimate event.

It was definitely something I thought about throughout my school years. I'd imagined all the homework and hours in class would be worth it for that one night ... the perfect dress, the perfect date ... I'd look my most stunning after a relaxing afternoon of preparations ... Little did I know my grad experience would be a-weaving this way and that as good ol' reality had cut in for a dance.

It was made clear that grads were to be at the ceremony on time, but my mom was late picking me up, so we got stuck in traffic – and my chauffeur decided to go to Starbucks to avoid the backup! After we arrived at the venue a few minutes late, the ceremony went off without a hitch; but afterwards the utter chaos of a crowd of over 600+ students and their families prevented me from finding my own relatives for over a half hour. So much for the family pics!

My family wanted to celebrate with a lunch out, and I politely protested against the last-minute plan as I had my hair appointment to go to. My protests were ignored. I just fretted through the meal. Though I was 20 minutes late for my hair appointment, I was in and out of the chair in good time. When I arrived home, my date/friend was already sitting on my couch and I still needed to dress. So much for a sweet slow afternoon enjoying the preparations. Flustered and rushed, I jumped into my dress, and we were on our way to the banquet. We found our seats, and I settled in to enjoy the meal, then looked to the table next to us. A beautiful young someone was wearing the same dress as me!

Not quite what I had imagined for my 'big day'! Late, rushed and with no time to enjoy the 'moments,' I was weary with a sense of disappointment. But I realized I had a choice in the matter. I would take THIS moment and make it last. I ate and laughed, danced and took pictures and then took more pictures and felt the satisfaction wash over me. I wished it had gone on longer.

It sure wasn't a perfect day but it was MY grad day. And I think of it fondly and laugh about the difference between what I thought it would be and what it was.

My advice to upcoming graduates is to remember that while it is an important day, and you make great plans and have everything scheduled, definitely leave room for chaos!

The best plan you can make is to intentionally enjoy every moment, even the muddled ones. You only get one high school graduation. •

Written by Emma Petropoulos





"SALAM PEMBUKA!"

FROM THE WEBER FAMILY

W last night I was thinking about my comfortable bed in Canada

and getting out of it onto the soft, clean carpet, walking to the bathroom where there is a toilet I can sit on and warm water to wash and shower in, and then going to sit in our soft, cozy chair by the window. And I thought about how nice that is and knew in my heart that that's not where I want to be," said Johnathan (12) at supper one night.

Thank you, FAC, for teaming with us to bring the Good News to Bali. We are so thankful for your support and for how our kids are "all in" and taking every opportunity to get involved in the community ... Thank you for lifting them up every day.

We're very thankful for a nice, big yard. Today it was full of kids from the neighbourhood playing soccer! We love the opportunity to make connections with our neighbours.

This morning they fogged our street. It smells terrible in the moment but it should do away with a lot of the mosquitos and lessen the risk of dengue fever! Apparently the hospitals are full with dengue fever patients.

We're thankful for language school and the progress we are making in learning Bahasa Indonesia (the local language). It's so helpful to speak even a little bit of the language as we build relationships with our neighbours!

In a land of temples and offerings our Father has given us 1 Peter 2:5: **"And you are living stones that God is building into His spiritual temple. What's more, you are His holy priests. Through the mediation of Jesus, you offer spiritual sacrifices that please God." •**



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THIS IS MY STORY

Written by Paul Gracia

The Sacrament of Baptism is an initiation into a life as a child of God.

My baptism as a baby marked my first step in a lifelong journey of commitment and discipleship. As a child, I also experienced the Sacraments of Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation. As an adult, the same priest who conducted the marriage ceremony of my wife and me also later baptized our three children. Today, my children witness the baptism of their father.

As a baby, my parents chose for me to be baptized. As an adult, I chose baptism of my own will with fully informed consent and an explicit desire to confirm my faith and to further develop my personal relationship with Christ. Baptism is faith in action. By being baptized I celebrated my rebirth into a new life as a truly inspired Christian. Christ's eternal presence in my life transforms me into the person that God wants me to be. I thank God every day for all the blessings he gives me. I choose to dedicate my whole life to Christ.

