

AC3 INVESTIGATOR

Bi-Monthly Newsletter



The August Pause



See the AC3 Answer Man on page 6 for Pause schedule and explanation.

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ALL IN and Ready to Grow – September 1st - Pastor Rick

We have some great “ALL IN” news! First to review: in April, our elders called AC3 to ten days of prayer and fasting, requesting God’s wisdom about new building plans. We had several options, each with massive challenges.



Option 1 seemed most “doable”: renovate the building with a smaller floor plan, requiring thousands of dollars in leasing income monthly from unused space. The wild thing was, after prayer and fasting, when we finally got the elders, staff and board together to make the call, we all had the sense that we’d need the extra space sooner than later and God didn’t want it tied up; in other words, we had to INCREASE Option 1’s level of difficulty and challenge, seeing if we could get it green lighted WITHOUT rental income. But it was already going to be touch and go WITH that income. It was like God was making a hard thing harder. And yet that was the unanimous sense after we sought God’s face diligently... so what do you do? What CAN you do but just go with it, risk looking silly, and trust God with the outcome.

It brought to my mind immediately the story of Gideon, who was called by God to deliver the Israelites. Already facing an uphill battle, he had assembled an army of 32,000 to fight an army of perhaps 100,000 men. So what did God say to him? Did he say, “We could sure use a few more guys here, Gideon, I wish you were a better recruiter but I’ll see what I can do...”? No. God said, “You have too many men for me to deliver.” (Judges 7:2) He asked him to offload men, not add more!

God made a hard thing *harder*, but for a specific reason: “so that Israel may not boast against me that her own strength has saved her.” Eventually the army was pared back to 300 men! and with that paltry number and God’s grace, they won a great victory. Read the story, it’s cool.

Back to AC3. God’s unmistakable leading was to make a hard thing harder. Why? So that it would be unmistakable to us, and everyone who hears of it, WHO did it. And why is that important? To build our faith in a prayer - answering, all-powerful, gracious God who acts in our lives and in proportion to our faith (Matt 9:29). We met with the same banker who had kindly told our building committee just weeks earlier that we’d need additional income for a loan on even the smaller floor plan; but on this day, after about 25 minutes, we walked out with that same banker tentatively agreeing to loan the full amount plus an extra \$100,000 (“for contingencies”, he said.)

A board member who had been to the earlier meeting dropped his jaw. Was this the same banker? What had happened? We speculated on possible reasons for the change of heart. I for one know what transpired: God’s people (that’s you!) prayed and humbled themselves and sought his face and believed him for big things. And God - GOD! - intervened. Wow! What a faith builder. ANOTHER faith builder that is, because God has had his fingerprints all over “ALL IN.”

What does this mean?: A tentative construction start date of September 1 and finish date in early 2009. It means we’re that much closer to having an awesome and important tool that will assist a small army of

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AC3 Retreat 8/22-24th

Mark your calendar's now! Join us at our annual weekend retreat for a time of refreshing and renewal.

Retreat Highlights Include:

- ☆ Ministry Sessions
- ☆ Worship
- ☆ Pickle Ball
- ☆ Softball
- ☆ Swimming
- ☆ Beach Volleyball
- ☆ Large Waterslide
- ☆ Anti-Talent Show
- ☆ AND much more!

Registration forms will be at the AC3 Information Desk and online @ www.ac3.org

RYM 6th-12th Grade

July/August Events:

July 2nd

Putt Putt Golf

Aug. 9-16th

Camp Epoch

Aug. 27th

Outdoor Movie Night

Info: Jenn Bartlett

425-346-0207

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Christ following change-agents at AC3 in their mandate to go and make disciples.

So what do we do now? **Three things:**

1. **Pray!** Keep "All In" before God and remember the reason for it - so that as many as possible get "all in" on the amazing grace of our God.
2. **Keep "ALL IN" going!** If you've made an "ALL IN" commitment, please keep it up. We need to finish strong! If you're not "ALL IN" yet, pick up your Boarding Pass online @ <http://www.ac3.org/allin.htm>
3. **Be ready to help!** We'll be needing lots of sweat equity and "gifts in kind" to get the job done under budget.

Whether you're just investigating faith or have been a Christian for a while, I want us to collectively mark this moment. God showed up - again! We thought it was too challenging and God said, "not challenging enough... here let Me make it completely impossible."

And after all that, who would dare claim that we were smart enough or strong enough to do this on our own? God is in our midst, powerful to act. And friends, it's that same God who is powerful enough to work in your life, for forgiveness and grace if you've never trusted in Christ before, and for life change and help for anything life throws at you.

We have confidence in the One who said, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Love,

ALL IN building updates can be found @ www.ac3.org/allin.htm

World Missions & AC3 - Dan Hazen

As the time draws closer for AC3 teams to take off for Malawi (August and October) there are conversations on the topic of, "Is this kind of work appropriate for a church like AC3?" "Aren't we a seeker church? What does Africa have to do with spiritual seekers in Snohomish County?"

