

commonplace?



sept 2004

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What a great summer - sun, surf and structural changes at the Place. Who could want more?

Well we survived Randy's sabbatical and with the pile on his plate it's like he never was away :(Oh this issue is a

rush job, so I'll give a CD for the person who shows me most mistakes. It's a busy time, lots going on, so keep your eyes glued to the new website - yep its up and running - as well as every last word in magazine. Next issue in Nov.

Simon at admin@theplace

Lambrick News

Ch-ch-changes at Lambrick Park Church and the Place Community for the Fall 2004.

Lots has been happening since the latest (and greatest so far) edition of commonPlace? Over the summer months the elders and staff were hard at work re-engineering and re-structuring a number of areas of ministry. We are quite excited that going into the Fall 2004 ministry season the following developments are in place:

Family & Children's Ministry: we completely re-structured this important ministry to better address the changing demographics of both the Sunday morning and Place congregations. Rosemary Gaunt (yes, Lindsay's mom!) has accepted the position of Team leader and has been busy building a great team since then. We now have part time staff giving leadership to our many early childhood ministries (Sundays / Wednesday nights), Crosswalk (grade 1-5), and new middle school (grade 6-8) ministries. Andy Renton, who many of you know, is interning with us, focusing on middle school kids. Lisa Johnson and Kathy Kouri are job sharing (tag teaming?) as the Place Kids ministry co-coordinators. They are very much a part of the overall Family & Children's Ministry team, as is Michelle Maggoria, in the Single Parent Group ministry. We believe these changes are very strategic.

Student Ministries: James Prette continues to wear one of his many hats (in Young Life, as a teaching pastor, and movie buff) giving direction in the area of high school ministry. Ryan Macleod, one of your worship leaders, is interning

at Lambrick/the Place focusing on our grade 9-12 high school kids and their parents. James will oversee Andy's and Ryan's internships, as well as a couple of Young Life staff interns. We are excited about this new opportunity to be investing in, and receiving from, great interns like these guys (we need an intern of the other gender next year, eh?). We look forward to Ryan's contribution around here.

We are experimenting with a full teaching team concept this fall as Randy and James partner with Dr. Roy Bell (Randy's preaching prof) as all 3 congregations (Sunday 9 / 11 am, and the Place) take a look at two Old Testament prophets in first 6 chapters of Daniel in September/October, and in November the famous tale of the prophet and the fish Jonah (yes, there is much more to that story). This series will kick off as soon as the current core values series wraps up.

At the big picture, the leadership of Lambrick continue to investigate ... pray ... research ... pray ... debate, discuss and determine ... and pray some more into the future of Lambrick/the Place's senior leadership structure. Getting (or not getting) this right will have significant implications for the Place Community, as well as LPC as the mother ship. We ask you to keep praying ... for the elders, pastoral team, Place leadership, and various teams at work on this transition we are experiencing. We're very grateful that the first months have gone extremely well, even with Randy absent-on-sabbatical! Questions? Please call me.





'Membership'

What does it mean to be a member of the church?

During my seminary education, I never felt we really address the question: "What does it mean to be a member of the church?" Later, when I turned to the early Christian tradition and began, for the first time, to understand what it meant to be a member of the body of Christ, it was like removing blinders that had covered my eyes.

I learned from the early Fathers that the church is intrinsically connected with Christ and his victory over the power of evil. The church is therefore to be regarded as a kind of continuation of the presences of Jesus in the world. Jesus is not only seated at the right hand of the Father, but is visibly and tangibly present in and to the world through the church. This is an incarnational understanding of the church. It is a unique community of the people in the world, a community like no other community because it is the presence of the divine in and to the world. This concept of the church has specific relevance to the world of

postmodernism.

Postmodern thought has shifted our attention from an atomistic and individualistic view of reality to the interconnection of all things. This scientific and philosophical concept of all things. This scientific and philosophical concept of interrelationship has led to the affirmation of community. As Daniel Bell states, "The postmodern industrial society... is a 'communal' society in which the social unit is the community rather than the individual"

We already see the move toward community in the globalization of the world and in the communication revolution through which we have instant contact with other people in all parts of the world. Furthermore, the trend, according to political and economical scientists, is that the world, which was once organized around geographical civilizations, is being reorganized around cultures. Future clashes, skirmishes, and even wars are likely to be cultural wars rather than civilization wars. This has already been seen in the Middle East (Jews and Arabs), and in Bosnia and Kosovo (Christian and Muslims). The rise of

Muslims around the world and here in America is another case in point. Muslims will always be Muslims before they will be Americans or members of any other culture or civilization [ed: As said numerous times by Islamic scholar Bernard Lewis]

What this means for the church is that Christians must recover the primacy of being a Christian community. It means that the primary question we must ask is, "What does it mean to be a citizen of the local and global church?" This question must precede the question, "What does it mean to be a good citizen of the United States [or Canada]?" All Christians are members of the church before they are members of an American, African, Asian, Spanish, or any other culture. For the church transcends all the cultures of the world and defines all believers as the culture of the presence of Jesus Christ in and to the world.

