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FALL 2018

Community Development in Christ



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Community Development in Christ

By Jason Holt

I live in a town that has a definite community development plan. You likely do as well. For my town, the city council has selected zones for residential housing, for business locations, and for a town center. There is a plot of land designated for a new park and walking trails. It took intentionality and investment to make the plan and it will take the same to see it come to life by 2022.

The parallels to our spiritual life are pretty strong.

Let me show you by re-wording the first paragraph.

We live in a historic, Christian faith that has a definite spiritual community development in Christ. If you know Jesus, you do as well. For all his people, the Savior King has selected zones for our family, for our work/school, and for the center of life being Him. There is area designated for a new maturity and growth in His Spirit. It took intentionality (Jesus came for us) and investment (Jesus gave His life for us) to make the plan and it will take the same foundation to go and to grow in this life for the years to come.

So as a teenager in your family, in your school, in your church and youth group, what is the response of intentionality and investment that you can offer in response?

Hebrews 10:19-25 puts it this way:

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

Meeting Together

If we notice how these verses end, then our attention is brought quickly to the call to spur one another on in this life of faith. The picture is that Jesus is alive and He is coming again, so as His followers by faith, we benefit from meeting together and encouraging one another. This call is more than a passive yawn during a worship service or a distracted mind during youth group. As a child of God through faith in Jesus, you have a significant contribution to make to your local church and youth group. You can meet together in your congregation and you can connect with other believers in your school and/or in the place that you work. Meeting together matters for community!



Common Confession

When we step back a bit in the text, the Scripture highlights that this community development is tied directly to our common confession. Jesus is Lord! The Bible is true! These spiritual realities bring genuine hope, because Christ is faithful. In this hope, we are invited to hold on. When I was in high school, some friends and I thought that riding on the hood of a car was a smart idea. We took turns one at a time. Nothing more than about 20 miles an hour, the shock was always the end of the ride. No matter how firm we thought we were holding on, if the friend behind the wheel hit the brakes hard, then kissing the pavement became a reality. We are invited to hold on tight to Jesus, so that we avoid the spiritual crash. This holding on does not need to be done in isolation. The Scripture appeals “let us” do this together. Our common confession cultivates community!



Thinking It Over

- 1) In which area of the congregation could you invest this fall season? Some examples would be worship services, serving teams, or youth group.
- 2) What other ways could you cultivate community? Consider talking with your pastor or youth leader about this question.

Confidence in Christ

The goal of this community development is an “in Christ” reality. The beginning of the passage shows that all this growth is possible by the blood of Jesus. He who is our Great High Priest is the One that came and as the sinless Savior King took on the sin of the world and paid the debt for all. As a forgiven community, we can step forward in confidence. This confidence is always rooted in Christ.

So how is your personal community development plan? In Christ, you have an important opportunity. You can invest intentionally of yourself in the lives of others while focusing on Jesus.

*Pastor Jason Holt is the
Director of AFLC Youth Ministries*

FLY FEATURE

By Andrew Kneeland



*Andrew is the
Second Vice President
of the 2019
FLY Committee*

Summer may have wound down, but we've already got our eyes on next year! The FLY Convention is less than a year away, which means it's time to start saving! Here are five ways to pay for your registration to the FLY Convention:

Partner with your youth group! The deposit amount might seem daunting, but sometimes the best way to accomplish a goal is to come together! Ask your pastor or youth leader if you can put together a bake sale for your church. Or host a spaghetti dinner, or maybe a car wash while the weather's still nice. Youth group fundraisers can be a great way to pay for FLY!

Look for some odd jobs to raise a few extra bucks. Offer to mow your neighbor's lawn, or take their dogs for a walk. When the snow hits you can shovel some driveways in your neighborhood! Maybe you could run errands for someone or offer to babysit. Look for opportunities to rake leaves, wash windows or clean houses!

Don't be afraid to ask! Write support letters to friends and family, letting them know about the FLY Convention in Estes Park. Be sure to include what you appreciate about FLY and why you would like to attend in July 2019. Your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and church family might love the chance to bless you and help spend a week in Colorado. Another thing you could do to pay for FLY is to ask for "FLY money" for Christmas or a birthday.

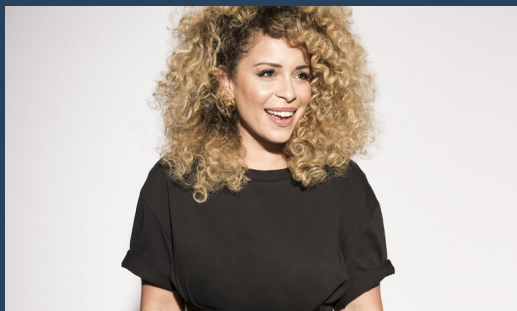
Find something to sell! We've all got a little extra clutter in our lives. You know what I'm talking about! That old game console you never use anymore, or that pair of skates that don't fit you anymore, or gently-used clothing that you've out-grown. Or, make some bracelets or cards that you could sell to raise money for FLY.

Save a little bit at a time! Start putting away a little bit each month so that the registration deadlines don't catch you by surprise. Another great way to save money is by registering early! [Visit this page](#) to learn more about registration for FLY.

Don't let finances keep you from a wonderful week in the mountains of encountering God through His Word and learning from the great I AM. Pray for the FLY Convention, pray for your classmates, and pray for whom you can invite to come with you to Estes Park!



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MUSIC: “What If” by Blanca

Do only young people have doubts? No. Blanca tells the place from which this song was recorded as an adult. It was a season of questions with family health challenges and with wondering about future career directions. Sound a little familiar? All of us deal with

“What If” and “Why” moments. Blanca invites us to turn to he Lord Himself in those moments.

<http://www.air1.com/music/news/2018/08/31/blanca-what-if-song-story.aspx>

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VIDEO: “Known” by Tauren Wells

And it’s not one or the other / It’s hard truth and ridiculous grace / To be known fully known and loved by You

With these lyrics, Tauren Wells directs us to see the character of the Living Lord. Scripture is plain about God’s nature and our sin. How can this be addressed?

Only through the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When we know that we are known by Him, then what others think of us doesn’t matter. From the girl at the intro of the video mispronouncing his name to the lack of clapping in the audience at the end, it is enough to be known by the Lord.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=gbQ6Lfh5L14

AFLC Youth Ministries exists

to Win teenagers to Christ through the Gospel,
to Build them up in God’s truth and God’s love,
to Equip them to live their faith and share their faith
with others, which results in the multiplying of
maturing teen disciples of Jesus.



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