

SUMMER 2019

# CROSSROADS CHRONICLE

FEATURED ARTICLE  
PAGE 16

## GET READY



WORSHIP PAGE 4

### IMAGINE



FAMILY PAGE 6

### LOVE & GROWTH



COMMUNITY LIFE PG 18

### COME TOGETHER



HOPE PAGE 20

### PRAYER & CARING



OUTREACH PAGE 22

### BE HIS HANDS & FEET



CROSSROADS  
CHURCH



[WWW.CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA](http://WWW.CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA)

**FEATURED ARTICLE**



16

**GET READY**

*Read the latest updates regarding the renovation project.*

01

**THE BEGINNING, THE PRESENT AND INTO ETERNITY**

*Letter from Senior Pastor Dan*

02

**2018 IN REVIEW AND 2019 PREVIEW**

*Letter from Executive Pastor Jordan*

03

**GETTING READY FOR MORE**

*Letter from the Board Chair Brad Vonkeman*

04

**IMAGINE**

*Pastor Dallas Lundell, Worship Arts*

06

**MARRIAGE**

*Pastor Barry Oram, Family Ministries*

07

**EARLY CHILDHOOD (PRE-K)**

*Pastor Tammy Grobe, Early Childhood Families*

08

**CONSISTENCY IS KEY**

*Pastors Jordan & Julie Cavanaugh, K-6 Ministries*

10

**JUNIOR HIGH STORIES**

*Pastor Dave Morrin, Junior High Families*

12

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH IN A NUTSHELL**

*Pastor James Choi, Senior High Youth Families*

14

**YOUNG ADULTS IS EXPANDING**

*Pastor Robert Mudde  
Young Adult and Student Ministries*

20

**RADICAL HOSPITALITY**

*Jason Frizzell, Pastor of Community Life*

21

**CONNECTING INTO COMMUNITY**

*Charlene Van Ee, Director of Connecting Ministries*

22

**THIS KITCHEN IS SEASONED WITH LOVE**

*Neila Lehman, Food Services Lead*

23

**GO AND GROW DEEPER**

*Pastor Denise Snyder, Spiritual Formation*

24

**HOPE MINISTRIES**

*Pastor Stu Krogman and the Hope Ministries Team*

26

**FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE STREETS OF RED DEER AND THE WHOLE WORLD!**

*Pastor Tracy Minke, Outreach Missions*

29

**NOT THE WRONG ADDRESS**

*Laurie Whitaker, Director of Local Initiatives*

32

**2019-2020 PROPOSED BUDGET**

*From the Finance Committee*

# THE BEGINNING, THE PRESENT AND INTO ETERNITY

## FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR



Christians are a part of something that began at the Fall in the Garden of Eden and stretches forward into all history and into eternity.

Stop for a minute. *Let that sink in.*

What we as Christians are called to do, called to be, and called to share is all a part of God's story. He willingly includes us in His plan. The question is whether or not we take Him seriously. The Creator of the Universe has called us to be involved as co-workers with Him.

Maybe we will never *fully* understand that on this side of Heaven. But it's critical that, as Howard A. Snyder in his chapter in the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* states, "we can understand that The Church, the Universal Church, is the body given to Christ, the conquering Saviour. God has chosen to place the Church, the people of God, with Christ at the very centre of His plan to reconcile the world to Himself, (Eph. 1:20-23)."

Snyder goes on to say that, "The Church's mission therefore, is to glorify God by continuing in the world the works of the Kingdom which Jesus began (Matt. 5:16). This both justifies and demands the Church's broader ministry 'to preach the good news to the poor ... to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of the sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour' (Luke 4:18-19)."

"The Church is a community that exists by the grace of God and is built up by the gifts of grace [given] by the Spirit. As seen through the lens of the Bible, the Church is not structured in the same way as a business corporation or university, but rather structured like the human body – on the basis of life. At its most basic

level it is a community, not a hierarchy; an organism, not an organization".

"Since the Church is God's people it includes all God's people in all times and in all places, as well as those who have now crossed the space-time boundary and live in the immediate presence of God. But the people of God must have a visible, local expression, and at the local level, the church is the community of the Holy Spirit", according to Snyder. God calls those who become His people to be part of a community.

CrossRoads is one of these local communities that Christians are called to be a part of. How is it then that we at CrossRoads intentionally glorify God? When we look around at what is important to us here as a church, our desire is to give everyone in Central Alberta an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and by following Him together, compassionately impact our world. Does our vision fit with glorifying God? I believe it does. Let's unpack that a little further and look at the ways we follow Jesus. Pastor Shawn recently led us through a four part series highlighting these four priorities ([www.crossroadschurch.ca/sermons](http://www.crossroadschurch.ca/sermons)).

### HERE THEY ARE AGAIN FOR YOU:

1. Living Godly Lives
2. Loving Each Other Deeply
3. Giving Priority to the Last, the Lost, the Least, the Little and the Dearly Dead
4. Delighting Ourselves in Worship

I'm not going to unpack them for you, but if you take a closer look at these priorities, one will soon see that in order to carry any of these out we need to be connected with our Heavenly Father. Our connection with God may start with listening to sermons, or talking to friends about their faith. Yet inevitably it will require you and I to spend some good quality time with Him, reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. On our own we are naturally selfish people, it is God's Word and listening to His voice that will begin to transform us into people who are willing and ready to follow Him, do His will and therefore glorify His name.

We are also called to take others with us on the journey as we become more obedient to God, following Jesus' example

that was set out for us in the New Testament. Our faith requires us to share the Good News with those who do not yet know Jesus or have a personal relationship with Him. At CrossRoads, we encourage everyone to be praying for at least three friends or family members who do not know Him yet and in doing so, speak to God about those who are near and dear to us.

Another way that may help us grow in our following Jesus is to get to know a group of others better by connecting in a group or serving in a ministry. As you get to know others, you will be encouraged, you can encourage and together you will grow. Your group may choose to step out into the broader community of Red Deer or another city and serve those who need the extra help in whatever area your group chooses. As we are willing to step out, give of ourselves for the sake of Jesus, we are worshipping the Father by loving those He himself loves.

In taking the time to get to know God better, understand who Jesus is and how He did ministry; loving those around Him – we will grow. As we grow our faith becomes contagious and we get to take others with us, mentoring them to do the same and the cycle repeats itself and we grow again. As we continue to obey we will continue to meet together in a large community and as smaller groups. Inevitably, more space will be required for everyone to fit. This is where the expansion comes in. Because CrossRoads community is focused on glorifying God, following Jesus and being obedient to His call, our hearts will be transformed so we can welcome those whom God brings into our community.

We are part of God's story in central Alberta today! We all need to be ready, both inside and out for what He is doing. God will call more people to give their lives to Him, and in doing so their eternity is also changed and God continues to be glorified!

The Creator of the Universe has called each of us to be involved in His plan. '

*Are you willing to accept His call and get ready?*

**DAN COCHRANE**  
Senior Pastor

# 2018 IN REVIEW AND 2019 PREVIEW

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE PASTOR



It is a real blessing to be part of what God is doing here in Central Alberta and right here at CrossRoads Church. I am privileged to serve CrossRoads in this role. I find it hard to believe that almost 16 years has passed by since I signed up for this. We live in a world of fast, never-ceasing change and I am acutely aware of the importance to be attentive to the leading of the Spirit of God.

### STAFFING

I am so incredibly thankful for the committed, hard-working and dedicated staff we have here. Just one example of this is Charlene Van Ee, who joined us this year and has been a wonderful addition to our team. She serves and loves God with her whole heart and leads our Welcome Team in greeting new and not-so-new people to CrossRoads on a weekly basis.

April Clowes, who had worked in our Communications / Publications Department for 13 years, recently left and we are excited to see where God leads her next. We are currently exploring the best way forward for our Communications Department and the replacing of April's role. We have some great short-term solutions in place to help us keep us moving forward as we prayerfully consider what this will look like in the future.

Please continue to pray for our pastors and staff that we would be constantly seeking after the heart of God in all that we do. I would ask you to be faithful in encouraging them and lifting them up before the Lord. They labour hard for you and consistently go above and

beyond expectations. The staff that surround the pastors and help facilitate this ministry are outstanding people. I know that many of you pray for our pastors regularly, and I would ask that you also bring before the Lord those that work diligently behind the scenes supporting the ministries and objectives and purposes of CrossRoads Church.

### FINANCES

The giving over this budget year has been consistent with the previous one. We have been managing our expenses accordingly and anticipate a balanced budget at the end of the year.

The budget for the next fiscal year will be a little higher, however we don't anticipate any additional operational expenses coming from the renovations that are taking place this summer. Yet we know in the years to come, there will be additional utilities and facility staff that will be required.

One really practical addition to our church's ministry this year has been a van in the fall and it is being used on a near daily basis by Youth Ministries, Arabic Church, Missions, our Single Mom's Group and many others. So far, the van has been well used and a blessing to many. If you are looking for a very tangible way of serving here at CrossRoads, consider becoming a driver! If you're interested, send an email to Michele Ramer [micheler@crossroadschurch.ca](mailto:micheler@crossroadschurch.ca).

### PHASE 4/BUILDING EXPANSION

There has been many conversations and decisions taking place over the past year as we prepare for the next phase of expansion to our building. In September we had two Phase 4 information meetings where we presented some of the planning, dreaming and draft plans. Those meetings were helpful and shaped some of the design work that took place through the winter. On October 24<sup>th</sup> we held a Special Congregational meeting to vote on the proposed Phase 4 renovations and expansion. Our members voted with a resounding 'Yes' to move forward and we began the work of moving towards

the renovations that have begun in mid-May, in preparation for the new portion planned for the spring of 2020. The Building Committee has worked tirelessly to arrive at detailed designs with our architect, builder and user groups, and I want to thank them for their continued work as we prepared ourselves, both inwardly and outwardly for what God is doing throughout central Alberta.

We've begun a new journey – Get Ready – in our hearts, in our engagement with our community and the world, and in the expansion of our physical space to prepare for additional people.

We are blessed to be starting with \$1.7 million and will require a total of \$3.5 million by October to complete the first step of renovating our existing space before expansion can begin. As we go forward we trust God and the Holy Spirit to continue to guide and direct our steps. Our job is to remain obedient to His direction and to wholeheartedly trust in who He is and what He's calling us to do and be about.

### CENTRAL ALBERTA OUTREACH

As a part of Getting Ready we have begun a new thing, and have committed to give 10% of all funds raised for this phase of expansion to other like-minded organizations in central Alberta. These funds will be allocated through a new committee – the Central Alberta Outreach Committee. The team members for this outreach are: Marci Wilson, Gord Kingcott, Robert Mudde, Jesse Hein and Hannah Dissen. They have already started, and requests have been coming in. Those that have been receiving funds have been greatly blessed and we will be sharing their stories in the coming months so that we can all enjoy the blessings that this new initiative will mean for central Alberta.

If you are associated in some way with a non-profit Christian organization in central Alberta, feel free to go online and apply for funding through this initiative at [www.crossroadschurch.ca/caoc](http://www.crossroadschurch.ca/caoc). For more information contact the committee via email at [caoutreach@crossroadschurch.ca](mailto:caoutreach@crossroadschurch.ca).

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## ARABIC CHURCH SERVICES

We have been blessed by the number of refugees that we have facilitated coming to Canada. Through sponsorship groups of 5 local individuals, and together with other central Alberta churches we have helped make Canada home to many.

The people coming are wonderful people and have quickly started reaching out in love to the Middle Eastern population right here in Red Deer. They all have such incredible love for Jesus and for sharing His love with others. They also have such an unbelievable gift of hospitality and

community. If you haven't met them yet, please make time to get to know them. Your life will be blessed beyond measure when you do.

They have also started a service on Saturdays at 6:00pm in the children's Theatre, and all are welcome to join them as they worship Jesus! You will also find them all joining with the church family on Sundays, so be sure to seek them out and encourage them.

