

CrossRoads Chronicle

2017-2018 RECOUNTING GOD'S STORIES

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SENIOR PASTOR

FOLLOWING JESUS... TOGETHER

SENIOR PASTOR

Dan Cochrane

Soccer season has started and that means we find ourselves on the sidelines for the next couple of months watching our grandkids play. It's fascinating to watch the progress from year to year. When they started out, all they thought about was getting the ball and every kid seemed to think it was an individual sport, but as they learn and move forward, it becomes more and more apparent that they are learning soccer as a team sport. They are becoming more aware of the players around them, trying to pass the ball to each other and cheering their teammates on when they make a great play. It's great to see how they have progressed from a group of individuals to a team that plays together.

I watched them play recently and was reminded of how much the church and that soccer team are alike. Sometimes we think Christianity is all about us - it's a personal thing. And it is a personal thing and thank God for that, but at the same time it's about team, togetherness and about walking together in the Lord. It's about advancing, together, the Kingdom of God in Central Alberta. We, too, need to grow in our ability as a church to function as a team and not just as a group of separate people committed to bringing the gospel to Central Alberta.



Over the next year, we want to talk a lot about following Jesus together. We have a wonderful, passionate heart for the people of Central Alberta that God has given to us and we state it like this; "We want to give everyone in Central Alberta the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by following Him, compassionately impact our world." We want to add the word 'together' to this so it reads, "We want to give everyone in Central Alberta the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by following Him together, compassionately impact our world." It's just a word, and yet on the other hand, it's a word that communicates that we are a team, not just

a group of individuals. I'm excited to see what God is doing in our lives from year to year as we learn together and follow in the way of the Lord. The church should be a fellowship of believers where everybody matters and everybody is important, where we celebrate one another, where we learn that we all have gifts and abilities to contribute to the maturity of the body and to the proper functioning of the church in our community. Everybody here is important.

I love what Scott McKnight once wrote: "The church is a fellowship of differents." He goes on to say, "God designed the church to make the previously invisible, visible to God and to one another and a new kind of fellowship that the Roman Empire and the Jewish world had never seen before. That's the fellowship of God." What's so exciting about CrossRoads is that we are a church that actively seeks to embrace those that God has accepted. Let's continue to move and grow in that direction.

I want to highlight two or three things that are significant to us as a body. One, is the fact that we are learning to pray together as

Celebrate the great things God has done in our
CrossRoads Community this past year!

SUMMER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27@ 7PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

FOLLOWING JESUS... TOGETHER

Continued

a church. Over the last few years we've had a monthly prayer that we push out every month from the front on Sundays, that we use in home groups, and around our tables in our own homes. We've transitioned recently to praying what we call 'breath prayers' from the Psalms. These prayers are very powerful and we can pray them all day long and pray them with our children and take them into the world. They hopefully become part of our DNA. We learn to pray by praying the Psalms and God gave us the Psalms to teach us how to pray well. Our hope is that by giving you a new breath prayer every month that you will have an ever-growing tool kit. We've prayed from Psalm 91 that God would be our refuge and our strength and our fortress, a God that we can trust. We've prayed from Psalm 51 that God would create in us a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us. We hope you will go back and use these prayers, because together as we pray these, and as God answers them for us, He will do a new thing in our midst and He will build our faith and our ability to serve Him in our world.

Another significant development in our church body is the healing prayer time at

the beginning of the month. Many people have come forward on those Sundays and asked for prayer. We find that really exciting and encouraging at the same time. Many people have experienced God's healing touch on their lives and we have reports from people coming back saying God, in a very specific way, answered their prayer. Sometimes people are encouraged or strengthened, sometimes they receive comfort from the Lord. When we pray, something always happens. I'd like to encourage you to make yourself available on Sunday mornings if you need prayer because God's on the move and we believe He's hearing and answering our prayers.

Over the summer months, our theme is going to be "Move". We are really excited about this series on the book of James that will begin the second week of July and run through the summer. Pastors Jason, Shawn, Jordan Cavanaugh and I will be teaching Sunday mornings on this series. James is a very small but practical book in the New Testament that's all about how to move forward in our maturity. James is a book that will help us love Jesus better and love one another in a much deeper way. Over the summer months we will have a reading plan and some other ideas that we want to push out that will help us move forward in our Christian walk. If you're on holidays this summer, you can keep playing with

us by live-streaming or if you are here all summer you can participate with us. We believe that God wants to grow us as a church and James is a really good book to help Christians move forward in their faith.

I conclude by saying how excited I am to be part of CrossRoads Church, to see what God is doing in our community and to know that God is not finished yet. Recently, my wife, Ginny, and I were in Victoria where we visited a church called Gateway Baptist Church. Their pastor encouraged everyone to keep their eyes open to what God was doing in Victoria and to move into the opportunities - the open doors - God presented to them. I want to remind you that God is strongly at work in Central Alberta. He hasn't stopped. We don't go out into Central Alberta and ask Him to follow us; we follow Him. Let's also open our eyes so that we would actually see what He is doing and join Him in His work and that as we do, God would open hearts and bring many people to Jesus Christ.

Ginny and I have been here for 21 years and we are extremely grateful for the support, love and care that you have lavished on us over that time and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank you, as a family, for all you've done for us. Let's look forward to all God is going to do in the future.

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

GROWTH AND BUILDING EXPANSION

EXECUTIVE PASTOR

Jordan Polson

I'd like to begin by thanking God for the privilege of serving here at CrossRoads Church as the Executive Pastor. My wife, Kathleen, and I are continually blessed by the people here and we appreciate the love and support we are given. We are both grateful for the unity shown by the Church Board, staff and congregation and are honoured to be a part of this great work.

Staffing:

Currently we are in a period of restructuring with the changes in roles of Pastors Jordan Cavanaugh and Robert Mudde. I am excited for our youth and children's ministries and know our youth and kids are in good hands. Recently Pastor Verna Verity let us know she would be moving on and has accepted a position with the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre. She will be a blessing to them as she was to us and we know that God has a great plan for her. We trust God as these changes take place and know He has a purpose for everything.

I am blessed to work with the staff at CrossRoads. Our tenure on staff remains high with an average of over eight years for our pastors and averaging over five years for all other staff. This is a fun, hard-working, dedicated team that loves Jesus and serving others. Thank you for your continued prayers for them. Like everyone, we too have ups and downs and covet your prayers and encouragement.

Attendance and Finances:

General attendance over the past couple of years has been relatively level without a lot of movement, however in the past six months we have been seeing our numbers begin to rise again. On top of our attendance numbers, our online numbers continue to grow significantly. While we may have 300+ watch our services online during the Sunday services, we see two, three, sometime five-fold more, watching the services during the week. These online views are from many parts of the world, with most coming from here in Alberta.

Our fiscal year is ending in July, and we will be presenting a new budget in June for the new year. Giving over the past year has remained consistent with the previous year, although we had planned for a small increase to accommodate some new initiatives and further activities related to what we want to happen here in Central Alberta. We have held our expenses this year under the income to date and anticipate that this will carry through to the Fiscal Year End.

Phase 4/Building Expansion:

Our needs assessment process is just getting started for Phase 4 and the Building Committee has secured an architect and builder for the process. The Committee will bring a report to the Summer Congregation Meeting in June. We do not anticipate that we will be ready to bring any significant ask to the congregation at this time, but we will provide opportunity in the meeting to talk about the next phase together. It will most likely be the fall when we call a special meeting for your approval to proceed with the detailed drawings and eventual construction.

The last phase for this site will consist of a larger sanctuary, extended foyer, additional café, more office space, more bathrooms and some more meeting spaces. We are excited to see God's plans unfold for this next phase. We will follow His leading as decisions are made and His purposes are fulfilled. Our hope is that you will pray with us as we dive into this next phase and that you will allow the Lord to speak to you as to how you can be a part of this exciting venture.

Final Thoughts:

We are stepping into some new territory as a church since the arrival of some of our refugee families that have been sponsored by ourselves, Groups of 5, and other churches in Central Alberta. These families are keen to share the gospel with other refugees in Central Alberta and so we are looking for and trying various means to help them do this well, and learn from their exuberance and skill in reaching out to our Muslim neighbours.

As Dan and I continue to lead as God directs us, I would ask for your prayers. Our goal is to serve God wholeheartedly and to be obedient to what He asks of us.

I'm sure this next year, like most, will be a year of growth and change and I look forward to all God has in store for us.

CROSSROADS STAFF

PASTORS AND DIRECTORS:

Dan Cochrane
Jordan Polson
Shawn Hubert
Jason Frizzell
Denise Snyder*
Tracy Minke
Barry Oram
Tammy Grobe
Jordan Cavanaugh
Julie Cavanaugh*
James Choi
Dave Morin
Robert Mudde
Dallas Lundell
Stu Krogman
Ken Lehman
Laurie Whitaker

SUPPORT STAFF

Amanda Rein*	Keegan Poelzer
April Clowes	Kyle Reed
Ashley Lehman	Linda Cullen-Saik
Bobbi Kroeger	Marcia Bowler
Brad Benoit	Melissa Kooiker*
Braedyn Blayne	Michele Ramer
Camille Hildebrandt	Neala Cook
Chantelle Schmidt	Neila Lehman
Charlene Young	Pam Halvorson
Cindi Leighton	Richard Courchaine
Corey Giesbrecht	Richard Fehr
Dave Grobe	Shauna Giesbrecht
Deborah Carpenter	Tammy Hildebrandt
Jaqi Tiechroeb	Wally Hildebrandt
Karen Marriott	Wilma Vander Leek
Karianne Reitsma	
Karleen Hildebrand	
Karli Harder	*on maternity leave

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CHURCH BOARD

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

BOARD CHAIRMAN

Brad Vonkeman

I am thankful for the men and women that serve on your Elder Board at the church. These individuals display leadership in how they live. They truly lead by example in the many ways that they serve in our local body. They bring the gifts, wisdom, and knowledge that God has blessed them with to the board table every month as we discuss how to follow Jesus the way that He is calling CrossRoads.

