



Bi-Monthly  
Newsletter

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**Updates on the AC3 Five-year Strategic Plan**

A word from Rick: Christians are relentlessly hope filled people – or at least we should be. We believe the best is yet to come, God is not finished with us yet, and the direction of Kingdom Life, although never painless, is always toward growth, advancement and better things. In trusting and obeying our God of hope, we know our best days lie front rather than behind us. We know God has plans, (Jer 29:11) and we want in on them. That's what our 5 year strategic plan is all about.

So AC3's leaders have been asking questions... of God in prayer, of you in surveys and focus groups, and of our community. In Scripture, the men of Issachar are described like good sociologists... men who "understood the times and knew what Israel should do." (1 Chron 12:32). ***I invite to you get a taste of some of the feedback we're getting that's helping us understand OUR times so we know what AC3 should do.***

These are exciting times that will bring healthy refinement to our ministry. One of our elders, Gary Tallmadge, has said change done TO me is scary, change done BY me is exciting. You have been invited into this process of evaluation, so I hope you feel the excitement as a player in all that God has before our church. Listen, if you've ever wondered aloud, what it was like being a part of the early planting days of AC3 – the excitement and energy and faith filled risk – these are those days, part deux! Think of the convergence of our 5 year plan with a new building, and a new logo ... God is up to something. This is a time, not for change so much as RENEWAL of all that God has always wanted to do through AC3 in this dark world: to be a safe place for irreligious people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. Pastor Rick

A word from Dan: Most of you know AC3 is engaged in developing a 5 year Strategic Plan. What that means is we're taking a step back, looking at EVERYTHING we do at AC3, and comparing it to what God is asking of us. Where there is alignment between what God wants and what we're doing, we will press on, knowing we're where we should be. Where there is NOT alignment, we'll develop a plan to GET aligned with God's will. To accomplish this, we'll be looking 5 years into the future. What kind of Staff will we need to carry out God's marching orders? How will we use our new building? What needs arising in North Snohomish County and the world does God want AC3 to address?

In order to get a feel for the future, understanding the PRESENT is essential, so we conducted a survey that many of you participated in. We are currently compiling information from this survey into a comprehensive AC3 "status report." But while that is under way, we're sharing some "raw survey data" so you can do your own analysis. As with me, some of the statistics will confirm what you know intuitively, while others may truly surprise you.

AC3 Leaders have only begun to process this info.; there will be a lot more discussion, prayer and study before steps are taken. In the meantime, if you see something in this info. that inspires you, concerns you or sparks an idea...I'd love to hear from you! Just e-mail me. Looking forward to the course God has set before us.

Dan Hazen, Executive Pastor  
[danh@ac3.org](mailto:danh@ac3.org)

*(See Page 6 for Raw Survey Data!)*

**Upcoming Events!**

- \*Oct. 4-19:  
Malawi Trip 2
- \*Oct. 26–Nov. 23:  
Investigation Class
- \*Nov. 1–Dec. 14:  
Living Waters Food  
Drive in the Lobby
- \*Nov. 4–25:  
Marriage Forum

*“Rick’s last words to Jadan were, “Are you ready to do this?” A five second blast of 50,000 volts followed!*

**Tased for Malawi** – Wayne Clinton

It's been said that AC3 is a different kind of church and I more than agree. Our latest ventures have taken us into the homes and community of Malawi Africa. In AC3's efforts to reach out and be the moving, intentional hands and feet of the global church, we are preparing to send 2 mission teams to Malawi late 2008. Preparation has included several fundraising projects, the most recent of which was the June 27th Malawi Auction. Many donated items, time and services, but one sacrifice cost a little more than the others. None other than our own Pastor Rick lent his body to the cause, auctioning off an opportunity to 'Taser the Pastor'.

As the Auctioneer asked "Do I hear \$25 to start the bidding?" a \$25 bid quickly shot from Jadan's mouth, Rick's very own flesh and blood (his youngest son). A chance to do good things for the kingdom raced forward at the expense of daddy's willingness to undergo some, .....well .....pain.

The tide seemed to turn as a group of AC3'ers gathered bids for control of the taser to spare Rick. But Rick's fate was

sealed when a gracious on-looker offered Jadan the final bid, \$167, due on the spot— as was the TASING..... talk about taking one for the team!

