

OCTOBER 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 4: Discover & Serve	2	3	4 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	5	6	7
8 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 1: Welcome Lunch	9 OFFICE CLOSED	10	11 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	12 Senior Ministry 2:00 pm Young Adults Group-Café 7:00 pm	13	14
15 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 2: Essentials	16	17	18 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	19 Young Adults Group-Café 7:00 pm	20	21
22 Prayer Time-10:00 am Worship Service D6 & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 3: Connect	23	24	25 Shift 7:00 pm Bible Study-Café 7:30 pm	26 Senior Ministry 2:00 pm Young Adults Group-Café 7:00 pm	27	28
29 MOSAIC SUNDAY Prayer Time 10:00 am Worship Service & Beginnings 10:30 am GROWTH TRACK Step 4: Discover	30	31				

Weekly Group & Events

Mondays	ESL Conversation Class 7:00-8:30 pm		
Wednesday	Open Cafe 10:00 am-12:00 pm	ESL Bible Study (women) 10:00 am-11:00 pm Needlework Group (women) 10:00 am- 12:00pm	RIFC Programs 11:00 am-12:00 pm

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm, Friday 8:30am-12:30pm
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In Canada, we celebrate a day of thanksgiving once a year, but God wants us to be intentional about our thankfulness every day. He wants us to develop this spiritual habit, one that is reflected in the life of a follower of Jesus. The truth is, the more deeply you understand God's love, the more grateful you're going to be.

So what does it mean to be grateful?

The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (NIV). That's gratitude. In all circumstances give thanks, because it's God's will for you.

What does this look like? You can thank God in every circumstance because God is in control. He can bring good out of evil. He can turn around the stupid mistakes you've made. No matter what happens, God isn't going to stop loving you. His grace is sufficient for you – no matter what. There are a hundred things to be thankful for in any circumstance, even when the circumstance stinks.

Biblical gratitude — being thankful in all circumstances — is God's will because it literally makes things better. What do I mean by that? Gratitude always builds deeper relationships between you and other people and between you and God.

Whoever you want to get closer to— start expressing gratitude to that person. If you've drifted or distanced yourself from your husband or your wife, you need to start doing what you did when you were dating: express gratitude. Appreciate them. Write little notes of kindness and encouragement. Make calls or text during the day, just to tell him or her that you're thankful. Do the things you did at first.

Do you want to build your small group? Don't just go to small group. During the week, text them, email them, call them, write them. Say, "I'm grateful for you, and here's why." You'll find that the more grateful you are for your group, the more your group will bond.

The Bible tells us to "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). As you build others up, you'll find that God builds into your life as well through your deep relationships with him and others.

What's more – at the simplest of levels, practicing gratitude also just makes you happy. Harvard Health Publication recently wrote: *Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.* In a thought: it seems like God knows what He's doing when He tells us to give thanks in all circumstances.

- Who do you need to encourage or connect with this week?
- To whom do you need to show your gratitude? What are some simple ways you can express your gratitude to your spouse, friend, or small group members?
- As you develop an attitude of gratitude, what changes do you think you will see in yourself and your relationships?

PASTOR SHAWN
LEAD PASTOR



TRAIL MIX

VOLUME 9 ISSUE 10 OCTOBER 2017





There are several key topics we believe we need to walk through with teenagers on a regular basis. One such topic is challenging teenagers to navigate relationships and sexuality in a way that honours God. The reality is that the world around us is presenting (and even promoting) a message that you are defined by your relational and sexual pursuits. It's something we HAVE TO be talking about at home and in the church.

That's why this fall we are going to be bringing in Journey Canada to lead some sessions on this area of sexual wholeness. Journey Canada is a community-based, Christ-centred discipleship ministry that exists to help people find hope and live life through experiencing Jesus in their relationships, sexuality and identity. They will be speaking on Sunday October 22nd at our Sunday morning service, and on Saturday evening on October 28th. Both of these sessions are appropriate for teenagers and adults, but may not be appropriate for smaller children.

Journey Canada will also be speaking twice with our teenagers and parents on Wednesday nights at our youth program as a part of a larger 6 week series we're calling "God, Guys, and Girls."



To supplement the Journey Canada sessions, and because we deeply believe that parents may value some more conversation and guidance in this area of sexuality; we are offering a 4 week parenting class that will talk through what it looks like to parent teens toward sexual integrity in this current culture. This class will be running on Sunday Nights, at 7pm from Nov 5th- 26th. The sessions will be 1. The Lay of the Land (What is the current landscape of teen culture regarding dating, sexuality, and sex?).

