



# Allen Creek

## Scene Investigator

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 4 ~ MARCH - APRIL 2004

### PASSIONATE ABOUT "THE PASSION"

Perhaps you've noticed that the nation is already buzzing about Mel Gibson's new movie, "The Passion of Christ" due out February 25th. Controversy surrounds it. The movie has been labeled anti-Semitic, recklessly violent and religiously divisive. Mel Gibson himself has said that his movie make wreck his Hollywood career. He's invested nearly 30 million of his own dollars to produce it, and run a gauntlet to get the project green-lighted and distributed.

Amid the negative publicity, you may have also heard that churches around the nation are rallying in support. Christian leaders from across denominational lines have come out of advance screenings with glowing reviews. My understanding is that the movie is controversial, not because it is a fanciful, sectarian vision of Jesus, but precisely because it stays close to the original story.

It says something about the religious climate of our culture that the New Testament – faithfully recreated – produces such angst. Or does it say more about Jesus Christ himself? Jesus was divisive. He challenged people to be for him or against him; he ruthlessly submarined the aloof middle ground. This film will remind us again that Christianity is not status quo kind of stuff. It is radical, because the Founder was radical and his life ended in a radical way with radical significance for the whole human race.

The charge of anti-Semitism stems simply from the fact that Jesus was killed based on charges from Jewish Leaders. Yet, this is simply historical fact. The Romans actually carried out the execution (which the film also portrays) and we wouldn't for that reason boycott spaghetti, or seek to carry out pogroms against Italians! Neither Jesus, nor the New Testament, nor Mel Gibson are responsible for what certain people who apparently can't read the *whole* Bible do in the name of Christ. The clear teaching of the Bible is that Jesus' death was part of God's plan (Acts 2:23) and he would have been killed no matter what culture he might have shown up in because Jesus' words and life indicted the whole human race ("The *world*... hates me because I testify that what it does is evil." John 7:7).

The violence is reportedly graphic. Gibson says this was also about historical accuracy. Crucifixes and crosses have become instruments of decoration and adornment – the film will remind us that a cross was invented as an instrument of torture. It's been recommended that no one under 12 ought to see it, but it's also said that the harsh realism isn't gratuitous, but rather gripping and moving. Consider yourself forewarned!

I think this film is a great opportunity for AC3. So we're having a sermon series in Connection/Connexus shortly after it opens called "My Own Personal Jesus" (starting March 21). I would encourage all of us to take a friend to the movie... then say, 'why don't we explore this further at my church.' I think the film will raise questions:

- Do I believe this happened?
- What does this mean for me and my life?
- Why, if there is a God, would He allow Jesus to go through this?
- Why did Jesus suffer?

We'll try to help people answer those questions. Go see the movie, and explore it here at AC3!



**Mel Gibson's  
*Passion of  
The Christ*  
is now playing  
in Theatres.**

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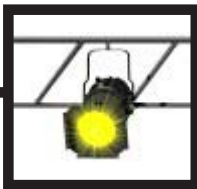
## THE JOURNEY

Quest 201 (Foundations) is coming this Spring! If you have just recently attended Quest 101 (Investigations) and your hungry for more, or you simply want to know more about what it means to be a Christ follower, this 12 week course is the meat and potatoes! Learn about the nature and person of Jesus, why forgiveness matters, what happens when we die, and much more.

Quest 301 (Applications) has been a landmark experience for many Allen Creekers over the last few years. A small group where learning to APPLY Christian principles and practices to real life is the focus. Beginning this Spring, watch for Quest 301 (Application) to be more accessible to more people. New and up-dated Quest 301 (Applications) material will be made available to anyone who wants what Quest 301 (Applications) has to offer...whether you plan on leading a whole group through the 22 week course, or it's just for you and a friend, real spiritual growth and life change will be as close as the bookshelf. Stay Tuned for details!

If you're interested in catching the next cycle of Quest 301 (Applications) electives, Life on Purpose will be kicking off the next round on Saturday April 17<sup>th</sup>. Learn how to live a life that is DAILY closer to God through practices such as prayer, Bible study, worship and more.