Ancient-Future Faith: Rethinking Evangelicalism for a Postmodern World
by R. E. Webber



The Stickman Show this year is being organized by myself, Rhonda, and my friend Jo. We would like to welcome, of course, anyone who can draw a stickman. I would like to amend that by saying anyone who can draw a stickman and has something to share: a thought, an idea, a feeling, an expression. These elements are what art is made of. There is of course no accounting for taste and the intention and mandate of the Stickman Show is not to assess the work being entered based on aesthetics. The point of the show is to encourage and showcase the sincerity of the makers and of the creative process if you will. That being said please approach us with gusto.

Stickman this year will be gracing the inside of the church for 5 days and my prayer is that we will have some 3 dimensional pieces. A sculpture garden is destined for the exterior and front of the building, so please all you budding sculptors fill it! We have stocked Simon with entry forms, please get one and fill it out. The questions there help us understand much more about your pieces. The deadline for submissions is October 1st, and the excitement is building for me, especially. I and Jo are overjoyed to be organizing the Stickman effort this year. As a practicing artist I am intensely aware of the rarity

of this event, rare in that the church itself is facilitating and embracing its art community to the amazing degree it is. It is an honour to be part of this vision.

Our core values here at the Place: COMMUNITY, ORTHODOXY, BEAUTY AND ENGAGEMENT, are perfect inspiration for the art you will produce and really for any art that has ever been produced. A bold statement no doubt, this I do say upon reflection.

There is a remarkable tradition of Christian Art that dates back to the Byzantine Empire, Constantine and other bold adventurers. Art back in the day was a form of advertising, awe inspiring, worship enhancing, life inspiring, an advertisement for God. That purpose was turned inside out with the advent of the reformation and slowly the Christian faith moved its artists to the margins, where we have quietly resided. I believe there is another kind of reformation underway; the margins are starting to resemble edges. And to be perfectly honest, the edge is beautiful, and if you are participating in the show this year, you are part of that beauty.

Rhonda
stickman@theplace.ca

Do you want to be part of a small group Bible study, yet due to evening classes at school, varying work schedules, or that you live outside of Victoria, you find it impossible to commit to one?

In 2001, two members of The Place community were talking about their Christian commitment, while attending Cornerstone Festival. One lived in Victoria, and the other in Nanaimo, but desired to study God's Word together. They recognized that in order to get to know what God wanted for their lives, they needed to spend a lot more time reading and studying His letter to them.

That summer of 2001 saw the birth of an internet Bible study, using available technology to further their spiritual quest. In the fall, they opened it up to The Place community. Currently there are about 30 that receive the Monday to Friday studies, most who have attended The Place while attending university. We have participants in Russia, on a cruise ship in the Mediterranean, in Indonesia, in Manitoba, Ontario, and throughout BC.

The moderator posts a portion, and then participants may respond with what they have found from the same passage. We continue in the tradition of The Place, by working our way through Bible books.

This fall, The Place will be launching their new website, and the internet study group plans to be part of it, so the format we've had will be changing. If this "band-aid" solution for a small group, fits your spiritual needs, and you are interested in joining and participating, contact Phil at egroup@theplace.ca or talk to Simon after The Place.



THOUGHTS ON SOLIDARITY, RESISTANCE, LIBERATION.

(Condensed from a paper written for Regent College course "Solidarity, Resistance, Liberation: the Contours of the Divine Drama of Salvation.")

We live in a world where profit is the bottom line. The dangerous seductive powers of wealth make it difficult to avoid loving money and allowing it to become our master. We cannot live without money in our society, and we cannot live without consuming; our bodies need clothing and our stomachs need food. The problem lies in the obsession with consuming and allowing it to master us. The all-consuming consumerism of our culture is a consequence of the royal "worldly" consciousness that runs contrary to the alternative community of the Kingdom of God (as described by Walter Brueggemann in *Prophetic Imagination*) and leads to greed, oppression and misplaced faith.

With the development of the Industrial Revolution, far more merchandise was produced than could be consumed; therefore, in order to maximize profit, manufacturers had to change peoples' mindset from thrift to consumption. Manufacturers have found that the most effective way of selling their products is to advertise. In the last half a century, the science of advertising has been perfected. We are constantly bombarded with commercials: on television, clothing, billboards and cars, in the public bathroom. Advertisers manipulate our psychological weaknesses in order to cause us to be in constant need and dissatisfaction. The purpose of advertising is to create desire--basically, to foster greed (greed being defined by the Oxford Dictionary as "excessive desire"). This discontent goes against the

Biblical call and example to be content with what we have. Paul himself was an example of contentment¹, and he states in his letter to Timothy,

But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.²

The "craving" and the "senseless and harmful desires" denounced by Timothy are exactly what advertising seeks to create, and on which consumerism thrives.

man that in order to be perfect, he must sell his possessions and give to the poor³. According to the book of Acts, possessions were shared in the early church⁴. The author of James also warns us against hoarding wealth.⁵

