

# AC3 INVESTIGATOR

Volume 6, Issue 2

January-February 2006

ALLEN CREEK COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Bible In A Year—2005

I'm great with the 4-week diet, the 3-month magazine subscription and the 30 day plan to organize your life.



When Sarah Barci sent out an invitation to join her for a year commitment to read through the entire Bible, it made me squirm. A whole year? It's really hard to know if you're going to want to do something in August that you started in January, isn't it? But then I guess that's where the word commitment comes in.

I jumped on board a little late and had to catch up at first. If I'm completely honest, it was a little bit of excitement and a lot of discipline in the beginning. It felt like working out, which I know is good for me but something I can always do later. I asked myself why reading God's Word should be hard. I reminded myself I was already committed to Him forever. Then I thought about the long term commit-

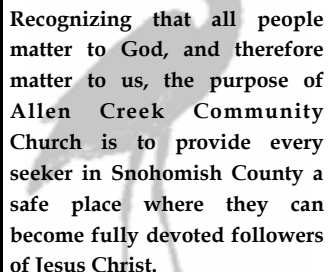
ments I have already made: marriage, having children, working...but that just made me tired.

But I jumped on board and opened to Genesis.

Now, I'm not a morning person. At all. When people have told me how they get up an hour before work to do devotions, I feel inadequate and know that all I would get done at that hour is stumbling around and drinking twice as much coffee as usual.

But I made a commitment to get up 1/2 an hour earlier each morning to read the assigned text for the day. It was hard at first. In the beginning I ended up reading the same paragraph more than once, not sure what I had just read. It got better.

This is often said but very true: Whenever you discipline yourself into anything difficult, it becomes a desire. I began to look forward to it a lot. If something happened and I couldn't read that morning, my day just felt off. It was like a morning routine for me and it helped set my head straight.



Recognizing that all people matter to God, and therefore matter to us, the purpose of Allen Creek Community Church is to provide every seeker in Snohomish County a safe place where they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

If I couldn't, it was like I forgot to put on deodorant or was wearing two different shoes to work, both of which I have done. I even found myself not wanting to skim over anything, even the "begats". It was like I didn't want to miss anything God might want to say.

Now I don't want you to think that I never read the Bible before that, because I did. I'll bet some of you are like me though.

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## Bible In A Year—2005 (cont.)

"I'm hoping God shows me how to be ALL IN in ways I didn't consider quite as important at first."

There were too many times I would be off for church or Bible study group and look for my Bible only to find it exactly where I left it the week before when I got home. I also don't want to pretend that I've arrived at anything or am done with my Bible reading. It's really another launching point here. My hope is that this desire God created in me will grow and not falter just because I finished Revelations.

There's a lot I want to go back and study more. There's room for me to grow in so many other areas like prayer, service, community, giving, growing, forgiveness and still in Bible reading. The bad news is the same as the good news: We're never done. For a task-oriented person like me, it's frustrating to never arrive and check off that list. To never graduate and never get a good grade I can put on the refrigerator. But what a glorious thing it really is to be able to continue this journey until the day of our final graduation. How tedious and boring it would become to learn everything God ever wanted us to know about Him in that first year, or our first entire trip through His Word.

Now, instead of being proud of this "accomplishment", I'm a little embarrassed it took me so long to do it. I'm hoping God shows me how to be ALL IN in ways I didn't consider quite as important at first. I know my idea of commitment has changed. I'm even thinking of going on the 6 month diet, getting the year magazine subscription and, well, let's not go into the organization plan. That might take a little longer.

~Lori Caperoon

## Lost in a Good Book



### Upcoming Series

Once after a tough game, Coach Vince Lombardi told his team that it was time to get back to basics. He held up the pigskin and said, "All right, gentlemen, this is a football."

Well, in the upcoming series, **Lost in a Good Book**, we may very well hear Rick say, "Friends, this is a bible."

Be sure to catch this one! Starting in March.

