

UCHURCH

Our desire is to live like Jesus, learn like Jesus, lead like Jesus and leave a legacy like Jesus...in other words, be like Jesus.

The Catalyst → Like the name? You chose it! Thanks to everyone who voted on the website!

Sunday January 17, 2010

Every Nation 2010 Fasting & Prayer

By Brant Reding

Can the efforts of fasting/praying by mere men & women, change our world? Absolutely. As you read this, we are seven days into a 40-day fast we felt God called us to with our sister communities across Canada. Fasting is never easy, but then again, anything that comes too easy is rarely of true value. During the time that Jesus was fasting, the devil gave him an easy way to 'save' the world – but Jesus chose the longer journey to crucifixion – not easy, but for those who understand it, it was worth it. Jesus came out of the fast with power, power to then live in such a manner as to affect everything. The rewards Jesus tells us that result from fasting are supernatural and define/alter the future natural course of events and lives, including our own. In Matthew 6:16-18, Jesus says, "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." That reward...believe me, it is worth it.

If you have been fasting this past week, you know the sacrifice, but you

have also experienced his presence, his encouragement, his correction. Confession and repentance are common – habits are broken. New strength replaces weakness. New resolve forms, your perspective changes.

So now what? The adventure continues. Like it says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." Corporately we will be gathering over the next 5 weeks to fast & pray together. The focus will be that God's will, will be done in us, in Canada, in the earth. We desire to know and participate in what God is doing.

So what is God doing? What is his will? God has been speaking to us as part of His Church very clearly (more on this during the next 5 weeks), and it is becoming evident that in the next 10 years, will be off-the-chart unique.

Jim Lafoon, a friend and highly respected prophet in the body of Christ, sent out a note a few days ago sharing what had come to him over a period of 4 nights in late December – it was a sense of what God's will is for the next decade. It read, "like the 'exodus' recorded in the OT, the next decade will have divine interventions on oppressive spirits,

political systems, religions, philosophies, and nations – that these divine interventions would result in deliverance and freedom from bondage and oppression. It would be both personal and corporate and will affect every sector of our world. As well, this decade will have some incredible manifestations of God's miraculous power as He moves to set more people free". Heady stuff, but for those who have walked a few decades with Jesus, they recognize the signs of these times. For us, for me, for you, the question then becomes – what part do we play in this? That's the adventure ahead – lets pray, discover, develop, and go into all the world. "If you keep yourself pure, you will be a utensil God can use for his purpose. Your life will be clean, and you will be ready for the Master to use you for every good work. Run from anything that stimulates youthful lust. Follow anything that makes you want to do right. Pursue faith and love and peace, and enjoy the companionship of those who call on the Lord with pure hearts."- 2 Tim 2:21-22

News & Events

Student/Young Professional Retreat: The UChurch annual student retreat is next weekend at Lake Louise! Get ready for an action-packed weekend of adventure and intimate time with God!



Every Nation Fast & Prayer: For the next five weeks, from January 18 - February 19, Every Nation churches across Canada will be fasting and praying in unity. If you would like to join in on this unique opportunity to grow personally and corporately in God, check out News & Events on the UChurch website and download the fasting guide.



Does God Exist Debate: Wednesday, Jan 27th, 2010 Please be in prayer for the upcoming debate at the U of C which is a unified effort by the campus Christian community. Pray that the spirit of God will touch many lives! And students, be sure to invite your friends.



Women's Retreat: UChurch's annual women's retreat will take place from Friday, March 12th - Sunday March 14th, 2010 at River's Edge retreat centre. Stay tuned for more information!