In that same passage, James links hoarding wealth directly to the oppression of workers: "Behold, the wages of the labourers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, are crying out against you, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts."⁶ In the manufacturers' greed for profit, humans and Earth's resources are seen as commodities to consume in order to increase production. Working conditions and environmental impact are secondary to the god of profit;



The result of a lifestyle of consumerism is an accumulation of possessions. However, the Bible teaches against this accumulation³. As an introduction to the parable of the rich fool in Luke, Jesus says, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."⁴ In Matthew 19, Jesus tells a wealthy young

people and the earth are abused and oppressed in favour of money. In her book *No Logo*, Naomi Klein describes the unjust working conditions of those who sew our brand-name clothing: very long hours, wages below subsistence, a physically and mentally poor working environment, and strictly controlled conditions so that unions are not allowed to function.⁹ In South America, large

tracts of rainforest are constantly being cut down to feed our North American coffee and soy habits, resulting in soil degradation, global warming, and the loss of habit and extinction of many plant and animal species.

After the parable of the rich fool with possessions in Luke 12 mentioned previously, Jesus goes on to tell the listeners not to concern themselves with what to wear or how to sustain their lives, because God will provide. He takes the focus off consuming, and onto God. The problem with consumerism is not that we need food and clothing, that inevitably we must consume in order to live. The problem is when consuming becomes a lifestyle, an attitude, an obsession, that takes our focus off God and results in oppression and greed.

As a society, our quest for meaning in life has been supplanted by our quest for possessions, comfort and convenience. According to Naomi Klein, marketing companies purposely strive to manipulate consumers' emotions to create a sense of meaning associated with their product.¹⁰ With consumerism our search for meaning is shifted from the kingdom of God, to the kingdom on Earth. And so we increasingly worship in malls rather than churches; for where our treasure is, there our hearts are also.

Such a deep problem--one involving societal attitudes--has no easy solutions. The most obvious way to resist consumerism is to check our own consumption habits and make sure that our treasure is in heaven, and that we are serving God, not goods. The letter to Timothy provides good council:

Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will

*lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.*¹¹

Showing generosity and performing good deeds are actions that will store up treasure in heaven, and not goods on Earth. Developing gratitude will cause us to become more contented, allowing us to resist the pull of the royal consciousness and its message of discontentment.¹²

Since we require food and clothing, we cannot avoid being consumers to some degree. However, we can resist the destructive effects of consumerism by making wise consumer choices; for example: by buying fair trade products, organic foods, and clothing manufactured with fair wages. We can encourage companies to be socially responsible in their practices, including by "maximizing human benefit, not profit".¹³ In this way, we stand with sweatshop labourers in their plight, and we become a voice for the earth.

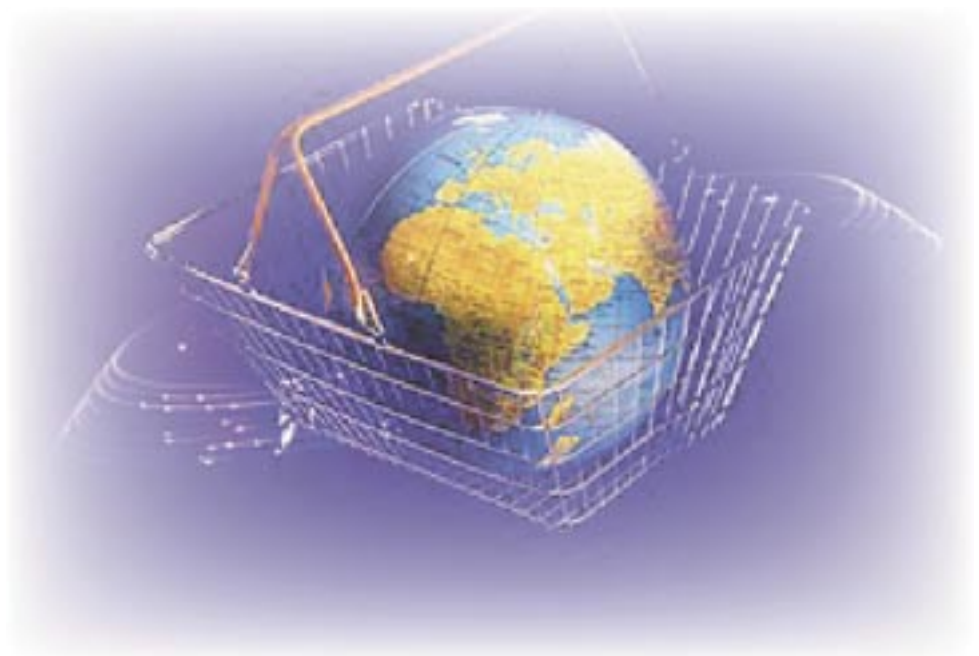
When we take individualized action against consumerism, we will be personally liberated from bondage to possessions. If we take

action against injustice practiced by manufacturers, and against the abuse of the earth's resources, we will help relieve oppression. If we develop the prophetic imagination and criticize the consumer mindset, we participate in the liberation of our culture. When we resist consumerism, we resist greed, oppression and static religion and create space for the Kingdom of God.

