



THE GATHERING

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND CHRIST

Cell Groups

(2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Springbrook: 10:00 AM at the Springbrook Municipal Building, call Kevin and Kelly Kehoe (613) 395-4346

Stirling: 10:00 AM at 25 Demorest Rd, call Beth and Bill Devries at (613) 395-0227

Belleville: 9:30 AM at 39 Cooke Crt, call Jack and Jan Harris at (613) 967-6419

Kingston: (Sunday evenings) 1338 Princess St, call Terry and Dawn Harris at (613) 531-5283

Youth: (Wednesday evenings), 7:00 PM at the Hub, downtown Stirling, call Beth Devries at (613) 395-0227

Tuesday evening Cell : 7:00 PM, 38 Mount Pleasant Rd, Stirling, call Esther Noel at (613) 395-3402

What does a community of disciples look like? Mark Norman

A few issues ago, I wrote about the ways in which Jesus meets us; in the day to day, the mundane. The images left to us in the Bible are of Jesus meeting his disciples for breakfast by the lakeshore and meeting with the disciples from Emmaus as they walked home from Jerusalem. Jesus moved connection with God from the temple into intimate conversations with him happening in day to day activities.

In the last issue, I attempted to provide a simple definition of what it means to be follower of Jesus (a disciple). Borrowing from Allan Hirsch and Michael Frost (ReJesus), the definition is also simple. A disciple is someone whose imagination is captured and captivated by Jesus, who regularly converses with Jesus and is responsive to the requests that Jesus has of his followers. For those who were with us at the last celebration Sunday, James Hunt focused more intensely on conversations with Jesus, aka prayer and reminded us of the rhythms of connection that occur in prayer (if you would like to see the overheads

from his presentation, check out <http://the-gathering.ca/sermonnotesandfilesc218.php>). So...what does it look like when a bunch of these disciples get together?

Let me suggest a Bible passage to you: Acts 2:42-47. Let's explore what it suggests in light of the definition of disciple we've previously laid out. I suggest you set this article aside for a moment and read the passage.



Now that you're back, instead of trying to understand each word and attempting to replicate the exact practices happening in that time and place, let's draw out some of the key characteristics of this grouping of followers as they began to figure out together what it meant to walk with Jesus.

Here's a first characteristic to consider: Devotion to the teaching of the apostles and

to fellowship. Devotion implies a deep commitment and, in this case, the commitment seems to be twofold: to the teachings of those who had been with Jesus over a number of years and to the mutual conversations regarding the reality of Jesus in each other's lives (my loose translation of fellowship). Let's shift the emphasis a bit from the teachers to those receiving the teaching: If we were to join them, we would probably see people thirsty to grow in

See Community, p.3

Upcoming Events

July 20-24: Daily vacation Bible School, Springbrook (see inside)

July 29—August 18: Kenya Mission Trip

Parables of a Paramedic

The Kingdom of God is like a paramedic responding to a crisis. The Paramedic is ready to go. He/she has learned through study, practice and experience, what to do in a wide variety of emergency situations, and has the necessary medical supplies and equipment properly maintained and generously stocked.

Upon arriving on the scene the Paramedic first assesses the situation for potential hazards. The paramedic will be of no use if he/she is severely injured or distracted while trying to help. The wise paramedic always uses protective clothing and equipment and stays alert to the dangers at hand.

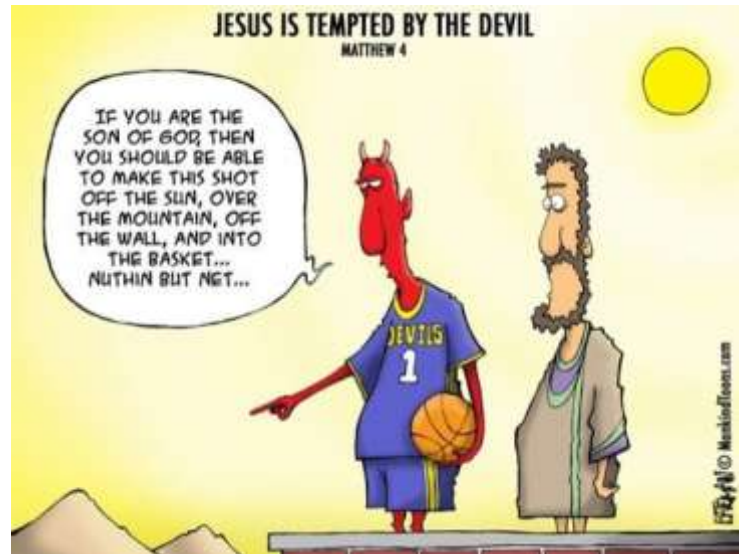
Whenever possible, the paramedic must first ask permission to get involved. But no wasting time on chit chat – he/she must quickly get right to the heart of the situation. A gentle and confident approach will distill fears and instill trust. Most people in life-threatening situations will welcome the assistance of someone who is calm and capable.