I am continually blessed and excited to hear the stories from around the church of what God is up to; stories of people getting saved, people receiving healing in their bodies and relationships, people who have been set free from the chains that the enemy has held them with for far too long. Thank you, Jesus, for meeting with your people!

As a Board, we have focused on trying to bring a greater focus of prayer into the body over the past year. We believe that this starts with us. We have been pushing

out monthly prayers in the church for over a year now and have recently shifted the focus slightly to praying 'breath prayers' that come directly from God's Word. As a Board we have been bringing this practice to our meetings also.

We desire to see God reignite the passion that we once had in seeing people come to know Him, by praying for three people, having minute longer conversations, welcoming people back to fellowship, and the practising art of neighbouring. We strive to remain faithful to the Vision and Mission that God has called us to, and to realize that the vision statement is more of a foundational belief statement; that we want to see everyone in Central Alberta have an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and by following Him, that we would compassionately impact our world.

One of your Elders made a statement at a meeting this past year that keeps me thinking, praying and focused on what God desires of us. He said "Here is my greatest

fear; that as a church we will end up being managers instead of visionaries."

As Elders, we have continually checked with our pastors regarding their health to make sure that they are in a strong place to do what God has called them to do. We have been blessed with a great team here at CrossRoads. We continue to look at the finances and ensure that proper controls are in place for the management of the resources that God continues to provide us with. We have reviewed the Governance Policies to ensure they are up-to-date and effective for us to be able to carry out the tasks that God has called us to. We have also begun the process of a 'needs assessment' around having a Phase 4 building project started on the building.

Thank you for allowing us to serve CrossRoads as your Board. We are humbled and privileged to be able to function in this role as your representatives. Thank you for praying for us and showing us your support.

WORSHIP

IMMINENT HARVEST: REFRESHING THE APPARENT

WORSHIP

Dallas Lundell

Back in the Fall, Pastor Dan called our church community to open our eyes, look up, and see all that Jesus is doing in Central Alberta. He reminded us of what Jesus himself said in John 4 – the harvest is now!

We began the year by viewing our worship ministry through that harvest lens. How could we, using musical, technical and creative elements, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and be unashamed of following Him? What would we do, in the name of Jesus, to tell others about Him and invite them into a relationship that would change their lives forever? I can assure you that the Lord did not disappoint as He showed us the way ahead.

Psalm 67 became our starting point in this journey. The writer declares that as people praise God, harvest will occur. When praise happens, our Father in heaven will bless us and all the earth will know who He is. Praise can be described as an expression of gratitude and thankfulness to one who is deserving of it. There is no one more worthy of praise than our living God. Our clear call, then, was simply to lift high the name of Jesus! If we did that, people would come to a saving relationship with Him, would experience physical, spiritual and emotional healing, and would find purpose in the day-to-day.

Seems pretty obvious, right? What else would our worship teams do other than sing about Jesus? Sure, that makes sense. The thing is, when something is so obvious, sometimes you need to slow down and determine how to refresh the apparent. This was our mission over the past nine months. Here are some ways it happened.

Young Adults

In the fall, a group of fourteen young adults decided to start a monthly worship night for their peers. Through planning, practicing



and seeking the Lord, it happened. They met once or sometimes twice a week to rehearse music, worship and pray in preparation for monthly times of worship with the young adults group as a whole. After each of these monthly worship events, the band met to evaluate, ask good questions and continue inviting the Spirit to help them serve well. Young adults regularly expressed their gratefulness that their desire for intimate worship nights like these had been fulfilled.

singing in the room. Even the guys were singing! Do you know how hard it is to get a 20-year-old male to sing? That's only something God can do. Of course, these worshipers had been praying for exactly this outcome – that people would be welcomed into a time of worship where they would meet Jesus and have their hearts changed. Mission accomplished!

Celebrate Recovery

Every Friday night, CrossRoads becomes a site of true life-transformation as people meet at Celebrate Recovery to seek Jesus' help with hurts, hang-ups and habits.



Our Board Members



Brad Vonkeman
Board Chair



Chip Belt



Doug MacDormand



Karen Wiebe



Lawrence Tomalty



Jordan Polson



Dan Cochrane



Marci Wilson



Todd Newfield



IMMINENT HARVEST: REFRESHING THE APPARENT

Continued



We have the privilege of serving this group every Friday, sometimes with a full band and other times with simply an acoustic guitar player and a singer. Regardless of band size, our CR musicians are committed. They'll do whatever it takes to serve the people of Celebrate Recovery. One of our CR bands jams together every Monday night in the basement of one of their homes. They work at growing musically so they can lead others in worship of Jesus. What an inspiration they are!

Youth

This year, our senior high youth team joined us on Thursdays for rehearsals with the adults. This meant they could participate

in our weekly times of Thursday worship and prayer, as well as join in several large group training sessions, clinics and some new song workshops. Most Thursday nights, though, they were working hard to plan and practice sets they would lead at senior and junior high youth nights once a month. This team has definitely risen to the challenge of increased responsibility this year, from choosing songs and running rehearsals, to planning transitions and speaking bits between songs and making on-stage decisions. In all of it, they've exhibited a collective heart of worship and a real desire to serve their peers well and point them to Jesus.



Festival of Trees

Around mid-October, we were invited into the Festival of Trees community to serve as musicians at the Preview Dinner. What an honour and opportunity! People were shocked that a church band could play music that they liked! It was such a joy to be able to share Christ-centered Christmas carols with people who are used to singing *Jingle Bells* and *Deck the Halls*. We've been asked to return again next year and couldn't be more excited about it.

Thursday Night Live

We hosted our third annual original music event over two nights in February. The Chapel was packed with 170 guests each evening. Those who attended heard 18 original songs, written by 13 different writers in our worship community. The atmosphere and food were amazing and the conversations after each show affirmed that this type of showcase is so appreciated. One couple commented after the performance, "You have to let me know when this is happening next year so we can invite some of our friends!" People who might not otherwise set foot in church are willing to come and listen to good music. In this case, the music they listened to honoured Jesus. I know we are biased, but our musicians are some of the best in Central Alberta. All types of musical genres were played. There were songs that made you laugh and others that brought a tear to your eye. One thing is certain – people had a chance to hear about and be loved on by Jesus.

Sunday Services

One thing we can be sure of - Sundays come every week! Leaders choose and post the song sets 16 days prior to their scheduled Sunday, so the team has plenty of time to prepare. In the weeks leading up to their Sunday serve, our teams train their hands, feet and voices musically, and they ready their hearts for humble service of both their King and their brothers and sisters in Christ. Then, every Thursday, the group of scheduled Sunday worshipers joins the larger worship family for a time of worship and prayer before they head out to the stage to practice and prepare for our three gatherings on Sunday. Our Sunday serving musicians range in age from those who can still eat off a kid's menu at a restaurant to others who get the seniors' discount. They're doctors, business owners, moms, builders, nurses, teens. Some are single, some are parents, some are grandparents.

All of them are teachable, growing followers of Jesus who strive to serve Him with excellence and passion.

This year, we have focused on singing songs during our Sunday services that acknowledge who God is and all He has done. In making that effort, we have seen people come to a better understanding of the character of our loving heavenly Father. Instead of focusing on self, our eyes have been turned to the One who deserves the attention.

Technicians: the Unsung Heroes

The definition of an unsung hero is someone who makes a substantive effort but isn't always recognized for that effort. Week in and week out, our technicians are those people. Have you ever been thankful that you can see the words of a song so you can sing along? Someone has spent countless hours creating those screens for you. Do you enjoy the blend of sound you hear? There are people who take time to learn, grow, and develop their sound engineering skill so you can listen to and be inspired by each note played or sung. Have you been sick or travelling on a Sunday but were still able to meet with Jesus because you've watched our LiveStream feed? Our camera operators, directors, and switchers are the ones who bring that to life.

For all the set up, service, and tear down they do, our technicians need to be thanked. I believe the Father speaks "well done" each time they jump in to serve behind a sound board or a camera or a curtain. We call them technicians, but their first label is "follower



of Jesus" – from that posture comes their hearts of service that benefit our entire CrossRoads community.

One last thing. As each of us know, serving Jesus comes with sacrifice. We have watched as our worship family has struggled with personal hardship, family issues and knowing whether or not they are hearing the Lord clearly. In all of this, they have regularly chosen Jesus over self. They have wrestled through difficult situations and have decided to praise Jesus rather than giving up or giving in. Because of this, because of these evidences that Jesus is alive in them, we are more convinced than ever that we have the right people serving our CrossRoads family and Central Alberta community. Through their musical, technical and creative abilities,

God has invited them into sharing the gospel with anyone within earshot.