HCF

Endnotes:

1. Philippians 4:11
2. 1 Timothy 6:8-10, ESV
3. Deuteronomy 17:17, NIV
4. Luke 12:15, NIV
5. Matthew 19:21-24
6. Acts 4:34-35, NIV
7. James 5:1,3, ESV
8. James 5:4-5, ESV
9. Naomi Klein, *No Logo* (Toronto, Vintage Canada, 2000) 125-229.
10. Klein, 21.
11. 1 Timothy 6:17-19, NIV
12. 1 Timothy 6:6-8, NIV
13. Clapp, 194.





VOLUNTEERISM - THE SOUL OF OUR COMMUNITY

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."*

Winston Churchill

While volunteerism contributes substantially to our gross national product through services rendered and jobs created, the real hidden nugget of volunteer contribution lies in the human gains made in our society. It is the immeasurable positive impact of making a significant difference in the lives of others that affects the soul of a community.

People have always come together sharing resources and talents to get things done, whether harvesting a crop, raising a barn, providing childcare, eldercare, or care to the sick and disadvantaged. Volunteerism is involved in solving some of our nation's most serious social problems. In Canada over one third of the adult population gives freely of their time and resources to improve

the quality of their communities. With increasing public debt and decreasing government funds at both the national and local level, volunteers will continue to fill the gap and meet the demand for health, housing, educational, and other social services.

Who chooses to volunteer and where they direct their time and energy is a reflection of current social and political ideologies and the ability of an organization to communicate their vision to engage volunteers. Increasingly the level of funding available to an organization is measured by the vitality of their volunteer team. Developing from a rising dependence on effective volunteer involvement is a full-time management discipline focused on motivating and caring for volunteers. The importance of encouraging and sustaining volunteer contribution is a vital area of research and analysis on the engagement or obstruction of volunteer initiative.

Apathy is not the primary obstacle preventing people from community involvement. People do worry about issues, but there is an overwhelming feeling that "there are so many

problems, how could I possibly make a difference?" People often feel they don't know enough, or they think they have nothing to offer. To counter our current culture's strong tendency towards cynicism and passivity we must publicize our successes and create a connection for people by putting the value of volunteerism in words. Many volunteer stories model unconditional kindness, compassion, love, nobleness, generosity, unsung heroes, and the spirit of courage. Through communication of these stories we generate belief and hope capable of inspiring a person to take action and become engaged with their community.

By linking our beliefs to community we invigorate the spiritual and economic health of our society. Our spirit dies when we keep our beliefs silent and we suppress our heartfelt desire to respond to a homeless person, or someone less fortunate. Emily Dickenson was right when she said "the abdication of Belief makes the behaviour small". Claiming our Belief has the capacity to make our behaviour great. One of our world's greatest volunteers, Mother Teresa, stated, "If we pray, we will believe, if we believe, we will love, if we love, we will serve." The joint challenge for our leaders in government, not-for-profit organizations, and the churches is to inspire and create a belief that will empower our society to choose action over cynicism and caring over withdrawal or indifference.

The root of this action is hope. It is the most powerful motivating force and has created saints and heroes, all volunteers working together generating a better place to live. This human response is at the very soul of our community and causes us to find a voice and skills that we did not know that we have. Then we can act to pass on a better world to our children.

Deb M

WE AREN'T NECESSARY

God doesn't need us...He wanted us. Jesus wasn't necessary from God's point of view. The Lord could have just given up on us when the Garden was corrupted. We are merely aesthetics...we are not necessary. But because He wanted us, He gave us a second chance. If we were standing before God and He asked why should He allow us to enter His kingdom, the answer should be, "Because You invited me. You loved me enough to give me life. I accepted Jesus as my personal savior." If we answer, "Because I was a good person," and list all the good deeds we have done, we have succumbed to the greatest downfall of man -- pride. We are then basing salvation on what we have done, not on what God has done. Comparing our works with others is not a measure of holiness. Neither is the pursuit of perfection. We are all created different, but equal. Our own definition of "good" isn't enough to gain us entrance to God's kingdom. We can never earn our righteous way into heaven. God has accepted us as we are. We don't need to impress God with our works or talents. Just give Him glory and be thankful.

Ryan C

Do you have
something to say?

Email your
submission to
cp@theplace.ca



WHAT

Sent in by Phil T

What we get, it isn't because we deserve it. We deserve nothing but the filth of our own sins. We must walk in grace to escape the bitterness and the hatred of a world that is always crying out for more. We could do the same, but no one will listen. What we get, it isn't because we're especially blessed. If we think that we are, then we are saying that we are better than those who pay the price for our success, which they would see as their own failure. We are blessed because we walk under the shadow of the One who created us. What we receive, it isn't because of our hard labour. God gave us the opportunity at his timing and place. What we get, it is just because...

