

Now what do I desire?

Consider that there are two different kinds of debt; the ones you are outwardly obligated to repay and debts you are inwardly compelled to repay. The first is often entered into with your agreement and the expectation that you can and will repay while the second may be the result of a favor given freely knowing you will never be able to fully repay.

Has Christ ever done anything freely for me, knowing I would never have the means to repay? Has He forgiven my sin, or more, has He cast my guilt completely away from the view of the judge? Has He clothed my nakedness with the finest cloth? Has He pulled me from the treacherous quicksands and placed my feet on solid ground? Has He provided for my truest needs? By mercy, has He prevented me from destroying myself by seeking false needs? Has He built a forever home with my name on the mailbox? Has He loved me even when I have proved myself most unlovable?

Yes! All this and much more is true, and none of it was offered as loan with threats of broken knee-caps should I fail to repay. Grace makes it all mine without a shred of "obligation". Martin Luther was once explaining this idea to someone and the guy, expecting the Christians debt was obligation, he responded "If I believed what you believe, I could just do whatever I desired," Luther replied, "Exactly! Now, what do you desire to do?". Since Christ has so loved me, and given so much to me, what do I now want?

What if tomorrow I get side-tracked and find I am putting myself ahead of God and above everyone else - what should I do? Should I clench my fists and grit my teeth and try harder to be a "better person"? For whose sake? Problem is that this often just creates a desire to only look better - and have everyone else think I am better? What kind of response is this to Christs love for me? So should I instead fight to be a worse person since "better" doesn't quite cut it? No, that doesn't really make much sense either... So what should I do? - What should you do?

Remember... that's it - just remember. Look to the cross and remember that is where Jesus demonstrated His love for you. Look to communion, the wine and bread, and remember what He gave so that He might freely give to you. Look to your own baptism and remember that your "self" was buried in a grave with Christ and then He conquered that grave and created in you a new kind of life.

Now - what do you desire to do?

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.

"Christ's love compels us"
2 Corinthians 5:14

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Community: **Living Beyond Myself**
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Here everything is extraordinary

I KNOW MEN; and I tell you that Jesus Christ is not a man. Superficial minds see a resemblance between Christ and the founders of empires, and the gods of other religions. That resemblance does not exist. There is between Christianity and whatever other religions the distance of infinity...

Everything in Christ astonishes me. His spirit overawes me, and his will confounds me. Between him and whoever else in the world there is no possible term of comparison. He is truly a being by himself. His ideas and his sentiments, the truth which he announces, his manner of convincing, are not explained either by human organisation or by the nature of things.

The nearer I approach, the more carefully I examine, everything is above me; everything remains grand, - of a grandeur which overpowers. His religion is a revelation from an intelligence which certainly is not that of man. There is there a profound originality which has created a series of words and of maxims before unknown. Jesus borrowed nothing from our science. One can absolutely find nowhere, but in him alone, the imitation nor the example of his life.

...I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel. Neither history, nor humanity, nor the ages, nor nature, offer me anything with which I am able to compare it or to explain it.

Here everything is extraordinary.

I search in vain in history to find the similar to Jesus Christ, or anything which can approach the gospel.

Napoleon Bonaparte



Are you craving more interactive discussion about what it means to follow after Jesus and to live the gospel out day to day?

Join us online!

DSO is a blog formatted discussion forum where we work through various resources as students in school of Christ.

Check it out at
www.discipleschool.org

Questions?
Email shea@discipleschool.org

Leadership Lines

An update from AC3's elders

AC3's elders enjoyed The Pause of 2006 by taking some time off from their normal meeting schedule (two meetings a month) and by spending time with good friends and family. While lots of activities filled our time there were a couple of activities that stand out.

The AC3 annual picnic provided a great time to socialize, play games and worship outdoors with others.

As it was for so many, Visioncast was a summer highlight for AC3's elders. A practice that has become a very special tradition for the elders is that of offering the communion elements and a word of blessing to those we have the honor to serve.

This column has become the venue to introduce AC3's elders. Our longest-standing elder is Gary Tallmadge. Gary has served as an AC3 elder since 1998 after having served as an elder at Smokey Point Community Church for a number of years. Among Gary's passions is his long-time commitment to serving as a teacher in the Kreek Kids' area. Gary's hands-on teaching moments have made him the perfect person to train new volunteers in the Kreek Kids area. Gary comes by his teaching abilities naturally; he retired from teaching school at Cascade High School in 1997 where he also coached wrestling, football, basketball, baseball and tennis.

Gary considers himself to be retired, however, he spends very few days in his rocking chair. If you know Gary, you know he has two 'favorite things'. One is fishing – not a week goes by that Gary doesn't spend at least one day on a river somewhere either alone or with friends. His other favorite thing is his family. He and his wife of 43 years, Pat, have two children and four grandchildren. Whether providing childcare for his grandchildren \ or coaching his up and coming tennis star grandson, Gary loves his time with his grandkids.

