

June, 2014

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 develop simple church networking at the local level through hosts who can plant disciples who create simple churches as they go.

Our Behaviours:

- ordinary people leading
- nurturing relationships
- Scripture-rooted open fellowship and sharing
- built around seekers
- practical discipleship and accountability
- reproducibility of fellowships to create new fellowships
- intentional yet informal

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from our home to yours ...

All life comes to us as a story.

We have our stories. Then, there is the story of God at work in history. And then, we must consider how these stories work together.

Part of my story goes back to the study of natural sciences at the U. of Guelph, where recently Sandy and I attended the 40th anniversary of my Zoology '74 class which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the University of Guelph. What a terrific time to meet up with many from those days. I had some anticipation about it, but it was a joy.

- A pub lunch of sharing highlights since graduation. I was impressed to see how many ended up working for 'the ministry,' in this case, the Ministry of Natural Resources. Several fellow grads became salmon specialists, forest management experts, parasite analysts, etc.
- For me the pursuit of the life sciences was a part of my search for meaning. It was in my fourth year that I came to understand the gospel and receive Christ despite the college culture which had no room for God. I was editor of the college paper which provided me a unique vantage point to tell the stories of the college and student body.
- In 4th year, my Evolution prof was Dr. Ron Brooks. (I came to faith during this course.) I defended my new Creationist view in the paper and got a lot of attention! I have kept in touch with him on and off since then. He had a stroke a few years ago. Sandy and I went to his home and he told us many stories of his research and time in the Galapagos Islands where Darwin received much of his inspiration.



- Meeting Dr. Bill Winegard again was a treat. At a banquet gala of some 800, I had a few minutes with the Pres. of the university when I was a student. Now over 90, and since that role an MP and Minister of Science, I told him the story of coming to him to donate toward a booklet I was editing called *Towards An Ecological Conscience*. It gently reflected my new found faith and we needed several thousand dollars to print 20,000 of them, one for every student on campus and one for visitors to annual College Royal. He responded and got the ball rolling! (This was my first 'faith project' as a new Christian ... during it I assisted my closest friend to discover Christ, and that became a life shaping experience for me.)
- It was wonderful for Sandy to meet friends from 40 years ago. A highlight was walking between a half dozen dance venues on campus with oldies music, coffee house, etc. I could tell that we were not just catching up but looking for meaning, in the years that have passed. Meaning from work. Meaning in relationships. Meaning in our memories. This reunion will result in opportunities to continue the journey, and share Christ.
- Oddly, our sense of kinship with these folk was remarkable. I had been on a journey with some for four years a long time ago. Many remember when I came to faith. Somehow I seem to fit better with non-believers and seekers than many Christians. We are each still on a journey. My prayer is that they will be attracted to the Christ journey.
- Sandy and I ended our time on campus together alone at midnight praying in the center square for all the men and women we knew who touched others for Christ over the years on that spiritually fruitful campus. We prayed for more labourers to be raised up by the Lord of the harvest. May God use the tapestry of past friendships in your life and mine to move forward His Kingdom.

Ross



What are Pathfinders about? We are an association of people who are finding our paths forward toward a more organic approach to 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.