Do everything out of love, not expecting reward. Life isn't fair and equal. We need to get used to it. God is asking that of us.

Ryan C

A lone young shepherd lived in pain
withdrawn from pleasure and contentment,
his thoughts fixed on a shepherd-girl
his heart an open wound with love.

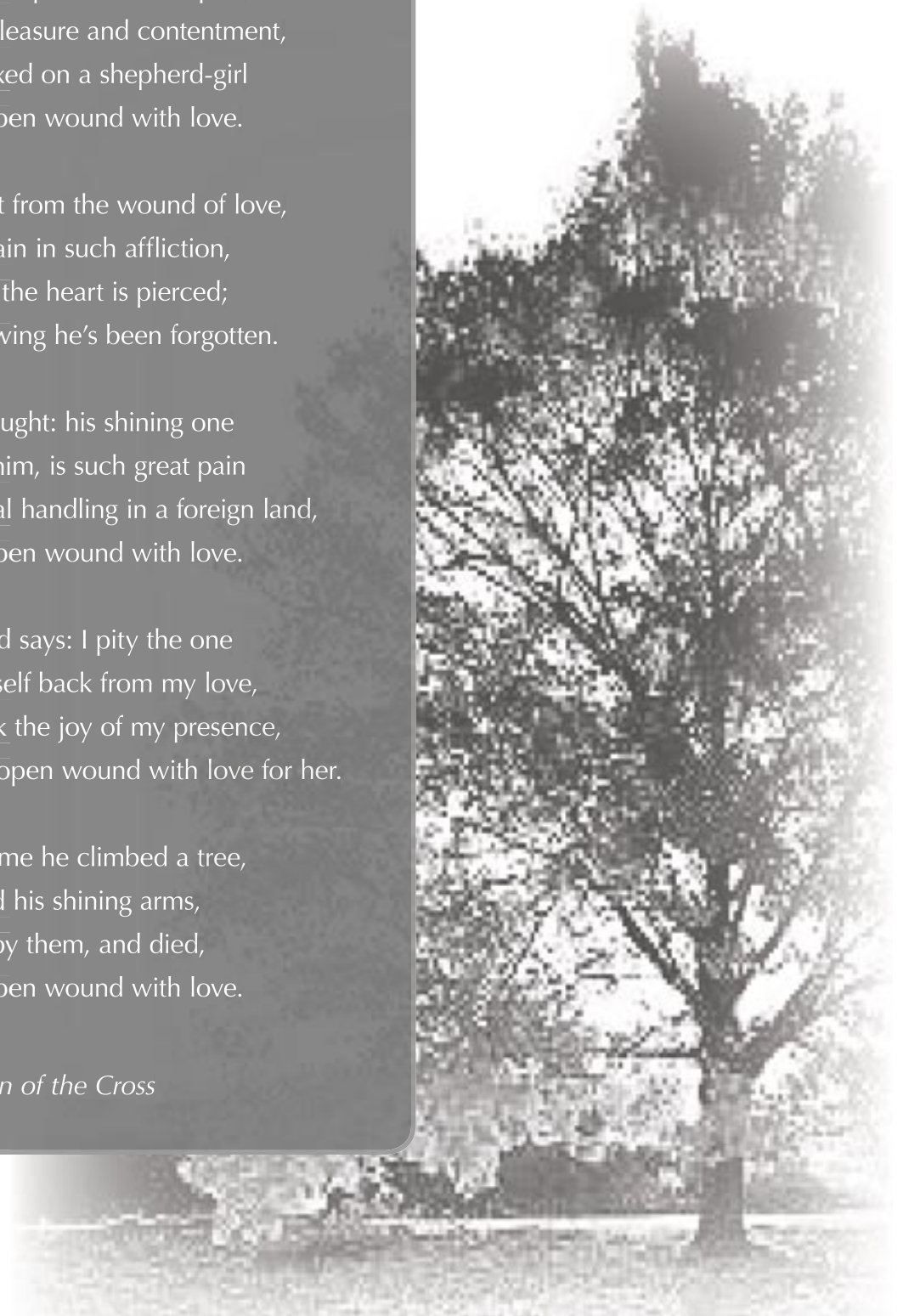
He weeps, but not from the wound of love,
there is no pain in such affliction,
even though the heart is pierced;
he weeps in knowing he's been forgotten.

That one thought: his shining one
has forgotten him, is such great pain
that he bows to brutal handling in a foreign land,
his heart an open wound with love.

The shepherd says: I pity the one
who draws herself back from my love,
and does not seek the joy of my presence,
though my heart is an open wound with love for her.

After a long time he climbed a tree,
and spread his shining arms,
and hung by them, and died,
his heart an open wound with love.

