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The Brink Connection

Fall 2010

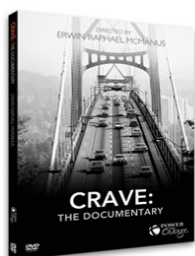
Here are a few quick stories about what I and Power to Change in general have been up to!

New Resource Centre Website

The main project that I have been working on in the last few months is a new website for our Power to Change Resource Centre. The Resource Centre distributes the evangelism and discipleship tools that Power to Change ministries have produced, along with other great Christian books, DVDs, Bibles, and more. Their existing website was many years old, difficult for customers to use, and missing many important features. I was able to work with a great team on getting a new site ready for them, which just launched this week! Check it out at store.powertochange.org, and let me know what you think.

Crave: The Documentary

One of the resources we've been highlighting in the new online store is a 30 minute documentary that Erwin McManus, a pastor from Los Angeles and author of several books (including one called "Soul Cravings"), produced in Vancouver with Power to Change. In it, he interviews a number of people from



Vancouver including prominent business executives, politicians and artists, most of whom are not Christians. The interviews reveal some startling information:

First of all, contrary to what we often think, people in Canada ARE interested in spiritual things. They also recognize within themselves deep cravings for meaning, destiny, and intimacy, which we know can only be found in God. However, people also consistently had a negative attitude towards the church and religion. If people are so interested in spiritual things, why are they so negative towards the church? Is it possible we've often used the wrong approach in attempting to engage with our culture?

I know this documentary definitely made me think and examine the way I approach people about Jesus. Since the whole documentary is now available online, I'd encourage you to check it out too! Just go to: bit.ly/a2xZpl.



Paid vs. Aid Campaign

Every year in September, the Campus Ministry of Power to Change seeks to connect with thousands of new university students as they come on campus. One of the ways they do this is through handing out "Real Life Kits", which contain a New Testament, a "Knowing God Personally" booklet, and a "Soul Cravings: Prequel" book.

A new strategy they tried this year, though, was a contest called "Paid vs. Aid." Paid vs. Aid sought to highlight the difficult choices we need to make daily, but rarely take the time to think about. On each campus across Canada, one student who entered the contest won a \$1,000 prize, with one caveat: they had to choose if they wanted to use the money towards their university tuition bill, or to help others by building clean water wells, housing in Haiti, or support for orphans in Tanzania (projects managed by GAIN).

Here are some comments from campus staff using the contest:

"Praise God for an awesome launch day at the University of Victoria. 500+ first year students participated in the Paid vs. Aid contest and in just a few quick hours, we gave away 400 Real Lift Kits! Many requested a personal meeting to discover Jesus."

"This strategy (Paid vs. Aid) has given us unprecedented opportunities. Both university student unions absolutely love the contest. In fact, the student unions have taken the initiative to invite us to come to all of the official Frosh Week events to promote the contest and gather contacts. We have never experienced these sorts of open doors from the University before..."

The contest even generated an article in the campus newspaper at the University of Alberta! You can read it at: bit.ly/bU44xB.

On the Home Front

It's been awhile since an update so it's hard to know where to begin.

The leaves have fallen, the stores are stocking for Christmas, and Silas is 10 months old. It's hard to believe how fast time flies, even when the day-to-day feels slow going.



The summer drew to a close and the fall came fast and furious. Shannon was excited to start getting involved in a weekly women's group called "Breakaway" that meets at our Church and our life group started up again. The women's group has been a real blessing to her. They asked her to hostess a table which means she decorates the table each week and helps welcome and stay connected with all the ladies who sit there each week. There is a different speaker each week, some music, and discussion questions; all related to the theme of 'cravings.' Sound familiar? We were excited to find out that our Church is using the Power to Change produced icrave-change.com site and the Crave documentary to fuel the theme of this women's fall Breakaway. After meeting in a large group (over 200 women each week of all ages!) they split up and take different classes such as photography, cooking, book studies etc. She is loving her photography class (you can check out some of her shots on her blog: inmeta4s.blogspot.com). What a joy for her to participate in something like this!

Prayer Requests

- We are thanking God that Shannon's hormone levels are back to 'normal' but are still asking and hoping that she won't need sleeping pills anymore. We're thankful she's sleeping at all but her sleep is still easily disturbed and Jason gets up in the night with Silas because of this. Pray her sleep will return to normal!
- We head back to Ontario over the Christmas holidays to visit family so are hoping to connect with many of you. Please pray for safe travels!

To Donate:

Go to powertochange.org, click on "Donate", and type "Brink" in the Donation search.

We have also been trying to decide how to get more involved in our Church. North Langley Community Church [NLCC] is a very large Church so there are many opportunities. Being that NLCC has a passion for missions, and so do we, we joined the missions board and helped plan their fall missions banquet that happened in early October. What an amazing thing to listen to different members

of our Church community and their stories traveling abroad over this past year. Our

involvement with the missions board has led us to join another committee: the third service missions committee. NLCC is starting a third service geared towards the 20s-40s age group, called Night Church, which will begin in early January. NLCC wants this service to adopt an international mission's cause as well as a local mission's cause to partner with and get behind, and we are part of the group planning and communicating that to the service members. We're excited to be part of making missions a priority in the minds and hearts of people our age!

We keep busy with many other things such as home projects, exercise classes for both of us, getting to know our neighbours, and maintaining relationships with those in our community and Church.

In other news, Silas is indeed 10 months and mobile. He has two little baby teeth poking out of the bottom of his gums and he is on the move to bite and drool on every item in our home! It's so fun to watch him explore his world, but also exhausting! He doesn't crawl in the traditional sense of the word- he 'scoots.' In the sitting position he scoots along the floor to get to the open dishwasher, open cupboards and attempt to chew on, well, anything he finds. He loves music and still enjoys sitting on Shannon's lap while she plays our borrowed piano. He loves to dance with us, makes lots of sounds all throughout the day, and downright giggles while watching us brush our teeth (weird, we know). He's just such a joy and a blessing! He is an avid peek-a-boo player and can't get past 'this little piggy goes to market' without laughing his head off. He's eating lots of solids, can pick up itty-bitty-bits off the floor and so far, seems to enjoy smashing and banging books more than reading them. Yup. That's our son.



There's lots more we could say, but we'd encourage you to check Shannon's blog as we keep more regular updates there. One thing on the horizon is that in January/February, Shannon will be returning to work! Praise the Lord, her Mom is willing to help out and watch Silas and Shannon was able to get a part-time position! There's another co-worker returning from a maternity leave and they will be job-sharing. This means she will work 60% of full time but still receive benefits etc. Please pray for this transition for all of us!

Yours in Christ,

Jason, Shannon, and Silas