

The Ministry Team

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MAY 2012

BETHEL international
church

The Gospel
is *Good* News

For Your Family, Community, and City

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...” Romans 1:16

Sunday Schedule

Pre-service Prayer | 9:15am
Prayer Room

Celebration Service | 10:00am
Sanctuary

Coffee Break | 11:10am
Fellowship Hall

Learning Communities | 11:30am-12:10pm

Learning Communities

Youth/Adult Learning Community: Fellowship Hall, Lower Level

Continuing Through May:

Gospel in Life: Grace Changes Everything
A DVD and discussion series by Timothy Keller

A Second Look: For New English Speakers - Prayer Room

Join us for an opportunity to practice your English while learning about God. During this class we will take a "second look" at the pastor's message reviewing this in "easy to understand" English.

Pathfinders (Ages 9-12) - Next Gen Room, Lower Level

Through interaction with peers, learning activities and Bible reading, the goal of this class is to for students to discover God's "path" for their lives and how they can grow in their relationship with Christ.

Life Groups

At Bethel, life groups are a vital part of building relationships, growing spiritually, and reaching out. At any life group you can expect: a relaxing environment with people who care, times of sharing and praying for one another, receiving and giving support, encouragement, and learning practical truths from God's Word for your life. Please contact a life group leader for further details or to confirm location and meeting time.

Vancouver East Leader: Liz Mittelstaedt 604-512-6801	Wednesdays - 7:00 pm @ Mary Jaklin's home Near 21st Ave and Nanaimo Street, Vancouver
Vancouver 33rd (formerly Slocan) Leader: Phil Mittelstaedt 604-318-5593	Wednesdays- 7:00 pm @ Phil & Simone Mittelstaedt's home Near E.33rd Ave & Fraser St, Vancouver
Vancouver South Leader: Ruth Rey 604-327-6803	Fridays - 7:30 pm @ Dan & Merriam Rendon's home Near 49th Ave and Knight St, Vancouver
Vancouver West Leader: Michael Monagan 604-264-1063	Fridays - 7:30 pm @ Michael & Gladys Monagan's home Near 49th Ave and Cambie St. Vancouver

Missionaries of the Month

Sheldon and Anna Armitage - Slovakia

Keep Sheldon and Anna in your prayers as they continue serving in Slovakia and Eastern Europe. Since 2002, they have been living and working in Europe, taking action in the community, helping to fight human trafficking, being involved in training thousands of leaders and church planters as well as helping to plant a church in Nitra, Slovakia. Sheldon and Anna recently welcomed their 3rd daughter to the family, Stella Beatrice Armitage! Born on February 22 2012.



Visit www.armitagecafe.com for regular updates !

From the Pastor...

“The Gospel is *Good News*”

Isn't it amazing how bad news is often covered more than good news in news portals of today (TV, Internet, Newspapers)? Not only is bad news covered more often, but it travels faster and is more widespread. Similarly, Christianity has sometimes gotten bad press. Someone might say "Christianity is just a bunch of rules and religion" or "Christians are so judgmental and hypocritical." This passes on from one negative opinion or experience to another until it can become a collective opinion of a generation. For example David Kinnaman researched and reported on "What a new generation really thinks about Christianity" in his book, UnChristian. He explores the most common points of skepticism and objections non Christians have raised about Christianity based on their perceptions of Christians. Some of these include: being too hypocritical, too focused on getting converts, sheltered (ie. old fashioned, boring, and out of touch with reality), and judgmental. Kinnaman comments, "while you may not agree with [these] views... you should not ignore them" (p.30).

What about you? Have you heard what people think about Christianity, church, or Jesus? What does their response do to you? Does it cause you to become passive in sharing what you believe? Or does it provoke you to defending your faith? When I hear these conclusions made, they make me want to be part of the solution in changing these perceptions in some way.

We as Christ follows have come to believe and experience something much different. Granted there will always be people who will disagree or even hate what Christianity stands for (or at least what they think it stands for). But we must understand this: the gospel is good news. Actually the word gospel literally means "good news". It is the term used in the Bible to speak of the message Jesus and his followers brought to people and places where they traveled "...the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went. (Acts 8:4 NLT).