Watch the QUEST display in the Lobby and [www.ac3.org](http://www.ac3.org) for up-dates and more information for ALL Quest events.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

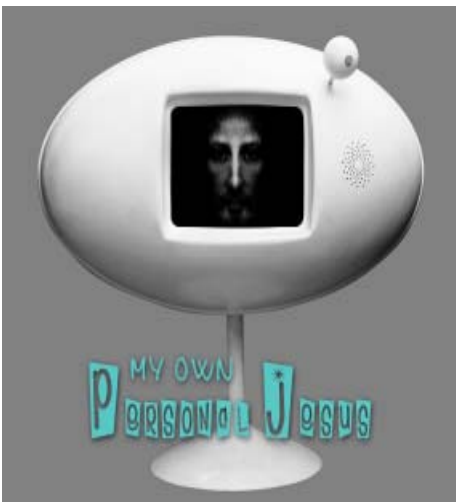
"What In The World Are We Doing?"- Why we are the kind of church that we are and why we do some of the unusual things that we do.

March 6-7 "Changeless Words to a Changing World"  
March 13-14 "User's Guide to AC3"



"My Own Personal Jesus"- The series is about who Jesus really was, clearing up some of the misconceptions there are about him.

March 20-21 Who Do You Say Jesus Is"  
March 27-28 "Will The Real Jesus Please Stand Up?"  
April 3-4 "Was Jesus Friend or Faux?"



### Dinner Theater

#### The Body in the Belfry

A comic mystery dinner theater. You are invited to dine with our wacky cast of characters who are attending an unusual feast in Jerusalem 1 week after the crucifixion of Jesus. Help them follow the clues as a mysterious body shows up in the belfry.

Showing - Runs April 8-10  
Thursday 7pm, Friday 7pm,  
Saturday 1pm & 6pm.

Admission is by ticket only (tickets are free) so watch for tickets to be available in the church lobby.

#### Easter Morning: (April 11)

Two identical services (8:45 & 10:30). We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by exploring who he really was through music and interactive application.



## UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

When the AC3 elders came back with the message to make a difference and meet a need, the Seeds of Grace program was there to make it happen. There were several programs already in place thanks to the efforts of Dee Turner and others. Master's Feast, Stitches of Love, benevolence and Free Bread have been meeting the needs of the community for quite a while now. With our new emphasis on these and similar programs we are looking for ways to reach even further into the community.

We are starting partnerships with other churches in the community to connect with a larger group of needy people. Of these, one of the key players is Woodside Assembly who already has a clothing and food bank. They have asked our assistance with these programs as well as a mechanics outreach. They have a garage that is available to us to help people repair their cars so as to keep them running well and safely for minimum costs.

Other programs, which are currently in the planning stages, are a prison outreach, to visit and work with the incarcerated people of Snohomish County. There are also other churches and non-profit organizations, which rely on the help of people like us to provide the services and occasionally funding to keep them going.

If you would like to help with any of these programs, or others that you may have in mind that are not currently operating you can meet a need. People's time is one of the most valuable commodities in the modern world, so minimal investment can provide large results. There are programs that require as little as two hours per month to make a difference in someone's life.

There will be a meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April with many of the coordinators of other outreach ministries in the area that anyone may attend. It will take place at noon in the AC3 auditorium. There will be further information coming. Feel free to contact [chuckl@ac3.org](mailto:chuckl@ac3.org) or 360-659-7335 for opportunities for individuals or small groups. Help us to make a difference in Snohomish County.



## KREEK KIDS

### TAKING A CLOSER LOOK...

*Ever wonder who's making a difference in our children's lives?*

**Meet our Preschool Director - Sue Byers**

**Spouse:** Greg

**Children:** Elizabeth (Age 15), Tommy (age 7), Taylor (age 5)

**Birthday:** January 27th, 1966

**Lives in:** Stanwood

**Vocation:** Calibration Tech

**Hobbies:** Baking

**Favorite Food:** Ice Cream

**Favorite Restaurant:** Spaghetti Factory

**Favorite Movies:** Shawshank Redemption and The Princess Bride

**Favorite Song:** I have so many Favorites right now—I love anything by Third Day, "Show you Love" by Jars of Clay, "I Will Not Forget You" by The Praise Band, but, most of all, right now, I'm really moved by "I'm Free" by Ginny Owens

It feels great when the kids had so much fun during a certain class, that they don't want to go home!