The harvest is now. Jesus is worthy of our praise. The Kingdom of God is growing in Central Alberta. We are truly blessed to have a part in that with our body at CrossRoads.

Love, Your Friendly
Neighbourhood
Worship Staff,

Ash, Wally, Dave and
Dallas

COMMUNITY LIFE

THE UMBRELLA

COMMUNITY LIFE

Jason Frizzell

It's a useful tool, the umbrella. It's got a specific purpose – to shelter the user from unwanted sun or rain. Have you ever tried using an umbrella for something other than its intended purpose? It becomes less useful when deployed in a fashion or setting where it wasn't designed for success.

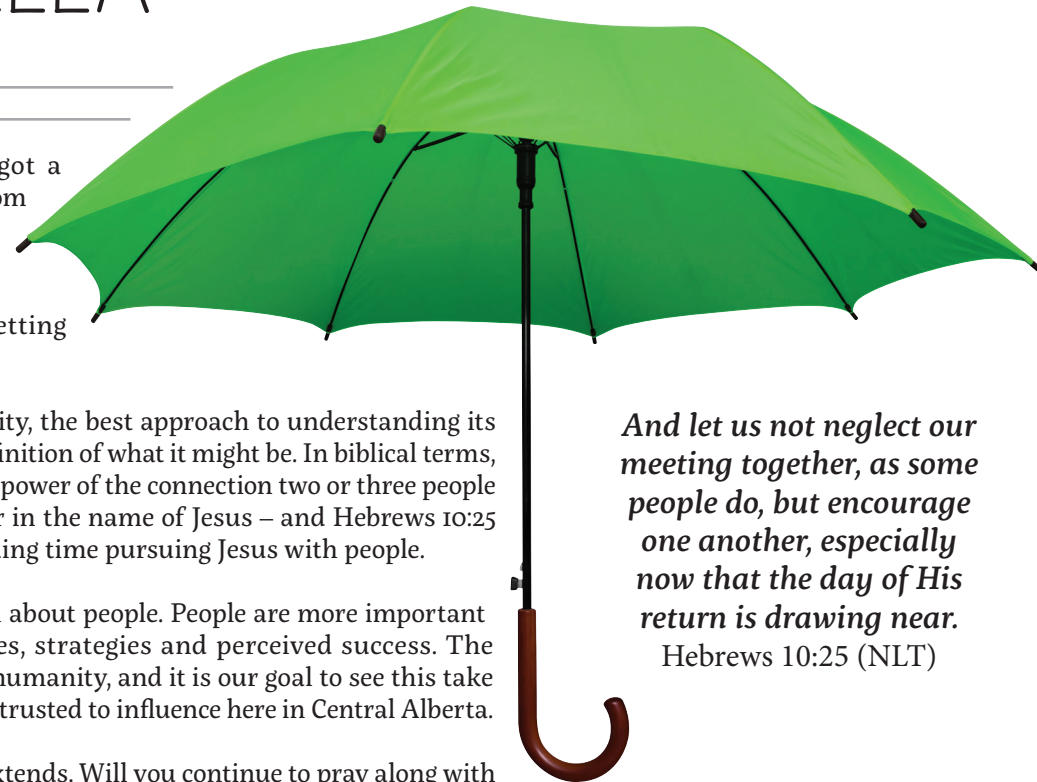
When it comes to the pursuit of community, the best approach to understanding its success is to deploy an ever-broadening definition of what it might be. In biblical terms, we are invited to consider the strength and power of the connection two or three people can experience when they gather together in the name of Jesus – and Hebrews 10:25 reminds us to continue to prioritize spending time pursuing Jesus with people.

The truth about community is that it's all about people. People are more important than programs, events, budgets, finances, strategies and perceived success. The Kingdom of Heaven is designed for all of humanity, and it is our goal to see this take shape in the micro-organism we've been entrusted to influence here in Central Alberta.

The adventure continues. The invitation extends. Will you continue to pray along with us for people to find hope and life in Jesus Christ?

2017-2018 STORIES & STATS

- 52% OF PEOPLE AT CROSSROADS CREATED COMMUNITY IN THE FORM OF A GROUP IN THIS LAST YEAR.
- 4312 CUPS OF COFFEE WERE CONSUMED WEEKLY - WHILE IN COMMUNITY (SUNDAY MORNINGS, GROUPS, ETC.)
- 1079 ACTIVE USERS ON RIGHTNOW MEDIA (OUR DIGITAL BIBLE STUDY RESOURCE LIBRARY)
- 78 PEOPLE WERE BAPTIZED



And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)

HOPE

HELPING ONE ANOTHER

HOPE

Stu Krogman and Ken Lehman

Our Hope Ministries department continues to grow as we seek the Lord's leading and provision for those He has drawn in and trusted to our care. We cannot rely on our own strength, but we must depend on the Spirit of God and His Grace as we serve!

Our Hope Ministries Team - Pam, Pastor Ken, and myself are privileged to lead and serve our 120+ 'harvest field' workers. They offer prayer support, soul care, comfort, visitation, recovery, community, leadership and encouragement to as many people as possible in the Name of Jesus Christ. Pastor Ken oversees Prayer Groups and the Sunday Prayer Support Teams as well as the significant Pastoral Counselling and Visitation work that he provides. He also assists me in various soul-shepherding environments that we offer to Pastors, Ministry Leaders, and others. Pam assists us both, caring for the administration of our many Hope Ministries office details, managing and responding to requests for benevolence, and providing admin support to GEMS, Celebrate Recovery, and GriefShare.

The ministry reports that follow indicate how the Lord Jesus is active in the lives of people as they participate within the ministries under the Hope Ministries banner. These ministries are here to serve everyone at CrossRoads Church and in our community to **'help one another put our hope in Jesus Christ'**.

We want to be increasingly resourceful, accessible, clearly understood and effective for Jesus. This is why Hope Ministries at CrossRoads offers Celebrate Recovery, GriefShare, Prayer Support, Visitation, Soul Shepherding, Pastoral Care, and Practical Support on an ongoing weekly basis. Please pray for these ministries, and for those who serve and those who receive for the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Stu

Celebration Place

It is a fun, safe place to be on a Friday night, if you are between five and twelve years old! Our kids come from homes where someone important to them has made a courageous step to begin the healing process at Celebrate Recovery, homes that have some kind of hurt, hang-up or habit. As leaders, we get to spend time building relationships with the kids through music, activities, lessons, snacks and crafts designed to equip them with practical coping techniques, strategies and values. Kids are introduced to the age appropriate language of recovery - or 'pre-covey' so that families can talk about the same topics when they return home and become healthier together. Jesus is at the centre of Celebration Place and kids discover He loves them just as they are. We are blessed to see them grow in confidence as their families heal through God's love. Celebration Place - the funnest place to be on a Friday Night!

Corinne, Marcine, and Barb

Celebrate Recovery

Celebrate Recovery is a Christian 12 Step recovery program that helps those seeking recovery from hurts, hang-ups and habits. This includes chemical addictions to drugs or alcohol, and it also includes addictions to food, sex, gambling, shopping or other issues. We also have groups for anger and codependency. By applying the eight recovery principles, based on the Beatitudes, and the Christ Centred 12 steps, those who follow this program of recovery will develop and strengthen their relationship with God and He will help them to recover. Who can come to Celebrate Recovery? The answer is, anyone, and everyone, who wants to bring Christ's healing power into their life. What is Recovery? It's healing; it's getting back on track; it's a pathway to Jesus, and to spiritual growth.



HELPING ONE ANOTHER

Continued

In January, CrossRoads Celebrate Recovery celebrated its ninth anniversary. Many people continue to attend, and every week new people are joining. New attendees are often referrals from present and past attendees, pastors and counsellors. We meet every Friday night and have about 70 – 80 people in the Large Group and Open Share Groups. Our children's program, Celebration Place, runs every Friday as well, and sometimes has 25 children present! We are so grateful for the leaders in this part of the ministry, and they report that children and families are changing as a result of Celebrate Recovery and Celebration Place.

We continue to offer our Step Study groups for men, and for women on a different night of the week. Currently we have a ladies group running on Monday night and a second ladies group just started on Wednesday nights. A men's step study group has been meeting on Tuesdays and they finished at the end of April. We offered Celebrate Recovery's new Step Study – The Journey Continues – to a group of ladies in the past year as well. This new material is intended for people who have previously completed the first Step Study – The Journey Begins.

This February, the fifth group of men finished their 12 Steps at the Bowden Institution. Currently we have another 25 men just starting the sixth Step Study at Bowden. Celebrate Recovery Inside, as it is called, receives praise from the Chaplains at Bowden Institution as they can see that lives are being changed. They hold the volunteers from CrossRoads Celebrate Recovery in high regard, appreciating their skills and their commitment to bringing this program to Bowden Institution, year after year.

Perhaps one of the things we are most excited about is the start of a Recovery Program for teens. It's called Haven, and it's led by a dedicated group of leaders who have a heart for teens that are looking for recovery. The material is specially developed to utilize the 8 Recovery Principles from the Beatitudes, created to be powerful and engaging, a safe place for teens to deal with their own issues.