## FINAL THOUGHTS:

I would like to end by thanking you for your continued prayers, love and support for me and my wife Kathleen. We value our CrossRoads family and feel blessed to do life with you. I continue to be blessed by your commitment to CrossRoads and your will to follow God into our community, nation and world to make a significant impact for Christ Jesus. I covet your prayers and encouragement as we move forward into what God has called us to do.

### JORDON POLSON

Executive Pastor

# GETTING READY FOR MORE

## FROM THE BOARD



It is an exciting time to see what God is up to in central Alberta and to hear the fantastic stories from within the CrossRoads family and others in our community; of the things God is doing and the answers we are beginning to see. All of this starts with us being a people of prayer—spending time with our Heavenly Father, seeking His face, asking Him what He is up to in central Alberta. We must ask Him how we can partner with Him in what He is doing and in what He is about to do.

As I spend time praying and meditating on these things I continually sense that God has more in store. He is actively laying a foundation so we are ready for more.

As we work together as a board with this focus, we make decisions to stand on that foundation. For example,

we approved the purchase of a 15 passenger van to make it easier for everyone in central Alberta to join together on Sunday mornings.

In the spirit of more, we held a special meeting of the congregation to determine if we should move forward with adding to the church building, which you as a congregation supported. This does not come without challenges, some apprehension, and a lot of work. Throughout this process, the vision is not the building, but to get ready for more as this is what we believe God has spoken to us. We want to make sure "getting ready for more" doesn't mean we lose focus on the things that God has called us to do in our community, in working with various agencies, and looking for opportunities to engage with the lost, the least, the little, and the nearly dead.

Along with moving forward with the building, we believe that God asked us to take 10% of the donations received for the building and sow them back into central Alberta with other like-minded organizations that have a similar vision to that of CrossRoads (to give people in central Alberta an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and through him compassionately impact our world), as we know we can't do this work alone. We need the whole church body of central Alberta to live into what God has planned.

Out of the Congregational meeting we have set up committees to do some work. We set up a committee to look at how the finances will be raised and what strategies we believe God is asking us to put in place. We set up a committee, called Central Alberta Outreach, which is tasked with dispersing the 10% portion to like-minded organizations that have a work and request funds. These committees are working diligently to accomplish these tasks, and to be accountable to the Board and ultimately to you the congregation.

We continue to support our pastors in the roles they have. We believe in them and the work that God has called them to do in CrossRoads Church, and we support them and their families in prayer regularly, along with praying for each of those who call CrossRoads home.

We are blessed and privileged to serve CrossRoads Church as your church board and do not take this role lightly. As your church leaders we thank you for your prayers and support. We are excited to see what God is going to continue to do in our church family and central Alberta.

### BRAD VONKEMAN

Board Chair

# IMAG

AS AN ADULT, HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION? TO DREAM, TO BELIEVE, TO HAVE FAITH THAT GREATER THINGS ARE AHEAD?

This past year in worship ministry, we attempted to imagine the way God imagines. We're not talking about unicorns and pots of gold at the end of the rainbow. Rather, our focus has been on persistently trying to live into the truths and promises the Lord gives us in the Bible, and on believing they are possible. We used Abraham from Genesis 15 as our example. Though he and his wife, Sarah, were without a son, God promised Abraham his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens. This word from God seemed impossible as Abraham and Sarah were both very old, but it came true! Our Father in heaven was asking Abraham to imagine, to believe in what was spoken to him. In this passage of Scripture, we are told that Abraham believed the message that was given to Him, and it was "credited to Him as righteousness." As a worship community, we set out to discover this more in our lives.

Our Thursday night gatherings often started with a time of worship through music and sharing. We regularly asked, "How have you seen Jesus at work in your lives this week?" Over the year, it was amazing to listen to all the stories that were shared. In simple and complex scenarios, in routine situations and dangerous ones, in celebration moments and in tragedy, Jesus has been hard at work. And we have striven to give Him praise for that!

We imagined what it would be like to share the gospel through music over the Christmas season. A music group from our worship ministry had the chance to serve at the annual Festival of Trees Preview Dinner. It was a fun, challenging set – and even included a brass section! Several members of our CrossRoads family who were in attendance reported that the audience enjoyed the music very much and were quite surprised to hear that the band was 'a church group'. The message of Christ was declared loud and clear through the Christmas carols chosen.

We believed the truth found in 1 Timothy 4:12 that says, "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity." Our youth and young adults have worked hard and taken on leadership roles in their areas of service. In late April, we even had them lead us in worship on a Sunday. The comments we received from the congregation had to do with sensing the Lord's presence as they served and seeing God's anointing on each of them. These students believed that they were serving by invitation from God Himself, so they trusted Him with the results. What an example that is!

We believe that God made use uniquely and creatively. Psalm 33 reminds the creative individual to "sing a new song with skill and joy." Our fourth annual Thursday Night Live was a huge success. We had original songs delivered from people as young as seven years old and as old as – well, you get the idea. We even had a ten-year-old MC the event this year! Songs that were comical, emotional, thoughtful, and artistic came to life before our eyes. More than 350 people over two nights got to enjoy this inspired expression of creativity.

We imagined what it would be like to partner with other ministries in a deeper way. On our kick-off night in the fall, Pastor Rob led us through an imagination exercise to teach us how to immerse ourselves in the stories of Scripture. Pastor Denise came before Christmas and



# INE



spent a Thursday evening teaching on advent, that journey that begins sitting in the dark and ends with the glorious revealing of Emmanuel. Pastor Stu and Pastor Ken came on another Thursday night to teach us about intercessory prayer, as we prepare our Sunday musicians and technicians to join the prayer team after services. We work with senior high and junior high youth ministries, Celebrate Recovery and CrossRoads Kids on a weekly or monthly basis to add worship times to their gatherings.

In addition to these regular serve opportunities, our musicians and technicians are asked to serve in many other ministries throughout the church. Members of our worship family served at the fall and spring Alpha retreats, MoMENTum worship nights for men, Glorify worship nights for women and the September women's retreat, 12-hour worship and prayer times for marriages, congregational meetings and events, and of course,

funerals and weddings! Our people pop up everywhere! Being woven throughout all the other ministries of the body is a unique blessing of the worship family at CrossRoads. We're also been given many opportunities to serve elsewhere in and around the city, such as at a Seniors Retreat at River's Edge Camp, Lotus Reborn city-wide worship nights, Praise in the Park at Bower Ponds, and worship at Mustard Seed dinners. Who could've imagined all these opportunities!

We tried to imagine what it would be like for our congregation to better know the new songs we sing! Over the past few months, we have been listing our new songs on the church website and Facebook page, and in the bulletin, with blurbs that talk about the origin of the song and links to recordings. We would invite you to check out [www.crossroadschurch.ca/worship](http://www.crossroadschurch.ca/worship) so you can see what songs are up this week. Our desire, each time we gather together, is to worship Jesus in spirit and in truth. We figure we can all do that more passionately and faithfully if we know and are comfortable with the melodies and truths of each song we sing!

One insight that I think rang true for many of our worship-types this past year was this: when we find rest and peace in Jesus, our minds are able to be in a state of imagination.

When we get caught up in the fullness of life, we miss out on seeing how God brings His promises to fruition. If we remember that Jesus wants to do more than we could ask or imagine, we then get to participate in the greatest journey this life can give us. Imagining, through the lens of Scripture, what God wants to do in Central Alberta, inspires us to follow Jesus with all of ourselves. The Jesus-followers who serve in worship ministry look like that – using their talents in imaginative, Spirit-inspired ways.

As a CrossRoads Church community, may we be people who imagine, who dream, who believe in and put their faith in Jesus – the One who gives us the truths and promises that are worth living by!

**DALLAS LUNDELL**  
PASTOR OF WORSHIP ARTS





Love is not something you feel.

It is something you do.

~ David Wilkerson

# MARRIAGE

Every believer is given a gift and is called to use it in service within the body of Christ- to help strengthen, and advocate, and uplift.

This last year has seen quite a few events and programs take place for our pre-married and married couples, all which have been overseen by those who are living out 1 Corinthians 12- using their gifts within the body to assist other members of the body.

For the pre-married couples, the **Prepare-Enrich Program** has been run faithfully and lovingly by couples who have a heart for marriage. This mentorship program is based around building a strong foundation in the areas of communication, finances, careers, sexuality, spirituality, parenting and relationship goals. This year has seen 8 couples taking part in the program as they begin their new journey together!

**Marriage (Fight) Night** took place in November with 356 people attending ... a night out open to couples not only from our congregation, but those within the community. A time out together for tips on growing together as husband and wife - with of course some comedy to make it entertaining and fun. By popular demand we were very excited to offer this event again at the end of May, featuring speakers Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott; Francis and Lisa Chan; and comedian Michael Jr, and over 100 couples took part.

Another important event which we now have had run for 2 years in a row - which we feel lays the foundation for all marriages, is "**Prayer Burn for Marriages**" ... an all-day intercessory prayer & worship opportunity for marriages. As a church body, we want to intercede for our brothers and sisters who are struggling in their relationships and implore the Lord to step in and to bring healing and restoration in places that need it. We recognize that the enemy has a mandate to destroy the unity of marriage - which is a reflection of the bride (us) and Christ - and we

1 Corinthians 12:12-14  
"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts, and though all its parts are many- they form one body."

are in a spiritual battle over each sacred covenant that has been made. As we see an increase in marriages struggling we want to stand together and FIGHT in a specific time and place of worship and intercession. This is something that is open to everyone who wants to come in and pray. We are grateful to those who have founded this and cannot fully express just how important these days are.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sometimes there's a need for couples to get away from it all and spend time together with no distractions. We have some wonderful couples planning a **Marriage Enrichment Weekend** for the fall, held at a new venue this year - the Crossing at Ghost River. Marriage Enrichment is a positive, personal experience for couples where they can learn a technique of loving communication that can be used for the rest of their lives. The weekend allows couples to discover personal strengths in their relationship that enables them to look to the future with courage. Marriage Enrichment is not a retreat, marriage counselling, or sensitivity course. Currently there are 9 couples already registered for this weekend, and we are already praying for the weekend and all those attending!

One other upcoming event we are so happy to see back is **The Marriage Course** to be held once a week from October to November. It's a 9 week video series which includes private discussions on communication, resolving conflict, love in action ... and dinner!

**BARRY ORAM**  
PASTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

Pre-marriage and Marriage ministries are so important in making sure that one of the most important units of the family remain intact and protected from all the enemy throws at it. We are grateful that we have couples serving in this area of great need and follow God's calling in their lives to live out the gifts they have been given to serve in this area.

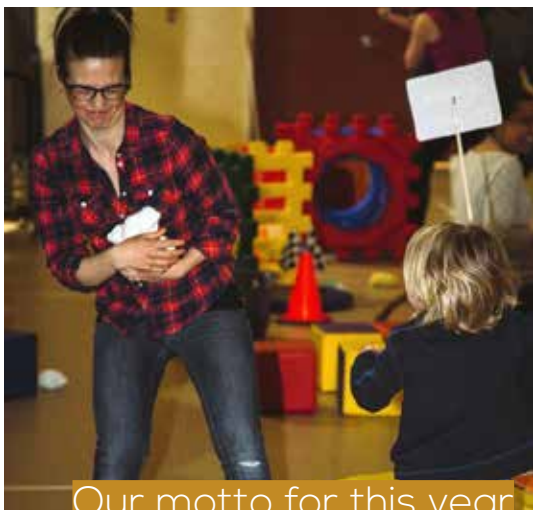
We yet again give another year to God and entrust that He will be honoured and glorified in families at CrossRoads Church, as well as the ones who minister to marriages.



# INVESTMENT THAT REAPS HUGE DIVIDENDS!



## EARLY CHILDHOOD



Our motto for this year could be: *God's Got It.*

**INVESTMENT:** Every room is a place to learn about Jesus: *God made me, God loves me and Jesus wants to be my friend forever!* On any given Sunday, you can come into a fun, inviting atmosphere and drop off your kids with a qualified volunteer. Our motto for this year could be: *God's Got It!* We are so encouraged by our CrossRoads volunteer serves and families, the way they stepped when others were away or could not.

