



SHORT REPORT

president's message

Most years Mount Carmel students have an assignment to write themselves into a Bible story. They choose a story, select a perspective to recount the story from, and draw on all their senses as they describe that event and their participation in it. I like the idea of putting ourselves into a story, partially because it makes us consider what Bible characters we identify with. Over the years, I suspect the popular characters selected include Peter, John, and then some of the people that Jesus healed and cared for.

I am pretty confident that Jonah is not a common selection for this assignment. But over the past few weeks I have noticed that whether we are aware of it or not, Jonah is a

“...I have noticed that whether we are aware of it or not, Jonah is a Bible character that many of us easily identify with, and even imitate.”

Bible character that many of us easily identify with, and even imitate. Jonah lives in a world with identifiable enemies who are threatening his future well-being. He and his people are surrounded by the Ninevites, an invading horde that has been wrecking havoc across the known world. Their reputation for evil barbarism is surpassed only by their penchant for the same. Jonah is threatened, frightened, and angered by them. And then God shows up.

God's radical idea is that those Ninevites need to be given a chance to change, a chance to respond to God; they need compassion. As far as Jonah is concerned, they deserve only old school "justice". So he heads in the opposite direction from Nineveh, boards a ship and runs into his next set of troubles. The storm on the Mediterranean threatens him and the sailors. When Jonah is identified as the cause of the trouble, he suggests that he be thrown overboard. But the sailors have compassion on him, doing everything in their power to save him. When they finally are forced to throw him overboard, God extends compassion to him, providing a fish to save him from certain death.

The compassion extended to Jonah changes his action (he does go to Nineveh) but maybe not his attitude. He travels only one third of the way into the city, and preaches only one sentence. When the Ninevites repent and God relents, he is angry. "I am angry enough to die". When the vine that springs up to give him shelter dies, he is angry.

Jonah assumes that he deserves compassion and grace and goodness. But the "others", those Ninevites, they need to learn a lesson, and Jonah is only too willing to teach it to them. He presumes compassion for himself, and refuses to extend it to others.

We live with a tension between justice and compassion. We who know the grace and goodness of the Saviour are invited and expected to extend that compassion to those around us. But like Jonah, we can so easily tend to err on the side of justice, forgetting that we ourselves have been recipients of God's undeserved and unearned favour and kindness. We can focus on what we think others deserve rather than on what we have received. Whether we are talking about drivers who cut me off, refugees who need a job, or big city mayors who refuse pipelines, we will be pulled between justice and compassion. The answers are never automatic or easy. But Jonah invites me to place myself not only in his story, but in the story of those in the world around me. Jonah invites me to remember compassion.

Wayne Tomalty



important dates

Mount Carmel Graduation

Saturday, April 23rd
Capilano Christian Assembly

Re-Focus on Worship

Sunday, April 24th 7:15 pm
Mount Carmel

YC Alberta

Be sure to come by and visit us at our booth!

May 27th-29th
Rexall Place

Mount Carmel Camp Team

Please pray as preparations are being made for this year's camp team.

July and August



"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."



carmel life...

student voices



Andrew Flewelling

Andrew Flewelling grew up in Westlock, along with his six siblings, but has lived in Edmonton for the last three years. Between high school and Carmel, he had been working on his apprenticeship in carpentry, and he will probably return to carpentry to get his Red Seal. A self-proclaimed night owl, he loves good humor and good community.

Andrew's intent in this poetry was to use art as a metaphor for our relationship with God, how God created the world, and how God created us. His aim was to make the topic flow within a loose format of consecutive chiasms.

One
Forever
God, above
Without end
Almighty, better than all
Who could fathom it all? Who can Tell?
Who else could overflow the brim of beauty?
An Artist who created his own instrument, his own tools of talent for meaning
A Lesson well taught from the wise Needs a hope for a lesson well learned on the seeking

Rippling, deep and shallow, underneath the surface of what is seen and heard
Reaching someone without words, above communication
You are the Master Artist, above all others
Talented on a level of your own
The Master of art itself.