We have just introduced a new role to our Celebrate Recovery Team, the Mental Health Champion, and we're looking forward to exploring how we can better serve our attendees through this role.

Recently we have had the privilege to mentor a small group of our membership from Three Hills, who have a vision to start a group in that community. It's very exciting to see this group exploring how they can bring Celebrate Recovery to their own churches in that area.

On behalf of the leaders and participants at Celebrate Recovery, I'd like to thank CrossRoads Church, the Pastors, the Board, the kitchen, the worship teams, facilities teams, and the staff for their fantastic support of this ministry. With Christ's healing power, lives are being changed.

Lois Steen

Haven

Last November we relaunched the teen recovery component of Celebrate Recovery. The launch of Haven (formerly called the Landing) followed more than a year of organizing and planning to renew and refresh our strategies to offer struggling teens a safe environment for their spiritual, emotional, relational, and physical health. Keren Leckie bravely took on the leadership role and with her Haven team, has hosted teens every Friday night in the Youth Centre since November. There have been some nights when only one or two teens came out, but Keren has seen each night as a success in reaching out to one another with the Lord's love and acceptance, through relevant topics, fun games, and safe, engaging conversations. Every Friday night at Haven stands on its own. Teens 13-18 are always welcome to come out from 7-9 pm in the Youth Wing at CrossRoads!

Since Haven's relaunch, we've had a number of teens through the doors. The program is based on Celebrate Recovery's "the Landing" curriculum, but we are tweaking it to fit a broader youth outreach. In that way, it's a new ministry, and we have been molding it as we go. I believe God is working in what we are doing. The feedback we have received is that Haven is a place where teens are listened to and heard, not just talked at. I've seen friendships blossom both among the teens and in the leadership group. I believe the leaders are actively listening to God's prompting and gauging the needs of

the teens who attend. Most of all, we are providing a safe place for teens to see Jesus' love for them.

Please keep Keren and her Haven team in your prayers!

Benevolence

Benevolence continues to be a regularly called on ministry where people reach out to ask for assistance with numerous needs and situations - from rent payment, car repairs, bus tickets and hotel room fees to utility bills and help with food. All who call on CrossRoads are met individually, as we work to compassionately address all requests as best as we possibly can, often concluding in prayer. Great effort is taken to ensure each person is genuinely welcomed into the community of CrossRoads Church. This invitation is usually accompanied by CrossRoads resources, as well as some local resources from organizations that may be helpful within Red Deer. Each visit follows an offer of coffee, tea or water – and if there is food at hand – that too.

Hope Ministries invests deeply into each individual to help them feel valued, and to let them know that their coming to ask for help was fashioned by God, thus making us extremely sensitive to the Spirit's moving within each interaction. I quote a previous report in which was mentioned many aspects of this work of helping and the blessings therein: *A thread that runs consistently through the ministry of Benevolence is the thread of chances. Chances to meet people where they are, possibly at a particularly vulnerable life juncture, chances to help them, chances to comfort and offer prayer, chances to meet again and catch up. Chances too of introducing God if He's not already known. And chances to watch a life change and find its way.* Our foundational message remains: I see you, and I see you need help. Our hearts go out to you as you navigate your situation. So, together with God, let's explore how we can assist.

Pam Halvorson

Prayer Ministry

Prayer is becoming more the main stream of the life of the CrossRoad's family. As I shared in last year's report, we believe that our Lord wants us to be known as a 'house of prayer', a people who seek the face of our Lord Jesus Christ, who wait to hear His voice and then respond in full obedience to everything He asks of us. We are seeing

results as we pursue this mandate. People are meeting Jesus both through in-house ministries and out in the wider community. There are increased responses following each Sunday service, especially the first Sunday of each month which has been designated as a day of prayer of anointing for physical healing. We are experiencing an outpouring of the Holy Spirit as we are asking our Lord to do His work among us.

Jim Cymbala of the Brooklyn Tabernacle in New York city has written, "If the times are indeed as bad as we say they are... if the darkness in our world is growing heavier by the moment... if we are facing spiritual battles right in our own homes and churches...then we are foolish not to turn to the One who supplies unlimited grace and power. HE IS THE ONLY SOURCE!" Jesus promises that we will find Him when we seek for Him will all our hearts (Jeremiah 29:13).

There is a weekly prayer communication entitled, "Prayer Reflection" that keeps

the prayer teams informed and alert as to what the Spirit is up to in the family. If you would like to receive this and/or be part of the prayer team please contact Pam in the Hope Ministries office. There is also a group of pray-ers who meet every Wednesday evening in the prayer room at 7:00 pm, interceding for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. You are welcome to check it out.

Ken W. Lehman

GEMS

The Genuinely Enthusiastic Missionary Seniors of the CrossRoads family meet the second Tuesday of every month (September to June) from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Each time the meal is outstandingly delicious and the program is informative and inspirational with a variety of music groups every other month, of hymn singing, of updates on church ministries and community services available to the elderly. It is a wonderful time of developing friendships.

Ken W. Lehman

Grief Share

The Lord is good. Over the last year we have seen the Lord minister to many of us in Grief Share. This ministry of restoration, comfort and support happens through mutual support, videos and reading material.

Some of us are still dealing with loss from decades ago and for others the loss is recent. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for being ready when we are. I look forward to seeing more people minister to each other and receive from the Lord over the next year.

Derek Tarling

Hope Ministries Staff

Pam Halvorson – Hope Administration and Ministry Assistant

Pastor Ken Lehman – Associate Pastor of Hope Ministries

Pastor Stu Krogman – Pastor of Hope Ministries

FOOD SERVICES**WHAT'S COOKING IN THE KITCHEN?****FOOD SERVICES**

Kyle Reed and Neila Lehman

Food Services is one of many very busy ministries within CrossRoads. As you know, the large commercial kitchen is located near the center of our church and this contains symbolism in that it is often referred to as a vital organ of the ministry work we do here. Neila Lehman is now into her second year of giving direction to the kitchen and café as the Food Services Manager. Tammy Hildebrandt, Kitchen Assistant, faithfully guides and stands alongside the large serve teams who provide food service for groups from 10 to 1000+ people. Amanda Rein has been the kitchen administrative assistant who has

guided the kitchen from the office and schedules volunteers, updates our processes and just keeps everything wonderfully organized. Sharon Tomalty continues to lead the café volunteers and menu as she continues to pour her efforts into providing a great Sunday experience for all congregants. As you may guess, food isn't the only thing coming out of the kitchen. Laughter, joy, community, and hospitality spill out through the doors, onto the plates and fills the spaces where people gather to eat, drink and do life together. Please join me in thanking and praying for the exceptional people who work in the kitchen.



FACILITY

NOT JUST A BUILDING

FACILITY

Kyle Reed

Another year has passed and it is customary that I thank you for allowing us to be a part of this church community, this church family, with you. This year is no different. The gratitude in my heart that I get to do life here is so great. To our team, this is not just a building. The facility team customarily sees so many life ups and downs from weddings to funerals, and they see people from so many walks of life as we host community events from local schools, health care providers, social agencies and ministry groups. The church building and the grounds it rests on has thousands of people in it and through it every week. Each of those people have a story. Although it's impossible to hear everyone's story every time, through prayer and hospitality and opportunity, we hope we have another chance within these walls to hear their story and also share the good news with them. There are countless stories amongst our team of times where there was a conversation with someone and CrossRoads Church comes up, and they respond, "Oh I was there for a Christmas concert, or a teacher's event or my kid went to youth group" or something like that. Pray for these people. Whether it's a contractor, service provider, gathering attendee or delivery driver, so many people come to the building who don't know Jesus. Pray that we as the church would continue "praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

Where were you June 20, 2017? That was the night of the plow wind that devastated trees, power lines and structures across Central Alberta. I was at my son's baseball game when the destructive storm hit. Literally the second that I got seated in my minivan after the calamity that had 20 kids and their families frantically scurrying to safety, I got a call from Pastor Jordan. It wasn't a long call but the gist of it was that "the roof of the church fell off". After three chaotic hours of contractors, clean up and discussion, Brad and I stood on the roof surveying 25,000 square feet of damage. The sky was still dense with menacing rain



clouds and it had been raining lightly on and off for an hour. It was after ten at night, but the sun was still out just behind the clouds. A roofing contractor was coming

the next morning to start tarping the roof to keep it sealed, but if it rained that night, the building would be at the mercy of the rain. On the roof that night there were a lot

of "Uh ohs" and "We are in for it!", however that quickly changed to "Wow" and "Thank you" because in that moment I experienced a glimpse of what Noah had maybe felt in seeing the rainbow. The rain clouds literally circled the church (like you could literally see them moving quickly in a great arc) and the sun peeked through from the west. Wow, God, thank You for always being present and reminding us that You have

got it covered. Through the massive clean up and repair process that lasted months thereafter, the name of Jesus was praised and spread and mentioned numerous times. Dozens of insurance adjusters, contractors, and labourers came and went and often we had at least one touch point as they wanted to know what or how it all happened. They often heard the story above. Some stopped there and went back

to work and some wanted to talk at length about the church or the project, and one thing was clear - the Holy Spirit was at work, not only in them, but certainly in me. It is usually in the midst of large events like this that I find the Holy Spirit has me more in tune to what God may be doing through awareness of the "little things". Yet only as our Heavenly Father can, He often shows up in big ways too.