**INVESTMENT:** We have 200 plus serves that engage in serving the "littles" of CrossRoads Church. Thank you for showing up and pouring into our children the truths about the God and His Word. We have two areas, the infant care area and the Pre-K area. It is our hope that each little person that comes into our area feels loved and safe and gets into their DNA that Jesus loves them and wants to be their very best friend. Our curriculum is readied by a group of ladies once a month and we could not do what we do without our Curriculum Prep Ladies, thank you so much. Our areas are also restocked and cleaned by individuals that are willing to serve behind the scenes. Thank you so much! We also are supported by a prayer team that we bring our requests to from our area and families, we appreciate the prayer that undergirds everything that we do!

### THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WE HAVE SOME AWESOME EVENTS THAT PARENTS CAN "INVEST" IN:

**Meet and Greet/Pickles and Ice Cream:**

Come and meet other moms that are in the same season of life. Meet those that are expecting a child and might have questions to ask of the seasoned moms!

**Daddy Daughter Date Night:** A night where dads and their daughters love each other deeply through activities and sharing a special snack! This year's theme was Jesus is my Super Hero! We reminded the dad's that their daughter's believe they are super heroes as well!

**Baby Dedication:** A special event for families to dedicate their children to the Lord! This is a huge investment in the life of their children.

**Sock Wars:** A night for mom's and their sons to love each other deeply and to enjoy a date night. During this evening mom's engage with their sons in a sock war! Other activities as well round out the evening ... this year we had a car theme, zoom zoom.

**Empowered to Connect:** An event for parents to learn how to build trust based relationships with their children, especially children from hard places. Huge investment needed in these families!

**Training Events:** Plan to Protect training for the wonderful people that help and engage with our children on Sundays! We call them our "Serves"! They are a great team!

**Babysitting Course:** This is a huge investment in the lives of our young people wanting to care for children. Kelvin Singh is the instructor and is very thorough in teaching them important facts and strategies in working with children.

**Story time in the Park:** A time for children to enjoy the love of hearing stories out loud!

**Orange Conference 2019 in Duluth, Georgia:** As a team we travelled to the Orange Conference, which is the Curriculum provider for our Pre-K area of CrossRoads Kids. The theme of the event was "its Personal". We participated in breakout sessions, inspired talks from people that invest in children, and we were able to engage in Spirit led worship!

**Huge Dividend:**  
*"Train up a child in the way he should go ... and when he is old he will not depart from it" Proverbs 22:6.*

The way he should go ... meaning the Bible!

*All Scripture is God-Breathed and is useful in teaching ... so that the children of God can be thoroughly equipped for every good work" 2 Timothy 3:16 & 17*

**TAMMY GROBE**  
PASTOR OF EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILIES



YOU KNOW THAT FEELING WHEN YOU LOOK OUT THE WINDOW AND THE RAIN IS COMING DOWN, THE SUN IS BARELY PEEKING THROUGH, THERE'S MUD EVERYWHERE, THE AIR SMELLS ... FRESH, NEW ... AND THE ONLY LOGICAL OPTION IS TO CURL UP WITH A CUP OF COFFEE AND A GOOD BOOK WHILE YOU DREAM ABOUT AND ANXIOUSLY ANTICIPATE THE UPCOMING ADVENTURES OF SUMMER? ARE YOU THERE? YEAH ... THAT ONE!

That's the feeling I get when our team dreams about this upcoming year of ministry in Kindergarten to Grade 6 and at CrossRoads. We are here and ready for steady, for intention, and for **consistency**.

This past year we solidified the guiding principles of K-6 Ministry as we began to walk them out. We consistently encouraged our serves that Children Deserve our Best both individually and as a community because when a child gives their life to Christ they don't get Jr. salvation, Jr. Holy Spirit or Jr. membership in the kingdom of God. We challenged our own understanding of Kid's Min as we recognized that

**Children's Ministry is Family Ministry** and we need to be here to teach, mentor, and support not just our kids but the family unit as a whole. And, with research into our own statistics as CrossRoads Church and an increase of serves and time, we began to value how **Life Change Occurs Through Relationship** more with each Sunday since the beginning of the ministry year.

In the past year we have celebrated. Oh boy, have we celebrated! Our greatest celebration is with those families of kids who chose to display their dedication to God through baptism. Praise God! We ask that you continue to pray with us for each and every child who has made this declaration. We also celebrated with 56ers and their parents at each 56er Family Event hosted in the Youth Centre; this was through Nerf wars and Mario Kart, eating and learning together.

Over this past year, not only did we celebrate but we changed. A lot. This is ministry. Change has effected aesthetics, program, staff, serves, and our families. Amongst the change, we are grateful to the staff who have contributed to K-6 – Shauna Giesbrecht, Camille Hildebrandt, Chloe Connolly, and Dawn Larson – and are anticipating the arrival of Joan Johnson as our K-6 Curriculum Coordinator! We have also officially welcomed

Julie Cavanaugh back from maternity leave and are benefiting from the heart and teamwork of husband and wife duo, Pastor Jordan and Pastor Julie. And for various reasons, serves have come and gone and yet, we have a strong core of committed serves each Sunday.

As a church, we are seeing now how God provides when we step out in faith as we begin the Phase 4 renovations. Talk about change! Change can be scary and unknown, daring and even wild. But change will inevitably inspire growth. So as a ministry we continue to welcome change in programming, in communication, and in families as we better try to serve our demographic.

**And this is it. This is why consistency is key.**

What we have leaned into, perhaps the most, this last year is the guiding principle that Life Change **Occurs Through Relationship**. And in order to establish relationship, we need consistency – namely consistency in who is here, who is CrossRoads Kids – from both our serves and our families. Since we understand that, well, life happens, and we know that at CrossRoads our families are joining us on average 1.6 out of 4 Sundays, it is our (and my personal) goal to appreciate and encourage consistency of staff and serves.

To have an intentional conversation, to make an impact, to lead a child to Christ ... there has to be relationship.

**Imagine.**

You're 7 years old, walking into a room. The walls and tables and chairs, they look the same. But as you walk in you think to yourself,

"Who is that? Oh hey, there's ... Johnny, I know him. And I think I recognize her from school." The leader signing you in, you're pretty sure you don't know them. They ask your name because they don't remember seeing you before. They are kind. Asking a few questions, trying to start a conversation.

Do you want to talk about your week at school? Do you feel like opening up about your sick Grandpa, or the uncle who doesn't talk to your family, or how mommy & daddy aren't together anymore? I sure don't!

**Now imagine,**

You're 7 years old, being dropped off for Kid's Church. As you run up the stairs, you recognize that guy by that big desk that says hi to you each Sunday, so you wave. As you go running into your room, you see your leader.

"Hey, she was here last week!" You think to yourself. Then you hear her say "Hi Tim!" You smile back as you hear your name. And, "Ooh the Lego! Wait, that guy playing with it ... he helped me cut out my paper before. And Johnny, he's in my class at school! And there's Sarah coloring, I met her last month! We've shared our bible with each other every week." The leader signing you in asks how your hockey game went last week while she writes your name down.

What a difference the consistent experience creates. Consistency creates safety.

Elyse Mott, one of our weekly Sunday serves, speaks from experience. "For me, I think of serving every week as a huge benefit! I can stay on top of lessons and what we learned in the previous weeks but I also get to see kids and their parents every week! They notice when I'm missing and vice versa. And in a lot of situations it has helped me build relationships and have conversations with different families. I also think consistency is important for kids; consistency of rules/expectations, and I think consistency builds trust and understanding."

We want consistency. We want relationship. And we want to encourage life change to impact lives for Christ and His kingdom! So with change in our building, in our programming, and in our families, we strive for relationship; as CrossRoads grows bigger, we encourage more intentional relationships. And we hope that our families will value relationship and join us in our effort for consistency (and increasing those stats) to know who is CrossRoads Kids.

This has been a year of transition, growth, learning, and celebrating as staff, as families, as teammates, and as a church! And with consistency grounding us, we sit with our (large) cup of coffee and look forward to this next year of ministry in anticipation of what God will grow, teach, and celebrate with us again!

**JORDAN & JULIE CAVANAUGH**  
PASTORS OF K-6 MINISTRIES



# JUNIOR HIGH STORIES



God is raising up a generation who take His words seriously and seek to live them out in how they serve others in Jesus' name.

PSALM 78:1-4 READS, "MY PEOPLE, HEAR MY TEACHING; LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH. I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH WITH A PARABLE; I WILL UTTER HIDDEN THINGS, THINGS FROM OF OLD—THINGS WE HAVE HEARD AND KNOWN, THINGS OUR ANCESTORS HAVE TOLD US. WE WILL NOT HIDE THEM FROM THEIR DESCENDANTS; WE WILL TELL THE NEXT GENERATION THE PRAISEWORTHY DEEDS OF THE LORD, HIS POWER, AND THE WONDERS HE HAS DONE."

God is raising up a generation who take His words seriously and seek to live them out in how they serve others in Jesus' name. I am so thankful for the committed team of adults that invest in the lives of Jr. High students on Thursday nights. There is a tremendous camaraderie amongst these leaders. This past year, God led our staff team to re-structure things so that the youth team serving on Thursdays is comprised of two parts: Games Team and Youth Leaders. My teammate, Keegan Poelzer captains the Games Team that plans and organizes the games and food that happen on Thursdays. As I provide pastoral leadership to Jr. High, I captain the Youth Leaders who serve as small group shepherds for Jr. High students. All together, we are the Jr. High Youth Team and when you talk with a team member, you'll get a chance to hear more stories about what God is up to on Thursday nights, but here are a few for now:

**Play** - When you walk into a youth night, the first thing that you will notice is lots of laughter as we seek to build trust and make memories through shared experience. To say it another way, fun is holy. For example, imagine "Glow Tribes" as 60-80 Jr. High students in different groups ran around in a darkened building. Or this past February, when Games Team led a "Master Chef" competition and



it was beautiful bedlam in the Youth Café kitchen as students sought to combine ingredients like canned beans and beets and other items into some kind of palatable presentation.

**Listen** – Youth Ministries is all about cultivating an environment where students feel safe – safe to be themselves and safe to share more of their stories. Trust needs to be earned. God has made a way this year and I hear more stories over the past month of students sharing more of their stories as they gather in small groups. This speaks to both the trust that God has built up between the students and leaders as well as the trust that God has built up amongst the students. All leaders are actively engaged in this work. For example, I have a picture in my mind right now of one particular leader standing in the youth café during snack time at the end of the night visiting with one of the students. We can never underestimate the impact of caring adults who consistently come alongside students in Jesus’ name.

**Lead** – Everything that we do on Thursdays is about helping students know who Jesus is. This is why we seek to make the large group small by dividing up into small groups. Each group has two youth leaders. The posture of youth leaders is drawn from 1 Corinthians where Paul writes, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” This past year, I have drawn talk times from Matthew 5-7 as we have walked through the Sermon on the Mount in a series called “Jesus Messaged Us.” For example, in January, “Jesus Messaged Us: I got your back” looked at Matthew 5:38 to 6:4 and explored the love that

our Father expresses to us through His Son Jesus – what it looks like to love others as we follow Jesus – love that involves sacrifice, loving enemies, and serving others. Throughout this past year, a number of youth leaders have also leaned into the teaching times and we have seen the impact of leaders sharing their stories both in the large group and small group times.

In addition to Thursday’s, we gather during the services with Jr. Highs for Echo in the Fireside Room on Sunday’s. In Echo, we take time to dig deeper into Scripture and wrestle through what it means to walk out our faith in Jesus. There have been good conversations around difficult subjects, students sharing more of their stories, and times of prayer together. We explored themes that included: the fear of God, the weeks of Advent, the reality of material and spiritual poverty and the hope that we have in Jesus, and studying wisdom literature. As with Thursdays, there is a committed group of leaders who serve with Echo and invest in the lives of students on Sundays. One particular story comes to mind where I witnessed one of these leaders come alongside of a student who is considering baptism and clearly encourage this student with words that God put on his heart.