Join the Fast

If you would like to join the 2010 corporate fast & prayer, it is not too late! Beginning tomorrow, we will be praying for the various Every Nation churches across Canada, one per week for the next five weeks. The idea is to not just pray for ourselves and for our own churches, but to also be praying for a great 'outpouring of the Holy Spirit' upon the whole body of Christ in each of our cities and across our whole nation! This would please the Father greatly, just as if one member of a family asked for blessing,

prospering and help for just him/herself, and didn't care for the rest of the family in their great need, the dad would be grieved and inclined not to bless that kind of an attitude! Our Father, and Jesus, have a great aversion to self-centeredness, but love it when we love and care for the whole family! Let this be our focus as we enter into this time of intercession. Download the fasting guide from the UChurch website - listed under News & Events - to get started.

Beliefs that Define Us

We believe in truth, not traditions

We believe in relationships, not rules

We believe that relationships are the foundation of all life - first and foremost our relationship with God, and secondly our relationships with others

We believe that knowing about God without truly knowing God and experiencing God is meaningless

We believe that talking about the gospel without demonstrating the gospel is not enough

We believe that people learn and grow best when they are in authentic, relational community in which they know and are known, love and are loved

Submissions: If you would like to see your written, photographic, or artistic work published in the UChurch newspaper, please send your completed work via email to news@uchurch.ca by the first of each month. Profiles, essays, reviews, and journalistic stories should include all elements of the story (who, what, where, when, why, and how), as well as your intended approach. Artwork and photographs must be submitted in .jpg, or .bmp, format, and should include a title and/or brief description.

A Time to Tear & A Time to Mend

By Dwight VanMiddlesworth

As I reflect on the journey I've been on this past month and a half, it's interesting that one week I was speaking during a UChurch service, and the next week I was getting operated on. I could not have predicted such an event. However, as many of you are aware, on Saturday, November 28, 2009 I went in for surgery due to a twisted bowel. I have had GI tract problems all my life, which essentially means that about twice a year for



as long as I can remember, I get a very painful stomach ache, that lasts anywhere from 1 hour to 2 hours. I would experience great agony, but after time had passed, the pain would dissipate and I would be on my way again. Only this time, what began that normal Friday, November 27, 2009, turned out not to be so normal after all; the pain did not go away. What followed can only be described as the "perfect storm", where my prolonged stomach ache became so intense it required immediate medical attention.

I want to first thank the entire UChurch community for engaging in corporate prayer on my behalf. Your prayers were much needed and I am greatly thankful for them. God heard, and He responded! To demonstrate the Lord's faithfulness, what follows are but some of the many answers to prayer the Lord provided: I was able to get morphine in the ambulance on the way to the hospital; immediate access to a hospital bed upon arriving in the E.R.; numerous helpful and supportive nurses, doctors, and staff to help and assist me; a surgeon whose first name is Elijah (which means, "my God is the Lord") to perform the successful operation; a speedy recovery in the hospital (which I believe is a direct response to your prayers); as well as a gradual progress in my healing during which I have been regaining my strength, weight (I lost 14 pounds), and energy levels.

During this time God led me to Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, which says that "For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven". As is the title of this praise report, verse 7a says there is "a time to tear and a time to mend". Yup, that's true. I can totally relate as I experienced firsthand the truth to what the author, King

Solomon, the wisest man to have ever lived, penned hundreds of years ago. What is also fitting to note is that seasons imply a period of time, a duration. Some are long, some short, but nonetheless every season encompasses a beginning and an end. That can be either exciting or discouraging, depending upon what season you are in. In my case, it is exciting. I am now on the road to recovery, and in time (6 months or so) my body will be completely healed and I will be a new man with a new bowel! As for now, I will be going in for my second and final surgery during the first week of March, and I would greatly appreciate your continued prayers.