*Once Upon a Time* March 11-12  
*The Conflict* March 18-19  
*Happily Ever After* March 25-26

*It's all about  
 Bible Basics*

## Simply Amazing!



During January, AC3 families and friends were treated to a dinner event at **Nancy Whew's Detective Agency** called **The Amazing Case**. Nancy Whew is a special visitor who appears at Kreek Kids events when her talents and detective skills are needed. She is known to be an expert at solving important AC3 and Bible mysteries.

As families arrive, **Sherlock Combs**, (Nancy Whew's cousin) invited them to help solve an important mystery. Security was pretty tight so all kids were subject to an intense security check which included being finger printed, a handwriting analysis and a composite drawing. Once completed, each child received an ID badge, detective hat, a special pencil with note pad before they entered the secured area and became **ALL INVESTIGATORS** for the evening. Dinner was followed by an interactive skit where families were encouraged to solve four mysteries sprinkled throughout the story. By the end of the evening, children discovered that they were an

essential piece in God's plan and that they too can get ALL IN by helping others with their time, talents and treasures.

After the skit, children used their talents to sing their new theme song, **'Every Step I Make'**. The evening finished with dessert as children decorated 8" puzzle pieces to look like themselves and made an ALL IN footprint poster. To view more pictures of the **Amazing Case** and to find out more about Kreek Kids activities and events, check out [http://www.ac3.org/kk\\_inside\\_track/spotlight.htm](http://www.ac3.org/kk_inside_track/spotlight.htm) or their online newsletter at [http://www.ac3.org/KKY\\_News/k\\_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/k_current.htm). You can also contact **Twila** with your questions at 425-334-8043 or by email @ [twila.allencreek@verizon.net](mailto:twila.allencreek@verizon.net).



## Leadership Lines

Ever wonder what the elders do at their monthly meetings? Perhaps you've had questions about AC3's vision, purpose and mission. Maybe you'd like to know a little more about the process of becoming an AC3 elder. Have you wondered who your elders are and why they do the things they do!

We, your elders, would like you to know the answers to these questions. Therefore, you will find this column - **Leadership Lines** -- in each publication of the AC3 Newsletter where issues such as these are addressed. There will be a section within the column titled **'News and Views'** where you can read updates about issues being handled at elder meetings and retreats. Also watch for the **'Question of the Month'**. Here's where the elders will address your questions about AC3. (If you have a question for the elders, please submit it to an elder via email or by phone - contact information is in the directory.)

What a great time to be part of this local church! As I'm sure you know, the All In initiative is a major topic of discussion at all-things-AC3 right now -- elders' meetings included! We are excited about the potential this endeavor

holds. Yes, a new building will be great. But we are in agreement - God has much more in store for this church family than physical space. As each AC3er applies the principles of being **'All In'** with our time, spiritual gifts and money, we will, as individuals and corporately, see God's promises fulfilled and his hand of blessing in our lives and in our church. These are some the things we're discussing and praying about - what promises, potential and power await us all as we move into AC3's 'next phase' of life.

In the next Leadership Lines column, you'll find a short bio of one of our elders, **Tod Corser**, along with other items of interest. We look forward to hearing from you and we hope you enjoy hearing from us!

Signed: elders Tod Corser, Deb Jarnagin, Gary Tallmadge, Rick Thiessen

**"What a great time to be part of this local church!"**

## Trust Challenge

*"Trust the past  
to God's  
mercy, the  
present to  
God's love and  
the future to  
God's  
providence"*

In one of the Chronicles of Narnia - A Horse and His Boy - there is a girl named Aravis. Aravis has a little slave girl to whom she is mean and horrible. Aslan, the Christ-figure in the Chronicles, comes to Aravis one day and scratches her. She is shocked by the treatment and asks Aslan why he did it.

"I did not scratch you because you needed to be punished, I scratched you because you needed to know what it feels like."