We have intentional retreats in the fall and spring. We went to Camp Silversides for our Fall Retreat and had a blast playing games, sharing meals together, and having chapel times. The connections made between the students and between them and the leaders has carried over into the rest of the year. For our Spring Retreat, we stayed at

CrossRoads and students served both onsite at CrossRoads and in the community. Laurie Whitaker, through her connections with Local Initiatives, helped to connect us with Women’s Outreach Centre, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Red Deer, and families for us to serve. The CrossRoads van was very helpful to have as we transported 3 teams to and from their serving sites on the Saturday. At both of these retreats, we wrapped up with a valuable time of connecting with families of students as we enjoyed a meal together at CrossRoads.

One final story that captures why we do what we do. It was at a Thursday Youth night in March where parents were invited to be part of the night. The Sr. Highs served the Jr. Highs by leading in worship songs. After a youth leader shared some of his story, there was a rich small group prayer time at the close of chapel with leaders and students praying together and parents present in the groups. Thank you for your prayers. It is a privilege to be a part of the CrossRoads family together with you and to serve our church in this way.

Psalm 78:5-7 reads, “He decreed statutes for Jacob and established the law in Israel, which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.”

**DAVE MORIN**  
PASTOR OF JUNIOR HIGH FAMILIES

# SENIOR HIGH YOUTH

**FACT #1** - ACCORDING TO A STUDY BY MICROSOFT, THE AVERAGE HUMAN BEING NOW HAS AN ATTENTION SPAN OF EIGHT SECONDS! CONGRATS, A GOLDFISH HAS A LARGER ATTENTION SPAN THAN YOU!

IN THIS EVER INCREASING, FAST PACED, TECHNOLOGY, MEDIA DRIVEN WORLD; WHAT WE WANT IS THE INFORMATION TO BE QUICK AND CONCISE. SO MUCH OF HOW WE LIVE, THINK, OR WALK OUT OUR FAITH IS MADE TO FIT OUR EIGHT SECOND ATTENTION SPANS. IT CAN BE HARD FOR US TO SLOW DOWN, PAUSE OR STOP WITHOUT FEELING LIKE WE ARE MISSING OUT OR FALLING BEHIND.

## SR. HIGH YOUTH IN A NUTSHELL:

- 38 weeks of youth events on Wednesday nights
- 30 weeks of building community & studying the word of God on Sunday afternoons
- 1 weekend retreat at Camp Caroline
- 1 myrrh-der mystery at our Christmas Banquet
- 8 Serve Nights
- 8 Café Nights where our Sr. High student lead worship
- 370+ faith reminders & conversations post to social media
- 9 Sr. High students Baptized - Woohoo!
- 31 Serves that make up our leadership team, navigating all of this with copious amounts of junk food, coffee, struggles, heart to hearts, tears, laughter, lack of sleep & memories.

... this year has gone by in a flash! Time flies when you're having fun doing Kingdom work!

## WORSHIP

**Fact #2** - On average, some 66,000 people have the Bible app open during any given second. Yet, data collected in May from more than 1,000 participants between the ages of 13 and 17 show that just 3 percent of teens read the Bible every day.

The decrease in Biblical literacy is evident. This has affected the art of listening, speaking and understanding our own story and His. Because of this, it becomes a struggle to see the relevancy of Jesus in our everyday lives. So how do we begin to recapture and engage the next fast moving, young and restless generation?

### Our answer?

By bringing it back to the Gospel, we engage the heart... as Jesus did. That hasn't changed. That hasn't changed.

By being people of integrity and giving opportunity to speak to the heart about real issues, situations, and creating a safe place for conversations that students can be transparent in! No matter how messy it is.





## CONNECT

**Fact #3** - On average, students can spend up to 9 hours a day online and a minimum of 2 hours on messaging platforms. Canada alone, posts more content on Instagram than any other country; with over 200 million posts being made in one day.

The term connecting has changed dramatically since the turn of the millennium. Things that were once foundational to the identity of teens, such as friendship, conversation and service have been turned on their heads. We are living in a world that is highly connected through technology. Yet we have increasingly become disconnected and lonely.

### Connecting by the Numbers:

- 108+ plates of chicken wings consumed
- 900 minutes of Small Group discussion
- Countless 1 on 1 encounters, discussion, listening and praying, between leader and students
- 20+ hrs of small group Connect Nights @ McDonald's, Dairy Queen, Bowling, etc
- Unknown hours spent by our volunteer leaders connecting with students outside of youth.
- 50+ hrs of leaders connecting through meetings, debriefs, hangouts, coffees and lunches.
- 380 hrs in 38 weeks, connecting to students & leaders on Social Media through various forms & methods.

"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, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."  
- Ephesians 3:20-21

## CREATE

**Fact #4** - Louis Braille, a blind student, at the age of 12 created the Braille system. In 2014, another 12 year old, Shubham Banerjee, revolutionized the system by creating a Braille printer from a LEGO Mindstorms set. The printer is called, Braigo.

We are always dreaming of ways of how to GET READY for what God is up to in our students. We hope, dream, create & God takes it, surprises us, and does BETTER!

We are constantly reminded that God is in control of His youth ministry. Out of nothing, God creates. Out of pain, God redeems. Out of our uncertainty, God surprises!

### What is God up to and creating in our uncertainty?

- Both believing and unbelieving students are navigating whether or not they want to follow Jesus.
- An increase of new students who come from no faith based home, changing the environment.
- During worship, there are fewer hands lifted up, but more minds and hearts reflecting
- Amazing leaders who are adaptive with handling our diverse group of students in conversations.
- We are learning how to be a ministry that does not require teens to be anything but themselves to find a place to belong here
- We have a phenomenal team of leaders- Led by our Student Ministries Activity Coordinator, Keegan- who are creating events and environments where students can meet with Jesus.
- 2 hours/week is not enough time to give every student an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus.

What brings excitement and anticipation into our journey is asking the question, "God what are you up to!? And what are you creating!?"

### JAMES CHOI

PASTOR OF SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FAMILIES

# YOUNG ADULT

An incredible year, with this ever more impressive group of young adults who strive to form brave community and honest growth towards God. Being part of leading this group has been such a joy



# EXPANDING

THIS YEAR YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY HAS BEEN EXPANDING. WE HAVE GROWN TO TAKE IN GRADE 12 STUDENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME HAVE EXTENDED THE MAXIMUM AGE (25) UP TO 30 SOMETHING.

## GRADE 12s

Talking with parents of grads as well as former grade 12 students we discovered that there was a big hurdle waiting at the end of graduation. The first year after graduating high school is a big one. Lots of change, lots of new roles and responsibilities, all with a usual exit of former school friends who went out into the world in different directions. This creates stress, feeling overwhelmed, and a longing for belonging.

For this reason, we transitioned the grade 12 students into Young Adults a year early. This caused some initial stress for them as they had to learn how to relate, play, and learn with an older community. While it was stressful it wasn't overwhelming. Students still had the security of their friends and family providing stability in this time of change.

After three months you could no longer spot the grade 12 students among our Young Adults. They had blended; they had made a new home. Our hope is that these grades 12 students move into life after graduation with all its newness having security in their faith community. My prayer is that they would find community in a church wherever they end up and feel comfortable as this is not a new experience for them..

## AGES 25-30s

It has been a blessing this year as we had three leaders step up and take on this group. This group of around 50 young adults take part in a weekly Bible study on Tuesdays, a social event bi-weekly, and dinner before Sunday evening service monthly. This group has lots of life, drive, and direction in life. They choose to stay connected and not let life pass them by.

## WHAT ELSE ARE WE UP TO?

Monthly Worship Nights, Home Groups, Monday Night Young Adults, weekly volleyball after Sunday evening service and we are planning on a mission's trip (or two) in the future.

### Summer with Young Adults

- Monday Night Young Adults Take the Summer Off, but...
- We go sailing up the Vancouver coast for a week!
- We are doing a road trip down to Cannon Beach Oregon
- We are cycling the Highwood Pass
- We give back to the teens in Red Deer by helping host CrossRoads Youth Wednesday Nights

### ROBERT MUDDE

PASTOR OF YOUNG ADULT AND STUDENT MINISTRIES

As always, our Facebook page will let you know what's going on.



# GET READY

*More than  
a Building*

THE STORY OF CROSSROADS CHURCH HAS BEEN BOOKENDED BY TWO THINGS WE HAVE DONE SINCE MOVING TO OUR CURRENT LOCATION NEARLY 20 YEARS AGO: PRAYING FOR 3 PEOPLE TO COME TO JESUS, AND HAVING ONE-MINUTE LONGER CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE THROUGHOUT OUR DAY. THESE SIMPLE ACTS HAVE ACCENTUATED TWO DECADES OF GROWTH AS A CHURCH BODY AS WE CONTINUE TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE LAST, THE LOST, THE LEAST, THE LITTLE AND THE NEARLY DEAD. GOD'S STORY HAS BEEN TOLD THROUGH OUR FELLOWSHIP IN INCREDIBLE AND EXTRAORDINARY WAYS AROUND THE WORLD. BECAUSE OF THE FAITHFULNESS OF BELIEVERS FROM CROSSROADS LIVES HAVE BEEN ETERNALLY CHANGED, NOT ONLY IN RED DEER, BUT IN THE FARTHEST REACHES OF OUR PLANET.

Throughout Central Alberta, as God's story is told by faithful followers of Jesus Christ, one constant theme has arisen: God is on the move throughout our community. In the lives of our neighbours and coworkers He is at work transforming the lives of those who call on His name. We are reminded in 2 Peter 3 that our Heavenly Father is not wanting anyone to perish, but for all of Central Alberta to come to repentance. Therefore we must be diligent in listening to His voice as He prepares us for the story He is unfolding. Put simply, we must Get Ready.

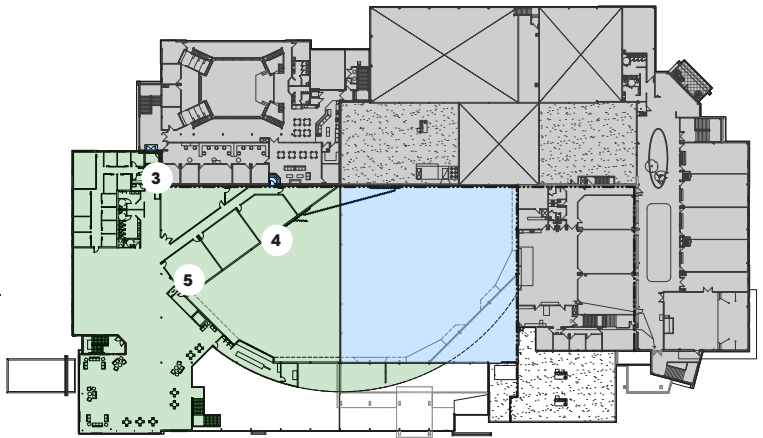
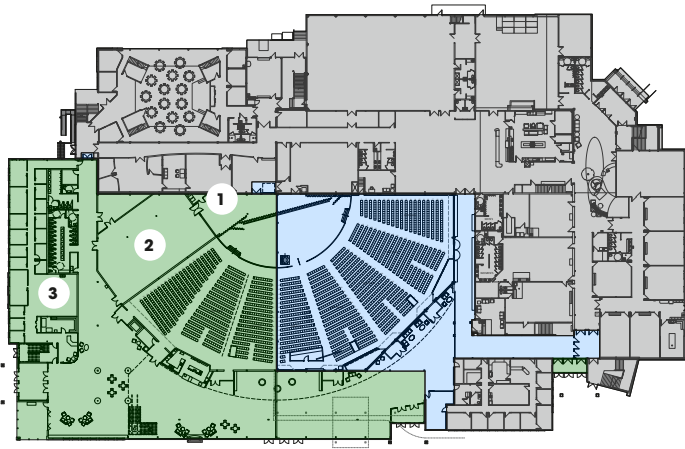
While it is easy to simply see Get Ready as a building campaign, it is imperative that we as a body prepare ourselves in all these ways to Get Ready for what God is doing. This will involve sacrifice. Of your time as you shift your priorities to be close to those of our Heaven Father. To your image, as you walk across your driveway and invite your neighbour to Alpha. To your financial security, as you give generously in obedience to His call.

