

A Note from Rick on the August Pause



It is once again approaching time for the AC3 August Pause for the Cause, when we take a break from regular services. This church tradition was originally started as a way to rest our hardworking weekly volunteers. As a church with a very high level of creativity and excellence in all of our programs, we rely on dozens of volunteers denoting amazing amounts of time and energy each week in support of our Cause: making fully devoted followers of Christ out of seekers of all kinds. Yes, the Pause gives us all a needed break, but over the years since inception of this tradition, the Pause has become more than a way to avoid burnout. It has evolved into a means of spiritual growth, an opportunity to refocus on our purpose as Christ Followers: to Love God, Love the Church, and Love the Lost. The Pause has become a new and powerful way to pursue AC3's Cause.

The Bible reminds us that it was God who instituted concepts like letting the soil rest every 7 years, God who initiated the year of Jubilee, and it was God who wove the Sabbath (Rest) concept into the very fabric of creation and the moral law! God has taught us that things at rest are not "dead" but still working: repairing systems, doing internal maintenance, gathering strength. The Pause, too, is a time of renewal for our church. When we follow God's example, we accomplish amazing things.

So I hope for that reason you will use this time to "repair your systems", do "internal maintenance" and "gather strength." Even though we take a break from regular weekend services, AC3 will continue to offer many exciting spiritual opportunities this August. Additionally, here are a few ideas on making a difference in your own or someone else's spiritual life this August:

How about a weekend spiritual retreat? Just you and God in God's nature.

How about a special small group outing (Outer Court on Friday evenings?) or Sunday morning get together with your friends for a meal and worship time? That's how the first church often did it! (Acts 4:42-47)

How about sharing a coke over the fence with your neighbor? A conversation on a Sunday morning, when he doesn't expect you home.

Finally if AC3 is your church home, I encourage you to remember to offer your gifts to God this month, even though it's a month of pausing. The church's financial needs remain, and the staff will still be working hard for you. There are offering stations at all our Pause events and the office will also be open.

We'd love for AC3 to experience true renewal during this Pause so that we can be as healthy as possible – because healthy things grow!

Love, Rick

The Pause Calendar of Events

No weekend services will be held during August 2010 but the following activities will be:

- ◆ **August 1st:** Family Flapjack Fest at 8:30am before our last 'normal' Sunday service
- ◆ **August 5th & 6th:** Willow Creek Leadership Summit. Interested in registering? Contact the church office, 360-659-7335 ext. 200.
- ◆ **August 6th,13th,20th & 27th:** Outer Court every Friday 7pm at Carabinieri Bar on 3rd St. in Marysville.
- ◆ **August 21st :** Summer Jubilee at Cascade Elementary School 10am - 1pm
- ◆ **August 24th:** Family Fun Night at the Aquasox. Call Twila at 360-659-7335 ext 202 to reserve your discounted reserved box seat for only \$9 each
- ◆ **August 27th - 29th:** VisionCast Retreat. Registration forms are available in the lobby. Survey forms coming soon!

Back from the Pause:

September 11th & 12th: We will be kicking off the new season with: "Beach Bucket Bingo," a series on friendships and community. 6pm Saturday/10am Sunday.



To view AC3's Google Calendar [click here](#) or go to AC3's website @ www.ac3.org and look for 'The Creek This Week' on the [Home](#) page.