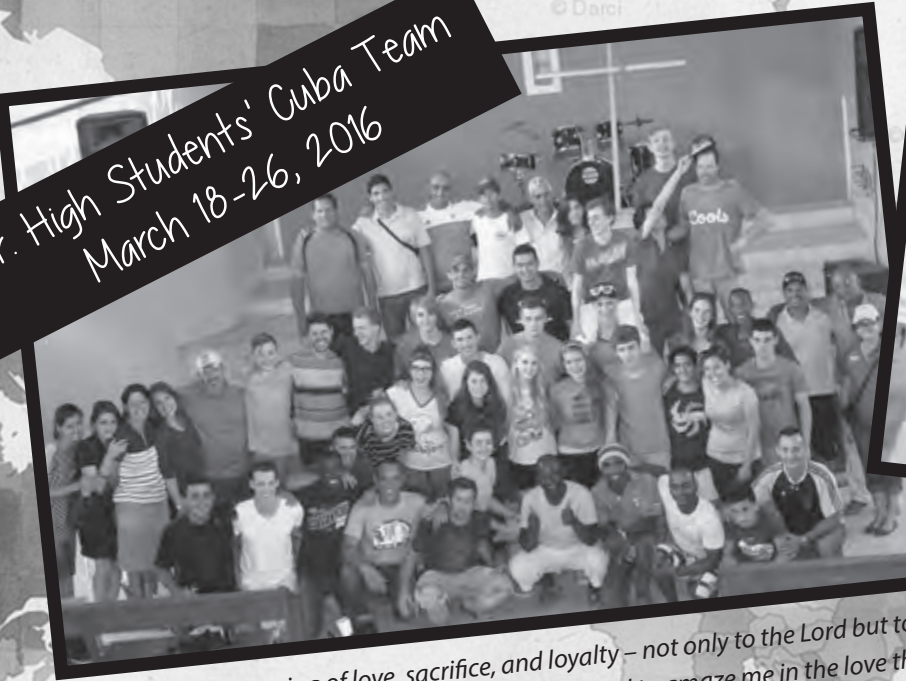
My spiritual journey began as a curious baby, when I was baptized in a Catholic Church. As I grew into a playful child, I was educated in Catholic schools and experienced the various sacraments. As a mischievous teenager, I strayed from the church in pursuit of sinful desires. As a confident young man, I

pursued higher education and travelled all over the world, in search of adventure and enlightenment.

As a responsible adult, I developed successful careers as an educator, and later as a lawyer. I was married in a Catholic Church, had my three boys baptized as babies as well, and we attend church regularly as a family.

However, it was not until recently, that I finally "saw the light," as they say. I have always been interested in intellectual and spiritual development, but I could not claim to be "religious," until I began attending First Alliance Church. It was not until I attended a Christian Church that it all finally made sense to me and I could finally relate! I recently chose to be baptized again because I have finally dialed in to Christ's program and I love it. **After all these years of soul-searching, I have finally found what I was looking for.** There's a joke that says: "I found Jesus. He was behind the couch the whole time." I know God has always been with me, watching over me with His infinite love and mercy, patiently waiting for me. My life is completely different now. In much the same way that my life changed when I became a father, my life is different now that I am a follower of Christ. Although I have come so far in my spiritual development, at the age of 46, I feel like I still have only begun. It truly is a lifelong journey. As (pastor and author) Rick Warren says, understanding God is like an ant trying to understand the internet. •

Sr. High Students' Cuba Team
March 18-26, 2016



Haiti Team
October 5-17, 2015



"It was amazing how much joy these people (who have very little) have and the peace that is evident in their lives in spite of very difficult circumstances."
- Lorne Morgan

"I was taught the meaning of love, sacrifice, and loyalty – not only to the Lord but to those around us. Our brothers and sisters in Christ never ceased to amaze me in the love they have for everyone and everything. They taught me not to take material items for granted because it's all worthless in the kingdom of God." – Samuel Russell

Moldova Team
July 26-August 8, 2016



"This is our third year going to Moldova with TeachBeyond ministries. It's a great opportunity to share the love of Christ with the teens through English classes, sports, crafts, and devotionals. Please pray that the students coming will be open to the gospel." – Ken & Shirley Keeler

Southeast Asia Team
April 2016



Pastor Les Bon-Bernard & wife Dawn encouraging C&MA International Church Pastors and wives.



Belarus Team
August 3-15, 2016

"God doesn't show up in English camp with parting clouds and blazing glory ... He shows up in dozens of little ways and divine moments. It is worth everything to know we have had a part in affecting someone's earthly life and their eternal destination!" – Terry Schmidt



SHARING JESUS AROUND THE WORLD

Written by Jill Hopkins

FISHERS OF MEN



Just as Jesus invited fishermen Simon and Andrew to 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men,'* Colin Callbeck calls fishermen to pick up their rods and come to his Fly Fishing and Tying Ministry at FAC to hear the truth.