ONE THING IS CERTAIN. WE WILL NOT BE THE SAME AT THE END OF THIS JOURNEY. IT'S TIME TO GET READY.



# First Floor

# Second Floor



- New Addition
- Current - Sanctuary/Entrances
- Current - other areas

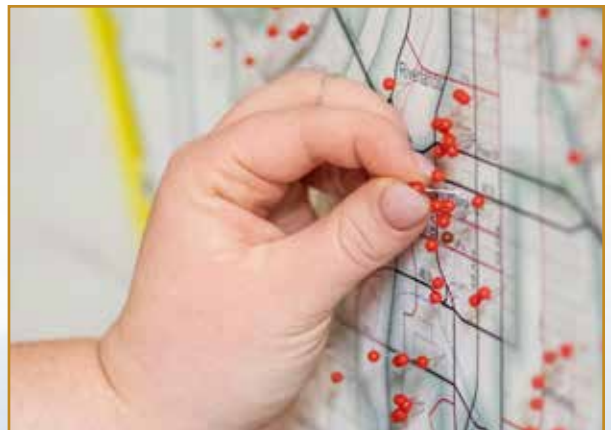
- 1** Sanctuary upgrades
- 2** Multi-purpose room
- 3** Offices
- 4** Meeting rooms
- 5** Connecting spaces



## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

PLACE PINS ON THE MAP IN THE CAFE FOR THE 3 PEOPLE YOU ARE PRAYING FOR.

PICK UP YOUR GET READY PACKAGE AND PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR ROLE.



# GET READY

*More than a Building*





# GOD IS UP TO SOMETHING BIG AT CROSSROADS CHURCH.

WE MUST GET READY FOR WHAT GOD IS DOING IN FOUR KEY WAYS:

## 1. GET READY FOR MORE DELIGHT

More than anything we want to delight ourselves in the Lord (Psalm 37:4). We want to experience more intimacy with our Heavenly Father. The Bible tells us that when we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our Heart. Our desire is to see every person in Central Alberta begin a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and through Him compassionately impact our world.

## 2. GET READY FOR MORE DEVOTION

We all need more prayer and time spent in His Word. Very few of us, though we proclaim the Gospel, spend time daily in God's Word. In a world where any resemblance of truth is starkly absent, the Word of God shall stand forever (Isaiah 40:8) as our constant foundation of what is True. It's imperative as we strain to hear God's voice that we spend time consuming God's Word daily.

## 3. GET READY FOR MORE OUTREACH

If our desire is to see our friends, neighbours and coworkers have relationship with Christ, then we must be willing to tell the story that God is telling through our lives, and give witness to the many things that Christ has done in and through us. Tangibly, we will continue to pray for three people to come to Him, and engage in one-minute longer conversations.

## 4. GET READY TO CREATE MORE ROOM

Over the next number of years we will be expanding our existing foyer, sanctuary and office space in two phases. The first phase, renovation, will lay the groundwork for the second phase, construction. By the end of this, our fourth phase of expansion, we will have nearly doubled the available seating for people to come and hear the Good News of Christ death and resurrection.

## MATT & HANNAH GET READY... MORE HUNGER.

Matt still remembers when he became hungry for more. It followed a season when he wasn't really hungry for much of anything. What changed?

"We were drawn into a community that was hungry for more of God," says Matt. "He was shaping people and I wanted to be a part of that. So, I asked God for more hunger."

It was around that time that he and his wife Hannah began dating. They attended a church in BC that was led and attended by people who wanted to hear God speak and see what He was doing.

"A lot of our growth came from being in these smaller communities that were so passionate about being on fire for the Lord," adds Hannah. She didn't just experience this in BC. With their Masters in Teaching ESL, Hannah and Matt got married, did a missions trip in Burma and were also brought to Japan where they attended a small house church.

Hannah remembers watching the people around her in action – praying for each other and for strangers, giving people words of encouragement and engaging in true worship. "They modeled such a vibrant and real faith."

Five years ago, God brought Hannah and Matt to Red Deer to teach ESL among the many immigrants and refugees who were coming in. Before long they discovered CrossRoads Church.

"Going from a small Christian community setting into a big church was hard at first," recalls Hannah. She and Matt arrived with a deep excitement to continue the spiritual growth they had been experiencing overseas and in BC. They were blessed to connect right away with like-minded people who were also in a similar life stage, with young families – and a deep hunger for God. "We wanted to get deeper together – to go beyond the surface and be vulnerable together. We decided to fast together and pray about what God wanted to do in our community."

Over the last five years, Hannah and Matt have formed very strong communities and have been able to see God do a lot of very cool things through them. "God works in community," adds Hannah. "It's not from us doing things on our own."

# Timeline

THIS EXPANSION WILL HAPPEN OVER 2 PHASES:

**GET READY**  
*More than a Building*

## Phase A

**MAY – SEPTEMBER 2019**

The first phase of our building project involves expanding the foyer and the capacity of our sanctuary.

Our present sanctuary is at capacity with 900 seats. Transforming pews to theatre seats will increase our seating capacity to 1050 seats to meet demand in the near term. In May 2019 we will begin sanctuary updates and expansion of the main foyer to the South so people have more room to connect.



The south-east entrance upgrades started in May of 2019



The original foyer started to come down June 4, 2019



The original foyer really came down June 11, 2019

## Phase B

**APRIL 2020 TO THE SUMMER OF 2021**

The wall is coming down. We are building a new addition to the west of our facility!

"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



Dale didn't need to take time for me; he didn't need to notice me; he didn't need to make a space for me. But he did choose to do all of those three things.

# RADICAL HOSPITALITY

As I look ahead to the future, I'm reminded of something I experienced in my past ... a place to belong.

Dale Anaka was a college aged student from my hometown. Someone I looked up to and wanted to be like. Cool hair, acid ripped jeans - a country boy with a little urban swagger. One fond memory I have of Dale is from a party my parents hosted at our house during the summer months. Many of the college aged students from our area were invited over for a barbecue and games. I remember it like it was just yesterday. I was in grade 5 at the time, and seeing our backyard full of all these kids 10-15 years older than me was both exciting and nerve-wracking. I wanted to play. I wanted to participate, but I just didn't know how. Dale saw me standing on the sidelines and invited me to join in on the game of soccer that was being played and for the next 30 minutes I felt like a king. I've lost count of how many goals that I scored that day, but I never lost the memory of what I experienced in that moment ... something I lovingly refer to as radical hospitality.

Dale didn't need to take time for me; he didn't need to notice me; he didn't need to make a space for me. But he did choose to do all of those three things. And because of it, I found where I fit in an environment I wasn't familiar with, a group of people I didn't really know yet.

## HOSPITALITY CREATES CHANGE.

One of the greatest moments of radical hospitality ever recorded is in John 13:1-17. Jesus is eating dinner with his friends, and he notices that they are all sitting at the table with dirty feet. As was customary in this time period, men and women would wear sandals for footwear. Traveling along dirt trails or roads, and most often walking as they went - feet would not only get a person to where they were going but they would also get dirty. Homes would keep a wash basin and towel close to their entry or their table and the host for these travellers would have a servant wash their guests feet when they came for a visit or a rest. Foot-washing was a sign of being welcomed and a gesture of honour for anyone who is the recipient of this loving act.

Noticing that his friends feet were still dirty from the day's adventures and travels, Jesus responded in the most generous and loving way He could. In this moment, Jesus chose to wash His friends feet; to serve them. His friends, which were also his disciples, didn't really know how to respond to this kind act - foot-washing was a task reserved for a servant, a slave or a host. Jesus was none of these things. Jesus was a Rabbi, a Teacher, someone who carried honour, esteem and reputation. Yet Jesus still chose to serve - to show hospitality to his friends so they would know they were loved, that they belonged and that they were people who mattered. His choice was not a popular one, but it was one of radical hospitality.

This story reminds me to press pause and consider how I am allowing my life to be shaped by Jesus to become more like Him. If Jesus, Creator of the Universe, Lord and King of all, member of the Triune God would take the time to practice this kind of hospitality, why wouldn't I?

Radical hospitality demands a willingness to create space in my life, in my finances, in my home and in my heart to love the people that Jesus loves. Radical hospitality makes me dream of a future where many more people will find a place to belong, a place to serve, a place to be known and a place to be loved. Radical hospitality forges hope, creates trust and welcomes change.

This is our new calling card in Community Life here at CrossRoads church. We desire to be known as people who love others the way Jesus loved. As we serve, as we love, as we invite, as we speak and as we care we are convinced that God will be given the glory due His Name. We can choose to be ordinary in our hospitality or we can choose to be radical. I don't know about you, but I'm a radical. Care to join me?

**JASON FRIZZELL**  
PASTOR OF COMMUNITY LIFE

# CONNECTING INTO COMMUNITY

We have three guiding principles in Community Life that have dramatically shaped the past year: try something, be prayer filled and create opportunity. In trying something, we were able to creatively execute the 'Backstage Pass' and the 'Behind the Scenes' tours that highlighted various departments on site and generate interest about serving and becoming connected at CrossRoads. This granted a chance to verbalize the history and invite the various men and women to see ways they could utilize their gifts and abilities. We modified our 'Connect Into Community' experience; encouraging staff and facilitators to participate in the semester launch of groups by focusing on 'minute longer conversations' with those that interacted in the space.

Seeking to be prayer filled, we created different environments for serves, guests, staff and community members to pause to pray first. Our Welcome Teams, Event Teams and connecting groups have devoted themselves to this desirable-DNA which has led to an increased volume of participants in a variety of different environments (Sunday Huddles, Connecting Groups, Welcome Teams, etc.) as well as greater qualitative depth in the level of care and hospitality we continue to provide in our community.

In creating opportunity, we recognized that extra sessions were required for baptism and it produced countless

We have three guiding principles in Community Life that have dramatically shaped the past year: try something, be prayer filled and create opportunity.

conversations about faith weeks before the scheduled date. There was an increase in children encouraging their parents to take the step of obedience in their faith and it crafted a beautiful multi-generational celebration. We discovered our need to respond appropriately to emergencies and have been actively reshaping our EAP (Emergency Action Plan). We've seen this also impact the way we welcome people into our facility on Sundays - creating different mingling areas (new coffee stations in the foyer) for conversation and connecting that goes deeper relationally.

We are grateful for how God invites us to play. In preparing for the next season at CrossRoads we look forward to celebrating the stories of those that expand the kingdom each and every day!

**CHARLENE VAN EE**  
DIRECTOR OF CONNECTING MINISTRIES



PLUGGED IN SKI TRIP



CROSSROADS HIKING GROUP



moMENTum EVENT

# THIS KITCHEN IS SEASONED WITH LOVE



With every meal served on behalf of CrossRoads Church our team adds a secret ingredient-love. We often pause to pray for each group we serve.

Food Services continues to be a very full ministry within CrossRoads Church. We believe that simple hospitality has the power to transform lives and that it is the epicentre of the Gospel. Good food has a way of bringing the family together. It is our desire that the hospitality we provide is both significant and intentional. To share a meal is to share your life. It gives us great pleasure to serve our ministry groups and guests. We have a front-row seat as people gather around the table and find a sense of belonging. In that way, we are the hands and feet of Jesus serving in much the same way He did. He had a way of taking an ordinary, everyday experience, such as sharing a meal, and making it a holy moment.

With every meal served on behalf of CrossRoads Church our team adds a secret ingredient-love. We often pause to pray for each group we serve. It is our desire that when you come to our table, you feel as if we have been waiting for you and we are thrilled that you have come – welcome without distinction.