The gospel refers the message that announces God's saving power through Jesus Christ. In Romans 1:16 we read, "...I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes..." The gospel is a message of hope, healing, forgiveness, transformation, restoration,.... and we could go on. The gospel is good news in response to the bad news. The bad news is that sin has corrupted people and the world since the beginning, but God is redeeming and restoring creation and humanity to it's original purpose of knowing Him. To embrace the good news, we must recognize the context of the bad news we find ourselves in, renounce and repent of our sin, and receive God's forgiveness and a new life in Christ.

This month, the "good news" will be the focus of the messages on Sundays. I encourage all of us to rethink the gospel in our own lives. Perhaps we have bought into (or know people who have bought into) a legalistic, religious, or boring "brand" of Christianity. Let's become part of the change that manifests the goodness of God and the good news of Jesus through our words and actions. Let's allow the fullness of the gospel to change us, affect our families, our community, and the city at large! Greater things are yet to come!

Next Generation Ministries

INFANTS—TODDLERS (birth to 3 years)

Parents/Guardians are welcome to use the nursery room (main level) for their children (up to 12 months). The toddler room is available in the lower level for children ages 1-3, (parent guardian supervision required). Live video feed of the service is available in both rooms.

3D KIDZ (ages 3-8) & PATHFINDERS (ages 9-12)

We are starting our NEW 3D Kidz & Pathfinders format! (For more info, please pick up a newsletter from one of our teachers.) Sign in at the desk in the fellowship hall, and sign out from the FIRESIDE room. Also—we are updating all our information, so please pick up a "Parent Packet" and return the registration sheet.

Teachers this Month: Jodel Mabborang, Josie Sappelino, Margrit Loehner, & Pastor Laura!



RE:VIVE YOUTH (ages 12-16) -Friday Nights @ Bethel 7pm

May 4th: Girl Talk: Gossip / Guy Talk: Relationships

May 11th: Girl Talk: Image / Guy Talk: Girls!

May 18th – May 20th: HISTORYMAKER!

May 25th: Historymaker: RE:CALL

First Time @ Bethel?

We are honoured to have you spend your Sunday morning with us. You are welcome to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable. We encourage you to fill out an information card, and drop it off at our Welcome Centre - and please take home a pen, with our compliments.

During our service we sing songs, listen to a message based on the Bible, and give opportunity for prayer. We also give our weekly offering, but as a first time guest please do not feel obligated to give.

Please do join us for coffee/tea and refreshments in the fellowship hall (lower level) after the service. For more learning and interaction, feel free to stay for our Learning Communities.

During the week, our Life Groups are a great place to connect, grow spiritually and build healthy, supportive relationships.

May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	2 LG: Van East 7pm LG: Van33rd 7pm	3	4 RE:VIVE 7pm LG:VanWest 7:30pm LG:VanSouth 7:30pm	5
6 Celebration Service Communion Sunday	7	8 Board Meeting 7pm	9 LG: Van East 7pm LG: Van33rd 7pm	10	11 RE:VIVE 7pm LG:VanWest 7:30pm LG:VanSouth 7:30pm	12
13 Celebration Service Missions Sunday	14	15 Life Group Leaders Meeting - 7:30pm	16 LG: Van East 7pm LG: Van33rd 7pm	17	18 RE:VIVE @HISTORYMAKER LG:VanWest 7:30pm LG:VanSouth 7:30pm	19 RE:VIVE @HISTORYMAKER
20 Celebration Service Good Samaritan Sunday RE:VIVE @HISTORYMAKER	21	22 Worship Team Practice 7:30pm	23 LG: Van East 7pm LG: Van33rd 7pm	24	25 RE:VIVE 7pm LG:VanWest 7:30pm LG:VanSouth 7:30pm	26
27 Celebration Service Water Baptisms	28	29	30 LG: Van East 7pm LG: Van33rd 7pm	31		

Looking Ahead



July 13 - 15, 2012

Church Camp: Camp Luther, Mission BC