Rick willingly handed himself over for the blast. After a brief lesson to Jadan and a practice firing of the taser on a ready-made target, it was time for the event: a 5 second blast of some 50,000 volts.

Rick's last words to Jadan were, "Are you ready to do this?" The "Oh yeah" response was followed by a LONG LASTING 5 second blast of electricity handed over to our FEARLESS leader. His only outcry was afterwards, when he said "WWWWOW".

The scriptures call us to make sacrifices, to give of ourselves: "Whatever you did for the least of these you did for me." My hat is off to Rick for not only being both a very brave and fearless man but also a *Crazy Kind of Leader* that brings us much laughter and is willing to endure pain as we go through the trenches with him. If you missed it here are the pictures to prove it...



## The Sole Sisters face ChelanMan!

AC3 Sole Sisters took on the ChelanMan multi-sport weekend with gusto on July 19! The venue proved challenging and breathtaking, offering crystal clear water for the swim, a lake-side bike ride (not flat!), and a mostly flat lakeside run. Tons of volunteers helped cool us off as temperatures reached the high 80's, but the 7:30am start allowed for a finish before the heat was too intense. We had two individuals competing in the Olympic Distance Triathlon, Sarah Barci and Sarah Carson. Both finished and will return next year. There were also 2 Sole Sister Relay Teams competing in the Olympic Distance Triathlon. (Team 1: Cammy Girard, Becky Epperson, and Twila Crain. Team 2: Spencer Girard, Jenny Arlt, and Ryan Barci). Both teams placed well and plan to return.

The weekend includes a Half-Ironman Triathlon, an Olympic Distance Triathlon, a half-marathon, a 10k run, a sprint triathlon, a try-a-tri triathlon and even a Splash and Dash Triathlon for the newly active or the kiddos. Interested? We're headed back next year!!! July 18-19, 2009. Contact Twila Crain 360-659-7335 or Sarah Barci 425-327-6336 for details. We'll make campsite reservations mid-October! (Chelan is popular so we have to book 9 months in advance). For more info on the races check out [www.chelanman.com](http://www.chelanman.com). This event is open to all- who want to compete as individuals, want to join a relay, and even those who just want to camp! Can't wait to see you there. Sole Sisters

## Community Services : The Five W's of Worship!

September Community Service begins "Who Is I Am," a series exploring the nature of God. Join us as we identify misconceptions about God's nature, revealing instead his true nature as described in Scripture. God is righteous, self-existent, holy, a leader, a provider, a banner...our home. We may not be comfortable with this God all the time, but this is the God we need, the One who IS.

October's "Kneepads and Pogosticks" (Worship Misconceptions), moves from the "who" to the how, covering the "5 W's" of worship. Sept. reveals the Who; Oct. explores What is worship, Where can we worship, When do we worship, Why do we worship. Draw closer to God as we study together!

## Doing Our Part, Geezer's Corner

by Larry Fish

I recently went to Malawi Africa with our first group this year and I wanted to share my impressions. I promise to be silly again next edition.

I waded at the true face of poverty and it is looking back at me and it is . . . . smiling and waving. Its deep brown eyes glisten and dance in the Malawi African sun. Warm smiles unfurl rows of teeth that bid me welcome without uttering a single word. Me, a complete stranger in my air conditioned bus with my windows clamped shut to maintain the perfect temperature and lock out the dust and litter of the day. I pause ever so briefly to ask myself why, and relying on my own understanding I proffer my arrogant American analysis and explanation. Filled with too many maybes and perhapses, my words trail off in the dust of my bus ride and it is just as well left behind, as there were lots of words, little meaning, and no true understanding.

This is nothing new for me so I quickly revert to my fall back position which is to seek understanding from the magnificent Three in One. If they don't know, well, frankly then nobody knows. As usual they are patient and gentle with me and send me off to my beautiful young Malawi friends Sam and Mala and Jacob and Chikondi. As we broke bread together one evening I posed my question to them, "Why are all these beautiful, desperately poor people waving back at me?" (Continued on Page 5)

## Upcoming Connection

Plan ahead to invite your friends to the following upcoming Connection Services!

- ≡ SEPT- Game Over: Escapism Topics
- ≡ OCT- State of the Union: Election Hoopla & Hot Topics
- ≡ NOV- King Solomon's Mind: Secrets from the world's most successful man




Malawi Fair 2008

**"Why are all of these beautiful, desperately poor people waving back at me?"**



*Hey—Did you catch the new logo and new look? How about major changes to the lobby??*

 Don't miss this fall's Kreek Kids Parent Meeting on **Sept 13/14th** 15 mins. AFTER 2nd service in the Education Center for important family information!