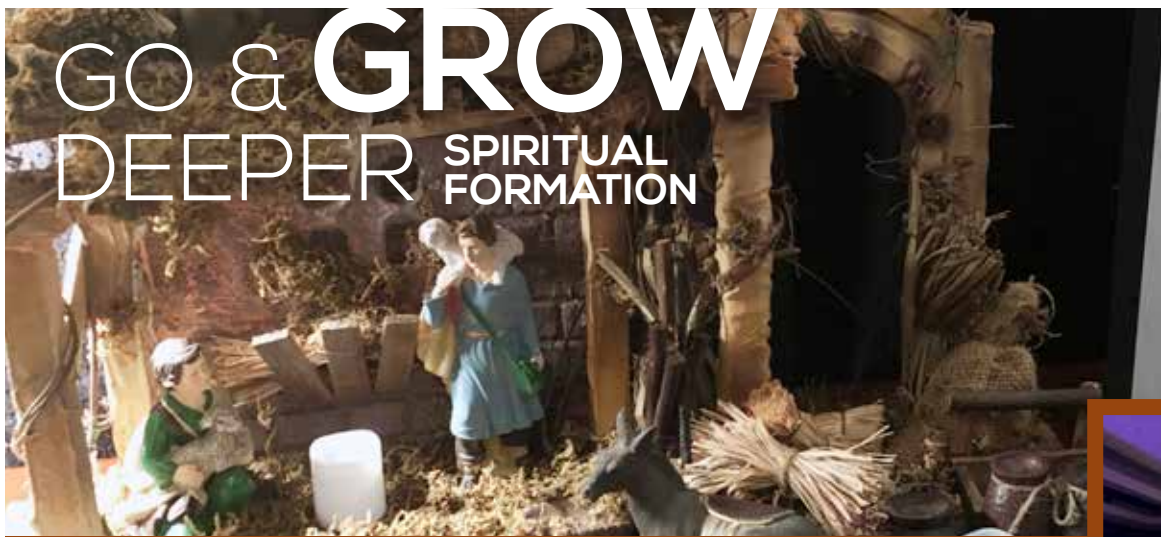
It has been my privilege now for 2 years and 9 months to give leadership to an amazing team in Food Services, both staff and Serves. It was a delight to welcome Louise Rautenbach as Kitchen Assistant in September. She serves quietly and faithfully and is a joy to work with. She graciously

receives our playful ‘pokes’ about her South African accent. We recently welcomed Tammy Smart as our second Kitchen Assistant. She comes with a joyful spirit and a zealous love for cooking and baking. Amanda Rein also returned to the Kitchen Administrative position from maternity leave. Amanda has a way of keeping us all happy, not to mention keeping our systems and processes in tip top shape!

We have an exceptional team of Serves that faithfully come and help in the Kitchen and Café. Sharon Tomalty continues to offer leadership to the Café and her team of volunteers. She tirelessly gives hours to this ministry and we are so grateful for her expertise and servant heart.

“The kitchen at CrossRoads is my happy place” – these are the words of many of our Serves as they come and help us prepare and serve meals. We have fun in the Kitchen, without a doubt. Our ministry could not happen without these faithful people. We presently have approximately 80 people on our kitchen serve list and 40 on our Café serve lists. Some serve weekly, some serve monthly and other as their schedule allows. There are a multitude of available ways to serve in the Kitchen and we are constantly welcoming new individuals of all ages on to our Serve team. We totally enjoyed having a fine group of our 56ers come on a serve Sunday to help out.





# GO & GROW DEEPER SPIRITUAL FORMATION

In August 2018, Denise Snyder returned from maternity leave and stepped into the new role of Pastor of Spiritual Formation. The year was filled with firsts and continued journeying as we explored what it looked like to bring in events and classes to help our church body go and grow deeper.

Our monthly Mission of God's People class has grown to 60 attendees who are excited to better understand the Bible so that we can apply it correctly as we join God in His mission to bring redemption and renewal to the world. We have explored the Old and New Testaments and seen how God has been on a mission to fix what sin has broken. We've discussed how God invites us into what He's doing, and we've seen how we fit into God's big story.

During Advent this year, we incorporated some new elements including an Advent booklet to guide us through the four weeks of the season, an Advent experience room with changing

themes to involve our senses in what God is doing, and RightNow Media offerings to guide us through each week. We explored together the Scriptures that point toward Jesus' first and second coming, and we moved toward the hope of what it means to rejoice in the birth of the One who saves!

Our Lent and Easter seasons were also a highlight this year. We offered a reading plan that invited our congregation to read through the book of Mark together during Lent. We also did weekly Friday fasts as a community to remind us of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. During Easter week, we hosted an Easter Hymn Sing, a Passover Seder Dinner, and a showing of the film, The Passion of the Christ. All of these events helped us remember Christ's journey toward the cross, and built our expectation for celebrating His victorious resurrection on Sunday!

**DENISE SNYDER**  
PASTOR OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION



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We have the privilege of serving our ministry groups within our church family with everything from a simple beverage service to a memorial service luncheon to a full banquet meal. It is our joy to serve many guest groups from our surrounding communities in central Alberta. Many of these are recurring guest groups and they have expressed their gratitude for our amazing facility and the excellent food. Each time they join us at the table it is an opportunity for us to live the gospel with them.

June 20 we will have a team from CrossRoads prepare and serve a meal to the families at our Ronald MacDonald House here in Red Deer. We also have had the privilege of sharing our 'abundance' when for various reasons we have leftovers that must be used up. In this way we

have supported some of our school breakfast programs, Potter's Hands Ministry, Mustard Seed Ministry and many individuals and families in need.

In this ministry year it is projected that we will serve just over 28,000 meals from our CrossRoads Kitchen. 28,000 opportunities to partner with our ministries here in our church family as we offer hospitality in the name of Jesus.

Thank you CrossRoads family, for your prayers and your support of this vital ministry.

You are all welcome at our table,

**NEILA N. LEHMAN**  
FOOD SERVICES LEAD

"May your unfailing love be with us,  
Lord, even as we put our hope in You."  
~Psalm 33:22

# HOPE MINISTRIES

## PASTORAL CARE

We strongly believe that one of the key roles as pastors is listening while giving priority to the last, the lost, the least, the little and the nearly dead. We do our best to listen to their hearts and encourage them with resources, hopeful encouragement and referrals to helpful next steps in their journeys. Hope Ministries Pastoral Care seeks to expand our ability as a community of Christ followers to care for and encourage one another. We do so in the context of supportive relationships such as Groups. Pastoral Care sees the necessity to develop individuals and couples who will help our church family to care for each other more effectively.

## GRIEFSHARE

GriefShare is a weekly ministry for the support and care of people who are experiencing grief due to the loss of loved ones. The dedicated program leaders are people who personally know grief, benefited from the program, and now are committed and finding hope in helping others. This 13-week series runs every week on Tuesday evenings, 52 weeks a year, and is always open to those who have never come before. The door is always open. Each session is valuable on its own and often people will attend for several weeks beyond the full series. GriefShare is always there, giving those at the deepest moments of their despair the opportunity to be heard and understood, and giving an opportunity to people who want to give hope to others who are hurting.

## BENEVOLENCE

Every day our church continues to be a place of refuge and resource for those who feel they have nowhere else to turn. Requests range from rent payment, car repairs, bus tickets, and hotel room fees to utility bills and help with food. Prayerful discernment in addressing requests and expectations are required during the conversations which are had with each individual, working toward the goal of finding the most positive outcome. Great effort is made, when offering appropriate assistance, to ensure all people feel blessed and assisted while being treated with dignity, kindness, and hope in the name of Christ. All such encounters receive offers of welcome into our church family as well as information about other resources in Red Deer.

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

This Past January, our Celebrate Recovery ministry at CrossRoads celebrated our 10th year of serving our community with consistent consecutive Friday night meetings. "The best place to be on a Friday night!" The shout goes up from the crowd of between 50 and 90 people during the welcome at 7:00pm. Folks have just finished a healthy, tasty, affordable meal provided by Neila and her staff in the kitchen. They worship Jesus and hear the 12 STEPS and their Bible references, the 8 Recovery Principles based on the Beatitudes, read by their peers. They are ready for the evening's lesson or a powerful testimony given by a person who has been freed from their hurts, hang-ups and habits. When the

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE MANY PEOPLE WHO PARTNER WITH US IN THE 'HOPE' MINISTRIES OFFERED AT HERE. I AM ALSO GRATEFUL FOR PASTOR KEN'S EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP OF PRAYER MINISTRIES. WE ALSO PARTNER TOGETHER IN SOUL SHEPHERDING AND PASTORAL CARE FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COUPLES. OUR HOPE MINISTRIES STAFF ALSO PROVIDE FUNERAL MINISTRY SUPPORT AT CROSSROADS. PAM AND HER TEAM KEEP OUR OFFICE ORGANIZED AND READY TO SERVE THE MINISTRIES, THEIR LEADERS, AND THE PEOPLE THE LORD BRINGS TO FIND HOPE IN HIM. PLEASE PRAY FOR EACH OF THE 'HOPE' MINISTRIES OVER THE YEAR TO COME.

### **STU KROGMAN**

PASTOR OF HOPE MINISTRIES

large group gathering is finished at 8:00 pm, the Prayer for Serenity is read, and we move to our open share groups; gender-specific and issue-related small groups led by trained individuals who have completed their 12 Step journey and are giving back to the ministry out of gratitude for the Lord's work in their lives! On other nights of the week, smaller groups gather to journey through a CR Step Study. These are close, gender-specific, groups that work through a deeper journey through the 12 Steps over a 9-10 month period. We are also able to lead Step Studies inside Bowden Institution and this year we have multiple groups of men participating. We are grateful for the support and encouragement here at CrossRoads and appreciate the opportunities we have to serve in other ministry settings here as well as for the dedicated leaders and servers that are the people of Celebrate Recovery on the CRTEAM, and in the many ministry roles. We are blessed to have the support and gifts of the worship teams, kitchen staff and servers, facilities staff, our CR Prayer Team, our CrossRoads Pastors and Board, and the many encouragers that hold us up. Special thanks to Lois Steen, our devoted CR Ministry Leader.

### **CELEBRATION PLACE**

Celebration Place is a fun, safe place for the children of Celebrate Recovery families to spend their Friday nights participating in a program that mirrors the topics the adults are talking about at an age-appropriate level. The kids are from homes that have some kind of hurt, habit or hang-up, but more importantly, they are from homes where someone has taken a courageous step to begin the healing process at Celebrate Recovery. As leaders, we have the opportunity every Friday night to play games, share music, learn new words and build relationships as we help kids understand that Jesus loves them just the way they are. Over time, as the adults in their lives become healthier, we are able to see positive change in the kids as well. They begin to feel safe with leaders, and encouraged by the special attention that is paid to providing practical coping techniques. Kids who were angry have become kinder, kids who were very closed begin to open up, kids who did not want to come build new friendships and look forward to Celebration Place. We see every week how important it is for families to have a safe place to bring their kids; we know God is at work in their homes. God is also at work in our hearts as we spend time learning with and loving the kids He brings each Friday night.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

**"Do not reduce your prayers to words, But rather make the totality of your life a prayer to God." (Isaac of Syria)**

Across central Alberta the CrossRoads family wants to be known as 'a house of prayer,' a people who seek the face of our Lord and then respond in full obedience to everything He asks of us. The awareness of the importance of prayer is growing. Over the past year more and more people are responding to altar prayer at the conclusions of services; more are joining prayer teams such as 'inner healing' prayer teams in which they are leading those they pray for into healings of all kinds and freedom in Christ.

The Prayer Course, produced out of Holy Trinity Church in Brompton, England, where Alpha was founded, is a tool that was introduced this past year. It is an eight week course that follows on the conclusion of an Alpha session and gives the participant an in-depth, practical experience in living into the reality of the Lord's Prayer found in Luke 11: 2-4.

The prayer gathering every Wednesday evening continues at 7:00 pm in the Prayer Room. I am the facilitator and all are welcome.

The weekly "Prayer Reflections" continue keeping prayer teams and other interested individuals informed and alert as to what the Spirit of Christ is up to in the CrossRoads' Family. If you would like to receive this and/or be part of the prayer teams please contact Pam in the HOPE Ministries office.