2. Pornography and Parent Controls (What is the greatest drug plaguing our culture today, and how do parents fight it?). 3. Biblical Sex (What if we moved beyond abstinence into a holistic approach to handling dating, sex, and sexuality God's way?). 4. The Talk that Needs More Talking. (How do we nurture ongoing healthy conversation in our families about sexual integrity?).

Leading up to Journey Canada coming to speak, and this series with our teenagers, please join us in prayer as we go on this journey together. We trust that this will not only prove to be a valuable series, but that it will encourage us to wholeheartedly pursue a relationship with Jesus above all else.

**RUSS CLUGSTON
PASTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES**

Rockyview Family Updates

October Birthdays

02 Doris Hirsch
05 Brenda Heywood
09 Doreen Wenham
14 Judy Frentz

15 Patty Hines (M)
17 Steve Frentz
20 Glen Kathler
27 Shiri Raman
30 Barry Frentz

October Anniversaries

01 DE GROOT, Hendrick & Lori
10 FRENTZ, Steve & Jennifer

11 FRANKLIN, Rita & Russel
21 LITTLE, Glen & Priscilla

(M) Denotes an international worker and/or their family members. If you want to be included on this page or would like to be removed, please submit your name and information to the office.

You're now able to download the latest Trail Mix, the current Sunday Bulletin, and Messages as well as keep up-to-date with news and events from our website at:
www.rockyviewalliance.com



Almost 6,000 people groups, with a total population of over 3 billion, are considered unreachable. The small, if any, number of followers of Christ in these people groups makes it necessary for outside assistance to reach out with the word of the Gospel. The vast majority of these people live in what was coined by mission strategist, Luis Bush, as the 10/40 window, a rectangular area of North Africa, the Middle East and Asia approximately between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees' north latitude.

In this window, we find the 31 least reached countries, where people have no opportunity or access to hear the gospel, even if they wanted to! Approximately 85% of the poorest of the world's poor reside in this window.

There are two big reasons for why this area is so unreached:

1. The major blocks of religion that constitute this area include Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism; therefore these people are not living outside of the spiritual realm— they are very much in a supernatural stronghold. Along with this, many of these countries are oppressive to the spread of the gospel, making it a high risk for persecution.
2. Approximately only 4% of foreign missionaries are willing to dive head first into these un-evangelized and unreached countries, due to that risk. Further, very little of mission funds goes towards funding this area; the rest goes towards evangelizing reachable people.

As believers of the promise and inheritance we have received through Christ, it should be our desire to see every human know Jesus as we have learned the truth is in Him. This does not mean you need to sell your house, pack your bags and head to the other side of the world! For some maybe it is, but prayer at Rockyview Alliance Church, for our brothers and sisters reaching out with the gospel in this 10/40 window and our brothers and sisters who have not yet being spiritually renewed in Christ, should be declared boldly. When we do this with all supplication, as the body of Christ united together, we can be certain that God will move in amazing ways. The world is much bigger than the communities of Calgary we live in and when we begin to pray for the world and its people our heart will yearn for more of God's presence in the world, and when we seek Him, He will make himself known.

JORDAN LYONS
GLOBAL MINISTRIES TEAM



**What is God's intention for relationships?
What does it mean to be a sexual being?
Who does God say that I am?**

SESSION: Made in God's Image

STORY: "Being Christian and Same-Sex Attracted"

STORY: "My Journey to Freedom from Porn Addiction"

Sunday, October 22, 2017
10:30 am

Wednesday, October 25, 2017
7:00 pm (Teens & Parents)

Saturday, October 28, 2017
6:30-9:00 pm



Helping people find hope and live life through experiencing Jesus in their relationships, sexuality and identity.



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Are you **SALT** & **LIGHT**?

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:13-16).

These were Jesus’ words to the people of his day and also to us as well. Because Jesus’ words are very important to us, we may want to pay close attention to what he is trying to tell us today. What does it mean to be a Christ follower and be salt and light to the world?