FAMILY

FAMILIES ARE AWESOME!

FAMILY

Barry Oram

Every year, a fabulous group of your fellow CrossRoads congregants, who care deeply about healthy marriages, use their gifts and talents and passions by offering both Marriage and Pre-marriage ministry options. These include a weekend retreat for engaged couples in April and one for married couples in June. Another option for engaged couples is a one-on-one mentorship program.

Engaged Encounter, Prepare/Enrich and the Marriage Enrichment Weekend could not and would not exist without the faithful dedication of so many. We like to call it "The Body serving the Body". So, why do they care so much? And why do we care about making sure they have what they need to bring such high quality events to serve you, our congregation?

First, we believe that families are awesome.

Families begin when a couple says "I do". (Genesis 2:24) These two little words mark the beginning of a lifetime of change and growth, and require a solid foundation to build a successful marriage and family. Learning the skills to communicate well about money and careers, sexuality and spirituality, parenting and couple goals before saying "I do" enables you to begin

well and build on your already unique strengths as a couple. Both the Engaged Encounter weekend and Prepare/Enrich have been specifically chosen to provide you with the tools to begin building well.



This year the Engaged Encounter weekend hosted 14 couples – and the four Prepare/Enrich mentor couples have been in constant demand.

Second, we believe that families are awesome!

God has put families together in so many different ways and they come with their

own unique challenges, blessings and surprises – and things can get a little crazy. With that in mind, once a year couples can head out to Canmore, Alberta for an all-inclusive weekend to enrich their marriage. (That's why it's called the Marriage Enrichment Weekend. Clever, hey?) The weekend is designed as a time for a couple to be alone together, free from distractions. They will discover their personal strengths in their unique relationship and return home ready to face their future together with courage. Couples need to be built into and equipped for the road ahead and sometimes the best way to reconnect is to just get away.

Third, we believe families are awesome!!

Marriage and Pre-marriage Ministries are just a part of the whole of what Family Ministries does throughout the year. However, they are such an integral part in what we do to help and inspire you to grow in your faith and as a family. There is so much hard work and heart that go into each event. This year, we continue to entrust it all to the Lord. We humbly ask that He would be honoured and glorified in the lives of the families He has called us to serve.

YOUNG ADULTS

COMMUNITY, TEACHING & WORSHIP

YOUNG ADULTS

Robert Mudde

It's Sunday night and young adults across Red Deer have waited until this last moment to plan out their busy week. The CrossRoads Young Adult Facebook page lights up with hits (90% of our total website visits come on Sunday night). Everyone is checking to see what is happening at Young Adults this Monday. Over this past year we have had just over 100 new young adults join our Facebook group which now sits at 300 members, all looking to stay in the CrossRoads Young Adults ministry loop.



Three themes rotate through the programming of Monday nights; Community, Teaching, and Worship.

On our community nights, we went boating at Sylvan lake, and had all-you-can-eat "wings on the cliffs" overlooking the Red Deer River. We mixed Mentos with Diet Coke, pudding with Pictionary, Mennonites with dancing, and wits with escape rooms. In general, we played and we developed friendships (with the busy life of a student, both play and Jesus-following friends are massively important but not easily found).

On our teaching nights, we run workshops with plenty of coffee and snacks. Our topics center around three repeating questions:

1. What's God's way?
2. Is it good? and
3. How do we get in on it?

This year we have run all sorts of topics through those questions. Anxiety and worry, shame and worth, pornography, bravery, boredom, and community. Our goal through workshops is not to just answer questions but to develop a repeatable and helpful pattern to approaching God and his Word with relatable heart issues. Our hope is that this approach stays with our young adults even as they move on.

Our worship nights are a highlight for many. Our favourite way is to set up in a circle around those leading us, and worship for a long chunk of time. As the worship nights go by, the feel of these nights continues to grow. Young adults are coming more

and more expectant, they are coming ready to sing out, to bring it, to get past their insecurities and to express the love they have felt building in them as they see God's good transforming their hearts. As these individual desires combine with 60 other like-hearts on a worship night, the experience is powerful.



Not sure you can do the big group thing? That's okay. We still have three small groups running through the week of about 12 each. Their doors are open to new members.

Are you a young adult or do you know a young adult who would love to join 70 others on a Monday night? Send them to our Facebook page. Tell them to look up *CrossRoads Young Adults* and they will find us.

Note: By the time you will read this, summer will be upon us and the young adult Monday nights will be paused till the new school year. So, what happens through the summer?

We go sailing up the Vancouver coast for a week! And we give back to the teens in Red Deer by helping host the youth nights CrossRoads runs on Wednesdays through the summer (don't worry, young adults - you can stay late like usual.) Once again, our Facebook page will let you know what's going on.



SENIOR HIGH

THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

SENIOR HIGH

James Choi

"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us." – Ephesians 3:20

We pray and ask God for wisdom in how we are to lead Jesus' youth ministry. Yet, I am reminded how important it is to leave room for His Holy Spirit to do immeasurably more than all we ask, imagine or dream of.

This reminder that Paul gives to the church of Ephesus is a testament to how Jesus our Lord is able to keep His youth ministry here at CrossRoads under the element of surprise, continuing to allow for each one of us to be in awe, giving glory to God and His works!

This past year, that unexpected awe and element of surprise is exactly what we have experienced here in Sr. High Youth ministry. The work that God has been doing in and through us isn't ever what we expect, but has been a huge testament to how He is at work in His youth ministry here at CrossRoads.

We cannot run without our people, and we are thankful!

CrossRoads youth ministry has not and will not run healthy without the help of the hands of our leaders and student leaders. At the beginning of the year it was an unknown to see how well a one-on-one mentoring relationship would be between 21 of our student leaders and 21 adult leaders. That being said, it was incredibly fun at the beginning of the year, allowing our leaders and student leaders to take part in a hockey-style draft for the purpose of matching each other. What a blessing it would have been to see even a couple of one-on-one relationships flourish; but He exceeded our hopes. More than half of our students and leaders are connecting on a frequent basis via text, copious amounts of coffee, wings, lunches and weekend hangouts outside of youth nights. They share an affinity over food and coffee, but



also have grown through Bible and book studies, prayer support, accountability and leading small groups together on youth nights. It has been said on many occasions from current youth and those who reflect back on their youth group days, that they hardly remember the impact of a single devotion or message; rather, they remember the impact of an older Christian brother or sister who has invested and built meaningful relationship with them.

Student leadership has taken on a more organic and natural flow to how they function on a youth night. I was sad to see a collective decision made between our student leaders to disband the look and brand of student leaders as a group. But as the year played out, I've been proud to witness their decision to walk as followers of Jesus and to move in step with how the Lord would act on any given youth night. Their decision to disband was to create an organic step towards serving their youth ministry because of their relationship with Jesus, and not because they have a title or are in an 'elite group' of students.

There is nothing more powerful than seeing our youth minister to their peers and witnessing the Spirit continue to

work in these students on a youth night - from taking ownership on setting up and taking down, to seeking out and building conversation with the last, least, little and nearly dead.

One of our Sr. High leaders has been leading our Sunday afternoon Bible study this past year, has gone through four different books of the Bible, and has been running with a group of 6-15 students.

The Lord has entrusted us with those He brings through the doors!

We are thankful for six students baptized! Four first-time commitments to follow Jesus! A combined number of 180 students from Central Middle School and Normandaeu walking through our doors for the first time!

This past year, in Sr. High ministry, we have seen close to 200 Sr. High students walk through the doors of our youth centre and into the specific nights God had orchestrated for them. We are even more thankful for the 90 students who make up the core of our group every week. We recognize that God has entrusted us with students who are seeking out deeper roots in their faith walk, seeking out deeper



THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE

Continued

relationships with each other, and at the end of the day, needing a place to kick back to relax. I am thankful that they choose His church to seek that out.

Tell us more!

This year, our strength and witness to our youth is on building genuine and rooted relationships with each other and with the Lord. Here's a list of what has helped encourage this!

- Café Nights, where students and leaders spend the first hour connecting over food and coffee and ending our night with an hour of worship and a message.
- Prayer and hangouts pre-youth at 6:00pm and late wings and McDonald runs post-youth nights!
- Events that create memories and stories such as smashing old vehicles, tying each other up with zip ties, Camp

Caroline student retreat, Christmas banquet, and eating ice cream mixed with spam!

- Small groups, which run three out of four weeks in a month, have been pivotal moments in relationship building, after a time where our students can talk about life, pray and discuss the devotional.

Four different devotional series our students have walked through:

1. "The Book of 1 John" - how to walk from dark to light
2. "I AM" - discovering who Jesus is
3. "God Is" - growing in faith not by what He can or cannot do, but by knowing who He is
4. "King of My Heart" - defeating the idols in our lives

As we pray and prepare for our next year of youth ministry, would you join us in prayer as we seek to explore what it looks like for our students to begin tasting and seeing the things we have journeyed through this past year?

Psalm 34:8 states, "Taste and see that the Lord is good; take refuge in Him!" We are encouraged and reminded that our students have been fed this year, we are now anticipating and excited to see what our students have tasted as we put our hands and feet to work in Central Alberta and in our youth nights!



story and their days can look radically different from one week to the next. I love seeing how adult leaders are intentional about talking with individual students and discovering more about how they are.