St. John of the Cross





Notices

ongoing



MOSAIC

**Wed for 10 weeks
(Starting Sept 29th)
6:30pm Dinner
7:30 Sessions**

- 1) Faith: good or bad faith?
- 2) Church: honest look at the faith community
- 3) History: from Genesis to ... 4 primary relationships
- 4) Jesus: His life and teachings
- 5) Jesus: Why did He have to die?
- 6) Jesus: His deity and resurrection
- 7) Trinity: 3-in-1? Father, Son and Spirit
- 8) Christian Life: an invitation to community & engagement
- 9) Christian Life: communicating with the Creator?
- 10) Thoughts from the floor

Our goal is to provide you a safe, non-threatening environment that incorporates talks, discussions, panels, Q&A times, and small group conversations into a meaningful discussion of Christian faith.

Contact Ray Monteith 472-1243 or mosaic@theplace.ca

SMORGASBORD

**Sept 29 - Dec 1
6:30 pm Community Meal
7:30 pm Main Course Selections**
(Childcare Available thru Gr.6)

*Mosaic
Single Parents Group
Beyond Grief
A Look at Other World Religions
Boundaries
Next Steps
Wednesday Studio
and more...*

Registration forms are available in the foyer. Contact Karen at 477-9721 or communitylife@lambrick.com

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Fall and Spring courses

For anyone looking to explore theology and the arts then this is for you. Prize wisdom and she will exalt you.

www.cccollege.org

events

PLACE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

September 24-25th here

For all leaders and wannabes. This is where we get all our ministries together and hash out the next year.

RAYLENE CONCERT

8:30pm Sept 26th here

Raylene is on the Island and will play a cafe concert at Lambrick after the Place. All welcome. The concert is free but we recommend dropping \$5 into a hat for her. See www.raylenemusic.com

STICKMAN III

October 13-17th here

THE Art show is back for a third year. If you can draw a stickman you are eligible. Take part and have fun. Sculpt, paint, weld...

Contact Rhonda at stickman@theplace.ca

GRACE LIFE CONFERENCE

October 14-16 at Royal Oak Baptist

A biblical perspective on living the Christian Life. A real sense of peace. A new found joy and freedom. Contact Bonnie at k.b.kamsteeg@shaw.ca or 479-8511

BRENNAN MANNING

October 15-17

Author of many books (including the *Ragamuffin Gospel*), and holder of much wisdom, Brennan Manning will only be visiting Canada once this year. Check out www.brennanmanningvictoria.com or call 383 5256

PLACE RETREAT

October 22-24th Thetis Island

The highlight of the year for many, and a great place to learn and get to know new faces. This year the theme is contemplation - so we will need to seriously relax. Registration forms will be available on the 19th Sept.



POTLUCK

November 7th 4:30pm here

Everyone's a winner, and that's no lie. Good food. Good company. Contact music@theplace.ca

needs

KIDS MINISTRIES

Need kids and nursery leaders for the fall. They also want to start up some music worship with them - so we need some musicians too.

Contact Lisa and Kathy at kids@theplace.ca

JAMMIN'

We will be putting together some Jammin' nights for people who are interested in becoming part of the Place worship P.O.M.'s (Pool Of Musicians). Keep listening out.

Contact music@theplace.ca

WOMEN'S FAITH CONNECTION

The Tuesday morning Bible Study at Lambrick, is looking for child care workers. These paid positions involve caring for children birth through preschool age for 2.5 hours per week. A September through May commitment is preferred.

Contact Vlasta Booth at 383-9283 or vbooth@humboldthouse.com

PRAYER ROOM

We believe in prayer and we want to provide a quiet space at the end of every Sunday night so that people can come in, be listened to and prayer with. If you would like to help on a monthly basis (or more) with this great ministry then...

Contact Alison at prayer_room@theplace.ca

MAKE SURE YOUR CAR IS LOCKED as there are thieves active around the church area.

NO PARKING anywhere but LPC carpark or Tyndall. Please respect our neighbours!

WANT A FREE CD? By consulting the new website, the first 3 people to tell Simon what the dress code for baptism is, will win a Place CD.

NO STICKING GUM under chairs or anywhere in the building.

11



It's back.

www.theplace.ca

CAFE SUBURBIA

Come experience our own coffee house after the Place every week. Fine coffee, delectable desserts and a chance for relaxing conversation. The Cafe also promotes bands and runs concerts at Lambrick and downtown.

Contact Dave at cafe@theplace.ca

PLACE PRAYER REQUESTS

A team is being set up to pray for our community's prayer requests. If you have a need that you would like us to be remembering in prayer then you can email us at:

prayer@theplace.ca

PLACE KIDS MINISTRY

The Place offers a place for Kids who come with their parents to the Place. There is always a staffed nursery at the back of the main sanctuary. For kids (k to grade 6) there are special groups that meet downstairs and are run by groups of caring, responsible leaders. Depending on the age of the child they will be able to play and have fun, hear stories or watch videos, make crafts and learn more about God.

