

First Alliance

a christian & missionary alliance church
Phone: 403-252-7572 | faccalgary.com

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#FACBethlehem

Congregational Care

Those in Hospital: Jack Ashby, Clark Whitcomb.
For updates, please contact Anne Freeman
afreeman@faccalgary.com/403-258-8290.

Year-End Giving (as of Dec. 23, 2015)

Budget to Dec. 31/15	Received	Required*
General	\$2,934,595	\$2,375,649
Capital/Debt	602,177	340,249
Missions	518,422	395,754
		\$558,946
		261,928
		122,668

*Required by December 31, 2015. **Pre-numbered offering envelopes** are now available for pick-up at the North Entrance. Questions? Please contact Wale Aderoju
waderoju@faccalgary.com/403-258-8288.

Refugee Sponsorship

In September 2010, FAC's application to become a Sponsorship Agreement Holder was approved and we became the first C&MA organization with this status. **We have since submitted 31 applications to the government, which represents 81 refugees.** Some have been and will be sponsored completely by FAC, meaning we as a church will look after all their settlement costs and needs for one year through our Care Fund. Other applications are submitted in partnership with a constituent group or a co-sponsor. In these cases, we do the paperwork and the partner looks after the costs and support when the family arrives.

Five of the families we've applied for have arrived – two from Iran, one from Iraq and two from Syria. Three of these families were sponsored by FAC, and the two Syrian families with co-sponsors. Unfortunately the process time for many of our other applications is very long and slow. We have applications that were submitted three and four years ago and the refugees have still not arrived. **Presently there is great interest in refugee sponsorship because of the Syrian crisis, so we've been very busy answering questions and being involved in information sessions.** The government is promising to process these Syrian refugees very quickly but this will undoubtedly further hinder other applications already in process.

Please pray that applications that are already submitted will be processed quickly. Pray also that we might know the limits and parameters for our involvement in the current Syrian crisis.

Want to help? Designate donations to "refugee sponsorship" through an offering envelope or securely online: faccalgary.com/giving.

Word to the Wise

December 27, 2015 • Matthew 7:24-29 • Pastor Grant Sylvester

Welcome!

New or Visiting?

Feel free to fill out a **Contact Card** in the seat back in front of you, or stop by the **Info-Desk** – we'd love to answer any questions you have, and we have a coupon for you to enjoy a Café/Bistro drink as our guest! Visit us online: faccalgary.com.

Need Prayer?

After every service, our prayer team is available at the front of the Sanctuary. You can also ask for prayer through the **Contact Card** located in the seat back, call our prayer hotline **1-877-677-2948**, or visit faccalgary.com/prayer anytime.

Get Connected

We'd love to help you get connected with a small group for regular Bible study, prayer, and community! Drop by the **Connect Desk** this weekend or contact Janelle Emery jemery@faccalgary.com/403-258-8289.

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

Support & Care

Hurting? We have a variety of support groups starting in January that will provide you the space to reflect, learn, heal and grow in a safe community, including **Grief Support**, offered Wednesdays, 7:00 pm starting January 6. Visit faccalgary.com/care or stop by the **Info Desk** to learn more.

Serve

Thank you to those who helped with our many Christmas Serve opportunities! Explore more ways to get involved at FAC in the New Year; stop by the Serve Kiosk after the service or contact Cindy Bartlett cbartlett@faccalgary.com/403-258-4355.

Marriage Matters

We'd love to help you build a marriage that honours God in 2016. **Dynamic Marriage** course begins January 18; for details on this and other opportunities, stop by the Info Desk, visit faccalgary.com/couples or contact Anne afreeman@faccalgary.com /403-258-8290.

DiscoveryLand

Be a helper in one of our infant-Preschool classrooms NEXT WEEKEND as we wrap up our **Christmas Serve**; sign up at our table on Main Street or contact Pastor Crystal Sylvester csylvester@faccalgary.com/403-258-8293. **Grade School** resumes January 9/10!

Students

Worship Together Weekends: Grade 5&6 and JHS join the main services THIS WEEKEND & January 2/3. **Grade 5&6:** Join us upstairs (south end) January 9/10 during any service! **JHS (Jr. High):** Next service is January 9, 6:30 pm, Gym. "House Wars" January 30 (no cost)! **SHS (Sr. High):** Next service is January 6, 7:00 pm, Gym. West Edmonton Mall Trip (Gr. 9-12): Jan. 22-23, \$85; register online. **Young Adults:** Holy Spirit Encounter: Jan. 15-17 at FAC, \$50; register online. *For more info stop by the Info Desk, contact Sara Vanderveen 403-212-8849/ svanderveen@faccalgary.com, or visit faccalgary.com/students.*

Need-to-Know

Grow in 2016

As we journey through "40 Days in the Word" together in the New Year, we also want to give you additional **opportunities to grow in your walk with Jesus:**

- *Preparing for Baptism* (January 12, 7:00 pm, Harvest Room A)
- *Growing Stronger in Your Faith* (begins January 21)
- *Resolving Everyday Conflict* (begins January 21)
- *Spiritual Warfare: Overcoming the Enemy* (begins January 21)
- *Precept Ministries Bible Studies: Acts* (begins February 3)

For details and to register, visit faccalgary.com/registrations, stop by Cornerstone Marketplace, or contact Janet Loewen jloewen@faccalgary.com/403-252-7572.

Holy Spirit Encounter

Experience the fullness of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit, January 15-17 here at FAC. Come for a weekend of healing, forgiveness, spiritual freedom, fresh filling, new gifts and added joy; hosted by Doug & Teri Balzer of the Western Canadian District of the Christian & Missionary Alliance. Cost: \$50 (includes Saturday lunch, coffee breaks, and materials). Register online: faccalgary.com/registrations.

40 Days in the Word

We're starting the New Year with a **6-week "40 Days in the Word" series!** Go beyond the weekend teaching – join a smaller group to dig a little deeper! A Sunday evening "Super Group" will be hosted by Pastor James and Pastor Cory at FAC starting January 10, or be part of one of our Wednesday evening groups also here on campus. Let us know you're in; register online (faccalgary.com/registrations) look for the "40 Days in the Word" banner on Main Street at the Connect Desk.

Year-End Giving

- **Cash/Cheque:** in-service offering baskets, safe drop-off (left of the Café), through the church office (Mon.-Fri., 8:30 am-4:30 pm) or mail in
- **Direct Deposit:** automatic withdrawal forms are available at the Info Desk
- **Online – Now Mobile!** (via credit card) faccalgary.com/give OR through our new "FAC Experience" App
- **Debit/Credit Card:** through Cornerstone Marketplace; credit card donations can also be made in the Action Centre
- **Stocks or Gifts in Kind:** church office

Thank you for giving towards "building lives that honour God ... all for Jesus." Donations to be included in your 2015 tax receipt need to be received or postmarked before 11:59 pm on December 31, 2015. (The building will be open till 8:00 pm December 31 to receive year-end donations.) Contact Carey Thiessen 403-212-8844/c Thiessen@faccalgary.com.