### **KEN W. LEHMAN**

ASSISTANT PASTOR OF HOPE MINISTRIES

### **GEMS**

GEMS stands for "Genuinely Enthusiastic Missionary Seniors" and they meet every month (September to June) on the first Wednesday of the month, at 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm, for a luncheon and program. The meal is always outstandingly delicious and the program informative and inspirational with a variety of music groups every other month. We enjoy hymn singing, updates on church ministries and central Alberta opportunities to help the last, the least, the little, the lonely and the nearly dead. If you are 55 and up you will enjoy coming to this time. Great food! Great friendships! Great fellowship centred on Jesus!

### **KEN W. LEHMAN**

ASSISTANT PASTOR OF HOPE MINISTRIES

Hope Ministries at CrossRoads Church are led and supported by Pastor Stu Krogman, Pastor Ken Lehman, and Administrative Assistant Pam Halvorson. We believe the Lord calls us to "help one another put our hope in Jesus Christ alone".

# GLOBAL OUTREACH

## FOLLOWING JESUS INTO THE STREETS OF RED DEER AND THE WHOLE WORLD!



ETHIOPIA

AS BELIEVERS, WE ARE GIVEN ACCESS TO THE POWER, TRUTH AND LOVE THAT COMES FROM THE GOSPEL; WE HAVE A GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO BLESS OTHERS WITH IT, NOT JUST KEEP IT FOR OURSELVES. CROSSROADS' VISION ALIGNS WITH THIS BY CALLING US TO SHARE JESUS WITH EVERYONE IN CENTRAL ALBERTA AND IMPACT THE WORLD. THIS WILL ONLY HAPPEN WHEN WE GIVE OUTSIDE OF OURSELVES. WE ARE BLESSED TO BE WORKING WITH VARIOUS PARTNERS AND TEAMS THAT ARE LIVING OUT A FAITH THAT EXTENDS TO OTHERS.

### OUTREACH

In relation to the newest banner in the sanctuary which highlights **Persecuted Believers, National Pastors and Leaders** and **Muslims Near and Far** we are working with a number of solid organizations.

We support national church planters and pastors in Ethiopia through **Empower Ministries** and **Global Disciples**. Ron Pearce, Executive Director and Founder of Empower says, "We are seeing the second fastest turning to God in history, in Ethiopia (behind China)." Massive numbers of people are coming to Christ, many from a Muslim background! In November, Kendall Schmitke from Empower shared with us how 117 new churches had been planted over the previous seven months because of CrossRoads support. Entire villages are turning from Islam to Christ! Don't miss October 27th, 2019, when

Ron will be our guest speaker in all services to bring us the latest news.

In Pakistan, we have been supporting a strategic ministry through **Partners International** which provides living expenses and legal services, as well as emotional and spiritual support for persecuted and displaced Christians (Muslim Background Believers) who are forced to flee due to their faith. Pakistan is 97% Muslim and one of the most dangerous places to claim Christ. Over the past 6 months, the program has provided shelter, food and spiritual help to 79 Christian men, women and children from 14 families.

For the past few years we have been supporting 2 church planters in Greece through our relationship with **Hellenic Ministries**.

Through **Bridges of Love (BOL)** in Lebanon we have been supporting Samia and Gaby who minister directly to refugees, many who have come from Syria. Through BOL we have been connected to eight families, six of whom have now been successfully sponsored and brought to Alberta.

Two of those families, Al Haj and Balah, have been sponsored as part of our CrossRoads family. The other 4 families have been sponsored by churches in Didsbury, Innisfail, Clive and Edmonton. Sadly, one family was not approved by the Canadian government, and will not be immigrating. We are still awaiting the final family from this group, which is also being sponsored by CrossRoads. Unfortunately, at the time of this report the family's file had still not been cleared.

**We ask for your prayers for this family that they would be given permission to travel soon to start a new life here free of fear and persecution.**

Connected to the arrival of these families has been the start of the **Arabic Church** here at CrossRoads. This church meets for worship every Saturday, and is growing with nearly 60 attending each week. Furthermore, many of the families have plugged right into activities here at church and attend our regular services.

Locally, there is a committed team from our church who partner with other churches in our city to minister to New Canadians, specifically **Muslims**.

ARABIC CHURCH



KAIROS COURSE



They are building deep and meaningful relationships through home visits, working on cars, practical helps, cooking together and sharing meals, fun outings, playing soccer, ping pong, or meeting in coffee shops. Their foundation is set in prayer. Every Tuesday they pray together and then once a month a wider group prays on a given Saturday. When horrific bombings were happening last summer in Syria, they hosted an inter-faith prayer meeting. Many families have asked for Bibles and for prayer and the gospel has been shared openly. Please pray for breakthroughs in this area and note one of the things they hear often from the young people is they do not have older people investing in their lives.

Around Christmas we hosted an Arabic feast for nearly 200 people and shared the Christmas message. We also ran the Bridges Study, which is an introduction to building relationship with Muslims.

We have been engaged in mission all over the world through the **missionaries** we support. Currently we have 24 units serving on 5 continents. Their ministry focus is wide and ranges from a bush pilot in Papua New Guinea to refugee discipleship and evangelism in Germany, training nurses in Mongolia, youth work in Kenya and a coffee shop in Lévis, QC. We

serve a creative God and his people have found many ways to dive into his Kingdom work, we are blessed to be able to play a small part in it.

Member care has been increased as we commit to working together as a church, mission's team and with other partnerships for the holistic wellbeing of the missionaries. We are committed to help cross-cultural workers minister effectively while being aware of the hazards, stresses and sacrifices that comes with cross cultural life and ministry; this means that apart from the financial support we offer, we also send quarterly care packages, updates, and encouragement. We provide wellness checks and individual care – rest, reflection and renewal as we are able.

We are gearing up for our 2019 **Missionary Retreat** which will be a time when all of our missionaries have been invited to join us for a time of Rest and Renewal in the Rockies. Watch this space! On Sunday, October 6th we will have everyone on site here for the morning services before they head to Nordegg through to the 11th.

The **Kairos Course** is fueled by the Biblical mandate to bless all nations with the Gospel. When it comes to preparing our hearts and minds to go deeper in pursuing God's vision for reaching

the lost, there is nothing I have come across that provides a better platform for learning to embrace God's mission, purpose and plan. This course is run all over the world in 90 countries and has been translated into 30 languages. We ran another course this spring and look forward to offering the next course in January. Our passion is that the whole church would be mobilized for meaningful mission.

Thanks to the initiative and vision of a local depot owner, our **Bottle Drive for Missions** started last summer. It gives a tangible and easy way to support missions here at CrossRoads. We continue to collect bottles and cans the 2nd Sunday of every month. Thank you for joining us this way!

Through our **short term outreach program** we were able to send teams to Uganda and Haiti to support our Global Compassion Partners. This summer we will send another team to Greece to support the family refugee camp run by Hellenic Ministries.

### Short Term Outreaches

Uganda: Fall 2018 - **6 people**

Haiti: Fall 2018 - **7 people**

Greece: Summer 2019 - **7 people**

BAPTISM IN MEXICO



SERVING IN MONGOLIA



HAITI ARISE



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**GLOBAL COMPASSION COMMITTEE (GCC)**

It has been a full and rewarding year with our various Global Compassion Partners. A notable change this year was the use of short films that were unveiled during each of the 4 weeks of our Christmas Compassion Campaign leading up to Christmas Eve. The response was great from people who openly shared how impacted they were by the films. We were blown away by the generosity of those that gave towards the campaign this year which raised \$414,000! Thank you! If you haven't seen the videos yet we have them posted on our web site at [www.crossroadschurch.ca/ChristmasCompassion](http://www.crossroadschurch.ca/ChristmasCompassion).

**International Needs Uganda** - As we re-directed our support towards education in Uganda, a new opportunity arose. In support of education, specifically for the high school girls, we have partnered with IN Uganda to build the first girls dormitory for their secondary school, which is set to open with a grand celebration this June! In honour of this milestone, Pastors Tracy and Shawn, along with GCC member Bill Shaw will attend. In addition, we have been supporting a number of Village Savings & Loan Associations (VSLA's) which is a group that focuses on encouraging savings, good stewardship and providing emotional and spiritual support to their members.

**Haiti Arise** - Pastors Shawn and James went in January to lead this year's Pastors Conference. While there, they celebrated with the first graduates of the Haiti Arise Technical School, who successfully completed their government exams. These students are

now ready to enter the workforce! It is great to see the fruit of the many years committed to the Technical School. Going forward we continue to support the school.

**World Relief Rwanda** - In October we hosted the World Relief Rwanda Partner Meetings which brought together all the church partners and key staff who focus on the ministry in Rwanda.

As we continue to engage with World Relief, we are encouraged by their extension into additional communities in Nyamasheke. We have great hope as we hear about the inside-out transformation of the communities we have been supporting these past 6 years. The Church Empowerment model provides training to equip the local church to love, serve and extend the mercy of God to the most vulnerable. In doing this they are finding renewal and restoration in the next generation while also seeing the cycle of poverty broken.

**Relief/Disaster Response** - the Global Compassion Committee is honored to manage our response to various disasters. Their mandate is to provide funds in the most effective manner, usually through partnering with an organization already on the ground. Over the past year we have sent funds to Hellenic Ministries for the fires in Greece, and to Food for the Hungry in response to the devastation of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique and surrounding countries.

Finally, and significantly, we have been speaking into the process of 're-setting' the direction of the **Evangelical Missionary Church of Canada's** (EMCC) mission arm. The EMCC is our denomination and their mission arm, World Partners, has been in a season of transition, change and re-visioning.

We hosted the EMCC Mission & Culture evening which was a regional event to engage with the current World Partners team to gain understanding and add voice to the new direction.

I also attended the recent General Assembly to add to the continued conversation and better understand their vision.

It has been a busy and full year with many steps forward in the coming of Christ's Kingdom but not one without some major challenges and heartbreaks. We thank you for your support and I specifically want to thank my team here at the church Karen Marriott, Chantelle Schmidt, Laurie Whitaker and Nicole Nowochin. Also, the Mission Advisory Team and Global Compassion Committee. Your input and dedication is so critical! As we move into another year, we move forward in the confidence that we are ON MISSION WITH GOD!

**TRACY MINKE**  
PASTOR OF OUTREACH MISSION



# LOCAL OUTREACH NOT THE WRONG ADDRESS

I am pleased once again to report on CrossRoads generosity in giving to, and serving with the agencies and schools that we have relationship with. Together we have provided thousands of breakfasts this school year. Together we have put food in hungry stomachs and clothed children and youth these past cold winter months. We have put shoes on the feet of children going back to school and sent them on their way with a smile. In homes where finances dictate that a package of spaghetti takes priority over a bar of soap we have provided hygiene items.

In the next few paragraphs you will find some details on these acts of service and the impact that has been made. All of these offerings continue to be gratefully accepted and distributed to those who truly are in need of them. It is my hope that as you read this report and the final few paragraphs that you will be encouraged to continue to give generously of what you have but also be moved to give humbly and courageously of yourself in relationship and hospitality. A meal given is great, and to give a coat warms the body, but a meal shared is better and spending time in someone's presence warms

their heart, invites conversation and can lead to an opportunity to share Jesus. There are needs that macaroni and cheese and hot oatmeal can't meet – but your reflection of Jesus in presence and conversation shared over a coffee or over the fence is a message that can be life giving and life changing.

God calls us out of our comfortable places of familiarity to follow him into places that may seem questionable, to people whose brokenness looks different than ours. God doesn't have the wrong address. The places He calls us to are well known to Him and the people are dearly loved.

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> to start off our annual Christmas Compassion Campaign we were pleased to have Glendale, Fairview and GH Dawe schools with us as well as Womens Outreach, Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre, Hope Mission and Big Brothers Big Sisters. YOU packed 590 lunches that day for students in our schools, Hope Mission after school programs and Big Brothers Big Sisters programming. This was a day to have conversation with representatives from each organization and discover where you could get involved and make a difference.