Have you ever wondered why it is that God has created you in this time in history and put you into the place on the earth where you are now? Do you ever think about what your presence means to everyone you encounter in a day? God has placed you where you are for a reason and that is to be salt and light for Him to others. Whether you are at a job, in the home, a student, or whatever — we need to be salt and light to those around us. So what could we do to make sure that we are salt and light? Here are a few suggestions:

1. Let the truth of this Bible passage get ingrained into your mind/soul. Be more self-aware of it each day. Before you leave the house each day remember it. It’s one of your callings. Be curious as to where God will take you today, what you will experience and who you will encounter.
2. Before leaving the house, ask God to help you to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit when meeting others. Perhaps God is working in a person’s life that you will be meeting with today. Will he want you to be his instrument in being salt and light to them?
3. Being salt and light is not just about talking to others about the message of the gospel, but also about living the life of Christ before others so that they would be attracted and would want to find out why you do what you do and why you believe what you believe. Are we attracting others? Do they want what we have when they see it?
4. Being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit means that I am not “button holing” people and talking about Jesus to them but being discerning in those moments to make sure that this opportunity is from Him and not motivated by me. Otherwise it will be a failure.
5. If being salt and light is something that is not happening in your life then you need to spend some time with God to find out why that is. Ask yourself why it is not a part of your walk with Christ. You may find out that there is a fear component in your thoughts that keep you from stepping out in faith.

Personally, I have my own local “mission” field. These are my senior golfing buddies that I am with for a few months of the year. It is not uncommon for us to have our first meeting in the spring to realize that we have lost a couple of our members to death over the winter. When this happens I need to ask myself, “Was I enough salt and light to him?” When I get teamed up with a new partner each week I am always asking God to help me be sensitive to the leading of his Holy Spirit at these times. As a result I have had a number of opportunities to share Christ with them over the years. I remember talking with a fellow golfer one day and finding out that he used to be a deacon in a church. When I asked him why he no longer attends he advised me that when he was divorced he received a letter in the mail saying that he was no longer welcome in that church— and so he never went back to any church. I said to him, “So what you are saying is that you are allowing these people to keep you away from a personal relationship with Christ? If so, you are giving them way too much power.” This was an ‘aha’ moment for him as he’d never thought about it that way. He never did return to church and within 2 years he died from a brain tumour. You just never know when and how God wants to use you each day for His glory. I have had the excitement of sharing Christ with a number of my golfing buddies and they have never looked down upon me for sharing with them. I believe that it is because these experiences have been God ordained.

So may this be a reminder to all of us who call ourselves Christ followers to be present with the leading of the Spirit each day. You never know where He is going to take you.

BRIAN ARGUE
ELDER OF CONNECT GROUPS



I met a woman dying of AIDS in a Mother Teresa hospital in Mumbai, India. She was a beautiful woman with a warm, sweet smile. The room in which she lived was simple; four concrete walls enclosed the tiny space with one window and one door. She shared the room with three other women, just like her, who were dying of AIDS. She asked me to play my guitar while she sang me a song. I did my best to try and match my western musical understanding to her eastern melody. However, I quickly discovered that musical perfection did not really matter. What mattered was how joyfully she sang her song. I was astounded at how someone undergoing so much suffering in a place of so much poverty could be filled with so much joy.

I am amazed at the level of suffering humans can actually endure.

Life is pain. There is no avoiding it. Here in the west we have taken great strides to try and minimize that pain and, in some ways, have been successful. But there is still a truckload of pain that we can’t seem to avoid. The reality is that each one of us suffers pain: divorce, poverty, broken relationships, sickness, failure, disgrace, shame, fear, depression, loneliness, bullying, loss, death.

But while everyone experiences suffering, not everyone handles it in the same way. The way I handle suffering is directly related to my understanding of God’s role in the midst of my suffering.

God does not desire suffering for its own sake, nor is it His ultimate goal for us. When Adam rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, suffering entered the human condition. However, that didn’t put God at a disadvantage. As a master artist, He was and is able to take the mess that is suffering and turn it into something beautiful. The book of James says, “Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds”. This is God’s consolation plan for suffering. Suffering seems like such a crummy way to spend an afternoon, or a month, or a season, or a life; so if there is any way to redeem that difficult time and turn it into something useful, then maybe suffering would be worth it.

You are not forgotten in your suffering. God is present with you. He understands your need and your pain. Psalm 72:13-14 says, “He opens a place in his heart for the down-and-out, he restores the wretched of the earth. He frees them from tyranny and torture—when they bleed, He bleeds; when they die, He dies.” (MSG)

Be strong and have great courage, and wait for the LORD.

TIM BERGMANN
INTERIM ASSOCIATE PASTOR



Wow! October already! It is hard to believe it was about 7 months ago that Julia and I started attending Rockyview and that I have been working here for almost 6 months. Since I am about half-way done my internship, I thought I would share some of my favourite moments so far while working here at Rockyview.

