



Bi-Monthly
Newsletter



ALL IN & AC3
Member Meeting
Jan. 17/18
After 2nd Service
Don't miss it!

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Apply Directly to the Brain

By Shea Caperoon

There is a basic principle at work in our universe which any thinking Christian needs to have built into their intuition. It is best illustrated with the phrase - "A stream cannot rise above its source". Gravity commands earths, rivers and streams to obey this principle and always flow down and out to sea, but the concept also applies to other areas.

For example, a creation will never rise to something greater than its creator. We humans have created some pretty fantastic stuff but even with all of our wonderful creative, and procreative power, we will never give birth to a "greater" being such as an immortal angel. The finite cannot produce the infinite.

Let's apply this same principle to our understanding. Our thinking brains are very complex things and are capable of comprehending an immense amount about our world. To us, however, the human mind represents the most complex thing we might ever understand - simply because it is that thing with which we do all of our understanding - it is the source of that stream so to speak. Should something of greater complexity than our brain exist, we should expect that we will never be able to fully understand it.

Consider the multiplication table. Although it is complex to a child who has never seen anything like it, it can often be easily understood and mastered with prac-

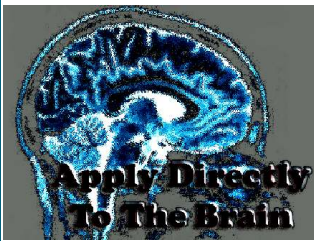
tice. This signifies that our thinking ability is more complex than the multiplication table right?

Now think about stars for a moment. A star is a complex system which we claim to understand - how they are born, how they exist for billions of years and how they will eventually all burn out. Consider this implication - if we say we fully comprehend the complexity of a star, aren't we also saying that our understanding is greater in complexity? Of course, we may not understand stars near as well as we think we do - but yet the implication remains.

The typical science of today works with the underlying assumption of "just not yet" because it believes that given enough time we will answer every question - that one day there will be no mysteries left. It sneers at the possibility that something even exists beyond our ability to understand it. How arrogant is the assumption that that the human brain is the very most complex thing in existence in this entire immense universe? Whenever someone says "God doesn't exist." you should realize a couple of things right off.

First- they assume (perhaps unknowingly) that their brain is the most complex thing in existence.

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"We humans have created some pretty fantastic stuff but even with all of our wonderful creative, and procreative power, we will never give birth to a "greater" being such as an immortal angel."

Coming Soon... in Connection

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

- ◇ **JANUARY:**
Fakespeare—The Bard on Love and Marriage
- ◇ **FEBRUARY:**
Wars of Religion
- ◇ **MARCH:**
Thorny Passages & Google Earth
- ◇ **APRIL:**
You Tube & Easter

Apply Directly to the Brain

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Second, they don't really spend much time using their brain for serious thought. If they did they would understand the existence of God might possibly be far beyond their ability to judge. Isaac Asimov, who most identify as a great scientific thinker, once said "I always felt it was intellectually dishonest to say one was an atheist, because it assumes knowledge that one couldn't have."

Finally - they are not being honest. An honest person might say "I can't comprehend how the concept of God could fit into my experience of reality." or maybe even "I hate the idea of a God which has the power and authority to judge me." Now that would be honest. In Isaiah 55:8 God says "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Do you see the stream and source in this verse?

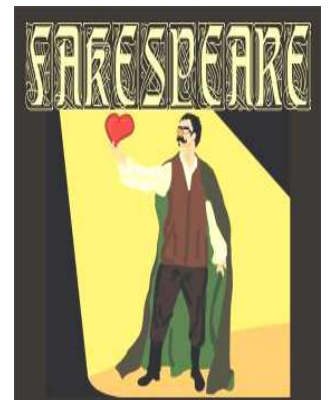
The wonderful thing about this is that, although our minds will never understand things on the same level as the mind of God, He has not refused to include us in on some cool stuff! He chooses to reveal Himself to us. Granted... we cannot grasp everything - the Source is still far higher than the stream - but just knowing that our brains are not the most sophisticated and complex thing in existence is bound to relieve some stress and bring us great comfort.

I encourage you to adjust your thinking to not only allow for mystery, but to anticipate it and find excitement in it as you think through your faith!

May He grant to you today the strength to comprehend (Eph 3:14-21).

Shakespeare to Planet Hollywood - JAN/FEB Connection Preview

Remember when they made you study Shakespeare in school? No need to groan; AC3's **January Connection Series**, "Fakespeare, the Bard on Love and Marriage," is WAY more fun! Our dramatic team will have you both laughing and squirming in your seat as the personal relationships depicted look a bit too much like your own! This series of creative dramas will use classics like *Romeo and Juliet*, *Taming of the Shrew* and *As You Like It* to draw us into exploration of male-female relationships, from the dating phase through long-term partnership. There is something here for every couple. Please plan to attend!