Home Church

By Jennifer Kohlhammer

It was no accident that the first Sunday of the year was held in homes; we know that no matter where we are or who we're with, we are the church and Christ is the head (Ephesians 5:23). It is not necessary for us to have a fancy building to meet in with wood-carved pews and stained-

glass windows, although they can be beautiful expressions of love and devotion to God. But we know that all of that is simply not necessary; we are the church - the church is in us and goes with us where we go. Last month's newspaper included an article entitled "Imperfect Church" which talked about how we, the community of UChurch, are by no means perfect. So when we gather, whether on the UofC campus or elsewhere, things can get quite messy. But it's ok because that's what happens as growing families mature together! We gather as a family to ask questions, be encouraged & challenged, study scripture, learn to love God and others, discover missions, build relationships, and most importantly grow spiritually into authentic followers of Jesus - life-long learners that have a positive impact in the



world. These things are exactly what took place during 'Home Church Sunday'.

On Sunday, January 3rd, more than 100 people gathered in five homes across the city. They prayed together, worshipped God together, ate together, and played together. It was a joyful celebration marking the beginning of a hopeful new decade.

Certainly the overall impression shared by those who were able to attend was about the value of community. Whereas it can be difficult to effectively 'do' community on Sunday mornings in a celebration of 300+ people, breaking into smaller groups to be the church together alluded to a sense of family. Testimonies were shared, encouragements and challenges were given, in a safe and comfortable environment. Some even noted that there was a level of security that they had not experienced elsewhere, and therefore the sense of vulnerability was not so intimidating. This is the church, people...being real together in the presence of God and in the presence of one another.

One group looked at the story of when Jesus was presented at the temple - the eighth day after his birth (Luke 2:21-40). It was at this time, when Jesus was brought by Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem, that he was approached by Simeon and Anna - elderly people who had spent their lives devoted to God. In the presence of Jesus,

they each thanked God for his goodness and prophesied over the baby Christ, saying that "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too" (Luke 2:34-35). The challenge was given to the group to share what they were thankful to God for in the year past, and to speak words of encouragement for the future over our UChurch family. Perhaps this is a challenge that you may want to consider yourself...and if you have not participated in Home Church before, get plugged in! Check out page 4 for contact information for UChurch Small Groups.

Its Going to be a WILD Semester!

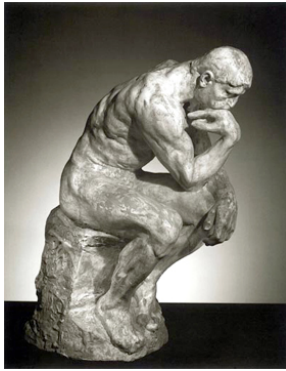
By Jennifer Kohlhammer

The upcoming months will be very busy on the University of Calgary campus. First and foremost, our annual UChurch student retreat is planned for NEXT weekend - Friday, January 22 - Sunday, January 24. It will be an adventurous weekend both physically and spiritually, so for those who will be attending, prepare to be rocked! In previous years, many unsaved students have met Christ on these retreats; it is our prayer that students would be open to God's revelations yet again during this year's retreat.

In addition to the UChurch retreat, the various on-campus Christian groups have been gathering every second Thursday for the last three months to plan this year's outreach event as a follow-up to last year's "Jesus Week". Prayers and planning have revealed that

it is important at this time to invite believers and non-believers to a "Does God Exist?" debate in which a Christian and non-Christian representative will share from their own faith backgrounds. Michael Horner,

UofC alumni and captain of the Dinos basketball team, back in his time, will represent the 'believers', and a member of the university's Freethinkers Association, a community for those adhering to secular worldviews, will represent the 'non-believers'. In addition, students will be engaged to ask questions and share their own beliefs and opinions. It is our prayer that this event will present faith-based information to students from multiple perspectives, and will encourage students to think deeper about the reality of our God. The debate will take place at 4:00 on January 27th in MacHall.



As followup to the debate, on-campus Christian groups will collaborate once again to host an event on February 3rd, again in MacHall. This event will speak to questions that were raised about the existence of God during the debate. Specific topics that will be covered at this event have not yet been solidified, however potential topics include: build your own God (how does each individual view God?), who does God say that He is?, and is God really who He says He is? Our prayer is that this followup event would be a powerful and timely opportunity for attendees to gain answers to their most heartfelt questions about God.

