

Word from Pastor Don: The Situational Friend

A number of years ago, I used a term with a friend that offended her greatly... "situational friend." At the time, we had both completed our university degrees and were serving as short-term (2-year) Journeyman missionaries overseas. Her efficiency apartment was in the same complex as mine. Our personalities and interests could not have possibly differed more greatly. Yet, we were both working within the same mission organization and enjoyed a level of cordial politeness towards each other. Along with another friend that lived next door to her, we three often had meals together. One evening, I dared to use the term "situational friend." Wow, I should have just thrown a hand-grenade into the room for my ears began to ring with the silence that came. Of course, in my typical male way of seeking to "fix things," I continued to talk and explain our obvious differences in background and how we found satisfaction and fulfillment in greatly different things but that, in Christ, we could still be of encouragement to each other as we serve in missions. I even managed to ask if, honestly speaking, she'd ever have sought out befriending a person like me "back in her university days?" With the other girl at the table, we continued talking about our family differences, church experiences, views of cross-cultural living, friendships, struggles with language learning and the resulting embarrassing events that are inevitable, etc. Yet, Cathy remained silent.

After that evening, I was blessed with "the cold shoulder" approach that I knew was either reflecting her displeasure with my bringing out the obvious or was a rejection of the fact I had presented. Even the strongest INTJ (Introverted, Intuitive, Thinking, Judgmental) doesn't intentionally hurt others or put up barriers so I held on to my hopes that things would improve. After a few weeks of pouting on her part, we eventually talked. I was thrilled to finally hear her open up for I knew she'd be better off by doing so. She explained how much she disliked the term "situational friend" because it says circumstances were at the centre of our ever becoming friends.

Do you ever meet people that have a personality or character that simply doesn't "ring your bell?" Maybe you are quiet and introspective and the idea of being on a committee with a heavy extrovert scares you to death! Maybe you like to weigh decisions over slowly before making a commitment and your work supervisor is demanding that you "make a call" and move on? Perhaps your concept of a good worship service is one where the testimonies and sermons are more like a pep-rally and others in the congregation want to simply let Biblical principles gently challenge their hearts? As we think of Christ and His sacrifice on our behalves, the miracle is that he knows our differences, struggles, sins, insensitivities, selfishness, and still thought it right to offer us His Grace! Praise God!

Prayer Items

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angles nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. --Romans 8:38-39

- Praise the Lord for the EDGe ministry team's dedication, faithfulness, and boundless energy in working with the youths. May the Lord continue to strengthen them and give them the wisdom to guide our youth towards a closer walk with the Lord.
- Praise God for the SLG teachers who just concluded module 2 teaching. Pray that they will have an opportunity to rest and be fed through attendance of the new module.
- Praying for the start of SLG module today, that the teachers walk closely with the Lord, drawing on the Lord for wisdom to illuminate the Word and inspire a love of the Word in the classes; that those who are undecided on which module will follow the Spirit's prompting to join the class God has called them to. Pray that these classes

help strengthen the spiritual foundation for our congregation.

- Pray for those who need healing and God's comfort - for those in sickness, in depression, in trials and challenging situations. Pray that they have an unwavering trust in the Lord and His goodness.
- In this season of Lent leading up to Easter, pray that each of us will take time to self-examine, reflect, and repent, in order to prepare our hearts. Lord, help us to stay away from those distractions that take us away from You.
- Pray for the preparation of the upcoming Easter programs - Pioneer Club Easter Celebration on April 8 and the Good Friday service on April 14. Pray for those organizing and participating will keep You as the central focus. Pray that we will take this opportunity to invite our friends and families who do not know the Lord.
- We continue to lift up Tsawout, that God will encourage and strengthen Pastor Moses and the staff at Tsawout Assembly of Praise. That God's light would shine on Tsawout through the church. Pray for God's provision and direction for the summer trip Aug 6-11.



Sunday Worship at VCBC

2 April 2017

9:30AM English
Worship Service

www.vcbc.bc.ca/English



Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship
Matthew 11:28-30

Praise & Worship
*Forever Reign,
Jesus You Alone,
Great Are You Lord*

Sharing of Community Life

Tithes & Offering
Give Thanks

Scripture Passage &
Message
2 Corinthians 12:6-10

"Kintsugi"
Pastor Brian Lee

Response

Beautiful Things

Proclamation
Shout to the North

Closing Prayer

Doxology

In the spirit of unity and family, please sit closer together towards the front and centre of the sanctuary. Feel free to stand or sit as we sing.