Contact Lisa and Kathy at kids@theplace.ca

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINISTRY

Lambrick has landed itself a couple of interns for the few years. Andy Renton is going to be working with Middle School ages and will develop what we have been doing with them on Sunday nights. If you want to find out what is going on, or would like to help then contact:

msm@theplace.ca

SMALL GROUPS

There are many groups running at the Place. If you would like info:

Contact James Kingsley at community@theplace.ca

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

WED at 6pm

Dinner, fellowship, parenting discussion and prayer. Everyone is welcome. Childcare provided. Also watch out for outings to Jazzfest, fierworks, hikes, parks, Splash, Kite flying and so much more!

Contact Michelle at 384-0010 or michmaggiora@yahoo.com

or Penny at 477-8306 or Pennyh@uvic.ca

LPC COMMUNITY GARDEN

Looking towards a fallow season unless someone steps up with some hot veggie ideas.

Contact Simon at 477-9721 or garden@theplace.ca

INDOOR SOCCER

WED at 10-12midnight (LPC)

Our version is fun, co-ed and for all. Free, bring non-marking indoor shoes and up to date medical (!).

Contact Simon at admin@theplace.ca

BOWLING

Sundays afternoons Sept-Dec

Once more the pins shall be dropping. Listen out for the wheres and whens

Contact Ron Ross at the Place

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth ministry will be starting up again in mid-September.

New Intern

We are really pleased to announce that Ryan will be the new youth intern. He will be working with James Prette developing the new programs for the fall.

Parents Council

We have a council of reference for all LPC Youth Ministries. This group helps set direction for youth ministries; takes the lead in supporting our youth ministry staff; acts as an information liaison for staff, parents, elders and youth; and prays for all our youth ministries. Stay tuned for when this group will meet again.

Staff Recruitment

We will be needing more volunteer leaders to join youth ministry teams this coming year. Anyone who is interested should contact James at 812-6293 or james@lambrick.com or Ryan at youth@theplace.ca



the Place ACTS

We have had an awesome start to the Place ACTS. The leadership team is in place, and the skills bank database is brimming with over 300 of you on it, and we shall be doing a major update in October. Here are the latest needs for this month:

Need 1

What? - Yardwork

When? - Soon

Details: An elderly lady from Lambrick can pay a small amount for some yardwork

Response: email acts_home@theplace.ca

Need 2

What? - Moving

When? - Sept 25th 9-12noon

Where? - Victoria, four-block move

Details: An older couple from Lambrick are moving into a condo. Pizza will be the reward.

Response: email acts_move@theplace.ca



“We are very grateful for the hours spent by the Place volunteers painting, raking, shovelling on our property so that it would be ready for sale!”

“Thanks so much for setting up the movers -- they were definitely a blessing.”

“He came over fixed problem in short order and was so gracious... Thank you for making the connection thru’ the registry... the results were awesome!! Thank you again”

Do you think of the church first when you think of needing or giving help?



CUT HERE

General Help	Resources to Offer
<input type="checkbox"/> Childcare <input type="checkbox"/> Babysitting <input type="checkbox"/> Moving People <input type="checkbox"/> Housework/ Cleaning <input type="checkbox"/> Yardwork <input type="checkbox"/> Painting <input type="checkbox"/> Gardening <input type="checkbox"/> Unskilled labour	<input type="checkbox"/> Use of Truck <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Accommodation <input type="checkbox"/> Tools (Household) <input type="checkbox"/> Tools (Garden) <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes <input type="checkbox"/> Ride to appointment <input type="checkbox"/> Car Pool – downtown work <input type="checkbox"/> Car Pool - The Place
Food Related *	Other...
<input type="checkbox"/> Food service (e.g. Pot-lucks, Funeral Teas) <input type="checkbox"/> Communal Kitchen <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-making family dinners <input type="checkbox"/> Preparing hampers <input type="checkbox"/> Packing hampers <input type="checkbox"/> Food / hamper delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Helping with groceries <input type="checkbox"/> Canning	
Trade to Offer	Community Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Car Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> Carpentry <input type="checkbox"/> Plumbing <input type="checkbox"/> Electrician <input type="checkbox"/> Computers <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> VOLUNTEER-ON-CALL (Specifically for working with other community groups)
Skilled Advice	Leadership
<input type="checkbox"/> Financial / debt * <input type="checkbox"/> Legal <input type="checkbox"/> Wills <input type="checkbox"/> Job Search <input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Dental <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting <input type="checkbox"/> Environ. / Fair Trade <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Interested in Leadership of this ministry

For Everyone	Application only
<input type="checkbox"/> Cafe	<input type="checkbox"/> Scripture Reading
<input type="checkbox"/> Music and Art Setup	<input type="checkbox"/> Community Prayer
<input type="checkbox"/> Ushering	<input type="checkbox"/> Communion Serving
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Room Ministry
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursery *	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship Teams
<input type="checkbox"/> Toddlers *	<input type="checkbox"/> Sound
<input type="checkbox"/> Kids (k-3) *	<input type="checkbox"/> Powerpoint
<input type="checkbox"/> Kids (4-6) *	<input type="checkbox"/> Artists
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle School Ministry*	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Leader
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcomers (before/ after the Place)	
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk about this so give me a call...	

**A criminal record check will be taken*

Name:

Phone number:.....