Gary considers it an honor and a privilege to serve the AC3 family as an elder, offering leadership, prayer and support to those who call AC3 their church home.

As always, please feel free to direct any AC3 mission and vision-related questions, concerns and comments to the elders. We welcome the communication!

Oct Prayer Night

In October's Prayer Night, we will be looking at spiritual warfare. We'll be doing a short teaching on warfare for 10 or 15 minutes.

Worship time, and prayer will follow, focusing on our city and people.

Tuesday October 31

7PM

At AC3

Please contact Judy if you have any questions
crystaldoor@juno.com

APPLICATIONS

Looking for a way to help a growing friend on their Quest for truth?

Then consider being an Applications Guide. Just grab one copy of the Guide Book for yourself and one copy of the Traveler Book for your friend, set a time to meet, and begin the Quest! You can even invite a few others along. That's it! Go at your own pace.

Did you like Investigations? Did Foundations make you hungry for more?

Maybe YOU'RE the one who's ready to take that next step?

Just like the name implies: Applications is how you learn to APPLY what you already KNOW about God! Just ask a friend who is further along on their Quest, to be your Guide, help yourself to a copy of each of the books, and get going!



Really... it's that simple. All the instructions and materials you need are in the notebooks. (Ask Dan!) AND... it's FREE!

Support is available if you have questions or need further guidance at anytime. Contact Dan Hazen at (360) 659-SEEK Tuesday through Friday. Or via e-mail at danh@ac3.org

Resource Links

www.biblegateway.com

A free site for reading and researching Scripture online--all in the language or translation of your choice!

wbsa.logos.com

What the bible says about... is a search engine for the new Naves Topical Bible which contains over 20,000 topics and subtopics.

www.wayofthemaster.com

The Way of the Master is an interdenominational ministry whose purpose is to teach Christians how to share the gospel effectively, biblically. Presented by Kirk Cameron and Ray Comfort.

www.obd.org

Our Daily Bread is a booklet of daily devotions and articles that focus on our worship and our walk with God.

Got a favorite online resource? Share it!

Email shea@discipleschool.org

HOW WILL YOUR SON LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MAN?



YOU WANT TO BE AN EFFECTIVE FATHER, YOU LONG TO SHOW YOUR SON JUST HOW MUCH HE MEANS TO YOU. IF ONLY SOMEONE COULD TEACH YOU HOW!

NOW, Raising a Modern-Day Knight has a six-part video training series that helps you understand the critical issues every dad must face in order to be an effective, strategic father.

Hosted by best-selling author/speaker/pastor Robert Lewis, along with FamilyLife founder Dennis Rainey, Raising a Modern-Day Knight helps concerned dads like you:

- ✦ Discover the key issues that separate fathers and sons.
- ✦ Learn how to OFFER special manhood instructions your son can use THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE.
- ✦ Communicate the definition of authentic manhood clearly—giving your son a compelling vision for life.

RAISING A MODERN-DAY KNIGHT ALSO PROVIDES:

- ✦ an overall fatherhood game plan—what your son needs to see, receive, experience and hear each year of his life from ages 1 to 21!
- ✦ age-appropriate ways you can create special ceremonies as your son grows and matures.
- ✦ what every dad needs to know as he leads his son on this great adventure called authentic manhood!

Raising A Modern-Day Knight

a six-part video training series, comes complete with DVD, Leader's Guide, The RMDK Training Guide, which includes the Dad's Workout Program for his Son, Armor Up – a six week daily devotional, and Legacy – A Knight's Memory Marker allowing dads to easily commemorate milestones as his son embarks on his journey toward authentic manhood.



Based on the Raising a Modern-Day Knight book by Robert Lewis.

DADS, NOW IS THE TIME TO BEGIN. THIS RESOURCE IS FOR EVERY DAD, NO MATTER WHAT YOUR SON'S AGE. START RAISING A MODERN-DAY KNIGHT TODAY!

VISIT US ONLINE @ www.RMDK.com

WHEN: Thursday Oct 5 at 7:00PM
WHERE: Alfys Pizza Marysville

Current Message Series



Sept. 30 & Oct 1:

Headless Horseman - Bad Decision Making

Oct. 7 & 8:

Dracula - Life Sucking Relationships

Oct. 14 & 15:

The Monster Under My Bed - Secret Sex Sins

Oct 21 & 22:

Frankenstein - Control Issues

Oct. 28 & 29:

The Skeleton in my closet - My Past



You get up, you go about your day, you go to bed. And then you do it again. And again...and again. Yet every once in a while, you stop and ponder..

Is this what it's all about?

If you feel like you're sitting on the sidelines of the game of life, join us as we begin a four-week series called LIVING BEYOND MYSELF.