These are great conversations, appropriate for any organization concerned with staying relevant and on mission. So from the point of view of one who led a mission trip to Brazil a couple of years ago, and from the point of view of the Executive Pastor's desk, here are a few reasons why I think being part of the global church is important to AC3:

We were mandated to do so. Acts 1:8 Jesus said, "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*" No where is there a distinction made between local churches that focus solely on their immediate neighbors and churches that work with far-flung neighbors, ignoring the needs of those across the street. The Church is called to the whole world. Each local expression certainly has its own character, specific mission field and ministry strategy, but each church is called to be a **WHOLE** church. In the same way AC3 cannot be content to simply make a safe place for seekers, but must also create a place to **GROW THEM UP**, so AC3 cannot be content to serve only white, middle class suburbanites. We must also reach out to the rest of the world.

The Church is Global. The gospel exists for the benefit of the **WORLD** (everyone knows John 3:16: "For God so loved the *world* that he gave his only begotten son..") ,not just a region. Economics, culture, technology, language, information and politics are becoming global...and so is the church.

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illuminating God's Way with NEW Connection Topics

We look at Jesus' disciples as individuals chosen because of their holiness and perfection, elevating them above the common man. Yet, Jesus actually chose disciples who were very MUCH the common man, with the same doubts, fears, passions and faults as any of us. What better way to illuminate God's ways than to surround Jesus with 12 hungry, lost souls and let us "listen in" while the Master teaches, guides and shapes them into true Christ followers. As we behold the process, we too have the opportunity for transformation.

In July, the Connection series focuses on one very human, very powerful disciple who rocked the world: Peter, the Rockin' Disciple. We will review his life-changing encounter with Jesus, his greatest moments of weakness and shame and the transformation that follows. You won't want to miss this moving series.

After the August Pause, September brings a fascinating and fun look at the phenomena of video games. What is it about these fantasy worlds that so captivates us? We cannot deny the sense of escape: escape from our own reality, our own limitations, relationships, responsibilities and inner pain. But are we really called to escape from our reality? Through this series we will seek God's true purpose in our lives and hopefully understand ourselves just a little better! Please bring a friend!!



Peter the Rockin' Disciple ~ July

Coffee Anyone? Geezer's Corner - Larry Fish

I don't get it. Who said, "Progress is inevitable?" Worse yet, who said, "Progress is good?" The simplest, most enjoyable pleasures such as a simple cup of coffee can get corrupted in the name of progress. And I'm here to tell you it ain't a good thing...or is it?

Have you seen that new fangled contraption out front of our church that Dan Erickson crafted? C'mon man, this thing weighs more than a 16 wheeler; if it had a TV I'd move in. This new piece of equipment has set a new standard for stability, durability and attractiveness that the Hummer can only dream of.

All this in the name of COFFEE Ye-aaaaaaaah, I said Coffee. A beverage I have personal experience consuming, serving, and judging for over 45 years. Back in the day, you took the can, shook out some ground coffee into the percolator basket, popped the lid on and 15 minutes later you had a cup of genuine, fresh, steaming, strong, black (unless you were a wimpy city kid) tasty coffee. Man, now that's real coffee! Simple, straight forward, a time honored process.

Well, I've been watching the newcomers

(mostly Chrissie and Brenda) and they don't have a clue. First, they don't get paid so to get them to show up they get this real fancy job title: Barista. That stands for Bar, is, uhm, ta-ta-er, well anyhow it sounds fancy. Their job is to operate all the equipment on the coffee cart. You know they are in real trouble because they don't even have a percolator. Anywhere. Ain't that a hoot? So after watching them carefully here's what I saw: First of all the coffee they use isn't even ground up (this is progress?) so they have a machine to grind the coffee (I didn't know coffee came from beans but now it makes sense otherwise think how hard it would be to pick all those little ground up pieces off the coffee tree).

So then they grab this gizmo off another big machine with a long handle and the ground up coffee goes into the metal cup part (this is the real dumb part 'cause they have to squeeze the coffee down real hard since the metal cup isn't big enough to hold it all). Then they twist it back on the big machine and they have two tiny little pitchers that catch the coffee juice coming out and when they're full they turn the machine off and dump both pitchers into a paper cup.

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Upcoming Connection Service Topics

Be thinking ahead about which friends to invite to our upcoming Connection Services!

Saturdays 7 PM
Sundays 10:30 AM

- ☺ **JULY— Peter**
The Rockin' Disciple
- ☺ **AUGUST PAUSE**
NO AC3 Services
- ☺ **SEPT—Game Over**
Escapism Topics
- ☺ **OCT— State of the Union:** *Election Hoopla & Hot Topics*
- ☺ **NOV— Decisions:**
Principles from Proverbs

PASTOR RICK TASERED!