My time at Rockyview did start out a little rocky with a lot of transitions in staffing, but through it all God has definitely been showing me how to trust him more in my own life. For me that looked like vocalizing what I was feeling with a trusted friend. I do not normally vent, I have always been more inclined to bottle up and keep on moving forward. In my eyes at the time, this was efficiency at it's best; if I thought about myself less then I would get more done. But what this really was, was an arrogant mindset where I faced each problem with the idea that I could handle it by myself. I simply

had to come to terms with the fact that I can't handle everything by myself— and this has to be the time where I learn to rely fully on the strength of God, which of course is much stronger than mine. This is still an ongoing process; however I am excited that God is changing my view of dependance on him.

Another great and hopefully ongoing memory for me while working at Rockyview has been watching the community grow among our New Canadians at our RIFC programs. Last Monday I planned to bring some cupcakes for one of our lady's sons who was having a birthday on the day of our ESL classes and in return she brought us an entire Lebanese meal that took her hours to make! We have started seeing some of our older attendees return which has been great because they just plug right back in and they know everyone there and the conversations just start flowing so naturally. It has also been amazing to see so many ladies come on a Wednesday morning for ESL Bible study and RIFC cooking classes!

I am always in awe of the passion you all at Rockyview have for the ministries you volunteer in. Each of you strive individually and communally for the success of your ministry and that is so uplifting to see. Just like everyone, I have bad days, sometimes it feels like my message doesn't connect, or the kids weren't listening, or I feel like the organization of a Monday evening class was messy, or the youth game wasn't fun enough. Every time I think that, I see one of you volunteering your hearts out for the succession of God's will. I really wish I had the space on this page to call out to each of my many volunteers in D6, Youth, and RIFC and thank each one of you with a story of how great you are. But I hope this lets you know just how thankful I am for the work that each one of you do to keep this ship afloat.

These are all memories and experiences I intend to keep and continue to learn from. Thank you to all of you at RAC who have made the first half of my time here so great and welcoming. Thank you from both Julia and I, and we can't wait to have 6 more months with you!

NICK KENNEDY
PASTORAL INTERN



Rockyview Alliance Church is pleased to offer opportunities for attendees to be involved in group experiences outside of Sunday Morning. Small Groups are your best way to meet others, pray in community, and journey together in God's Word and in life.

Starting this fall, we have a number of small groups starting up. Please see details below and if you haven't joined a group, you are encouraged to do so this year.



WHERE: Cafe Area, at Rockyview Alliance Church

WHEN: 7:30PM, Wednesday evenings, from October 4/17 to Nov 22/17

WHO: This study is open to both men and women.

To find out more, or to sign up for this study group, please contact Richard Semenyina at (403)285-7065.



Location: Church Prayer Room **Study facilitator:** Ashley Dunham

Dates: Wednesdays: October 4 through November 22

Time: 7:00 pm (refreshments, socializing), 7:30-9:00 pm (the actual study).

A commitment to consistent attendance, active participation in discussion, and completion of weekly homework will be required. Contact Ashley Dunham to commit to this study or for further information. (phone: 403-923-1014, or email: ashley76dunham@yahoo.ca). No cost.



PROGRAMS AND CLASSES

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

CONVERSATION CLASS (all levels welcome) Mondays, 7:00 – 8:30 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com

OPEN CAFÉ

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Join us for a free cup of coffee and snacks, and meet new people!

JOB SEMINAR

Wednesdays: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com
Dates: Sept 27-Oct 18
Lunch Provided

PARENTING TIPS & TRICKS

Wednesdays: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com
Dates: Nov 1 - Dec 13

FOR WOMEN!

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com

ESL BIBLE STUDY CLASS

Wednesdays: 10:00 am – 11:00 noon
Childcare Provided
Register: Phone 403.280.2239, or e-mail office@rockyviewalliance.com



FALL 2017

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Have you thanked your pastors today? This month? This year? There's no time like the present. October has been set aside as Clergy Appreciation Month: a time to honour our pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication, and multiple blessings provided by these special people. There are many ways to show our pastoral staff that you love them and that you appreciate the work that they are doing with Rockyview. We encourage you to think of them during the month of October and beyond! Here are some simple ways we can encourage our pastors everyday:

> Take time to pray for our Pastor and their families

> Take a moment to share an encouraging word or write a note of encouragement

> Take them out for lunch or coffee

> Bring a simple treat to the office for them to enjoy

> Purchase a book or CD that you know they'd enjoy

> Invite them into your home for a visit or a meal

> Say Thank you!