



This 6-week group is designed around YOUR questions about faith. "Why should I trust the Bible?" "What about evolution?" "How come God let's bad things happen to good people?" These are all great questions and they deserve great answers. The environment is open, friendly and geared for discussion, not lecture. There are no "dumb questions"! Whether you're skeptical about Christianity, you feel like there are just a few "road blocks" in the way, or there are questions you've always wondered about, INVESTIGATION will launch again **Saturday** October 22nd at 10:00am in the upstairs Education Room.  
\*No class Thanksgiving weekend\*



## WHEN NATURE BITES

A friend of mine emailed me with this question:

After the hurricane hit, my ...boss e-mailed me with a pretty angry rant, in which he wondered how there could possibly be a loving God, etc. How do you respond?

Questions about natural disasters are a special subset of infamous "problem of evil" IE. if there is a loving God, why do bad things happen, why is there so much pain, why is there evil? Who hasn't found themselves asking or answering this question these days, after Katrina and the Tsunami last year?

If you've ever asked these questions, or have friends asking them, invite them to AC3 this fall. November we unpack the issues honestly with a Connection series called, GOD AT WAR, followed in Community by WAR WITH GOD. As I write this Hurricane Rita bears down on the Texas coast and by the time you read this, the questions may only double in intensity. A compelling case for Christ must include a compelling case for the existence of a God of love in world of pain.

To begin, part of the problem of evil is made worse by holding a certain view of God. Namely: many have in mind a view of God who is in meticulous control of everything. Yet, open up the Bible and you find the God revealed there – though supreme Creator of all – is NOT 'in control' of everything. Much happens that dismays, saddens, wounds and otherwise frustrates the Deity of Jeremiah, Isaiah, Jesus et al. God it seems, has volitionally surrendered a piece of his controlling power to free agents.

Why? The Bible's answer: Love. If love is all important and "God is Love" then freedom must be central to the human experience. Dr Gregory Boyd says, for love "God thus enters a covenant of "non-coercion."

While this can explain all the chaos which free moral agents perpetrate on one another, what about "natural evil" which no human controls, like hurricanes and earthquakes? Well, three things we should keep in mind:

One is, moral choices leave a lasting mark on our physical environment. We see this directly as the Mississippi river delta loses dozens of sq/miles **a year** from human mismanagement making the whole area more unstable and vulnerable. We also see this indirectly – the Bible says that because the human animal is a spiritual overseer of earth, sin has actually worked to spoilt the *entire system* (Rom 8:22). I assume this spoilage goes down to how nature "works".

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Two, beyond our influence on the environment, Jesus himself believed that spirits haunt the world. In fact, in one instance of a "natural disaster", Jesus rebukes the chaotic storm like it had a malicious will that needed to be resisted. This may seem far fetched to minds trained in naturalism, but lets keep this in perspective: the view that excludes this possibility has been held by a very tiny portion of humans in an isolated pocket of history. The view that nature is haunted by spirits (many malevolent) has been held by pagan, pantheist, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist alike for millennia.

So nature sometimes bites and the reasons are complex. There are human wills, wills of spirit beings (angels) and yes, the will of God who sometimes uses nature to discipline us. But humility should cause us to refrain from bold pronouncements about divine judgment. What should cause us even more pause is our knowledge that the *default* arrangement is for God to use nature to bless ALL (Matt 5:45; Acts 14:17).

Still, a lot of people can't help but get mad at God for Katrina... We *know* the Creator is big enough to stop it. But then I tell myself this big God humbled himself to let us have a piece of the controlling pie... and that he did it for love! This risked a world that could be plunged, quite literally, into war and here we stand in the middle of it. Now, will we curse God? Or will we *expect* evil in a free world, and join God in his fight against it? (Rom 12:21).