We welcome parents with infants, and parents of preschoolers and kindergarteners to sit in the classroom behind the sanctuary. Please pick up your children from their classes downstairs at 10:50.

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Sermon Discussion Questions

2 Corinthians 12:6-10 | "Kintsugi" | Pastor Brian Lee

1. Why is the pursuit for perfection such a prevalent preoccupation in our society today?
2. What are some things besides Christ that you try to mend the cracks in your life with?
3. Are there "thorns in your flesh"? How can you enable Jesus to be made perfect in this weakness of yours?

Sunday LIFE Groups – today at 11:30am

Youth Classes	
Class	Location
Gr. 7 & 8	VCBC Room B14-15
Gr. 9 & 10	VCBC Room E2
Gr. 11 & 12	VCBC Room W2

Adult Classes	
Class	Location
Sermon Based Discussion Group (*11:15-12:15)	VCBC Room W3
Missions	VCBC Library
Breakthrough: A Faith Adventure in Prayer	Gardner's Basement
Bible Study Methods	Gardner's Dining Room

Events This Week For You To Be Involved

Sunday (today)

1. Prayer Group at 8:45am; Contact Betty at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca
2. Worship
3. Sunday LIFE groups at 11:30am

Wednesday

1. Dayspring Ladies Bible Study; (1st & 3rd Wed at 12:00pm); VCBC Boardroom; Contact Cindy at cindyso@vcbc.bc.ca.
2. Church-wide Prayer Meeting; Weekly at 7:30pm in VCBC basement; All welcome (primarily Cantonese but we'll translate as needed!)

Friday

1. Pioneer Clubs at 7:30pm. Contact Rosita at children@vcbc.bc.ca.

2. EDGe youth fellowships for grades 6-12; Oct-Jul from 7:30-9:30pm at VCBC; Contact Pastor Brian Lee at vcbcedge@gmail.com.
3. Prayer Group at 7:45pm (1st Friday); VCBC W2; Contact Winnie at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca.
4. All parents/grandparents are welcome to join The Family Nest on Fridays at 7:30 p.m. Please contact Lydia at 778-789-3572.

Saturday

1. Family Easter Celebration. 7-9pm in the VCBC sanctuary.
2. Journey Young Adult Fellowship. 7:30pm in VCBC room B3-5. Please contact ChrisChCheung@hotmail.com or ask for a Journeyer to get introduced today!

*Homebuilders small groups. For family & couples. Various times. Contact Cindy at cindyso@vcbc.bc.ca

Announcements

1. **March 26 MBM Resolutions** - Please see insert/bulletin board for details.
2. **Sunday LIFE** (Learning, Interacting, Forming, Exploring) **Groups** will be begin a new module **today**. Be sure to check out what is happening in the adult class offerings in the insert. Come and join us for a good time of sharing LIFE together!
3. **Family Easter Celebration** is this Saturday, April 8. Please see insert for details (please use the insert as an invitation to invite your friends/relatives with children up to Gr. 6 to come join the celebration) Note: there will be no Pioneer Clubs on Good Friday, April 14th
4. We invite you to attend our **English Good Friday Service on April 14th at 11am**. The Service will be a simple time of reflection and praise. Afterwards, please join us for a simple lunch together.
5. The **Tsawout Summer Trip**, where we run a **VBS** at Tsawout Assembly of Praise on Vancouver Island, is happening **August 6-11**. Please contact Brian Lew at vcbctsawout@gmail.com if you're interested!
6. **Daily Bread**. "Amazing Grace": A Easter booklet from Our Daily Bread – Please pick up one at the foyer and consider giving this precious gift of hope to a loved one at Easter.
7. **Prayer Request** - Ever feel the need to have someone from our pastoral staff or prayer team pray for you, or simply would like to share a note of praise or thanksgiving to God? You can send an email to prayer_request@vcbc.bc.ca. If you sense the call to join our prayer warrior team to pray for our church or brothers and sisters, please email Winnie at pcs@vcbc.bc.ca