Making the larger group smaller.

In one of the small groups, one young man has shown increasing leadership in helping to welcome another student and making sure that he is a welcome part of the group.

Meeting with Jesus

At the end of January, we had a guest group from Global Prayer House help to lead the evening. On this night, there was powerful evidence of students coming face to face with Jesus. One particular story stood out - that of a Jr. High student clearly hearing Jesus' voice.



Family Connections as we collaborated with Community Life on a connecting event for Jr. High parents this past November. It was a great evening to get to meet families and also to have families connect with one another. These connections and conversations continue to be evident and growing on any given Thursday night.

Worship gatherings as a team of Sr. High students served the Jr. High community on a monthly basis this past year by leading worship songs. These Sr. High students reflect the impact of the Sr. High Ministries and Worship Arts Ministries. It's so cool to partner together.

Servant Leadership At the close of a Thursday night at the

beginning of March, a number of students took the initiative to clean up around the Youth Centre.

Youth Team

I am so thankful for the team of adult leaders who serve with Jr. High on Thursdays. Students are seeing Jesus' life in how their leaders care for one another and enjoy serving the students together.

Students have heard more of their leaders' stories during the large group talk times on Thursdays as adult team members teach from the Bible and point the students to Jesus.

Echo

These weekly gatherings in the Youth Centre have become excellent opportunities to welcome new students, to see relationship built up between the students, to see students dig deeper into Scripture, and to pray together as a community. This past year, we have explored the over-arching story of Scripture from Creation to Jesus and His church, students reflecting on their own stories with Jesus and serving others, exploring what prayer is, the value of friendship as



Jesus modelled it, and leaning into Psalms and Bible memory. This past February, Pastor Ken Lehman came as a guest and shared more of his heart for prayer.

Closing Thoughts

It is a privilege to be a part of CrossRoads Church together with you. The Spirit of God is powerfully at work in the Jr. High community as we play, laugh, eat, learn, pray, and grow in Christ. I am excited to see what God has planned for the year ahead. Thanks for how you pray.

20 Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. *21* Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21 New Living Translation (NLT)

JUNIOR HIGH

MAKING MEMORIES AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

JUNIOR HIGH

Dave Morin

The Jr. High Fall Retreat:

This weekend helped to set the tone for the year ahead. We saw friendships grow, experienced great sharing times in the cabins amongst students and adult leaders, and saw awesome connections made throughout the weekend as we paused with Jesus.

At Thursday Youth, we were about:

Making memories and building relationship through fun and laughter. For example, the recent Lip Sync battle saw students enjoy some creative choreography and lots ... and lots... of laughter.

Meeting students where they are at. That is, each student who comes to Thursday Youth has a unique



CHILDREN K-6

ROOM(S) TO GROW

CHILDREN K-6
Jordan Cavanaugh

Spring seems like somewhat of a fresh start, a new beginning; the sun shines, the snow melts, we feel the need to clean the house top-to-bottom (or maybe that's just me?). We see flower buds and green leaves, there are puddles and mud, popsicles and ice cream, mosquitoes and butterflies. There's a new excitement that seems to follow when the birds begin to wake us up with their song. It's like we start to thaw from those long winter days.

Spring also brings a new season for CrossRoads Kids that has us gearing up for another year through ministry planning, dreaming, and reflecting.

This past year of CrossRoads Kids K-6 allowed for challenge, change, and growth.



Each Sunday **CHALLENGED...**
...our teams with 260 kids on average. With the recognition that Kid's programming is the number one way to reach new believers and that we strive "to give everyone in Central Alberta an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by following Him, compassionately impact our world", we challenge ourselves - "How can we do this better?". "This" is a lot of different things: teaching, leading, training, appreciating, recognizing, introducing... and so much more!

This year brought **CHANGE...**
...to our serves and staff. We said goodbye to two incredible Team Leads, Lisa Penninga and Josh Schweer, who poured their time and dedication into shepherding our evening serve teams. Karli Harder was welcomed to the staff team as K-6 Serve Coordinator and later on, Shauna Giesbrecht joined us as K-6 Curriculum Coordinator (Melissa Kooiker is on maternity leave). And well, you may have heard, but we have most recently welcomed husband and wife dynamic duo in partnership to play the part of Pastor(s) of K-6 Ministries, Jordan and Julie Cavanaugh!

And, we are excited for the opportunity for **GROWTH...**
...as we move forward. We have already begun to see growth in the number of serves dedicated to CrossRoads Kids! However, growth isn't just about numbers or bettering our programming or having cooler rooms, supplies, or decor. But what we want is to grow the heart of the ministry. Jesus said to us, "unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter Heaven"



(Matthew 18:3). As staff and serves, we are growing in faith with the hearts and minds of today's church, our kids. It is our privilege to shepherd each CrossRoads' Kid in faith and walk with them as they discover the Big God Story.

This is our spring both in season and in Ministry. We are excited to come with a strong foundation yet welcome fresh starts and new beginnings. This next year of ministry in K-6 will be built on three guiding principles:

Children Deserve Our Best
Each Sunday we come battle-ready because, week in and week out, we are fighting for children's hearts. When a child gives their life to Christ they don't get junior salvation or junior Holy Spirit. They get the real deal. We have a responsibility as a community of believers to disciple these kids and give them our best!

Children's Ministry is Family Ministry
We want to do a great job of serving our families. Whether service runs late or parents are going forward for healing prayer, we count it a privilege to spend as much time with our kids as possible. We also know that the main way that parents are coming to Christ is through Children's ministry; ultimately, if we serve our families well, it means more people in the kingdom!

Life Change Occurs Through Relationship
In Children's Ministry, people matter more than program. In everything we do, we want kids and their families to be the most important! This next year we are aiming to grow our ministry team so that we can effectively shepherd kids. We also know that relationships form and grow through consistency; so we are encouraging our families and serves to do just that - consistently show up at the same service each week so that relationship and transformation can blossom.

Thank you, Church family, for being on this journey with us. As a new ministry team, we are excited to continue to grow in size, faith, and ministry with our Church in this next season!



EARLY CHILDHOOD

BIG NEWS! HE IS THE KING OF THE WORLD!

EARLY CHILDHOOD

Tammy Grobe

Over and over, I think to myself, I serve the "King of the World". I do NOT want to forget that. When I look in the eyes of our "littles" of CrossRoads Kids, I want to remember that King Jesus has them in His hands. I also will never forget how on Sunday mornings I hear, "Pastor Tammy!" yelled down the hallways, or awesome questions I get asked, like "Do you live here?", and "Where is your bed, Pastor Tammy?" These will be some of the fond memories I will always cherish in my heart! Oh how precious our "littles" are to me and the King of the World!

Over the past five years, I have enjoyed working with a wonderful team. Marcia Bowler, Jaqi Tiechroeb and I work together along with the entire Family Ministries team to make CrossRoads Early Childhood the best it can be! We love watching the little newborns grow and mature into active pre-k children. If you have not made it over to our area by the green slide, just walk through in between services! You will see young families enjoying each other and their children going up and down the slide. You might want to brace yourself for the volume of joy and laughter! This is an awesome example of Kingdom community!



Families arrive early and are eager to have their children in class. Many times parents have informed me that their children cannot wait to come to church on Sundays. God is on the move in our families of CrossRoads. Weekly, I hear stories of children singing their worship songs, reciting their memory verses, talking about Jesus and the true stories of the Bible. Sometimes, I even get blessed with videos of children in their play and in the video it is very evident that they are taking it all in from their Sunday morning experience in CrossRoads Kids.

We are so blessed to have some of the best "serves" in our ministry. Not only do parents serve, we have a place for grandparents, aunts, uncles, young adults and juniors. I would like to do a big shout out of THANKS to our serves! We truly could not do what we do without your help and commitment.

When serving in our area you will experience:

1. Childlike faith and wonder
2. Worship (as loud and crazy as that might be)
3. Well planned curriculum and activities
4. A safe place for children to learn about Jesus.



FYI: If you would like to be part of the CrossRoads Kids team, we have a place for you to serve! There are ways to serve from baking to cleaning to being a part of a regular serve team on Sundays!

Throughout the year, there are several ways to become a part of the CrossRoads Family Community! We have events for parents and their children, moms expecting new babies, parenting courses, moms connecting and talking and Baby Dedication. Families can keep connected by being a part of the closed Facebook group CrossRoads ECM Families.

We look forward to what the "King of the World" has for CrossRoads Families! Jesus said, "Let the little children come unto me"! They are coming! They are bringing their moms and dads and sometimes even their grandmas and grandpas!

On behalf of Marcia, Jaqi and myself, thank you for letting us serve your families! We look forward in anticipation to what the "King of the World" has for the "littles" of CrossRoads!



LOCAL INITIATIVES

BRIDGES

LOCAL INITIATIVES

Laurie Whitaker

Imagine Central Alberta without bridges; without pathways to cross our many rivers and highways. Imagine the lack of connection that would exist and the isolation that could take hold. Bridges are necessary for the bringing together of people and resources into community and relationship. Bridges are also necessary to span the church to the community. One significant bridge that can do this is called serving – it can connect God’s people (the church) to the community that He has placed us in and wants to have relationship with. In fact, serving is a way that God can use to accomplish His mission. As we, God’s people, serve in love, the soil of hearts can be softened and doors start to open. It is in the sometimes small acts of service that we are bringing hope to the community.

