

Connections

Issue 1
May 2009

Jesus. Community. Gospel. Mission.

We're naming our priorities at Deer Park. Over the next five weeks before summer, we're moving along the theme of "priorities" on Sunday mornings. Let me briefly tell you why we are doing this.

Simply naming these big four priorities is really the beginning of a new season for our local church. Notice that the four priorities are not new. The words we use may have changed, but God's glorious purposes for his people are eternal. That fills us with confidence and anticipation because God always really knows what he's doing. No, naming the big four in a new way at DPAC is for trusting God as we enter into a new season together.

Naming the big four is not about production. It's not just about increased fruitfulness. Instead it is about a godly "rootedness" in His Word and His good pleasing and perfect will. God is already growing deeply encouraging gospel fruit out of DPAC and he has for decades. Give thanks! It is really about making sure that we don't walk away from our roots, that we, instead, deepen our roots in His purposes, as we

furiously catch up, caring for the fruit that he's growing. Seeing that deep roots are required for great fruit is one analogy that helps us see why it helps to see God's priorities.

David Allen, in his book *Getting Things Done*, gives us another analogy from aerospace.

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| • 50 000+ feet: | Life: "Of First Importance" Priorities |
| • 40 000 feet: | 3-5 year Vision |
| • 30 000 feet: | 1-2 year Goals |
| • 20 000 feet: | Areas of Responsibility |
| • 10 000 feet: | Current Projects |
| • Runway: | Current Actions |

See, our tendency is to see and live life right around our own airport. Today's activities are always in our face. The projects that are

underway will dominate our week. We may think about how we more effectively carry out our responsibility in a given month. Outside of that airport it gets difficult for us to see where it all fits, and the result is that we never get up out of our own local airspace to see where we are supposed to be going. And if we see better where we are supposed to be going, we actually perform current



Pastor Carlin Doeksen
Pastors Pen

actions, projects, and fulfill responsibilities that get

us there.

Living life together, in the eternal perspective of God's Word, has actually given us the 50 000 foot view first. He has designed and redeemed life so that our runway is not just a busy place of activity with no destination, nor is it a boring place of inactivity because we have no hope of anybody taking off. God has given us the gift of lifelong priorities that can result in meaningful, satisfying, God glorifying actions, projects, responsibilities, and goals.

The next five weeks at Deer Park are about providing a 50 000 foot view of life that informs our past, present, and future.

- Carlin Doeksen, Lead Pastor





The sanctuary stage has been transformed into an unfinished building construction sight for the presentation of the short, but powerful sermon series of Haggai, which addresses the vital subject of Rebuilding Priorities in a period of Disillusionment.

Deer Park supporting Tumnuptuck Church project

The delightful wooden model of a church that plays a tune when you drop in a loonie is the unique method of announcing the keen support of Deer Park Alliance Church towards the much-needed Tumnuptuk church building project that is now underway in Phnom Phen, Cambodia. Fundraising for the \$250,000 three-story church building has already reached the halfway point, and all gifts are most appreciated in keeping on schedule for completion this year.

Reverend Young Saul has had a vision that the church congregation will grow from 250 to 700 over the next ten years, and the new building will include a worship centre for 500, classrooms for 100 children, new washrooms and kitchen facilities, offices, and sleeping quarters. Canadian Christian Missionaries David and Patti Ens are presently serving in this area, and extend their sincere appreciation for the support of our church family and community. Please watch for that colourful little singing church every Sunday in the lobby, and for more information on the vital project please contact David Coates.



Welcome to our newsletter...

You are presently reading the first issue of the new Deer Park Alliance newsletter, and we hope that you are enjoying it. Most of the stories, information, and photos in this publication will also be available on the new website at www.deerparkchurch.ca, all for the convenience of our entire church family.

We would like to encourage everyone to take part in future editions of the Deer Park Alliance Newsletter, not only as faithful readers, but also as contributors. As well as messages from our Pastoral staff and Elders, we will also endeavour to feature stories and pictures of the many special events that occur all year round.

Those who have contributions or story ideas for future editions of your newsletter are asked to get in touch with Mike Rainone at 403-341-5750 or email: jrainone@telus.net. Thank you and God bless you all!

A focus on community care groups

By Keith Nielsen

Several Sundays ago following our church service everyone received a draft copy of, OF FIRST IMPORTANCE: THE FUNCTIONAL PRIORITIES OF A LOCAL CHURCH. The four priorities that define the mission of our church are: elevate Jesus, renew life, inspire community, and change the world.

With these priorities in mind I would like to focus on 'Inspire Community' in the form of small community groups with the goal of elevating all four points of our mission. We appreciate those who have been faithful in attending and supporting a community group, and it is our long-term desire as a church to once again focus on various community groups that will promote spiritual growth, relationships, and reaching out to the entire community.

At the moment we have no organized structure for Community groups and are unaware of groups that are meeting or who are involved. Our desire is to support these groups and provide opportunities for all those who would like to become involved in Community groups. These groups may revolve around a special interest or hobbies such as quilting, woodworking, etc; a particular stage of life (young family, empty nest etc.; education activities such as finance, second language, etc.; or mixed groups just for the purpose of fellowship. Your response and ideas for these programs are most important, and very much appreciated if you would assist me by responding to the following questions.

- Are you involved in a community group? Who is in the group with you? When are where do you meet? What are you studying?
- What are your interests, hobbies, or needs that we could build a new group around?
- If you were to become involved in a Community Group, what time frame would you have to commit to this group? (i.e. -6 weeks, 3 months, one year, or ongoing)?
- Do you want to be involved with a Community group?