With strengthened relationships, we move into the **February's Connection series, Wars of Religion**. How do we sift through all those beliefs, each claiming THE truth?? Why do we believe what we believe? Are we missing something? Wars of Religion will discuss the New Age movement, Jehovah's Witnesses, and of course, all of those "Hollywood" religions, like Scientology (Tom Cruise), Kabala (Madona) and the New Age Movement. A serious topic, done in AC3's special way. Come learn with us this Winter!

Ah, The Simple Life - JAN/FEB Community Service Topics



“Ah, the Simple Life.” A common phrase, but what do those words really mean? Probably different things to each of us, but likely we all agree it would include freedom from fears and worries about impressing others, managing our money, meeting deadlines, and dealing with unhealthy relationships.

In all of the frenzy and distraction that is our present-day society, we do not realize, and perhaps cannot even believe, that the “simple” life, one which releases us from these fears and worries, is one centered on God.

So how do we let go of the madness and live in peaceful intimacy with our loving Father? Remember, God gave us one clear and perfect example: we can look to how Jesus chose to live his life here on earth! **January’s Community Series, “The Simple Life,”** will apply Jesus’ example to our own lives and help us to achieve freedom and joy in a crazy world. It is possible!

Join us also in **February** for **“The Hitchhiker’s Guide to Paul’s Letters”** another month packed with much-needed life lessons. Get ready to simplify!

Triad TIES Up Five Year Plan

By Dan Hazen

The Triad (Elders, Board and Staff) took steps in December to tie up AC3’s five year plan. In the spirit of taking these planning meetings seriously, the team adjusted their dress code to include ‘ties’ at one of their Tuesday get-togethers. Planning meetings were graciously hosted at the home of Craig and Linda Thompson and meals were prepared by Amy Sullivan. Thank you!



January will see at least two more meetings, in which a LIST OF INITIATIVES for the next 5 years will be completed. The process began last spring with an on-line survey of North Snohomish County residents and AC3 attendees.

At that time, three teams were formed to advance the process. The “*Knowledge Team*” was formed to facilitate the surveys, conduct interviews with community leaders like Mayor Dennis Kendall, the Everett Herald Editorial Board and others. The *Knowledge Team* pulled all that information into reports which you can read at www.ac3.org just click on the links: [View the AC3 State of the Community here](#) and [View the North Snohomish County Survey results here](#).



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Community



Worship Times:

Saturday Evening Services: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services: 9:00 a.m.

Infant-K activities. 1st grades and up will participate in family worship.

Connection



On Stage Times:

Saturday Evening Services: 7:00 p.m.

Sunday Morning Services: 10:30 a.m.

Please join us and bring a friend!

Infant -5th grade activities available.

**AC3 Baptism Moments
12.7.2008**



*Find RYM's
Calendar and
Newsletter Online
@ [www.ac3.org/
KKY_News/
y_current.htm](http://www.ac3.org/KKY_News/y_current.htm)*



NE XtGEN

Connecting the Next Generation to Christ

Meet Norma Ootio, Kreek Kids Check-In & Safety Director

Born where & when:
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
1973

Family facts: Husband
Mike and two children;
Spencer and Camille.
They are a blessing!

How I became a Christian: Grew up
Catholic. At 16 I discovered Christianity
but have been following Christ for only
2 years. Baptized at AC3 12/7/08.

Spiritual gifts: Faith

Education: High School Diploma, Some
College but no degree

How I landed at AC3: The hairdresser
that I go to told me about AC3. So my
family and I checked it out (Oct. 2006)
and we've been coming ever since.



Favorite Food: Chinese and Italian

Cartoon Character: Dori - Finding Nemo

How I spend my free time: Studying/
reading/journaling from the Bible or other
Christian books, watching a movie with
family, making greeting cards for family.

Books I am currently reading: Soul
Revolution/John Burke and the Bible

I would love to meet: Anthony Hopkins,
C.S. Lewis, Daniel, Paul Silas and Jesus
Christ.

If I could do life over: No thank you.

I would appreciate prayer for: Sufficient
self-confidence with abundant humility.

**What I would say to the people of
AC3:** Just know that Christ is with us
whether we feel or hear him or not and
that we're getting closer to meeting Him
face to face.

Kreek Kids @ www.ac3.org/kknews.htm

RYM Gets Dunked ~ 6th-12th Grades

By Jenn Bartlett

The last baptism at AC3 (12/7) is a day I will never forget! What a blessing to see six youths baptized. Even before the service, there was an excitement among the kids that wasn't just about preparing to watch friends get "dunked." All of the kids at the pre-baptism Dishmixer felt the anticipation and power. Despite the fact that lots of teens have been baptized at AC3 in the past, something was different about this service. For the first time in AC3 history, there were more youth present than adults! What a great reminder, especially for a youth leader such as myself, that teens aren't only the church of the future, but they are the church of the present.

The youth department is an exciting place to hang out these days. God is really moving in the hearts of AC3 teens, as evidenced by the higher-than-ever baptism turnout. Whether it is praying, attending youth group or mentoring others, AC3 teens are actively involved in following God's purpose for their lives.

For more information about AC3 youth activities, contact: Jenn Bartlett 425-346-0207, jenn@AC3.org or Tod Corser @ tlcorser@yahoo.com.