### What do you enjoy most about attending AC3?

The whole package....we have THE BEST band, every child I teach holds a special place in my heart, I'm serving in a place that I am fully supported, with others that have a true desire to serve.

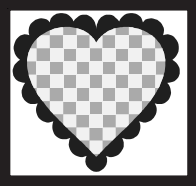
**How long have you been a Christ Follower?** 3 years

**How long have you been involved in children's ministry at AC3?** About 2 years

### What is the hardest part about being a

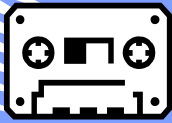
**director in children's ministry?** Staffing - we have some great teachers right now, but we could do such a better job with just a few more!!! Being a director is very time consuming- it's hard to find a good balance between family, work, and service.

Feel free to call Sue with your ministry questions! If you would like to know how to join her team, there are several positions open. You can contact her at: [sbbgat@msn.com](mailto:sbbgat@msn.com) or by phone, 360-652-9207.



## GRACEFUL CONNECTIONS

EXCHANGE, SHARE & SERVE OPPORTUNITIES



We are looking for a portable cassette-to-cassette tape recorder and volunteers to help copy tapes during the week. If you can help out please contact Julie @ 360-659-7335 or e-mail [julie@ac3.org](mailto:julie@ac3.org)

## For Sale

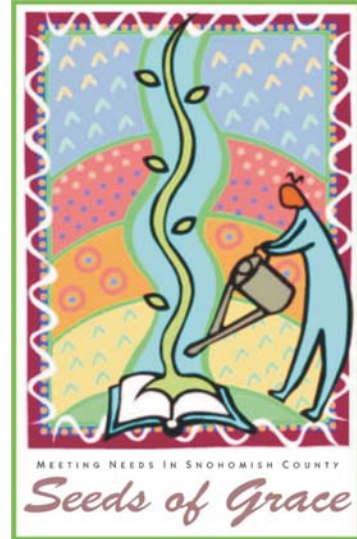
Reese 20k 5<sup>th</sup> Wheel Hitch

**Make Offer**

Contact Tim Getty @ 360-652-1474

### Attention JR/SR High Students:

You are invited to join other students like yourself for a special 4 week elective *Understanding God - According to Bruce Almighty*. This starts April 19th, during Community Service. For more details, check out: [http://www.ac3.org/kids\\_youth/bruce.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kids_youth/bruce.htm)



## Free Bread

First and Third Saturday

in March & April

AC3 Lobby

### Just for Kids – An ‘Eggstra’ Ordinary Easter Party!

Children ages 4 years – 5<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to an ‘Eggstra’ Ordinary Easter Party on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1-3:15 PM. The party is sure to be a hit as it will focus around Easter themed ‘Rotation Stations’. Students will make age-appropriate crafts, their own special ‘Easter Feast’ and solve the mystery of the empty Easter Egg!

Party Invitations and details will appear on the ‘Information Tree’ in the Kreek Kids Check-In Center soon. You can also check out the youth column in the lobby or at [www.ac3.org/kids\\_youth/party.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kids_youth/party.htm).

**Extra Hands:** We will need a few extra hands to help implement this outreach event for our children and their friends. Are your hands available? To see how you can be part of this afternoon’s children’s event, contact Twila at [youth@ac3.org](mailto:youth@ac3.org) or 360-659-7335.