It is also apparent that we, as part of the UofC Christian community, are entering a season in which there will be many opportunities to be equipped in outreach to other faith communities. Beginning on February 7th in our regular Sunday morning celebration, we will be graced by the presence of Wagdi Iskander, a renowned specialist in the areas of Islam and Christianity. Wagdi was born in Sudan and was a Bedouin and a Muslim during his upbringing. After years of resisting God and thanks to the tireless witness of a university classmate, Wagdi became a new creature in Jesus Christ in 1985. Consequently, he was disowned by his Muslim family and spent time in prison, facing death. Wagdi, his wife and his two children now live in Calgary where they serve as pastors of Arabic Church of Calgary (C&MA). We are incredibly blessed for Wagdi to be willing to come and speak to us; Sunday, February 7th will be a celebration that you don't want to miss!

The morning of February 7th will not be the last we see of Wagdi. He will be returning on February 12 & 13 to run a training session for young people with respect to evangelism to Muslims. Heads up: this training session is not for UChurch members only - it will be a shared experience amongst the broader Christian community. Please pray about whether or not this is something that God has in store for you.

Details on how to sign up for this workshop to come.

Please pray in agreement with us that during the upcoming months, God would be our guide with respect to these plans, and that any opposition would be silenced. For the campus-wide debate, we ask that you would pray for clarity of communication and thought amongst the students and the debaters. For the upcoming student retreat and the outreach to Muslims training session, please pray for timely and appropriate equipping and strengthening of our core students. And finally, we ask that you would pray for continued unity in focus and direction of the various Christian groups on the University of Calgary campus. We desire to walk together as one body in Christ.

The Dishwasher

By Steve Bleile

Tash and I have now been married for about 6 months. So, I guess you could say we're just about experts when it comes to marriage. We've even managed to resolve the dreaded dishwasher argument.

She used to tell me that the way I did it was inefficient and would even reload it after I had finished "so more fits in."

I used to point out that plainly it was better for her that I load the dishwasher, even poorly, because at least she, then, wouldn't have to do it, but that if she wanted she was "free to do it herself."

Thankfully we were eventually able to agree to the following solution: since the whole topic was relatively unimportant we shouldn't worry about it. BUT I now try with renewed vigor to cram more things in there than could ever reasonably fit. AND she tries to humor my best efforts.

Guitar Church

By Peter Biggs, *Options Magazine* columnist

It all began just three years ago. 'Guitar Church' started in a church in Red Deer, Alberta, as a guitar club for teens ...

Founder Tom Cameron says he was surprised when more than 100 people signed up for the first session. They came from within a radius of 100 kilometres of Red Deer and represented all ages and all guitar styles from country to hard rock. "It quickly grew to 130, and so I chose a time the church building would be free - Saturdays from 10 to noon."

Students pay \$150 for 10 weeks of lessons. Each week, the first hour features a 'guest clinician.' These clinicians "are always Christian, and are professional guitarists," said Cameron.

All weave their story of faith into the workshop. Clinicians have included Rick Derringer, writer of Rock and Roll Hoochie Koo; Glenn Kaiser of GKB Band and REZ; Paul Colman of the Newsboys; and Doug Doppler, who laid down many of the tracks used in the popular game Guitar Hero.

During the second hour of each week, students are broken into four groups - beginner, intermediate, advanced and bass. With upwards of 50 students in each one, the groups have instructors as well as 'coaches' who help individuals. "Some in the advanced group have forfeited their sessions to stay and help beginners," said Cameron.

The success of Guitar Church and the enthusiasm of participants across such a wide range of ages and cultures is unparalleled. Economically it works, with fees helping to bring in gifted clinicians. Local music stores, impressed with the numbers and success, are happy to donate door prizes and loan equipment. "I've franchised it, and it's now being run in six churches throughout Alberta," Cameron said.

While the majority of participants have some kind of Christian connection, around 15 percent come from a non-church background.

