

April, 2015

home base

An 'organic church' newsletter update among friends of Pathfinders

Our Mission:

To experience Christ through simple churching and to pass it on.

Our Vision:

To advance the gospel through households of faith who live among the lost and make disciples.

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(aka Board)

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they arrived by boat ... but came in on boards

Imagine. You start out on a voyage, but arrive clinging to a board!

This was Paul's experience, recorded in Acts 27. I am fascinated by this white knuckle account of the apostle. This was not the story of an upwardly mobile benefactor of faith, but the account of an intrepid servant of God's kingdom who embraced daily realities face on.

He was to stand before Caesar in Rome and was taken on an Alexandrian ship with other prisoners under the watch of a centurion. 276 were on board. Conditions for the journey were horrendous as they followed the coast, then open waters through several stormy days.

At one point the ship was held together by ropes. Cargo, tackle and even food had to be thrown over just to get near land. But eventually it came close ... some could swim to shore. Paul came in on a board! You see, one night earlier during a storm, an angel of the Lord appeared to Paul and assured him that he would appear before Caesar and that all on the boat would be saved. The larger purpose of the expedition would be accomplished even if the boat itself fell to pieces!

Two insights life-clinging truths I get from this: **Insight 1:** How the journey starts is not how the journey ends. **Insight 2.** Expect God's intervening revelation to come through during your stormy journey!

To me this boat is like a metaphor of church programs, ministry methods or tools. They are simply 'vehicles' that serve us for a season in the accomplishment of prevailing kingdom purposes. They last a while, then need renewal. We may get a little more life out of them by holding them together with ropes, but eventually these 'vehicles' must be abandoned for new ones. 'Vehicles' such as buildings, clergy roles, charitable fundraising and even discipleship programs all have a place, but we must employ them nimbly, giving way to the larger movements of the Kingdom.

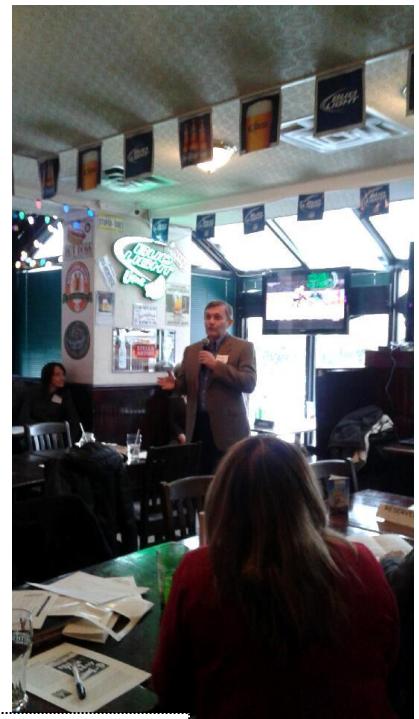
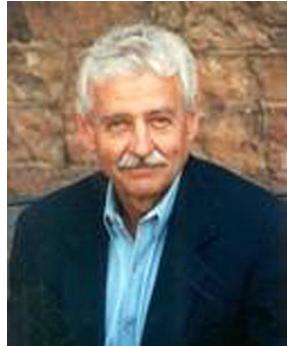
This is the quest of 'simple churching.' To keep tuned to the indwelling leading of Christ, being nimble with all vehicles that reflect the day in which we live, embracing the risks, not fearing man, but fearing God.

Ross

I will always show you where to go.
I'll give you a full life in the emptiest
of places— firm muscles, strong
bones.
You'll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
You'll use the old rubble of past lives to
build anew, rebuild the foundations
from out of your past.
You'll be known as those who can fix
anything, restore old ruins, rebuild
and renovate, make the community
livable again.

Isaiah 58:11-12 (MSG)

My latest bare knuckle risk was to speak at the London Bridge Business Network in early April to some 70 business owners at Wink's Pub. An opportunity to share about our work life in the marketplace ... what it means to 'make a living while making a difference' ... Isaiah 58:12 was projected on a screen between all the sports games in the background.



... church without walls ...

practitioner's huddle

October 16-17, 2015

Jim Petersen, a pioneer disciplemaker to Brazil and mentor to many planting indigenous movements of the gospel will be coming to Canada to engage us in fundamentals of contextual ministry.

Circle the dates. More info. to follow.

Preparation for the time: Read *Lifestyle Discipleship* by Jim.

What are Pathfinders about? We are an association of people who are finding our paths forward toward a more organic/missional approach to how we 'do church,' by affirming the headship of Jesus in community, focus on making disciples, active labouring from the moment a person comes to faith and the dynamic functioning of Ephesians 4:11-12 roles* at the local and trans-local level. Our dream is to find new trails so that more unreached can discover the Jesus life.

"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."
Carl F. H. Henry.