## Kreek Kids 0-5th Grades - Kreek Kids Bytes

Starting this fall, our Kreek Kids newsletter has a new look! The new layout will be simple and 'Quick Bytes' of ministry and family information will be posted on our new virtual bulletin board <http://www.ac3.org/kknews.htm>.

This month, you will be able to view and download new and important family updates such as:

- 1) Information about this year's 1<sup>st</sup> service family-friendly changes with a Family eXperience Room option.
- 2) Download our 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades monthly BIG Idea to post on your refrigerator. Help develop your family's faith together!
- 3) Find out how to fill your child's very

own Kreek Kids wallet with Kreek Kids Bucks!

Be sure to check out our online bulletin board monthly! There will updates for families and a little something for every AC3r.



Looking forward to a great ministry year! Twila and Kreek Kids staff <http://www.ac3.org/kkstaff.htm>

2008/09 Kreek Kids Leadership Team  
NextGen (0-18 YRS) - Twila Crain  
Saturday Club (0-5th) - Trina Perry  
BodyLife (0-5th) - Becky Epperson  
Check-In & Safety - Norma Osotio  
Nursery (0-3) - Jessieanna Campbell  
Admin. Asst. - Lucy Venezia

## Politics, Games and...God? Plug in for new Connection Topics!

Connection Services are BACK, and full of power! Who hasn't noticed the epidemic of video game obsession? What is it about these fantasy worlds that so captivate us? If we're honest with ourselves, we cannot deny the pull to escape our limitations, our responsibilities, our pain... But are we really called to hide from our own reality?? Join us for "Game Over" this September, where we explore God's true purpose in our lives through a raw look at the video game phenomenon. Bring a friend and learn together!

Are you weary of political news everywhere you turn? Where does God fit into this confusing array of propaganda, debates, promises and chatter?? October's "State of the Union" series may uncover some answers as we discuss the election "hoopla," and explore where God stands on such topics as War, The "Green" Movement, Recession and Ethics. Told you it will be powerful! See you there!!



## AC3 RYM Youth, Learning and Growing in Spirit at Camp

Hey all...This is Jenn. A group of us just got back from beautiful Lake Crescent for a week of summer camp. Here is what one of the youth got from camp:

*“My favorite part of Epoch was the last talk that Jason gave. I really found out some things not only about other people but about myself. It gave me a chance to really set my emotions out on the table and to see how much is on my plate. I cried so much that night. I really feel I have matured in my faith. That’s what I thought last year ‘til I went through all this. Montana and Epoch combined made me realize some things. I found out how much I lean on my community and how I need more Christian friends. I’m really glad I went this year. I felt like God really pushed some things on me and I’m glad He did!”*

Does your child have similar stories to tell? Start planning now for Fall and Summer 2008/09 Youth Camps!

Find out what the kids are doing in the fall!

Check out: [www.ac3.org/KKY\\_News/y\\_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/y_current.htm)

## Geezer’s Corner, Continued from page 3

Each gave pause to consider an answer, presenting their thoughts to me in turn. I liked all the answers but I thought Mala provided the understanding I was seeking. She said they were happy in their hearts that I would wave to them, that it made them feel good inside that I would acknowledge them. They were eager to smile and wave back as a way of saying, “Thank You.” Her answer made me feel valued. Mala had said, “You valued them.”

“Oh God, my God! I cry out! Your beloved needs you now.” Father, Father, your big children and little children of Malawi are hungry. Please, Please, Please, feed them. Please Lord, I beg of you.

The gentle voice of counsel coming back to me does not admonish me as I deserve but re-awakens my memory and leads and guides me to remember, “Larry, YOU are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ. I did not create the hunger and suffering. Larry, my promise has not changed. You do your part and I will do My part.”

So it is at 66 that I find myself a boy again, on the beach, at the lowest of tides, with so many stranded starfish. I stoop to grab the closest one. With all my might I hurl it back into the safety of the ocean. “It made a difference to that one!”