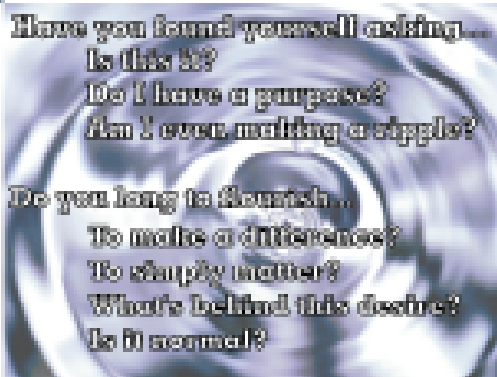


## A Man's Forum Men Being Real

4 - week forum  
Tuesdays  
October 4, 11, 18 & 25  
7:00pm to 9:00pm

**Come join us and discover  
the principles to unlock  
courage and strength  
to not only survive,  
but THRIVE.**

Questions? Call or email...  
James Brooke: 428-377-8187  
james\_brooke@asd.wednet.edu  
Wayne Clinton: 428-338-7887  
waynenightowl@comcast.net



Have you found yourself asking...  
Is this *IT*?  
Do I have a purpose?  
Am I even making a ripple?  
  
Do you long to flourish...  
To make a difference?  
To simply matter?  
What's behind this desire?  
Is it normal?



**Myth vs. Truth -  
Discovering a  
Woman's Identity in  
Christ**

Join the TGIF women's  
group on Friday  
mornings, starting  
Oct. 7th. @ 9:30 am.  
Children welcome!

## Mark your calendars now: Jan. 27th-29th Men's Retreat at Camp Brotherhood

This is one of the best events for men at AC3. Ask anyone who attended last year. If that doesn't convince you, then you need to check your pulse!

*"Continuing the journey of being Godly men."*

Lodging and food will be included in the price. Watch [www.ac3.org](http://www.ac3.org), service programs and Lobby displays for more information as the time nears. Contact James Brooke at [james\\_brooke@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:james_brooke@asd.wednet.edu) for more information.

# Project Va'

August 23 – Sea Tac Airport; 23 weary but delighted AC3'rs get off a flight from Denver which was their last leg of an 8,500 mile journey back home from NE Brazil.

While in the city of Mossoro, the Project Va' team performed a 4 episode, AC3 style musical drama for over 400 people. The team's hosts report that 80% of those attending the program were previously un-churched people. Creating the opportunity to speak to that many seekers was a key goal of the trip. The team and the hosts received numerous testimonies about the spiritual progress made by attendees. Through the performances, the team also had the opportunity to "demonstrate" being culturally relevant to the leaders of the local church. The hope is that they will be able to apply some of those principles for the long haul.

Team members also developed and taught an English language curriculum for the ALFA School (grades pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup>). Lasting relationships were established with many of the students, and team members had the chance to have an impact in many of the student's families through home visits, prayer and simple relationship building.

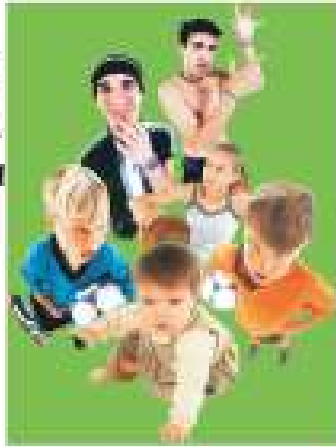
An 8-foot x 30-foot mural was painted at the campus, and progress was made on a music room and bathroom addition to the ALFA School. Team members toppled coconut and palm trees, dug a GIANT hole for future septic tank, poured footings and compacted soil...all by hand.

The team would like to thank our AC3 family, and our extended family who have been such a great support for the last year. Through your generosity, over \$45,000 were raised which covered not just travel expenses for the team, but has purchased 2,000 square meters of land for the NEW ALFA school, purchased equipment and supplies for the full time missionaries in Mossoro, and allowed team members to gift the church band in Mossoro with new musical equipment.

Your prayers and encouragement have been the most valuable, though. They were carried with us all the way to Brazil, and have returned with the gift of lasting relationships, and changed lives for Jesus.