Now in its fourth year, this group draws believers and non-believers, beginners and novice, women and men, young and old through FAC's doors every Sunday afternoon, January through March (*pictured above*). They come from all over the city and from outlying communities to tap into Colin's vast knowledge and expertise in the area of fly fishing and especially fly tying.

A typical meeting has over 30 eager participants in attendance. An opening faith-based 'fish story' is followed by prayer and then teaching and practice in both skills – casting out on Main Street with former fishing guide, Zeke (Martin Loyer), and the fine art of tying with Colin in the Grade 5&6 room upstairs. Colin's wife, Kristen, although not a fisherman herself, supports Colin's ministry as she sits crocheting and chatting, building relationships with those who come. With over half of the people who come from the wider community, Kristen helps to make the church atmosphere warm and welcoming.

To say Colin has been gifted in this area would be a gross understatement. His creativity, meticulous skill, and infinite attention to detail have made him a respected, world renowned expert in the art of fly tying. Much sought after to be a presenter

at workshops and contributor to industry magazines, Colin has chosen to direct his passion and fine tuned skill in a deliberate, well-planned ministry to draw people into a relationship with God.

Asked to give a one-day seminar in fly fishing while on a two-week mission trip to Poland in 2006, Colin gladly accepted. While the Biblical curriculum in the English language school drew women and children to the school and attached church, it had failed to draw the interest of the men. Colin's fly fishing seminar quickly expanded to two weeks, drawing media, Fisheries Department, and fishing club members, as well as hundreds of others. Colin's willing heart and incredible skill and humility were used in a mighty way to welcome the male population to the Christian school.

Encouraged by the success in Poland, Colin again set into motion a plan to use his gifts and passions to create a new ministry here at home. In 2012, he started the Fly Fishing and Tying Ministry at First Alliance Church. Simultaneously, he set up a booth representing FAC at the annual Western Canadian Fly Tying Exposition at Spruce Meadows where the curious were given opportunity to try their hand at the craft (*pictured bottom right*). Many participants from the Expo followed Colin back to FAC. Not only are numbers steadily increasing; the ability levels of the members are as well. Thirteen-year-old Tyler van der Meulen found his calling when he met Colin, and is eagerly anticipating The Atlantic Salmon Fly Fishing International

Exposition in Seattle where he will demonstrate in early June. The Callbecks are happy to join Tyler and his mom there to lend support and spread the word.

And it continues to grow. **Six other churches in the western prairies have taken notice; Colin has helped them set up similar ministries in their cities, bringing sports enthusiasts into the church environment to connect over a common interest.**

Out on the Bow, attention is drawn to Colin's fishing boat, simply named *THE CHURCH*. It creates conversation and awareness, and Colin is more than ready to engage. His likeable, casual manner and obvious deep knowledge makes for a captivating discussion.

Colin seeks out other opportunities for fishermen and women to be involved and to go deeper. This August long weekend, he will be participating in the *Blue Bronna Wilderness Fly Fishing Camp* west of Nanton. This Christian-based camp provides food, tents and open camp fires and brings in speakers and guides from as far away as Texas for minimal cost. Again, people with a common interest in fishing are drawn into the Christian atmosphere of fun and connection. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to contact Colin: fouroaks@xplornet.com/403-938-1312.

That Colin has been richly gifted and is highly skilled, there is no question. People can't help but be drawn by his overwhelming love for the sport and his desire to teach. But it is his underlying deep faith in God, and his heart to be a 'fisher of men' that is the hook that makes them want to stay. • *Matthew 4:19 (ESV)*



**"...WHATEVER YOU DO
OR SAY, DO IT AS A
REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE LORD JESUS ..."**

Colosians 3:17 (NLT)



June



30 Days of Prayer June 6-July 5

Praying with faith, hope, and love
for the Muslim world.

30DaysPrayer.com

Stampede Breakfast

Saturday, July 9



DiscoveryCamps

July 4-8

Sign up to volunteer!

discoverycamps@facalgary.com



July

While the sun is out and the grass is green in YYC, be sure to make the most of it! Here's a few things happening around here that you and the family won't want to miss out on while the sunscreen is out.

Summer @ FAAC

August



Check out our Summer Events!

STUDENT MINISTRIES

faccalgary.com/students

Summer Small Groups

Start July 2/3

Connect during our summer series;

contact Janelle Emery

jemery@faccalgary.com

403-258-8289



Outdoor Baptisms

Sunday, July 24

Contact Pastor Heather Brown

hbrown@faccalgary.com

403-212-8854.

Backpacks for Kids

August 13/14



For summer mission trips, see page 14.

Storyline

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