## SCHOOLS

This past year there were 12 schools that came forward with at least a onetime ask for clothing or food for a child or family, in addition to the 3 schools that we have the privilege of providing on going acts of service to. These acts of service can look like practical help for a teacher, reading with a student, mentoring a child or youth during school hours or at after-school programs, or serving up a meal at a breakfast program or special event day. Our time and type of service looks different in each school. Becoming aware of the needs facing our students and staff has been a humbling experience. There have been some reasons to celebrate and there have been some challenges. Along the way we are learning that our idea of success doesn't come quickly or easily and in fact it can look different from another's perspective.

Through your generous giving in our donation bins we are providing nutrition for breakfast programs and daytime snacks as well as hampers for students who are known to have need by the school staff. This past year our GEMS held special collection dates for food, hygiene items and winter wear as did

## LOCAL OUTREACH

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THRIVE women's events, and our Junior and Senior High Youth conducted food drives on special serve nights. The gift of a pack of instant oatmeal or a granola bar is simple and seemingly small but it provides the energy needed to concentrate in class and focus on a lesson. It sends a message that says to a child "I believe you are important and I care about your needs."

"Thank you for your ongoing donations and support of our breakfast program. Your gifts make a real difference in supporting our students with a healthy start to their day."

~Breakfast program coordinator

Clothing donations of winter wear have been greatly appreciated and were supplied to nine schools in our city this past fall and winter. Clothing distribution days were also held at two schools where parents and students could help themselves to needed items.

"On behalf of the school and school community, I wanted to send a big thank you for sharing your community resources (clothing) with our students and families. There was such a great selection and so many happy parents with it. You should celebrate that you were able to provide support for many while maintaining their dignity."

~ Glendale Principal

### MENTORING

In school or community mentoring and becoming a reading buddy are the other ways that we are able to provide support in our schools, both to the student and educators and to our community through Big Brothers Big Sisters. This particular area has presented challenges as not all matches turn out to be "a match made in heaven." The children who we may be asked to spend time with come with stories that we are unfamiliar with and challenges we have never had to work through. These adverse childhood experiences can manifest themselves in behaviours that we are unprepared and unequipped to cope with and we can become discouraged, feel like we are not accomplishing what we set out to and want to give up. On a go forward basis we are grateful to have input from professionals and experts who can provide us with insight and training so that we have better understanding and make positive steps



forward in these relationships. Any current mentors or reading buddies as well as all future servers can access this education and support.

It has been said that 50% of our public school population are now coming from a single parent home. With this reality comes the fact that in many of these young people's lives there is an absence of someone significantly important. The need for mentors both male and female is ever growing. While some single parent led homes are thriving, many are not and mentoring is a proven way to enhance many aspects of a young person's healthy development.

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 and/or couples 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's about filling a gap, meeting a need. It's about being someone a child can talk to and learn from - sharing interests with them, encouraging them, building on their strengths, all of which can lead to improved self-esteem and more positive outlook on their life.

Mentoring is open to men, women, couples and families through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Men and women can also provide mentorship through our relationship with individual schools and

be matched by school counsellors to a student during school hours. Mentoring is a lived out message that says "you are valuable, you are worthy of relationship."

"We believe in the value and values of mentoring. Studies show that mentoring helps kids stay in school, avoid risky behaviors such as bullying, and grow up having more respect for family, peers, and community."

"Changing young lives can change life in our communities. Helping children reach their full potential can lead to positive community outcomes like a reduction in poverty and unemployment, safer schools and neighbourhoods."

~ Big Brothers Big Sisters

### HOPE MISSION

Hope Mission currently runs after school programming in both elementary and middle schools in Red Deer. Kids in Action reaches 175 children and Youth in Action 80 middle school students each week. This school year the waitlist of students wanting to attend but couldn't due to space restrictions is larger than the number who could be accepted. Both of these programs allow kids to build relationships with peers and with positive caring adults who love Jesus and demonstrate this to each child and youth. Each program provides a meal, physical activity, encouragement and character and skill development.





### **Our church congregation has engaged with Hope Mission through:**

- Participating at after school programs as mentors and running buddies.
- Serving Christmas dinner to both kids and their family members in December.
- Helping prepare lunches to feed kids in Kids in Action and Youth in Action.
- Supporting the year end celebration 5K race by manning the barbecue, cheering on the kids or running the race alongside them.
- Providing hygiene items for kids and youth who attend their summer camps.
- Providing snacks and food items for after school meals that are provided.

### **PREGNANCY CARE CENTRE**

Our relationship with The Central Alberta Pregnancy Care Centre remains strong and women and men from CrossRoads continue to engage in the training offered to become client advocates and male mentors. As well, we serve in many different events and ongoing day to day roles that are required to keep the Centre running and offering hope to the persons who walk through the door or call in. Supporting and caring for women and men impacted by pregnancy happens on a daily basis at CAPCC as well as parenting education, compassionate post abortion care, grief support and steps to sexual health programs.

The Maternity home is FULL! Both phase one and two are home to women who are expecting or parenting a young child. This past year the moms from the Centre have been joining the Single Moms group here at the church and developing relationships here.

### **WOMEN'S OUTREACH/LOVE IN THE LACES**

Last summer approximately 900 pairs of shoes were collected to be given to children and youth in Central Alberta as they began a new school year. This partnership with Womens Outreach Tools for School program allowed for 248 hours of service from our church congregation. 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.

This past year saw the opening of The Dragonfly Centre offering targeted support and therapy for children whose lives have been impacted by Domestic Violence or Suicide. New serving opportunities involving childcare are now available for us to engage with Womens Outreach and the Dragonfly Centre. Pick up a card at the Missions Kiosk for more information.

### **IN CLOSING**

I would like to highlight a story of a CrossRoads family who went deeper this past year by forming a relationship with a family from one of the schools we support. They are a couple who listened and followed the Holy Spirit's call, who reached out in friendship to a family they didn't know but who God knows. Behind the doors of homes in our neighbourhoods there are many similar and complex stories and needs. Some people's stories we think we know because the symptoms and fallout appear glaringly obvious to us, and some we don't recognize because they are hidden.

This Crossroads family became a safe place for the hidden to become known and brought into the light. Because they love as Jesus loves these new neighbours could become vulnerable in a time of need, when they felt hopeless and unsure.

"The relationship started out slowly as it took time to build trust. There were practical needs for sure but also the deeper emotional and spiritual needs. It was definitely a slow process but it gets better with time. There have been challenges as situations have come up within the family beyond our ability to fix, but that's okay. The family knows we are there for them. I was so happy when "N" accepted my invitation to come to my women's study group. She knows I care for her, she can text me and I can pray for her in between our visits. My encouragement to CrossRoads would be that anyone can be a blessing by giving a bit of your time and being a listening ear.

~"B"

Our community and our neighbours need someone who can see and share hope in the promises of God when real life circumstances seem so dire. They don't need a pep talk – they need Jesus and we can be the ones who demonstrate Jesus to them. God can work through us, our weaknesses, our homes and hospitality, our time and our conversations.

At the heart of Local Initiatives lies relationship. It is more than giving and donating. It is remembering that God hasn't given you the wrong address. You are where you are because God placed you there. You being a good neighbor is the kind of person Jesus can use to change the world for someone else.

We are imperfect followers of Jesus reaching out, with sometimes imperfect words, not being able to fix, but to listen without judgement, developing relationships that can lead to conversations that Jesus uses to change lives.

You are invited to pick up a contact card at the Missions kiosk for more information on these great organizations that we walk alongside.

**Laurie Whitaker**  
DIRECTOR OF LOCAL INITIATIVES

# CROSSROADS CHURCH PROPOSED BUDGET AUGUST 2019 - JULY 2020



	2018-2019 10 Month Actuals	2018-2019 12 Month Projection	2018-2019 Aug-July Budget	2019-2020 Aug-July Budget	% Over Projected Actual	% Over Last Budget
<b>FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	9,570	11,485	18,090	<b>23,050</b>	100.7%	27.4%
Expenditures	10,425	14,554	33,070	<b>38,250</b>	162.8%	15.7%
<i>Note: Includes Faith Home events, Marriage Ministry, overall children's ministry administration</i>						
<b>EARLY CHILDHOOD MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	2,287	2,744	2,750	<b>3,670</b>	33.7%	33.5%
Expenditures	15,713	17,839	17,795	<b>18,895</b>	5.9%	6.2%
<b>CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	3,155	3,786	4,850	<b>4,850</b>	28.1%	0.0%
Expenditures	19,551	23,898	25,910	<b>25,900</b>	8.4%	-0.0%
<b>STUDENT MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	13,015	15,619	74,560	<b>32,550</b>	108.4%	-56.3%
Expenditures	42,177	51,822	125,375	<b>79,225</b>	52.9%	-36.8%
<i>Note: Includes all ministry to students in grades 7-12; as well as, outreach to youth in our community</i>						
<b>YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	1,510	12,260	30,260	<b>25,625</b>	109.0%	-15.3%
Expenditures	6,646	20,402	45,900	<b>43,450</b>	113.0%	-5.3%
<i>Note: Includes Tiro</i>						
<b>COMMUNITY LIFE MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	25,042	26,062	24,000	<b>29,000</b>	11.3%	20.8%
Expenditures	76,490	81,836	81,100	<b>92,150</b>	12.6%	13.6%
<i>Note: Adult and Connecting Ministries are both included in the Community Life budget. This consists of Alpha, GEM's, Men's and Women's Ministry; as well as, church wide connecting events.</i>						
<b>HOPE MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	41,207	53,387	44,200	<b>54,700</b>	2.5%	23.8%
Expenditures	63,547	85,406	94,350	<b>104,100</b>	21.9%	10.3%
<i>Note: Includes Celebrate Recovery, Central Alberta Community Support for local agencies such as Shalom Counselling, and benevolence for individuals within and outside the church.</i>						
<b>KITCHEN MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	106,801	120,500	118,000	<b>121,000</b>	0.4%	2.5%
Expenditures	104,341	123,500	118,000	<b>126,750</b>	2.6%	7.4%



	2018-2019 10 Month Actuals	2018-2019 12 Month Projection	2018-2019 Aug-July Budget	2019-2020 Aug-July Budget	% Over Projected Actual	% Over Last Budget
<b>MISSIONS AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	262,226	308,674	311,000	<b>311,000</b>	0.8%	0.0%
Expenditures	259,386	345,441	385,000	<b>379,000</b>	9.7%	-1.6%
<i>Note: Includes support of short term and long term missionaries. Includes support for various local and global missional projects</i>						
<b>COMPASSION</b>						
Revenue	446,312	451,204	415,000	<b>480,000</b>	6.4%	15.7%
Expenditures	283,888	397,926	507,400	<b>507,400</b>	27.5%	0.0%
<i>Notes: This includes both local and global compassion efforts.</i>						
<b>ARABIC MINISTRY</b>						
Revenue	9,253	11,104	0	<b>15,000</b>	35.1%	
Expenditures	5,027	15,685	2,400	<b>17,400</b>	10.9%	625.0%
<i>Notes: Local ministry to Muslims</i>						
<b>WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRIES</b>						
Revenue	4,285	3,790	2,500	<b>2,500</b>	-34.0%	
Expenditures	22,454	26,415	31,400	<b>30,440</b>	15.2%	-3.1%
<b>GENERAL CHURCH</b>						
Revenue	3,499,650	4,133,402	4,364,390	<b>4,468,055</b>	8.1%	2.4%
Expenditures						
Staff Salaries	2,274,266	2,822,584	2,987,000	<b>3,154,140</b>	11.7%	5.6%
General Operations	653,811	804,401	874,900	<b>873,900</b>	8.6%	-0.1%
Capital	58,002	80,000	80,000	<b>80,000</b>	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Budget Summary</b>						
Total Expenditures	<b>3,895,726</b>	<b>4,911,707</b>	<b>5,409,600</b>	<b>5,571,000</b>	<b>13.4%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Total Revenue	<b>4,424,312</b>	<b>5,154,016</b>	<b>5,409,600</b>	<b>5,571,000</b>	<b>8.1%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>
Excess (Deficit)	<b>528,586</b>	<b>242,309</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

\* This is a draft of the proposed 2019-2020 budget only. You can find the official budget on our website after June 26, 2019

# CROSSROADS CHURCH

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