Through the bridge of serving, we can have a transformational effect on Central Alberta. Transforming the world happens one person at a time. Here are some of the ways that this has been happening over the past year as CrossRoads, in groups both small and large, and as individuals, has made a difference in other people’s lives – making a difference in the world one person at a time by being a bridge that brings hope.

**Kids and Schools**

In September, we welcomed five schools and two agencies that work directly with kids and had a great day of learning and connecting. They presented to us many ways that we could make a difference – both for students and staff. Literally hundreds of connections were made and over 120 people signed up to help in these schools through breakfast program support, becoming a reading buddy or in-school mentor, serving in after-school programs and other needs unique to each school and agency.

Since September, we have been welcomed into the day-to-day of these schools and our understanding has grown of the challenges and what a “win” looks like. Though the needs presented to us cause concern, let us choose to view this for the huge opportunity that it is. We are invited to be part of something that has huge potential to impact many lives.

Through your generous giving in our donation bins, we are providing nutrition

for breakfast programs, daytime snacks and take-home meals that are being given to students who are known to have need by the school staff. It is not possible to count the number of students that have been fed but over the course of this school year, thousands have benefited.

More significantly, there are now people from CrossRoads serving breakfasts and smiles to students in schools, and building relationships with staff at the same time.

“One of our most challenging and struggling students is in grade one. He comes from a complicated, dysfunctional home with little parenting and, when it is present, is less than appropriate parenting. We constantly try to fill his bucket with love and try to keep him from having major meltdowns because his basic needs are not being met. One of the greatest mornings last week was when he visited the breakfast program (he typically doesn’t attend) – carrying all his belongings overhead. Two of your

CrossRoads Church regular breakfast supports were doing a pancake breakfast – and he was over the moon happy. To him it could have been Christmas morning. They made his day simply by getting up – coming to our school – and cooking their pancakes and providing their smiles and love.”

We are also involved with serving in our schools:

- Through the distributing of winter clothing in ten schools since September.
- By being a reading buddy helping a child who requires support in literacy development.
- Mentoring a child or youth through Big Brothers Big Sisters or through an in-school match.
- Demonstrating care and support for educators and support staff, letting them know we recognize the significance of their role.

Mentoring

Our community has a great need for mentors who will spend time on a regular basis doing life with a young person. The need for men who will spend time with boys is great, due to the large number of young boys growing up in environments where there is no male role model. Mentoring requires the giving of time and yourself – it is not a low commitment area of serving but the impact and return on investment isn’t low either.

There are currently 71 children and youth on the wait-list for a mentor in our community through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Mentors are also needed within each school.

CrossRoads men, women and couples are currently serving as mentors through Big Brothers Big Sisters both in the community and in schools. We now also have men and women providing mentorship through our relationship with individual schools as they are matched by school counsellors.

“The first time we met I sat across the table from this little guy and I saw myself at his age. Mentoring is having a huge impact on me – it doesn’t just effect the little person.”

Hope Mission

Hope Mission currently runs after-school programming in both elementary and middle schools in Red Deer. Kids in Action reaches 170 children and Youth in Action, 80 middle school students and there is a wait-list of 100 students who want to attend. Both of these programs allow kids to build relationships with peers and with positive caring adults who love Jesus and these kids. Each program provides food, fun, encouragement, character and skill development.

Our church congregation has engaged with Hope Mission through:

- Participating at after-school programs as shepherds and running buddies.
- Serving dinner to both kids and their family members at the Christmas Dinner.
- Baking yummy desserts for those who attended the Christmas dinner.
- Barbecuing burgers and hot dogs, running alongside and cheering at the year end 5K race

Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre

This past fall saw the opening of phase two of the Maternity Home which provides independent apartments for women and their babies while participating in the programming offered by the Pregnancy Care Centre. Both phase two, along with the family living environment of phase one, have clients who are receiving the support and life skill development necessary to become the best parent they can be.

CrossRoads is engaged with the Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre through:

- Becoming trained client advocates
- Becoming male mentors
- Serving staff members and clients through opportunities presented

Love in the Laces

Last summer, approximately 900 pairs of shoes were given to children and youth in Central Alberta as they began a new school year. This partnership with Women’s Outreach Tools for School program, once again, provided kids an extra boost of



confidence and excitement as they started their school year and provided the people of CrossRoads an opportunity to give and serve. Face-to-face time with kids picking out shoes brings out many servers and the stories that emerge from this annual event continue to inspire us to walk humbly and lavish love amongst the children in our community.

The bridge of service, when done in love, opens up conversations about Jesus because people will want to know, “Who are you?” and, “Why are you doing this?” Good deeds create good will and good will creates the opportunity to share the good news.

You are invited to pick up a Local Initiatives Booklet from one of our bookshelves in the foyer or at the donation bins for more details on our involvement in our community and how you can be a part of these opportunities.

OUTREACH MISSIONS

GOD IS ON THE MOVE

OUTREACH MISSIONS

Tracy Minke



Welcome to Canada!

"God was the first ever missionary when in Genesis 3:8 he went out in search of two sinners who had rebelled against Him in order to bring them back into fellowship with Him." -Eddy Ho

Ever since The Fall in The Garden, God has been ON MISSION to restore His people and His creation. From Genesis to Revelation we see our God strategically on mission and the most amazing part of the story is that He generously invites us to join Him! CrossRoads, be assured that God is on the move here in Central Alberta and in the far reaches of the globe, and our church is actively engaging with Him where we can.

An exciting and new chapter of mission here at CrossRoads began when a plane touched down in Calgary this March, bringing Mark and his three kids to Canada to join our CrossRoads family. After making the tough choice to leave Syria years ago, Mark couldn't have foreseen how God was going to take hold of his heart and transform the lives of his family. Their journey of leaving the Middle East and beginning a new life here in Canada highlights their courage, resilience and faith in a powerful Saviour.

In turn, Mark's family has helped to welcome the newest of our sponsored families, the Balah family, who arrived a few weeks later. They all now join in a new Arabic Fellowship that meets here every Saturday night. Together these families bring a contagious love for Jesus and concern for the lost that you are going to want to experience! As they are both still in the early stages of getting settled here in Red Deer, I hope you will take the opportunity to connect with these families in meaningful ways.

This year we sent three **Short-Term Outreach teams** to serve alongside our Global partners in Uganda, Haiti and Rwanda. We also sent a team to serve alongside missionaries Andrew and

Melissa Fletcher as they run a Family Refugee Camp in Greece.

This year was unique as each team was filled with fresh faces representing all ages and stages of life! Keep your eyes posted for details on our upcoming outreaches!

2017-2018 OUTREACH TEAMS
Uganda: Fall 2017, 9 team members
Haiti: Fall 2017, 9 team members
Rwanda: Winter 2018, 3 team members
Greece: Summer 2018, 9 team members

In January, the **Global Compassion Committee (GCC)** celebrated the 10th anniversary of their inaugural meeting. Through the efforts of this team and the compassion and generosity of our congregation, we have witnessed God doing great things in the communities where we partner. Throughout this year, the GCC has continued to support our partners Haiti Arise, International



Video Crew Filming in Rwanda



Haiti STO team in Children's Village

Needs Uganda and World Relief Rwanda as they work towards the transformation of their communities. This year's Christmas Compassion Campaign highlighted visits from Marc and Lisa Honorat from Haiti and the World Relief President, Scott Arbeiter. In Uganda, we saw the conclusion of our involvement in the CHAP program, and celebrated the successes of this project. As the new year unfolds, we look forward to the development of our focus on educational support in the school in Buikwe. Another new initiative of this team was to invite a video crew to go and film all of our partners in order to record some of their dynamic stories. More to come!

Through the work of the **Mission Advisory Team** we have been seeking to engage with Persecuted Believers, National Pastors and Leaders, and Muslims Near and Far. We have been supporting two church planters in Greece, a social worker and evangelist in Lebanon, translation of discipleship materials into the Farsi language, and an Arabic outreach here in Red Deer and more.

Through the ministries of our **27 missionaries**, the Mission Advisory Team has supported the translation and distribution of evangelism tools in the Middle East, worship ministry in Italy, training and mentoring in Mongolia, camp ministry in Greece, youth work and discipleship in Kenya, translation of Scripture and materials in Ghana, a church plant in East Vancouver, youth work and outreach in Romania and so much more than we could ever speak about in this little report!

New opportunities to connect with and to **build relationships with Muslims** in Red Deer have begun this year. Through an initiative called Friends for Dinner, a number of our church families invited Syrian families over for an Easter meal. Through this, a number of cool stories and relationships have been formed. On Tuesday afternoons we host a men's soccer outreach in the gym where sport initiates relationship and honest discussion about our Jesus. Every Thursday night a team begins the night with prayer and then visits their Syrian friends in their homes. If you would like to get more engaged just let me know!

The **Kairos Course** was run again at our church in the fall, and once more this spring. Kairos is a study of the unchanging purpose



Kairos Spring Class

and plan of God from Genesis to the end of the age. Focusing on the Biblical, historical, strategic and cultural dimensions of God's mission, this course is offered in over 80 countries and 30 languages. I am excited that God's people of CrossRoads have joined in!