FIND OUT BY WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF THE AC3 INVESTIGATOR!

Pictures will be Posted!

TASER IN WIKI

The free online encyclopedia!

Thanks
Les/iE!

Leslie Doyle recently took up the challenge to help pull the AC3 newsletter together.

If you have an interesting article that AC3'rs may enjoy, please email them to:

lesliedoyle@hotmail.com
or
twila.allencreek@verizon.net

BAPTISM Celebration July 20th @ 6 PM

If you have questions about baptism or would like to find out how to be part of our baptism on **July 20th**, email Pastor Rick rickt@ac3.org or call the church office at 360-659-7335.

A baptism class will be held to answer your questions on **Wednesday, July 16th @ 7 PM.**

This class is a great place to get your questions answered and attendance is required for those being baptized.



NE XtGEN

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ

Did You Know...

Did you know it takes a team of **60+ volunteers** to provide a 'fully' staffed Kreek Kids program at AC3 each month? That's a large team and our mission is extremely important!

As children's ministry leaders, it is our desire to make an eternal difference in the life of a child and their family. What does an eternal difference mean? It means that, at whatever age a child is, we want to introduce them to Christ in a way they can understand. So that in God's timing, a child might one day enter into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. What an awesome experience when someone understands and makes that decision!

How does a volunteer participate? We use a gift-based and team-driven approach to ministry. This means no one carries the whole program by themselves and individuals are encouraged to fully engage in their specialized passion and giftedness. What a vivid example to our children of



how the body of Christ should work!

How often do volunteers serve? Some serve as little as 'once-a-month'. Others join a Tag Team which offers flexible and rotating 'monthly' schedules during Sept. – July.

We look forward to 2008/09 and serving families in our new building. Together, we can reach our vision...To be the **BEST HOUR** in every family's week!

0-5th Sunday Programs and *Grapple:
Twila Crain youth@ac3.org 360-659-7335
0-5th Saturday Programs:
Trina Perry trina@ac3.org 425-737-4061

Download more volunteer information at http://www.ac3.org/kk_inside_track/allstars.htm

(*Grapple- 3rd-5th Grade Mid-week Group)

Coffee Anyone? Geezer's Corner (Continued from page 3)

They have all these colored bottles with different flavors and they put some of that in the cup. Then they put milk in a larger pitcher, stick this pipe in it, pump real, real hot water in which makes the milk kind of foamy and dump it in the cup. I thought I had seen it all, but instead of making the coffee by the pot they are making it one cup at a time. Even more astounding was when Brenda turned to me and said, "One 16 ounce Carmel latte. Three dollars please." Three Dollars! THREE DOLLARS!!!! Back in the day a bottomless cup of coffee was 10 cents. TEN CENTS! I SAID TEN CENTS!!!! They call this progress huh? Back in the day when we got to the bottom of

the pot we would get a nice little taste of coffee grounds. Back then our coffee grinder was called molars and they didn't have an electrical cord connected to them.

I hate to admit it but this latte thing does taste pretty good. I don't ever remember our coffee being this hot but it really is smoooooth. Isn't it a flavored coffee milk drink? Man this really does taste very, very good. How come they don't have them in 20 ounce size? Would it cost more for 20 ounces? Well you know I could understand if it did

Love, (slurp)
Geezer Fish

World Missions & AC3 — (Continued from page 2)

The majority of Christians now live in South America and Africa, and the church is growing by leaps and bounds in Asia too. Did you know that some Anglican churches in the US operate under the leadership of Africans? Missionaries from South America and Asia now regularly visit the U.S. to share the gospel! It's not just the church for America anymore.

It's Relevant. 46% of those who took AC3's North Snohomish County Survey said that a "credible church" is one that addresses global poverty. AC3's trip to Brazil in 2005 was focused not just on sharing the gospel, but on supporting quality education in Brazil, which is VITAL to aiding Brazilians trapped in grinding poverty. Our emerging partnerships in Malawi center on establishing a working local economy, effective health care and nutritional programs providing jobs, income, healing and educational opportunities in communities that have been decimated by the AIDS virus.

Suffering is suffering. The heart of compassion that beat in the chest of Jesus Christ didn't acknowledge racial, geographic or religious boundaries. All who called out for his help received. The fact is there is more human suffering on planet Earth than there has ever been, and we are, after all, called to live like Jesus.