# TIME OUT



## for Parents!!

**A Parenting Class and Some Time Away!**  
Friday Evenings, Nov. 4th - Dec. 2nd 6:00-9:00 pm  
presented by Allen Creek Community Church

Allen Creek Community Church is presenting our TIME OUT for Parents which 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.

\* no class Thanksgiving week

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.

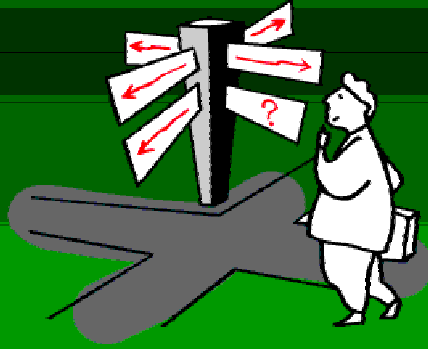
Contact Jenny Arlt at [parenting@ac3.org](mailto:parenting@ac3.org) or 425-303-1906 to sign up!

### **Welcome back to Kreek Kids...The Best Hour in Every Family's Week!**

Kreek Kids is off to a great start this fall. We're excited about where we're heading and we hope you will be too! We encourage you to surf on over to the following link where their newest newsletter is posted. Here is where you can find out the scoop on all their upcoming events and activities. [http://www.ac3.org/KKY\\_News/k\\_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/k_current.htm)



# Good \$ense Budget Course



Are You In Financial Crisis? Are You One Paycheck From Disaster? Do You Have Questions On What The Bible Says About Money? Not Sure Which Way to Turn? There is a way out!

**AC3 GOOD SENSE BUDGET COURSE** serves a range of people:

- Those in financial crisis
- Those just "one pay check from disaster"
- Those in "good" financial shape, but who may be surprised by what the Bible says about finances
- Those who want to take their money management to the next level
- This class is FREE
- Questions please e-mail [goodsense@ac3.org](mailto:goodsense@ac3.org)

Join us Friday Oct. 14 & 21 7:00 to 9:00pm for this FREE financial planning class. Sign up sheet is available at the Info Center or call the church office 360-659-7335.

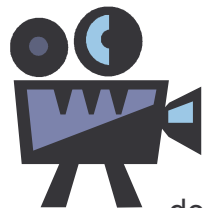
## Meet the Newest Members of the Kreek Kids Leadership Team

The Kreek Kids leadership team is proud to announce that several key leaders have joined their team!

Administration Assistant - Lucy Venezia -  
Email: [edlucy@cedarcomm.com](mailto:edlucy@cedarcomm.com)  
Lucy will be instrumental this ministry year in helping maintain our new data and attendance software Nspire. She also has the fun job of mailing out Kreek Kids Birthday cards and will help make the new Kreek Kids Resource Center (located upstairs) even more usable and teacher friendly.

Preschool Director - Denise Cerna -  
Email: [jdazmcerna@hotmail.com](mailto:jdazmcerna@hotmail.com)  
Denise is taking up the challenge of running the second largest department in our Kreek Kids program. Their classroom has a great new layout and they have a couple new teachers and helpers that are sure to make this department blossom!

Check-In & Safety - Brenda Casey -  
Email: [spiderqueen88@hotmail.com](mailto:spiderqueen88@hotmail.com)  
Brenda is the one that will get it done when it comes to making Kreek Kids a safe and friendly place for visitors!



## AC3 Film Festival

Are you an amateur filmmaker? We'd love you to submit a short (3-5 minute) film for our God at War series. Films must be turned in by Oct 16. Specific details are available in the AC3 lobby or by emailing Johnna Thiessen at [jrteason@verizon.net](mailto:jrteason@verizon.net). The 8 best entries (as determined by our panel of experts) will get to be part of our services during the Nov/Dec God at War series and the audience will vote to crown one winner "best in show".



## Iron Chef AC3

Coming Oct 29-30, AC3 hosts our first ever head to head cooking competition! If you love to cook and would like to assemble a team to see if you can do a better job feeding 100 people for \$100 (money provided by AC3) than your competition does, then we're looking for you. Sign up sheet is available in the AC3 lobby.