"I just wanted to thank you and CrossRoads for your part in making the conference happen. I think in many ways it was a game changer for me and helped ignite and re-ignite the God-given passion I've always had in this area but had put aside/forgotten. It was so neat to see others alive with the same passion. I need to get more involved!" –Global Social Justice Conference Participant

We have been honoured this year to host or to run some great events that have inspired and informed our body as well as the wider body of Central Alberta. Highlights of the year include our **Mission Possible: Welcoming Refugees to Red Deer** conference, with special guest Matt Soerens from World Relief; the **Global Social Justice Conference**, in partnership with Prairie College, and of course the incredible **Brother Yun** evening highlighting Back to Jerusalem, which was attended by nearly 2000 people in our 3 venues.



Brother Yun Photo by Peter Fleck

Looking Ahead....

As 2018 ends and 2019 approaches, our church will continue to stay engaged in God's mission in multiple ways. Some tangibles we look forward to include at least three short term outreach teams who will be trained and sent out to encourage and work alongside our various partners. The great ministry of our compassion partners in Haiti, Rwanda and Uganda will be highlighted this Christmas season through a series of short films. Another sponsored Syrian family will be arriving after years of waiting for safe passage to Canada. Missionaries we support will continue to seek out opportunities to share Christ and take part in transformation in the places and with the peoples they have been called to. The Kairos Course will again be offered for anyone wanting to better understand God's heart for His people. In September, we will be hosting a European Missionary Retreat in Northern Ireland to bless our missionaries on that continent. This will be a time for them to focus on Soul Care and fellowship. We will continue to engage with the Persecuted Church, National Pastors and Leaders, and Muslims Near and Far. There is never a dull moment here at CrossRoads Missions! Thank you for your generous support and encouragement, and for your engagement in God's mission!

PROPOSED BUDGET

CROSSROADS CHURCH
PROPOSED BUDGET
AUGUST 2018 - JULY 2019

	2017-2018 9 Month Actuals	2017-2018 12 Month Projection	2017-2018 Aug-July Budget	2018-2019 Aug-July Budget	% Over Projected Actual	% Over Last Budget
FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES						
Revenue	11,065	17,383	17,930	18,090	4.1%	0.9%
Expenditures	8,541	28,663	36,600	33,070	15.4%	-9.6%
Note: Includes Faith Home events, Marriage Ministry, overall children's ministry administration.						
EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES						
Revenue	1,868	2,335	2,075	2,750	17.8%	32.5%
Expenditures	10,488	15,175	17,700	17,795	17.3%	0.5%
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES						
Revenue	3,338	4,570	5,600	4,850	6.1%	-13.4%
Expenditures	12,204	18,584	27,800	25,910	39.4%	-6.8%
STUDENT MINISTRIES						
Revenue	44,819	47,354	84,550	74,560	57.5%	-11.8%
Expenditures	100,740	112,704	139,700	119,375	5.9%	-14.5%
Note: Includes all ministry to students in grades 7-12; as well as, outreach to youth in our community.						
YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES						
Revenue	2,035	13,050	31,050	30,260	131.9%	-2.5%
Expenditures	7,495	24,036	47,200	45,900	91.0%	-2.8%
Note: Includes Tiro						
COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES						
Revenue	29,027	37,866	31,000	24,000	-36.6%	-22.6%
Expenditures	63,439	94,892	91,250	81,100	-14.5%	-11.1%
Note: Includes Alpha, GEM's, Men's and Women's Ministry; as well as, church wide connecting events.						
HOPE MINISTRIES						
Revenue	35,483	45,752	43,200	44,200	-3.4%	2.3%
Expenditures	55,295	76,206	92,250	94,350	23.8%	2.3%
Note: Includes Soul Shepherding, Celebrate Recovery, Central Alberta Community Support for local agencies such as Shalom Counselling, and benevolence for individuals within and outside the church.						

PROPOSED BUDGET

CROSSROADS CHURCH
PROPOSED BUDGET
AUGUST 2018 - JULY 2019

	2017-2018 9 Month Actuals	2017-2018 12 Month Projection	2017-2018 Aug-July Budget	2018-2019 Aug-July Budget	% Over Projected Actual	% Over Last Budget
KITCHEN MINISTRIES						
Revenue	99,536	119,881	124,000	118,000	-1.6%	-4.8%
Expenditures	92,883	114,400	124,000	118,000	3.1%	-4.8%
MISSIONS AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES						
Revenue	201,775	282,013	323,000	311,000	10.3%	-3.7%
Expenditures	185,531	304,263	388,700	385,000	26.5%	-1.0%
Note: Includes support of short term and long term missionaries. Includes support for various local and global missional projects.						
COMPASSION						
Revenue	331,391	335,231	415,000	415,000	23.8%	0.0%
Expenditures	250,050	453,767	508,900	507,400	11.8%	-0.3%
Notes: This includes both local and global compassion efforts.						
WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRIES						
Revenue	3,580	3,580	1,800	2,500	-30.2%	38.9%
Expenditures	18,171	26,490	32,300	31,400	18.5%	-2.8%
GENERAL CHURCH						
Revenue	3,039,872	3,991,535	4,342,045	4,354,490	9.1%	0.3%
Expenditures						
Staff Salaries	1,934,764	2,589,369	2,931,150	2,987,000	15.4%	1.9%
General Operations	588,137	847,108	853,700	873,400	3.1%	
Capital	34,479	76,000	130,000	80,000	5.3%	-38.5%
BUDGET SUMMARY						
Total Expenditures	3,362,217	4,781,657	5,421,250	5,399,700	12.9%	-0.4%
Total Revenue	3,803,789	4,900,550	5,421,250	5,399,700	10.2%	-0.4%
Excess (Deficit)	441,572	118,893	0	0		

* This is a draft of the proposed 2018-2019 budget only. You can find the official budget on our website after June 15, 2018

ALPHA

TRANSFORMING LIVES

ALPHA

Doug MacDormand

Thank you, CrossRoads Church, for your continued support of Alpha. We have been running the course each year since the Fall of 1999, which now numbers at over fifty courses. The reason why Alpha has continued for nineteen years at CrossRoads is due to at least two factors: we have developed a great team of dedicated people who serve in various ways, including: leaders, helpers, administrators, food prep and servers, childcare workers, worship leaders, and others on staff at CrossRoads. Thank you for your many years of dedicated service. The second, and main reason, is that we believe the Lord has blessed the program. Since its inception, Alpha International estimates that over twenty-nine million people have taken the Alpha Course. Over three-quarters of a million have been Canadians, and in 2016 over 26,000 guests claimed to have started or restored a relationship with Jesus. And that is because He is the main focus of Alpha. Alpha has also developed new, easily accessible video and print resources that are designed to reach all types of people.

Alpha is designed for the seeker, but it is also great for the new Christian, or those who have put their faith on hold for a long time. This year, under the umbrella of Pastor Jason, Pastor of Community Life, along with outstanding administrative support from Amanda Rein, and more recently Camille Hildebrandt, we ran three adult Alpha courses, each averaging approximately fifty people. Youth Alpha has also had a significant impact in CrossRoads and the city. Last year, James Choi and his team ran Alpha with the youth. This year, Livingstones Church is coordinating with other churches to run Alpha in four high schools: Lindsay Thurber, Notre Dame, Hunting Hills and Lacombe Composite. Included in the leadership team are six

students from CrossRoads.

Alpha, at CrossRoads, has seen three changes this last year. First, we ran the course three times instead of two. This means that we catch people at the beginning of the new school year, right after Christmas, and right after Easter. The second change is that in order to be more fiscally wise, we have moved from offering full off-site Alpha Weekends to day-and-a-half weekends at the church. Our plan is to have most of the weekends offered this way. While there are some losses in fellowship and other aspects, the main thing is that the Holy Spirit still shows up and does His amazing work of transforming lives! The third change is that we've expanded our leadership team to include three course administrators/leaders. Olga Chintea, who has been a long-time supporter of Alpha as a leader, was the course leader in the fall. Doug MacDormand was the course leader in the winter, and Dan Geddert joined us as course leader in the spring. An important note about Dan: he has recently been hired by Alpha Canada to be the Regional Director for Western Canada. We are pleased to include him and the knowledge that he will bring us of how Alpha is run in other places.

Our main three wins for Alpha this year:

1) Transformed lives. It is especially exciting when someone meets Jesus for the first time. I recall a guest in one of our groups that I could see was very eager to follow Jesus. On the third night, she said she wanted to make a commitment to Jesus 'right now'. It was wonderful to walk her through that journey and welcome a new sister into the kingdom! Alpha is filled with these stories, as well as stories of recommitments.

2) Alpha has also been a great place for people to have other needs met. It's a place where people can feel supported and loved (we also encourage them to connect with CR and other groups at the church).

3) It's exciting to see people starting to use their gifts – especially leadership. I think of one fellow who started as a guest, then became a helper in the next Alpha, and has been a table leader in the last two. He is such a great, talented team player!

Of course we also have our challenges. The main one is that we need to look at better ways of dealing with 'after Alpha' – helping people get connected in other groups and service. There is a small number of people who have used Alpha as their continuing small group, and that is not the purpose of Alpha.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. Please pray that the leadership of Alpha listens to and is led by Jesus. Please pray that we are open to looking at new ways of introducing people to Christ, through Alpha and other means. And please send people our way!