It Changes US. The stated mission of AC3 is "to provide ever seeker in Snohomish County a safe place where they can become a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ." When Allen Creekers are exposed to what God is doing in Africa, South America or other parts of the world, it changes how they see themselves AND their spiritually seeking neighbors. In a sense it "turns up the heat" on sharing the gospel, BEING the gospel, and becoming an agent of change in the community. I can

tell you that not just for myself, but for many who saw for the first time in their lives the scope and depth of suffering in other parts of the world, we came home and changed the way we live. We live more simply, we give more, we are less anxious about things that don't really matter and we are more grateful for the blessings we have. At the same time we saw what God can do in a totally different context; we heard God speak in different languages, and he became even more Holy, more powerful ...more "like" God. We saw people who, while surviving on literally a fraction of our lowest incomes, experienced joy, life and gratitude to God.

We were schooled in what it means to live as the Apostle Paul lived: "I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:12-13

AC3'rs who have been overseas on short term mission trips have been exposed to what God can do ANYWHERE in the world, they have had their hearts broken and then re-made by God. They are servants who "get" the vision of reaching seekers with more clarity and passion, they are servants who will sacrifice for the purpose of reaching seekers, they are servants who themselves are vividly *living out* the second half of AC3's mission: becoming FULLY DEVOTED followers of Jesus Christ.



Art for Africa!

**Saturday,
July 12th
9am to 6pm**
13421 39th Ave NE,
Marysville, WA

This event is being held at the AC3 future building site. We are raising money to send two teams of volunteers to Malawi, Africa to provide some vitally important support and assistance to the people of that nation.

In addition to the *awesome arts and crafts*, you'll enjoy:

A super fun **kidz-zone** with bouncy house, kid's crafts and more!

LIVE performances by local bands, FREE!

Awesome summer-inspired concessions!

AND a talented local artist will create a unique and original masterpiece onsite. The completed artwork will be auctioned off – tickets are just \$1 each!!!

As part of this fundraiser, we will be raffling off a **Nintendo Wii!** The Wii raffle tickets are only \$2 each and all proceeds will go directly to the Malawi Mission!

To donate, serve or just have questions, please call Brandi O'Haegher at (425) 346-9395 or Carin Weier at (360) 659-3210.

See you there!!!

2008/2009 Forums & Retreats

Hello AC3'rs,

Through several conversations, I have discovered that many of you desire to know when major events such as Forums and Retreats occur so you can plan ahead. I trust the list below will help with your 2008/09 planning.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me 360-631-4498.
God Bless, James Brooke
Small Group Coordinator

2008/09 Forums and Retreats:

Parenting Class: Oct. 3, 10, 17 & 24
Marriage Forum: Nov. 4, 11, 18 & 25
First Marriage Retreat: Dec. 5 & 6
Men's Forum: Jan. 27, Feb 3, 10 & 17
Men's Retreat: Feb. 27 through Mar. 1
Women's Forum: Apr. 13, 20, 27 & May 4
Women's Retreat: May 15-17

AC3 July Happenings:

July 12th-Sat. 9-6 pm—Art & Craft Fair for Malawi, Africa
July 13th-Sun. 4 pm—Dishmixer & Walk Across the Room Class
July 16th-Wed. 7 pm—Baptism Class
July 20th-Sun. 6 pm—Baptism
July 26th- Sat.—Men's Rope Course
July 27th- Sun. @ noon—AC3 Mission Class



Online Church Calendar

You can find the entire AC3 church calendar of events online @ www.ac3.org under the **When & Where** link!



AC3 Answer Man

Q. I heard recently that AC3 does not hold weekend services during the month of August. Is this true?

A. Yes! Believe it or not, it is true, and there are good reasons for it. The Pause for the Cause, as AC3 has come to term the August break, originally started as a way to rest our exhausted volunteers – devoted, hardworking Christ-followers with a passion for the Cause: drawing all seekers to Christ. But in the years since this tradition was started, we've come to see the benefits to the whole organization as a unique means of promoting the Cause within the community.

Have you noticed that when you take a break from routine, you find yourself listening to God's voice in new ways? You may be more open to accepting the challenges He presents, prodding you to reach out, with courage and creativity, to share your faith with others in unique and powerful ways.

Remember it was God who instituted concepts like letting the soil rest every 7 years, God who initiated the year of Jubilee, and God who wove the Sabbath (Rest) concept into the very fabric of creation and the moral law! Please use this time of rest to let God do special works inside of you! And remember: things that rest are not "temporarily dead" – we know they are working, but in less obvious ways. They are repairing systems, doing internal maintenance, gathering strength.

So, while we pause from services during the month of August, let's continue our mission as faithful Christ Followers: to Love God, Love the Church and Love the Lost.

If you have feedback about the Pause, talk to Rick, Dan or one of the elders; they would love to hear from you. And we'd love for AC3 to experience true renewal during this Pause so that we can be as healthy as possible – because healthy things grow!

August Pause Updates:

NO weekend services in August
Aug. 7 & 8th: Leadership Summit
Aug 10th: Summer Jubilee
Aug. 22nd-24th: AC3 VisionCast Retreat
Sept. 6/7th: Regular weekend services return!



August Pause for the Cause