Email:.....

Town/ Area Location (e.g. Duncan or Oak Bay...)

.....

Age Range (optional) - please circle
 <18 18-30 30-40 40-50 50-60 >60

University Student: Y / N

Please tick here if you would like to be put on the Place Community eMailout

NB information is confidential and for internal use only and will not be given to other organizations

VOLUNTEERING

As you can see from the form there are many ways in which you can generously give your time regularly to the Place, both in terms of Practical Helps and helping us run our Sunday meetings. Most of these causes need people throughout the year. In addition to the filling in the cut-off sheet, you can get directly involved by contacting the leaders - they can be found either in our 'The Regular's' or here:

Facilities/ Ushering - Ken Thomson

facilities@theplace.ca

Art and Music Setup - Ant Andrews

art@theplace.ca

Worship and Music - Launa Kremler

music@theplace.ca

OFFERINGS

CUT HERE

Financial support is only one of the ways we can worship God with our life. If you wish to make this easier, more regular and get a tax receipt at the end of the year you can get some envelopes from Simon in the foyer. Interac is also available. Also you can set up a PAC.

MERCHANDISE

Brian McLaren's books are well worth a read - and we have them cheaper than anywhere. We're not particularly big on the idea of merchandising, however we do have a huge amount of talent at the Place and so you will find all sorts of odds and ends in foyer after the Place including Disclaimer - a Journal of Christian Thought and Art, CDs from various bands at the Place and other fragrant offerings.



Church Sign of the Month



IDENTITY

I rented the movie *Hellboy* last week. While film students and theologians alike would agree that the film was a stupid piece of brain gum (you could add to that list: doctors, lawyers, mothers, the center for good taste, the society for the redemption of science fiction, etc...although I believe a certain teacher at the Place gave it a thumbs up), it did poise a question that most of us who live self-examined lives ask ourselves on a regular basis. It is a question that sometimes even haunts us in our deepest and darkest moments.

“Who am I?”

What makes you who you are? What defines you as a person? Was Freud right when he argued that our primary identity is determined before we reach adulthood? Were certain French Existentialists right when they argued that you are defined by the choices you make in this moment? (In case you are interested, this is the position advocated by the movie *Hellboy* – that stupid piece of brain gum that ‘the bearded one’ liked). Nature? Nurture?

While most theories of personhood have some degree of merit, I’m beginning to gravitate towards a more classical position: it is **who we’ve been with** and **who we are with** that define us and ultimately matter in the journey of life.

The implications for a Christian are obvious. We have been called into relationship. In Christ we belong. In Him we are known. How we proceeded along on this journey and into this mystery will determine who we are.

But there is a more subtle challenge with huge implications. Jesus’ Great Command was not only that we be in redemptive relationship with God but that we love others as well.

We don’t find God as we “walk in the garden alone...” as the old hymn

would suggest.

Who else will we allow to join us on this journey? **Who else** will help us define who we are? Before you let your imagination gravitate towards your favorite mentor or spiritual hero, think about those who followed Jesus. Think about how he answered the expert of the law, who smugly asked, “Who is my neighbor?”

There are many others who have already joined this bold fellowship. In fact, as we journey down the path with Christ, we are surrounded by this host of witnesses who help define us. They include: a little man found in a tree, a prostitute, a religious hypocrite, and a woman who was thought to be demon possessed.

“Who is your neighbor?” How you answer this question will give us a glimpse of how you ultimately define yourself.

Randy Hein

INTO THE FALL

Our fall teaching series at ‘The Place’ will see us spending time in the Old Testament (O.T.) again. This time we will be looking at the first 6 chapters in the story of **Daniel**, and then we will look at **Jonah**. We are going to dust off these two (too) famous “Sunday School” stories, and see what we might learn afresh about our God and our selves. These two O.T. men lived about 250 years apart and in very different settings. They were very different in character, and they had unique responses to God’s call on their lives. Yet, both of these men expressed devout faith in God, as they both encountered the hostile unbelief of their contemporaries. Their little stories, found in the O.T. part of God’s big story, will be the context for our fall adventure in seeing the timeless working of God. We’ll see Him working in and through real people like us, in some strange, but real ways, engaging real cultures, which, like ours are ignorant, and sometimes hostile towards God’s grace and truth.

James Prette

Schedule

Date	Teaching	Title
Sept 5	Core Values	Community
Sept 12	Core Values	Orthodoxy
Sept 19	Core Values	Beauty
Sept 26	Core Values	Engagement
Oct 3	Daniel 1	Brave New World
Oct 10	Daniel 2	Dreamscape
Oct 17	Daniel 3	Trial by Fire
Oct 24	Daniel 4	Mad Dogs
Oct 31	Daniel 5	Feast of Kings
Nov 7	Daniel 6	Lion’s Den
Nov 14	Jonah 1	Pagans
Nov 21	Jonah 2	Prayer
Nov 28	Jonah 3	Proclamation
Dec 5	Jonah 4	Plants



THE PLACE

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