BE-come God's Man ~ Upcoming Men's Forum

Men!!—don't miss this exciting upcoming forum! An array of great speakers will be featured, including, in no particular order: Sean Cannell from Turning Point Church, Brad Hoganson from Word of Life, Keith Kippen from Jake's House and Rick Thiessen from AC3. We will meet **Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. at AC3, January 27, February 3, 10th and 17th.** Refreshments will be served! Sorry—no childcare will be available.

For further information about this interesting opportunity to learn and grow while having a great time, contact James Brooke (360-631-4498).



Triad TIES Up Five Year Plan

(Continued from page 3)

The "Unity Team" was also formed. This team held a series a meetings to discuss some of the issues facing the world-wide church in the coming decades: How should churches be lead? How relevant is the Bible to younger generations? How should the church express it's concern for outsiders? What would effective church services look like?



Finally, a group we called the "Direction Team" took all that information plus insight from many focus groups, and developed a set of recommendations (or a "direction") which was then delivered to the Triad last November.



Since then, the Triad has been processing those recommendations and we are developing that LIST OF INITIATIVES, in other words, "...now what do we DO!?"

While these last few meetings in January will see the creation of the DETAILS of the 5 year plan, here is one BIG PICTURE item for all of AC3 to consider:

"Over the next 5 years, AC3 will be re-deploying resources from program-oriented ministry toward RELATIONALLY-oriented ministry."

The people of AC3 have played a key role in developing the 5 year plan through surveys, interviews and focus groups. Please continue to maintain that central role by giving AC3 leaders feedback! When you read the above "big picture statement", what do YOU think? What could being "more relational and less programmed" look like? We'd love to hear from you.

Drop a note to Executive Pastor Dan Hazen with your thoughts
danh@ac3.org

Also stay tuned here and elsewhere for news on when the DETAILS of the five year plan will be un-veiled..coming SOON!

Financial Peace University



TOO MUCH MONTHS AT THE END OF THE PAYCHECK?

Preview

Jan. 21st @ 7 PM

GET CONTROL of our financial lives in these strange economic times.

Financial Peace University, by Dave Ramsey, will empower you with the practical skills and confidence needed to achieve your financial goals and experience true financial peace!

A **FREE PREVIEW** night will be held on **Wed., January 21st at 7pm.** Those interested will begin the full 13-week course on **Weds, February 18th at 7pm @ AC3.** There is a \$100 material fee per couple or single attendee. Registration details will be available at the preview and after the preview @ www.ac3.org/financial.htm
 Childcare will be provided at the **PREVIEW** and as needed at the 13-weeks of **FPU.**

AC3 Calendar



**ALL IN & AC3
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AC3 Upcoming Classes/Events:

Financial Peace Preview—Jan. 21 @ 7pm
Financial Peace University-Begins Feb.
18th at 7pm every Wed. for 13-weeks
March-Volunteer Appreciation Month

Kreek Kids 0-5th Grades:

Spring Training Breakfast 4 Volunteers
Sunday, March 8th @ 9 AM

RYM 6th-12th Events:

RYM Sundays—6:07 pm @ AC3

JAN/FEB 2009 Regular Services:

Connection: Sat. 7 pm, Sun. 10:30 am
Community: Sat. 5:30 pm, Sun 9:00 am

MAR 2009 Service Schedule Change:

No Community (first) Services on 2/28,
3/1, 3/7, 3/8, 3/14 & 3/15

2009 Forums and Retreats:

Men's Forum, Jan. 27, Feb 3, Mar. 3 & 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



[Online Church Calendar](#)

Contact AC3 Office—360-659-7335



AC3 Answer Man

Q. I noticed AC3 has two different names for their services, “Connection” and “Community.” What’s the difference? How do I know which one is right for me and my family?

A. Yes, AC3 has two distinct types of services, each with it’s own message and unique style. Which one is right for you and your family depends upon your level of spiritual growth.

The Connection Service (2nd Service) is geared towards those investigating the Christian faith. Services include lively and contemporary band performances along with creative dramatic presentations. We often find ourselves laughing as we learn and explore our faith. As compared to the Community Service, Connection can be described as more of a “sit back and watch” environment than one of active participation.



Connection childcare is available for infants through 5th grade. Services are held Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Donuts and coffee are available after the Sunday service.

The Community Service (1st Service) is for individuals wishing to deepen their existing relationship with Christ. In Community, we enjoy live contemporary worship music while using creative teaching methods. The service starts with family time followed by messages that may be topical in nature or a more in-depth look at a Bible passage.



Full child care is available for infants through kindergarten. Student activity packets are available for older children’s use during this worship service. Optional: We open a Family Experience (FX) Room, offering LIVE video feed, for families needing a little more wiggle room.

Community services are held Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and encourage more active participation, including singing and prayer. A hearty snack is offered at 6:30 Saturday evening. Many attendants choose to stay for both services.

Whether you choose Connection or Community Services, or both, you will come away with a strengthened desire to know God.