Starting in Community September 30th (5:30pm) & October 1st (9:00am) Senior Pastor Rick

Thiessen will help you discover the joy and impact that awaits when you put your gifts and talents into play by serving others.

If you've had it with the mundane, get ready for the adventure of a lifetime as you discover what God has in store when you live beyond yourself!

Small Group Opportunity

Interested in digging deeper into LIVING BEYOND MYSELF join the new small group that will be meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7pm upstairs beginning October 4th through October 25th. Sign up sheet is available at the Info Center.

AC3 Good Sense Budget Course

Are You In Financial Crisis? Are You One Paycheck From Disaster? In Debt? More than one Pay-Day Loan? 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
AC3GoodSenseMinistry@worldnet.att.net

Join us Monday Oct. 16 & Monday Oct. 23 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.



Investigations



From the beginning, AC3 has been focused like a laser beam on creating an environment where spiritual seekers can safely bring their questions. After all, there is not a SINGLE follower of Jesus who didn't have serious questions that needed answering BEFORE they chose to become a follower! We need to respect and honor that process! Why would the church EVER think there's such a thing as a "dumb" or "heretical" question?

We certainly don't.

Investigation is the place to bring those questions. Pastor Rick Thiessen, John Hosner and Shea Caperoon are ready to dig into the toughest questions, and navigate the murkiest waters with you! Over 11 years, this team has hosted nearly 150 Investigation Classes, answered over 1,000 questions, and served well over 100 people who have jumped in and Investigated the claims of Jesus Christ.

- No "Judgment".
- No Bull.
- No Sermons.
- No Dumb Questions.
- No "off-limits" topics.
- Everyone is welcome.

Saturday nights (before Connexus) 5:00PM at AC3. Sign up in the Lobby or e-mail danh@ac3.org

(Come for Investigation at 5:00; stay for dinner at 6:30, and Connexus Service at 7:00)

Burgers & Meditations

*The true light
that gives light to
everyone has
come into the
world.
John 1:9*

"A Big Mac and a Small Fry please?"

Who are you? I wonder as you search for the To Go button on the order screen.

How do you see yourself? How do you see God?
Have you seen Him yet today?

I try to show Him to you with a smile but I imagine you believe that will only last as long as you don't screw up my order.

Here you are on a Saturday, serving me for minimum wage - but I would, given the chance, serve you for maximum wage.

You see this morning the sun came up and met my eyes. The blindness of the night was dispelled with mighty power. I know it's hard to see this as extraordinary - as a miracle - but it is.

It is far more than the universe was ever obligated to give us but it finds itself compelled by it's Creator to flood us with light each day.

Now, as your cash drawer opens, I am obligated to give you a few bucks and some change, but truth is I feel compelled to give far more because I the light of Christ has spilled over into my life.

AC3 mission:

Ever find yourself sitting in an AC3 service asking yourself, "Is this REALLY church?" or "Are we ALLOWED to DO that?!"

You're not the first person to ask.

Whether you'd simply like to find out "why" we do what we do, or you'd like to find out what AC3 believes about things like the Bible, and Jesus and the church, or you'd like to meet some of our senior leaders, or you're interested in becoming a member of Allen Creek, you should join us for AC3 Mission.

This 2 hour get-together will explain AC3's structure, history, belief system and our passion for being a safe place for seekers.

Monday night October 30th; 7:00PM at AC3



What We Did During the Pause 8/06



During the pause, the 'Raising a Modern Day Knight' group (which is a new group at AC3 for fathers and sons) went camping at Flowing Lake.

It was a great time for fellowship, but the main event was a commitment ceremony. The ceremony took place around a campfire, where each father and son displayed their family's shield. The shield was a family crest that each family designed and created.

Each father took turns committing themselves to their sons during the ceremony. Fathers were committing to be strategic and involved fathers: fathers that would raise their sons to accept responsibility, reject passivity, lead courageously, and to expect the greater reward from Christ.

Our goal as a group is to raise our sons to not only know what the definition of a man is; but to be able to act like one, know they are one, and be confident in their manhood when they step out into the world. We do this by teaching them, showing them by example, and introducing them to different stages of their lives by ceremony; culminating in an elaborate ceremony marking their entrance into manhood.

We ended the weekend Sunday morning around another fire praising God in song, and reading to each other out of the Bible.

The Raising a Modern Day Knight group is open to any father who would like to learn more about being a strategic dad and we are expecting to have several outings and events throughout the year. Don't worry ladies, the group is exploring activities for the fathers and daughters and we just might include you too.



Contact Dave Epperson @ 360-653-6621 or by email @ tenikobj@comcast.net.

AC³ Men's Forum

A 4 week series for men, looking at how Christ, loved, lived and served in A world full of hate, self-centeredness, rudeness and death.