How cool is that? If you're musically inclined and Guitar Church is something that interests you, let us know! We would love to support you!

The Life of Christ Word Search



ARRESTED
ASCENSION
BAPTISM
BETHLEHEM
BETRAYED
BREAD
CROSS
CROWN OF THORNS
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FLOGGING
GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
GOSPEL
HEALED THE SICK
IMMANUEL
JESUS CHRIST

JEW
JOSEPH
LAST SUPPER
LORD
MARY
MASTER
MESSIAH
NAZARITE
PARABLES
PASSOVER
PHARISEES
PONTIUS PILATE
PROPHECY
RABBI
RAISED THE DEAD
RESURRECTION

RIGHTEOUS
SACRIFICE
SAVIOUR
SERMON ON THE MOUNT
SHEPHERD
SINLESS
SON OF GOD
SON OF MAN
TEMPTATIONS
THREE DAYS
TOMB
WALKED ON WATER
WILDERNESS
WINE

Small Talk with Jesus

By Stephen Bleile

Have you ever wondered why every now and then you can read your Bible and nothing, I mean NOTHING, grabs your attention or jumps out at you?

The only way I can make sense of it is to suggest that maybe Jesus enjoys Small Talk with us as much as he enjoys keeping the world spinning around.

My Biblical evidence? John said that not everything that Jesus said and did was recorded. This tells me that there were times when Jesus was just hanging out with His disciples that never got written down. No one thought to write down: "We were just sitting around with Jesus." Yet, they must have done it.

When nothing "jumps out" maybe we're being exposed to chill time with Jesus. Maybe those times that seem so empty are the same as conversations with friends where you don't talk about much of anything but you, somehow, enjoy it immensely.



Volunteer Opportunities

Is there a specific area of service that interests you? Contact the corresponding email address to get involved!

Hospitality: hospitality@uchurch.ca

Podcast/Web: web@uchurch.ca

Kids Church: kids@uchurch.ca

Nursery: nursery@uchurch.ca

Youth: youth@uchurch.ca

Multimedia: multimedia@uchurch.ca

Set-up/Tear down: bruce247365@gmail.com

Get Plugged In...UChurch Life Groups:

UofC Sunday 11:15am (youth)
Leaders: Josh & Bex
youth@uchurch.ca

UofC Sunday 7:00am (ladies)
Leader: Ope
hphzibahokolie@yahoo.com

Wentworth Sunday 1:00pm
Leaders: Derrick & Debbie
debbie.mohamed@masters.ab.ca

Springbank Monday 6:30pm
Leaders: Ralph & Glenda
rdubienski@gmail.com

Killarney Tuesday 7:00pm
Leaders: Jodie & Tash
jodie.cardoza@gmail.com

UofC Wednesday 7:00pm (students)
Leaders: Adam, Craig, Nate, & Sarah
aelazenby@yahoo.com

NW Calgary Wednesday 6:00pm
Leaders: Brent & Patty, Brant & Jen
clarke5@nucleus.com

Beltline Wednesday 7:30pm
Leaders: Robert & Donna
dchyz@telus.net

Royal Oak Wednesday 7:00pm
Leaders: Lance & Lauren
ldf7@shaw.ca

Kensington Wednesday 7:00pm
Leaders: Aunt Olive & Charles
cekcoleman@yahoo.com

Signature Park Thursday 6:00pm
Leaders: John & Rowena
themacneils@gmail.com

Hawkwood Thursday 7:00pm
Leaders: Bob & Jan
rjveck@telus.net

NW Calgary Friday 6:00am (men)
Leaders: Adam, Bruce, & Brant
bruce247365@gmail.com
Chinook Mall Friday 6:00pm (ladies)
Leader: Rodelyn
r_macatula@yahoo.com

Valley Ridge Friday 7:30pm
Leader: Karl
k_houston35@hotmail.com

All Over Calgary Saturday 5:00pm
Leaders: Id & Ope
id_adewale@yahoo.com