When life is hard and painful, or even overly challenging for me, my first assumption is that I am being punished. I know I deserve to be punished - when I fail to treat others with compassion and respect, when I fail to steward what has been given to me, when I fail to recognize the Giver - punishment is my natural expectation.

As a result, I find it hard to trust God. Instead of trusting Him, I am avoiding Him because I fear getting punished. But is this God's natural response to those who are in Christ? Is my fear at all rational?

It was Augustine who said

"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love and the future to God's providence."

In the picture of Christ that C.S. Lewis presents in Aslan we find a merciful, loving and knowing God. What we deserve has already been dealt with in the sacrifice, what we receive is way beyond any price we might offer and what we can look forward to is divine care. I found the more I knew God, the more I realized He knew me. He knows what I need and because this is true, I now recognize His blessing more often - even in the hard moments - and my trust in Him is no longer drowning in fear.

### Trust Challenge...

- Reflect on trusting God. What is it that hampers or prevents your trust?
- Is it fear? If so, what are you afraid of? Punishment for yesterdays blunders? Loneliness? Future loss?
- Perhaps you are just accustomed to trusting in someone or something else? Does that someone really know exactly what you need? Does that something really take care of you?

## 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:

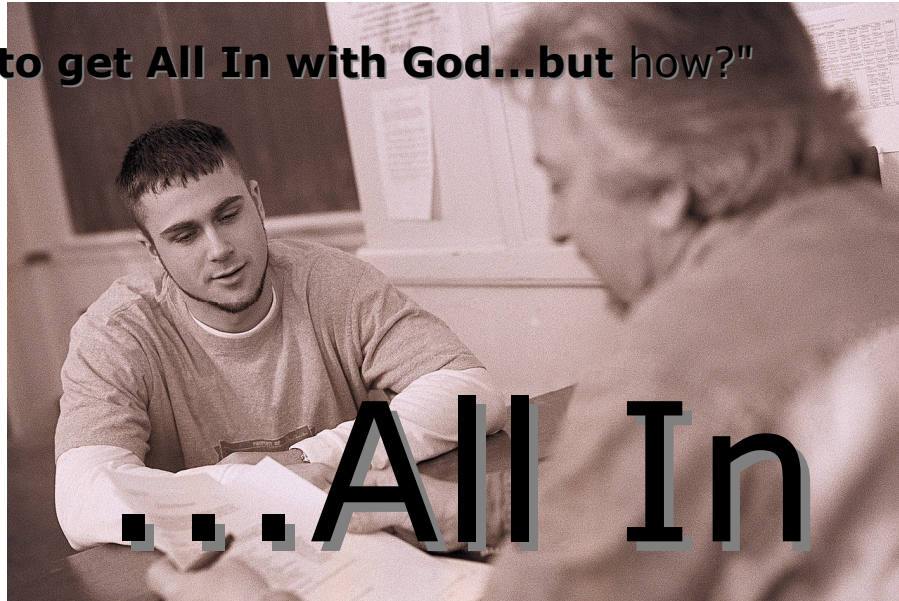
- Those in financial crisis
- Those just "one pay check from disaster"
- Those in "good" financial shape, but who may be surprised by what the Bible says about finances
- Those who want to take their money management to the next level
- This class is FREE

Questions please e-mail Chuck Henrichsen.  
mailto:AC3GoodSenseMinistry@worldnet.att.net

Join us Friday Jan. 27 & Feb. 3 6:30 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.



""I want to get All In with God...but how?"



## The AC3 All In Campaign is not just about money. Its about people...

...People who are **FIRST** radically committed to God's purposes for their lives, and **because** of that, are committed to Allen Creek's journey toward a new facility.

### Are you hungry to take the next step to getting All In to God?

It begins with people striving to reach their full, God given potential...getting their lives All In with God. But most of us encounter hurdles to getting All In: Fear. Misunderstanding. Pain. Hardship. Shame. Time-management. Isolation. Financial-management. Broken relationships. Lack of Purpose and Direction.

AC3 All In Coaches are individuals, who have cleared some of these hurdles, and are available to help you make it over **your** next hurdle.