Come and join us as we learn by the examples set by the master himself.

Where: At AC3 from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm

Any questions contact
James Brooke (425 232-9843)
or Wayne Clinton (425 343-3529)

When:

Tuesday Nov. 28th
Tuesday Dec. 5th
Tuesday Dec.12th
Tuesday Dec, 19th

TIME OUT



for Parents!!

AC3's Gift to our Community: Time Out for Parents! A Parenting Class and Some Time Away!

It's that time of year again! Parenting will begin Oct. 13th and run every Friday until Nov. 17th. Parenting is an awesome gift of free dinner and dessert, free childcare, direct instruction on parenting skills and lots of love and fellowship. This gift is available to all parents in Marysville from us - AC3. We need help delivering this gift! Here are some ways you could get involved-

15 min. Volunteer Opportunities

Bathroom check (fill toilet paper, paper towels, empty garbage cans)

Check kids into childcare

Set up lights, computer, mood music

Set up chairs and tables (in Sat. service formation)

Pray - that we reach families that are in need of love and a church community - ask God that we keep his will and plan in front of us

2 Hour Volunteer Opportunities

Help out in childcare - leave during kid's movie time

Help out with dinner set up and take down

Join in the parenting classes - to pray during the class for the families and teachers

Interested? Have other ideas on how you can help us "gift" our community? Call Jenny Arlt 425-397-6653 home 425-293-6706 cell Email jennyarlt@comcast.net

Nursery Pause Upgrades

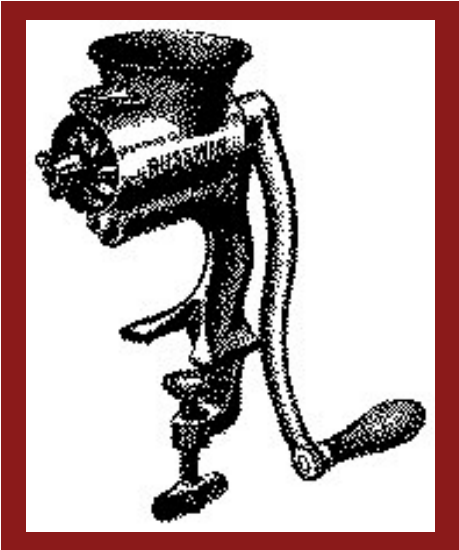
Each August Pause, we try to make improvements and changes to our existing childcare and education areas.

This summer the biggest improvement was in the nursery where interlocking foam floor tiles were added to create a cleaner, safer and 'No Shoe' play area for our crawlers. If you haven't seen it yet, Jessieanna would love for you to stop on by and take a peek!

Jessieanna Campbell - Nursery/Toddler Director #360-939-2401



Current Input :/



Current Input is the place where you can find out what your fellow AC3'rs are into recently. This editions response is from Judy Emge.

What am I reading?

For fun? The last book of the Left Behind Series: Glorious Appearance. I'm a little disappointed in it, but feel like I have to finish it because, well, I started it. And besides. It might get better. (What was that definition of insanity again?)

For group: The Dangerous Duty of Delight (John Piper). And interesting look at one man's view of what completion with God should be based on. Recently finished Safely Home (Randy Alcorn). I can't say enough about this one. I must have finished it six months ago, and it's still in the forefront of my brain. I think about Quan

frequently. His life haunts me. He had a lot to teach, and I've drawn quite a bit from his experiences. It's a fictional novel, based on the reality of being a persecuted Christian in China. I would recommend it highly.

Assorted other books on counseling, programming, spiritual warfare - whatever happens to be laying close at hand.

Watching?

I must confess that I stopped watching videos and such several months ago. I just lost interest. However, I have gone out to the movies and seen Superman. There were plot holes and they deviated from the original Superman, but it was still an enjoyable movie. I also brought home several video tapes from work on how to do lost-wax casting, it's terminology and standards systems. Those were good too. Lost-wax casting has been around for quite some time (since before Jesus) and I always wonder, how did they think of it? What an interesting thing to do over the campfire. Who thinks of melting rocks?

Now, what am I listening to?

Hmm. My radio is tuned to King FM, and I mostly listen to that. I prefer a good harpsicord piece or some chamber music at the moment, although they did play Tchaikovsky's 2nd the other day and I was a tad bit upset because I had to go back into work before it started. I find listening to classical clears my mind. I also find I can pray and listen for God while it on, and it's not distracting, but rather more of a vehicle for helping me tune out non-essential thoughts from my head. I also switch on the BBC news and All Things Considered (that's been a favorite of mine since it's inception in the 70's). I like the world view of the BBC without the US slant. I feel it helps balance the teeter totter.

Allen Creek Scene Investigator

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360-659-SEEK

www.ac3.org

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Marysville, WA 98270

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