### **Kreek Kids Staff - Join us for Easter and Spring Training!**

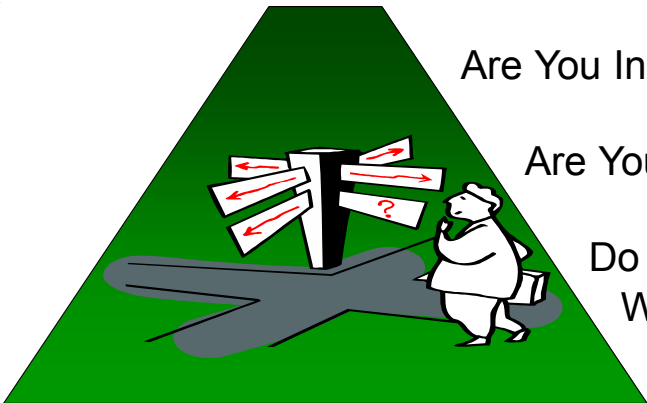
Give us *just one hour* of your time on Sunday, March 28th from 11:55 AM to 12:55 PM. You’ll be glad you did! Lunch will be provided for your WHOLE family. You’ll also get the inside scoop and focused training so we can provide the best children’s program in town! Let’s be prepared and work together so we can ‘Hit one out of the Park’ during the spring season.

More information? Contact Twila and our KK Staff Directors at [youth@ac3.org](mailto:youth@ac3.org) or 360-659-7335.



# ON THE DOCKET

## UPCOMING EVENTS



Are You In Financial Crisis?

Are You One Paycheck From Disaster?

Do You Have Questions On  
What The Bible Says About Money?

**Saturday, March 6th**

**9 AM-4 PM**

\$15.00 for individuals or  
\$25.00 per couple

(Price includes course materials  
and lunch)

For more information call

(360) 659-7335 or email us at

[AC3GoodSenseMinistry@eworldnet.att.net](mailto:AC3GoodSenseMinistry@eworldnet.att.net)

Not Sure Which Way to Turn?  
There is a way OUT!

**Good \$ense  
Budget Course**

Come Learn How To Break Free  
From Financial Bondage

### Behind The Scene Folks....



**You are AWESOME!**

**Thank You for all of your hard work  
and dedication to AC3!**



**Alpha**

Questions, questions, questions... We all have questions. Alpha offers the opportunity to explore the meaning of life and get to know others. **Sunday night March 14th 5:00pm** will be a no obligation diner and Alpha kick-off night. Pick up a registration form at the Information Center. Or email us at [alpha@ac3.org](mailto:alpha@ac3.org)

## What "R" we doing?



**Get all your questions  
answered  
at our leadership Q&A  
Sunday, March 7th  
Immediately following  
Connection Service**



A Parenting Class and Some Time Away!  
Begins Friday Evening, March 5th 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Our TIME OUT for Parents starts with a simple dinner and an introductory parenting class; 'Parenting in the Real World'.

This class is a four week series that has been created and taught by educational and medical experts that attend Allen Creek Community Church. In this course we will introduce basic principles of parenting that can be utilized with all age groups.

Each Friday during this series after the class parents will be able to take a TIME OUT! From 7:30-9:00 p.m., participating parents will be able to take advantage of 1½ hours free childcare to go to coffee, run a quick shopping trip, or enjoy dessert just talking with other parents.

Children's activities and dinner will be available for children.  
Contact Jenny Arlt at [parenting@ac3.org](mailto:parenting@ac3.org) or 360-659-7335 to sign up!

*For Women Only*

*Woman to Woman Forum*

**Have you found yourself asking, "Is this it? Am I living the life I'm meant to live? Does what I do and who I love matter?"**

Within every woman is the desire for extraordinary relationships. We crave intimacy and interconnectedness, companionship, and camaraderie - true community. What's behind this yearning? Is it healthy? Is it normal? Does it have a purpose? Relax and explore with us the principles for unlocking the courage to love and abandon.

**Mondays, March 8 - April 26, 2004**

**7:00-8:30 p.m.**

**AC3 Auditorium**

Questions? Call or email...

Deb Jamigan, 360-659-5503 [dprov356@verizon.net](mailto:dprov356@verizon.net)  
Sue Harvey, 360-658-6280 [grandmasue10@hotmail.com](mailto:grandmasue10@hotmail.com)  
Sandra Byers, 425-355-1013 [sanbyers@yahoo.com](mailto:sanbyers@yahoo.com)

**NO CHILDCARE PROVIDED**

**Coming the first week in April:  
Old Testament Challenge.**  
This weekly group will explore the life changing truths contained in the often over-looked or misunderstood "first half" of the Bible. The use of video and engaging discussion make this much more than a "stuffy 'ol lecture"! Exact dates and times coming soon!