Thank you very much for your kind support and interest in this important project. I realize that time is now too short to start new Community groups this spring, and present activities and interests will include biking, running, camping, holidays, and on and on! We will gather all your information and look forward to focusing on the organization of community groups in the fall. Please respond to me at: email: knielsen@deerparkchurch.ca, or Phone the Deer Park Alliance Church office: 403-343-1517

New, new newsletter

No seriously, it's really new.

Thanks for picking up this newsletter. Together, we want to take every opportunity to communicate well with each other. That's how we feel the sense of community that we want.

And just like this newsletter, a sense of belonging happens, because you make it happen.

I want to thank Mike Rainone, Paul Numrich, Lynn Feist, Keith Nielsen and everyone who contributed to this newsletter for bringing us a brilliant paper sample of the life we enjoy together at Deer Park.

Just to let you know, we're stepping up our communication through a total rebuild of our website, www.deerparkchurch.ca. It's been re-launched this week, and you've got to check it out! Thanks to Todd Bowors and Lynn Feist for all their work on the site. You'll find it easier to use, more up-to-date, and be able to hear regularly the telling of God's story in us through a leadership blog on the site.

Thanks for reading, responding, and doing life together at Deer Park.

- Carlin Doeksen, Lead Pastor

The power of communication

Communication as defined by Wikipedia is "the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs; a process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behaviour.

Poor communication is one of the most frequently presented problems in the counselling office. Clients often get lost communicating through criticism, defensiveness and anger. Quite often our words reflect the issues of the heart.

"The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil." (Proverbs 15:28).

The right words spoken at the right time can change a life. Words have the power to either build or destroy relationships. We can impart life to others with our words.

"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise reprove to an obedient ear." (Proverbs 25:11,12).

"Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bone." (Proverbs 16:24).

These are very important points to remember when working on communication. I am sure that all of us can remember words that have been spoken in our lives that either encouraged or wounded us. Words have a great deal of power!! How we say things is important as well. Tone of voice and body language conveys just as much information as our words.

The other aspect of communication that is important to address is our self-talk. We often talk to ourselves in a way that we would never do to others. It is important to remember our own self-worth and pay attention to what we say to ourselves. Being able to affirm and accept yourself is a sign of emotional health.

Always try to communicate to others in a respectful way and others will be blessed by it. Remember that a word spoken at the right time can change a life!

All about our quizzing program

By *Deborah Brown*

Quizzing is a challenging and delightful program that has been implemented in many churches across the United States and Canada, and Deer Park Alliance Church is very pleased to have a small team involved in the annual competition.

It features a yearly program for youth from grades six to 12, and involves the diligent memorizing of a set number of verses from the Bible, then answering

questions on the material in a friendly

competition against other churches throughout the Province; similar to the popular "Reach for the Top" series in our schools. Quizzing is very competitive and rewarding; with the church teams taking part in four quiz meets yearly at different locations, then all gathering for the exciting final quiz showdown at Camp Nakamun the first weekend in May.

This year our small but dedicated nine-member group at DPAC studied the gospel of Luke, some choosing to memorize 45 verses, others 95-145 or 300, and a few even the whole text! Our quizzers did very well at the final meet, with our two senior teams making the semi-final rounds of the championship division, and our rookie team going all the way to the finals.

Our youth quizzing program has just wrapped up for the summer, but they will be looking forward to starting up again in September, and working in Corinthians 1 and 11. There is always room for more interested participants in this unique program, and you do not have to be in grade six to start, as the competition is open to those students from grades six to 12. The Quizzers meet on Tuesday evenings in East Gate from 6:45 until 8:50 p.m.

If you are interested in joining our DPAC Quizzing team you are invited to check out the website of our Western District Quizzing at www.wdcquizzing.org; which is full of pictures, information, and resources. There is also a demo video on quizzing that the students and their parents are welcome to watch; and for more information please call program co-ordinator Dorothy Webber at 403-347-3853.



Our 2nd Senior team at St. Albert Quiz meet the material (left: Ben Hankins, Rebecca Oke, Luke Neilson)

June 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <u>Sharing Jesus Without Fear</u>	2	3	4 <u>Willing Hands</u>	5	6 <u>Men's Breakfast</u>
7	8	9	10	11 <u>VIP Day Trip to Pigeon Lake</u>	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 <u>Last Sunday of Sunday School</u>	22	23	24	25	26	27 <u>VBS Preparation Work Bee</u>
28 <u>Sermon Club</u> <u>Final VBS Work Bee</u>	29 <u>VBS - The Boomerang Express</u>	30 <u>VBS - The Boomerang Express</u>				

Junior Highs host Got Talent Night!

By *Pastor Julaine Rysavy*

On Thursday-May 14th our Deer Park Alliance Church Junior High group served up a fantastic "Got Talent Night" for our VIPs to raise funds for the Tumnuptuck Church building project in Cambodia; as well as for this summer's Democrew service project.



Throughout the delightful evening a host of totally delectable desserts were sampled and devoured, numerous talents

revealed, and great relationships built. Through the Silent Slave Auction, a couple of live auction items, and from general donations the Junior Highs were able to raise \$422.00 for these very worthwhile projects. Sincere thanks



Worship Arts

By *Sharon Nielsen*

Our Worship Arts teams at Deer Park Alliance Church will be swinging into summer with special fellowship, singing, and musical events during the month of June.

Sunday, June 14th will be 'Celebration Sunday', with all of our dedicated teams joining together to lead us in worship and to present some of our favourite music, especially from our Easter services. On Father's Day, June 21st we will feature our always-energetic Youth Worship team; and then on Sunday, June 28th the popular 'Men in Black' will take center stage.

We all look forward to hosting these powerful and dynamic services as we worship and sing together with our Deer Park family.



Deer Park Alliance Church