If the paramedic is going to save a life, there is no time to judge the person in trouble. *Why something has happened* is of no consequence in the moment. No matter who the person is, or what the paramedic suspects to be the cause of their crisis, the paramedic goes right to work, doing all in his/her knowledge and skill to keep the heart beating, to keep the person breathing and to stop the bleeding. If the person survives, then with time and on-going care, there will be opportunity to recover and learn from their mishaps. Not all, but some, will reflect on their circumstances and make life-changing decisions.

Medical emergencies can be very messy, difficult and traumatizing. But when they are over the paramedic, who has done everything he/she can do, goes home in

peace. For the paramedic knows that he/she is not responsible for the outcome. Ultimately, health, life and death are in the Hands of the Creator.

Lisa Barber



Check out Mark's Kenya weight loss challenge at

The Gathering's website:
www.the-gathering.ca

July 5: 27 down, 23 to go



Who is doing what at The Gathering?

- Working with the youth: Beth Devries, (613) 395-0227
- Intercession: Jane Aman (613) 395-3869
- Pastoral care : Jan Harris, (613) 967-6419
- **Phone Chain: Avril O'Brien (613) 478-6461, Esther Noel (613) 395-3402**
- Worship/Music: Sandy Norman (613) 398-8695, Bill Devries (613) 395-0227
- Technical Gear: Kevin Kehoe (613) 395-4346 , Barry Cooper (613) 395-5990
- Newsletter and announcements: Mark Norman (613) 398-8695
- Projection and computers: Vince Brintnell (613) 395-0613
- Hospital visits: Diane Robar (613) 966-1737,

Want to announce community events, don't forget to call UCB Canada:

613 966-4822

**or visit the website at
www.ucbcanada.com**



Community of disciples

(continued from page 1)

their experience of walking with Jesus and curious as well as excited about what others were experiencing. The process of sharing all of this would probably chaotic, punctuated with stories and questions. This chaos is what prompted the apostle Paul to attempt to ascribe a bit of order to meetings between believers. Another implication of this passage is openness to learn and share. I think it's safe to assume that people came together with the expectation of hearing stories, contributing their own stories and questions and with an openness to learn more and experience more of Jesus.

A second characteristic is a sense of awe (see 2: 43). These people were filled with awe about Jesus, his life, death, resurrection and presence. The implication of this statement is that they actually were aware of what Jesus was doing amongst them which brings us back to the notion of fellowship. Possibly, as they listened, questioned and shared, their individual and collective imaginations were more and more stoked about Jesus. They were open to the variety of manifestation Jesus had in their midst. Unlike the crowd that had earlier concluded that people speaking a variety of languages were "under the influence", they really saw and appreciated the miraculous as it occurred.

The third characteristic is profound generosity. They made sacrifices to meet each other's needs. They shared everything they had and even sold properties and possessions to help each other. It's tempting to let ourselves think that having fewer possessions made them more open to getting rid of the excess to help others. I'm not so sure this is the case. In my travels in poverty affected areas of the world, I found that people with little could be just as stingy or possessive as those who had much. I also found that those who have much hesitate a lot more before giving something away. I think their connection with Jesus changed their relationship with possessions. The life and love of Jesus brought to them a richness that let them loosen their grip on material possessions and see these as gifts from God to share just as God shared the gift of His Son with them.

The last characteristic I see is connection and presence rather than isolation and distance. They spent a lot of time together practicing what I just mentioned above. They met together, worshipped together and ate together in each other's homes. Time and presence in each other's lives seemed to be a hallmark of this early community. This also took place in the open and in connection with their broader network of relationships, not in isolation and in secret. Notice how



Daily Vacation Bible School

Daily Vacation Bible School will be held this year in Springbrook **July 20-24**

Volunteers are needed to run activity stations, be team leaders and much more!

There will be a planning meeting at Kelly Kehoe's house at 7pm on Wed. April 22. Please come and be part of the action! The theme this year is **Discovery Canyon!**

For more information you can call Kelly at 613-395-4346.

they were valued by their neighbours. The net impact was growth in those joining them to know and experience this Jesus.

As I spent time talking with Jesus about this passage, I was reminded of our four C's: Communion with God, authentic Community with one another, Commission (our call to live our faith in the broader community) and Commitment to God and one another in the process. To me, the parallels are pretty clear.

So...what do we bring to our church family? I hope we bring our stories of Jesus to the table and share when we are together. I hope we grow in our sense of awe of Jesus, of the Father and the Holy Spirit as we learn and grow together. I hope we apply profound generosity to one another, spiritually, emotionally and physically as we journey together. I also hope that we continue to develop and deepen that sense of togetherness as we meet with and walk with Jesus in the day to day.



The Newsletter is on vacation, see you again in September