Artist of everything.
Self reliant
But what is an artist?
Who is one who can create?
Create something that speaks to the soul.
Art that will whisk me away into another realm
A masterpiece which leaves my deepest me moved
I must stop, ponder and peer, into the depths of the world you created for us

Your art has a mysterious side but yet a familiar side. You are attuned to every aspect of every realm and plain.

Even that which disturbs sleep, makes people coward within themselves

Your call for us to step out and reach our potential

What do you allow to come to the surface?

Who dares to dream?

You do!

But who are we?

When it takes one to know one.

Will we confront the challenge you set for us?

To know you, who created the riddles of the world with all it's realms,

How heavy the world is and all it's small building blocks, how old the world is and all the minutes of hours

From the space and stretches of the cosmos, a thousand stars, to the finest lightest microscopic atom

How old the rainforest and the deserts beside it, how broad their expanses

African Giraffes, Albertan white tail Deer, the Amoebas

Life of the land and under the sea

Time waits for no one,

But you,

The

Creator

Who created Energy

Energy in a city with the tallest tower

The energy of the world, the Energy of a people

How large the world was created, how very small I was created

Created and knit together by and for you, set and placed by you, into the time and world chosen by you



carmel life...



Sarah Goodbrand

Sarah Goodbrand grew up in Provost, AB. Her impact placements this year include Hardisty Care Centre, Awana, and the Hope Mission. She loves baking and cooking in the kitchen. She has two sisters, and loves spending time with them and helping out to babysit. There is something exciting coming up in her life this summer, she is getting married this July!

We asked Sarah a couple of questions about her year at Mount Carmel and what God is doing in her life and heart.

What is an example of something that has really got you thinking this year?

I can't remember who said it, but it was near the beginning of the school year, and they said 'you are as close to God as you choose to be'. That got me thinking about my own faith and my tendencies to just be mediocre in my faith. I found that when I do dig deeper into my Bible reading, devotionals, and prayers, I'm closer to God in my relationship with him. It just takes effort as it does in any relationship you have.

Where are you growing? What is changing for you?

I think I've grown a couple ways since September. I've grown to love people who are a little bit harder to love at placements and various places. I've grown in my knowledge of the Bible. I've grown to discipline myself to pray even when it's a little harder to do so. And I have learned to be more patient with life. I'm very much so a go-go-go person when it comes to big changes and the next step, but I've learned to try to enjoy every stage of the game as it comes in to play.

What are you learning through serving?

Through serving, I've found that when you get out of your comfort zone and do something "crazy" (for me it was praying out-loud with someone I just met!), that you actually grow and get into a deeper relationship with God. I've always been very uncomfortable with my praying out loud so it was a struggle for me. Trying new and scary things was quite helpful to me. I've learned that serving can't always be in my little circle of comfort; but stepping out and try 'new things' is what God wants us to do in order to grow.

If I asked you the question, 'why do you want to follow Jesus?', what would you say?

I want to follow Jesus because I know he's the one I need in my life. I know that he works in a much bigger picture than the tiny one I can see with my eyes, so I understand that not everything is going to go the way that I think is better. I know that Jesus wants the best for everyone, and that means that sometimes I'm going to get the short end of the stick. Jesus is there for me to praise through the great times and through the hard times. I've lived without having Jesus in my life and there was no happiness, no purpose, and no peace within my heart; but, when I found him, he filled me completely and has been with me through everything. I know I can trust in him, and I know that he is greater than anything on earth.



Justin Owzarek

Justin Owzarek is 18 years old and comes from Winnipeg, Manitoba. He enjoys working at Camp Nutimik during the summer, and loves the outdoors whether it's going fishing, waterskiing or going camping. After Mount Carmel, he plans on starting his apprenticeship in carpentry. He is currently volunteering at Hardisty Care Home, Braemar Baptist Awana, and the Mustard Seed.

Justin lead us in a chapel a couple of weeks ago. Here are some excerpts of what he said as he challenged himself and the community to live for God.

The theme I'd like to focus on this morning is listening for God's will and giving complete control.

