

October, 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 advance the gospel through oikos practitioners who live among the lost and make disciples.

"Only a disciple (of Jesus) can 'make' a disciple! When Jesus said, "Go make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28) it was implicit that those doing the 'making' were themselves fully devoted followers."

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living out the gospel ...

I am impressed by three intractable qualities of the life of Jesus.

Jesus walked by faith. Philippians 2:5-7. Fully God in human flesh, he did not draw on all his attributes as God, so that his life on earth would be a walk of faith with the Father, like ours. Wow. That is a monumental point to ponder!

Jesus came to seek and to save those who are lost. Luke 19:10. The movement of Jesus' life was not toward a 'gathered institution' but an outward moving relational world. Jesus did not present himself as a guru, or a 'community organizer,' but was an initiator who sought to touch the hearts of those he met, resulting in radiating relational networks. The paradox of *living for the lost* is that this 'right sizes' how we steward our own self care, care of family, our faith community, etc. Jesus did not ignore the various circles of his life, but also was not consumed by them. *Question: Do I live for myself, my family, etc. or the lost?*

Jesus was rich in the Scriptures. Matthew 4:4. His mind was fueled by the Scriptures that were available to him, what we call the Old Testament. He daily and routinely pondered and identified with the Word. He aligned himself in obedience to the Word. And, uniquely, as the fulfilment of the Old Testament promises he showed how he was the completion of the law and the anticipation of the prophets. *Question: How do I live richly in the Scriptures?*

In contrast, the postmodern church often psychologizes and systematizes faith replacing *daily abiding* with formulaic offerings; effectively deconstructs Scripture leaving secular storytelling as the 'fresh word,' and marginalizes the pursuit of the lost by preoccupation with 'meeting their own needs.'

Surely, new *pathways* are needed for committed Jesus followers to live out the gospel, both within and beyond current local church expressions.

Ross

spiritual generations ...



Sandy - Kimberly - Jill A beautiful picture of just one generational thread ... life on life impact and sharing spanning 35 years.

One of the patterns of the dynamic operating of the kingdom of God is the way in which any believer can birth spiritual generations. It is not a new concept, but one clearly seen in Scripture and throughout church history wherever there has been a heart for God, a heart for the lost and a commitment to 'making disciples.' (Isaiah 60:22)



Imagine ... two days of study together in 1 Corinthians, exploring foundations for reaching religious and secular lost, facilitated by Dr. John Ridgway

october pics



Curtis, Ross, John, Issam, Bob
Staff Day Retreat at The Cove

Greenhouse Story 1 with Neil Cole

January 16-18 Toronto, Ontario

Workshop training for those wishing to learn how to build small organic fellowships among unreached people in your circle of influence and then disciple them into a practicing community. More information to follow. Circle the dates in your calendar. To pre-register write info@pathfindersfellowships.com



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.