**Through March, anyone can make an appointment for a one hour meeting with an All In Coach.**

During your meeting you will:

- Be heard
- Have a confidential, non-judgmental discussion about whatever hurdles you face
- Pray
- Look into the Bible for guidance
- Develop a practical, "do-able" next step

### Available meeting times:

<b>Mon. 9:00AM</b>	<b>Tues. 7:00PM</b>
<b>Wed. 5:00PM</b>	<b>Wed. 6:00PM</b>
<b>Wed. 7:00PM</b>	<b>Fri. 5:00PM</b>
<b>Sat. 10:00AM</b>	<b>Sat. 11:00AM</b>

E-mail [coach@ac3.org](mailto:coach@ac3.org) to make your appointment. Please include your FIRST choice for a meeting time and a phone number where you can be reached.

## Disciple Makers News

If you found yourself 10 miles down a deserted road, out of gas and with no gas can, which would be the most important to you: a container to carry the gas, or the gas itself? Both, right?

What good is a supply of gas, even if it's FREE and only 100 feet away...if there is nothing with which to carry it? And what good is a shiny new gas can without something to put in it?

**Relationships are like the fuel that powers the church.** Jesus put relationships at such a high value that his last prayer before being arrested and executed was for unity - for healthy, relationships between Himself and his people, and amongst His people. (John 17:20-25)

**It's in relationships** that we learn about God (Matthew 28:20), we extend and receive healing and forgiveness, (Colossians 3:12-14) and we serve as living proof that God is real (John 17:20)!

But what about the container for the fuel? It's just as important, right? What good is the power of a relationship if you can't get to it?!

That's where the **AC3 Disciple Makers** come in. One of the key passions for this community of people is to build containers for relationships...we call them environments. Places where relationship can happen.

**Almost any kind of "container" will do:**

- A small group
- A class
- The Community Service
- A movie
- A restaurant...almost anything that can "hold a relationship"

If you see your gas gauge dipping close to "E" or perhaps you're already stranded on the side of the road, think about what really makes your life with God go: relationships. Then think about how you're going to get that fuel into your life...

The relationships that God can use to fulfill His purposes in your life are FREE...and much closer than 100 feet away! Don't stay on the side of the road because you have no container for them.

## Fit 2B Tied

New Small Group - **Fit 2B Tied**



Fit 2B Tied is open to couples who want their marriage to last a lifetime. F2BT sponsors fun 'date night' activities balanced with gatherings which take a deeper look into how to maintain--or start--a healthy and loving relationship as husband and wife.

Currently meeting on selected Friday evenings in the Marysville or Lake Stevens area. Contact Tracy or Twila @ 425-334-8043 or [tnt@kendra.com](mailto:tnt@kendra.com) to be put on the F2BT email list.

Saturdays 6:00 pm <b>"Connexus"</b> hearty snack provided	Sundays 10:30 am <b>"Connection"</b> refreshments & childcare provided
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## Straight To Video

Coming soon to a Connection/Connexus Service near you...

**Waiting, Dating and Mating: EVERYTHING I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM HOLLYWOOD**

**Fit 2B Tied Kick Off  
~ Mexican Themed  
Party ~**

**Friday, Feb. 10th,  
7 PM @ the Crain's**

## QUEST -> Foundation

Foundation class to begin  
Thursday January 19th at 7:00pm  
Questions?

e-mail Mark Holland doc.holland@verizon.net

This 12- week group picks up right where **INVESTIGATION** left off, by exploring exactly what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ, and the A-to-Z basics of the Christian faith.

Topics like prayer, the Bible, the nature of God and being part of a church are covered. Most **FOUNDATION** groups are made up of "Graduates" of a previous **INVESTIGATION** group; but people wanting a practical refresher course in the "**Christian essentials**" are welcome to join in as well.



## QUEST -> Application

Q301 Applications kickoff informational meeting Sunday, January 22nd at noon in the auditorium.