Again I cry out, “Lord, I alone am not the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.” I have friends. They can help if I ask them. So, I am asking. Could you help me feed the people of Malawi? One mouth at a time? Just until the tide changes and they are safe again? Just until we have taught them to fish? If so, please get on my little bus and as we look out the window together I cannot tell you our destination, or where or when our journey ends.

What I do know is this: as we smile and wave into the face of poverty together it will smile and wave back at us. And we will be just far enough away that they will not see our tear stained cheeks. And, God will be there with us. Doing His part. Love,

Geezer Fish

*Vision Cast:*

*AC3’s All-Church  
Annual August  
Retreat was  
amazing!*



*This year’s theme:*



**The Armor of God**



Mark your calendar’s now!  
It’s the weekend before  
Labor day Aug. 28, 29 & 30.  
Plan on joining us at our  
Annual weekend retreat for  
a time of refreshment and  
renewal.

## AC3 Calendar

### AC3 Special Events:

Malawi Trip #2, Oct. 4-19

Living Waters Food Drive, Nov-Dec

### RYM 6th-12th Events:

Sept. 14—RYM Leadership Team Dinner

Sept. 21—RYM Sunday Night is Back!

Oct. 4—Jenn leaves for Africa!

Nov. 7-9: FALL OUT Camp

### September 6/7 Regular Services return:

Connection: Sat. 7 pm, Sun. 10:30 am

Community: Sat. 5:30 pm., Sun 9:00 am

### 2008/09 Forums and Retreats:

Investigation Class: Oct. 26 for 5 wks

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

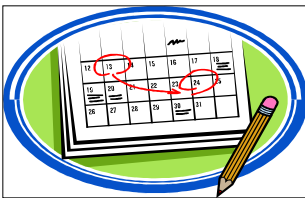
Women's Forum: Apr. 13, 20, 27 & May 4

Women's Retreat: May 15-17

AC3 VisionCast Retreat: Aug. 28-30, 2009

Contact: James Brooke 360-631-4498

Find the church calendar online @ [www.ac3.org](http://www.ac3.org) under the When & Where tab "Calendar" or if you are reading this as the downloadable PDF click on the 'online church calendar' below.



[Online Church Calendar](#)

Contact AC3 Office—360-659-7335



## AC3 Answer Man

### **Q. Why do church so unconventionally? What's wrong with the traditional church?**

A. Absolutely nothing is wrong with traditional churches. People need to worship in places that meet their needs and speak their language, as well as places that will give them a strong foundation in faith. Every culture and every generation must take the timeless truths of the Bible and seek to communicate them in a way that connects with people in ways that are relevant to them. That's our goal.

## AC3 Raw Survey Data

- \*Aver. age of AC3: 42.9 (almost 9 yrs older than aver. Sno. Cty resident)
- \*We are 67.9% female
- \*There are 27% LESS single people at AC3, but 6% MORE divorced people than the county in general.
- \*The top two words used to describe AC3 are "Safe" and "Authentic"
- \*AC3 scored low on being "'friendly" and "welcoming"
- \*76.2% of AC3 attendees found out about the church from a friend.
- \*2.9% of AC3 attendees are non-Christians
- \*84% say the "Pause for the Cause" either helps their spiritual growth, or has no impact at all. 8% don't know what the "Pause" is.
- \*49% either NEVER regularly attended a church before AC3, or attended only 1 other church before attending AC3
- \*Only 3.8% of AC3'rs travel more than 31 minutes to attend
- \*Of those who attend services on Saturday nights, 16.4% said they do so because they like to sleep in on Sundays.
- \*67.3% say they attend the Community service for the chance to worship.
- \*55.4% for Bible teaching.
- \*64% attend the Community Service every week.
- \*51.9% attend the Connection Service every week.
- \*3.8% are not sure of the difference between the two services.
- \*34.2% attend services on both Saturday nights and Sunday mornings
- \*27.4% consider starting services on time as "very important" (5.8% don't care at all!)
- \*56.7% don't attend a small group; of those, 47% never tried a small group.
- \*88.3% get MOST of their AC3 information from service announcements
- \*63.2% live with kids. Of those, 61% attend Kreek Kids or Youth Group
- \*57.7% say Kreek Kids is "very important" or "significant" in their child's spiritual growth.
- \*77.8% say a credible church "teaches the Bible". 69.2% say "takes care of the poor and the sick," 11.5% say "is politically active".
- \*45% have been attending AC3 for 7 years or more. 9.7% have been attending for a year or less.