1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20 says: Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

This has really been on my heart lately. The idea of not belonging to myself is sometimes hard to grasp, but it helped me to think of my body as God's home. As his home, I want to make it comfortable for him.

So in order to really live like Christians, we have to give God access to every part of our lives. This can be very hard for us because we are independent and want to do our own things. We can't be partial Christians though; we need to give everything to God. And it can be a very scary thing to pray to God to take control of every aspect of my life.

It's one thing to say it to yourself and sort of trick yourself into thinking that God is in control, when really you are still holding on to certain parts.

It is another thing completely to pray that he takes control, and then, actually 'hand over the reins.'

We need to give him control of every part of our being: Our mind, our desires, our friends, entertainment, and a number of other things!

Challenge: What are you holding on to that needs to go?

You can't do any of it without God. Ask him to help you get rid of everything in the rooms of your life that isn't pleasing to Him. If you do it in God's timing and by his grace, it'll be so much easier. If you try to do it on your own, you'll be frustrated and miserable with your striving.

We know in our heart that God wants the best for us, and has a plan to give us a hope and a future. It isn't as scary, then, to actually 'hand over the reins' to him.





ABOUT 'FOCUS'

As Mount Carmel's annual weekend gathering for high school students, Focus Youth Conference has existed in some form since 1968. Each year a committee of staff and alumni plan the conference around a theme with varied and memorable music, activities and speakers.

Focus seeks to encourage youth towards an initial or deepened personal relationship with Jesus through an energetic and fun setting. We intend to create strong Christian community during and after the weekend through committed and relational team leaders, Mount Carmel students, and volunteers. We aim to see youth encouraged and challenged throughout the weekend, in both spiritual and social ways.

did you know?

- The Focus committee meets 8-10 times throughout the year for prayer and planning.
- Focus weekend typically entails a commitment from close to 50 volunteers.
- Next Year: Focus Incorporated, February 3-5, 2017

focus blockbuster highlights

- A red-carpet registration welcome with paparazzi and fans
- Eight teams filming their own movies in different downtown locations
- Six unique Sunday morning worship stations
- A film-festival with popcorn and live judge panel at the Milner Theatre
- A cat, spontaneous crowd karaoke, and an outdoor winter BBQ with fries

focus youth conference comments

Team leaders share their thoughts on the weekend.

"I noticed especially in my group, how a bunch of students who never would have hung out in any other setting were connecting".

"By the end, my group was responding to the speaker's message and making connections to their own personal faith as well."

"Many youth were really open to exploring more of what it means to live life fully for Jesus. I think this weekend really challenged many of them to take a look at their lives and ask themselves who they are and what they are doing with their lives."

"There aren't very many youth groups/conferences that do things that are this down to earth and this much fun."

"The Sunday worship stations were so great. They inspire kids to make prayer more personal and practical and to show them different ways of worshipping God."

"Watching everyone's silly movies was a great way to end Saturday evening! The judge panel made the movies seem more like an accomplishment and a show of the talents we have been blessed with."



spring is coming! carmel garden

For the past 6 summers, we (Mount Carmel) have opened up our green space to the neighbourhood in the form of a community garden. We have grown to the size of 30 plots,

most of which are rented out to our neighbours and friends, but there are a few vacancies! If you are wanting to try out your green thumb this coming season, please email mail@mountcarmel.net

currently hiring

Mount Carmel is currently looking for someone to focus on working with our female students, along with other duties. The job posting is available on our website. Resumes accepted until March 30, 2016.

refer a student

We have a good number of applicants for next fall, but are always looking for more students who want to invest in their faith. Pass a new potential student name on to us, and receive a Chapters/Indigo gift card if that student enrolls in September.

Mount Carmel Bible School raises funds as a non-profit society registered in the province of Alberta. All donations are used towards the operating expenses of the College unless donations are specified otherwise and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. No money is spent directly on fundraising aside from regular public relations and promotional material. \$8000 is spent on public relations mailings, of an operating budget of \$350,000. All questions can be directed to Jessica Hodges at 780-465-3015.

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