The final stage of the QUEST rocket guides Travelers through the "how to's" of Christian living. **APPLICATIONS** is practical experience in living a **fully-devoted Christian life**.

More than just knowledge and theory, it's actually **LIVING** the life with a group of friends at your side. **APPLICATIONS** groups are lead by a sort of "Tour Guide" who not only lead/teach the weekly meetings, but also guides the group through the following 4 QUEST Elective classes.

## Transformations I

From a hillside metropolis run by Colombian drug lords to a rural village in Kenya and even Metropolitan Southern California, whole communities are changing because the invading, transforming presence of God.

This award-winning video documentary chronicles specific case histories while inspiring and challenging prayer warriors around the world to petition God to visit their own communities.

Journey with host George Otis, Jr. to transformed communities on three continents. Learn how the power of prayer can deliver similar results in your own neighborhood.

**TRANSFORMATIONS I**  
JOIN US FOR A VIDEO SCREENING  
HERE JANUARY 23RD AT 7:00PM.



Join us for a Video Screening here January 23rd at 7:00PM.

Questions please contact Michael Jackson or Judy Emge

AC3  
SUPER BOWL WEEKEND



**Sunday, February 5, 2006**



Doors open at 2:00pm  
Kickoff at 3:00pm  
Come Watch with Us!!!



**What you DON'T  
have to worry about:**

Allen Creek Community Church is providing their building, hot dogs, buns, condiments, nachos, and chili. Lemonade and water.

**What you DO  
have to BRING:**

- Your family and friends
- Your favorite lounge chairs, beanbags, etc,
- Food by last name:
  - A-G desserts
  - H-T Salads and veggies
  - U-Z Munchies
- Bottle of pop per group

*The whole weekend is dedicated to Superbowl 2006. Saturday night at 6:00 (Connexus service) and Sunday morning 10:30 (Connection service) is all about football: Monday night football, football songs, clips from bloopers, interviews with athletes, and much much more.*

*Make your entire weekend an AC3 weekend!!*

## Current Input : \

Current Input is the place where you can find out what your AC3 leaders are into recently.

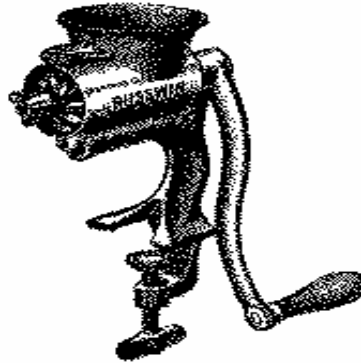
The questions asked:

**"What are you reading lately?"**

**"Seen any good shows?"**

**"What are you listening to recently?"**

This editions response is from Rick Thiessen.



### **Currently reading:**

The Wedge of Truth (Splitting the Foundations of Naturalism) by Philip Johnson  
The mental bankruptcy of pure naturalism when pushed to it's logical ends.

### **Currently watching:**

FireFly reruns, (a "western" set in the future, complete with harlot, preacher, sheriff and outlaws...

Other sci fi adventures, (Battlestar Galactica)

I'm intrigued by the inclusion of spirituality in sci fi that was sort of sanitized of it in the 70's - our view of the future was that pure atheism would dominate life and spiritual concerns would be outmoded as irrelevant, but we were highly moralistic - see Star Trek.

New Sci Fi shows a cultural trend toward spiritual hunger that cannot be overcome by technological advancement... but interestingly, no correlative hunger for goodness... just a hunger to experience the divine for some sense of peace/harmony/balance. All moral questions are still off the table... (Irony: it's a lawless spirituality we're seeing replace a moralizing atheism!)

### **Currently listening to:**

Switchfoot. Incredible lyrics about human depravity/darkness/longing and redemption...

U2, love how Bono incorporates faith, compassion, relationship into songs that are realistic about the human condition and often rail against God, but they don't stop pointing to Jesus for help.

## Allen Creek Scene Investigator

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter from Allen Creek Community Church.

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