



FIRE SIDE

FUEL TO HELP YOU FOLLOW HIS PATH



SUMMIT YOUTH NEWS

Prayer and News from Around the World

Beautiful Hope - A Something Needs to Change Film

HEALTHY HABITS TO FUEL YOUR FAITH

Reflection on Life (& Death)
Make Me Thy Fuel - A Poem
from Amy Carmichael
Psalms of Lament



Through THE FIRE AND THE FLAMES

This month, check out the various videos featured throughout this Resource (Prayers for India, Fabiola, , and Beautiful Hope)

MAY 2021



FIRESIDE

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SUMMIT YOUTH NEWS

Here are a couple of important updates!

1. The Wednesday Night youth program will begin starting JR and SR Youth at different staggered times to accommodate more youth with safer physical distancing.

Junior Youth: 6-8PM (Sign-in through main doors, exit through side door (beside main doors on opposite side of the lift))

Senior Youth: 7-9PM (Sign-in through Coffee room side door), exit through coffee room doors as well.

So pick up and drop off is near the basketball courts for Junior Youth, and pick up and drop off is in the parking lot closest to the Summit Drive for SR. Youth.

2. A reminder that Catalyst Youth Worship & Prayer is cancelled for the month of May. It will resume, but is taking the month off while Pastor Colton is away.



SERIES: With Pastor Colton's change of plans for this upcoming month, the originally planned series is being postponed and a new series is going forward, led by Jacob Harder. This will be called "**How (Not) to be a Human Being in the Real World**". Taking his cues from the Book of Ecclesiastes, Jacob will be leading our youth to discuss some of the wisdom found in God's Word and what that means for "being human" in our world.

HOW (NOT)

TO BE A HUMAN BEING
IN THE REAL WORLD





SOMETHING NEEDS TO CHANGE

Though Catalyst is taking a break this month from our "Something Needs to Change" video series, there is a gripping account of what this series is about available to you on youtube through a video called *Beautiful Hope*. It would be 15 minutes of well-spent time together as a family. Here is the link, and below are a few questions to talk through as a family after you watch it.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kiMD1N94rs>

Questions:

1. What is your typical response to need? Do you run *to* need, or run *from* need?
2. What struck you about the many physical needs in the Himalayas? In what ways can you respond to physical needs in your city?
3. Consider taking a walk and looking for physical needs around your town. Write down some of the things you see.
4. David Platt's response to the cremation of many bodies in the Ganges was very emotional. Why did he respond this way? Do you feel the same way when you think of death in our world? How do you view people dying without knowing Jesus?

OUTREACH

THE MUSTARD SEED:

Currently, we are looking at having more time to help people who live on our streets in Kamloops. We will do this in a variety of ways, but we are also eager to help out with The Mustard Seed. Currently, we are looking for a few more small groups to help with the Mustard Seed ministry, as well as to care for people on the streets by walking the streets with food on Sunday afternoons. If this is something that you or your family might be interested in, contact Pastor Colton and let him know, and he will get you some important information.



Ft. Providence:

As you know, in the past we have gone to Ft. Providence, Northwest Territories to be with the people there. We love them, and it pains us not to be able to reach them with the hope of the gospel. In the coming months, we'd like to think of how we can creatively encourage the people of Ft. Providence. Consider some ideas you could do with your family and chat with us about it, we'd love to get some things together to send up! They have asked us for help in this way, so it is time to figure out a few ways we can use our creativity to help encourage them!

El Refugio, Ensenada, MX:

Because of the lifted restrictions in the U.S.A., there are still trips being supported to help El Refugio. The ways we in Canada can help right now are ultimately through prayer, but also through financial support. Let us pray that soon we too may be able to go and help do work with our wonderful friends in Ensenada!



PRAYER POINTS

- Please pray for the Northwest Territories. Pray specifically for those in Ft. Providence. Pray for the kids there that they might hear the good news of Jesus, that they might be cared for and desire to follow Jesus. Pray for some of the new followers of Jesus there. Pray also for NTOMI that they might reach the people of Ft. Providence.

- Please pray for people who are poor in Kamloops. Pray that God might move in the hearts of believers to love and care for the poor in helpful ways, and that not only through the Mustard Seed, but also through local church initiatives that really reach into the lives of the poor in relational ways.

Prayer and News from around the World

NEWS FROM BURMA

Below is a portion of a field update from the Free Burma Rangers. You can check out their website freeburmarangers.org to find updates about what is happening in Burma. We will also plan on taking in their movie sometime in the next couple of months!

Here is a portion of a field report: from May 3rd 2021

"Burma military airstrikes continue, and schools and homes are being destroyed as Burma soldiers shoot villagers in northern Karen State, with over 25,000 people in hiding. One villager, Saw Paw Chit, 40 yrs, was shot to death on 29 April by Burma Army soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 407, Military Operations Command (MOC) 8, commanded by Maung Kyaw Sein Lin, in Ku Chi Village, south of Papun. Deadly airstrikes using rockets, bombs and strafing cannon began in Karen State on 27 March 2021 and continued to 1 April and then started again on 27 April to now, 3 May 2021.

We walked to the hiding places of the villagers who fled the first strike and met Naw Mu Wah Paw carrying her son in the jungle. He had been wounded by shrapnel to his face and neck on 27 March as he sat on his father's lap when the first rockets and bombs came. His father was killed and his mother carried him to our medics, who treated him and removed most of the shrapnel."

These are real people, with real lives, and real danger. Let's pray for the people in Karen State and for those of the Burma Army to be reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ which transforms!

Due to the ongoing fighting, more than 100,000 people—mostly Christian—are living in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, most of them for years, and humanitarian access to them is blocked.

Pray they receive the care they need and for the ministry of the Free Burma Rangers to reach those in need.



NEWS FROM INDIA

Here are a few news items and items for prayer from India. May you be encouraged to pray for brothers and sisters around the world! Check out the prayercast at the end to specifically pray for Muslims in Delhi to be reached with the gospel! But here are some recent news and prayer requests:

Please pray for India as they are impacted by COVID. This past week, WHO said that India accounted for nearly half of the COVID cases reported in the world, as well as seeing 1 in 4 deaths. It also showed up at the London G7 as the delegates from India were also sick with COVID. The pandemic is having a huge impact on this country, with many sick and few people able to receive the care they need. Below is a photo of some of the mass grave sites, which is truly heart breaking. Please be in prayer for them!

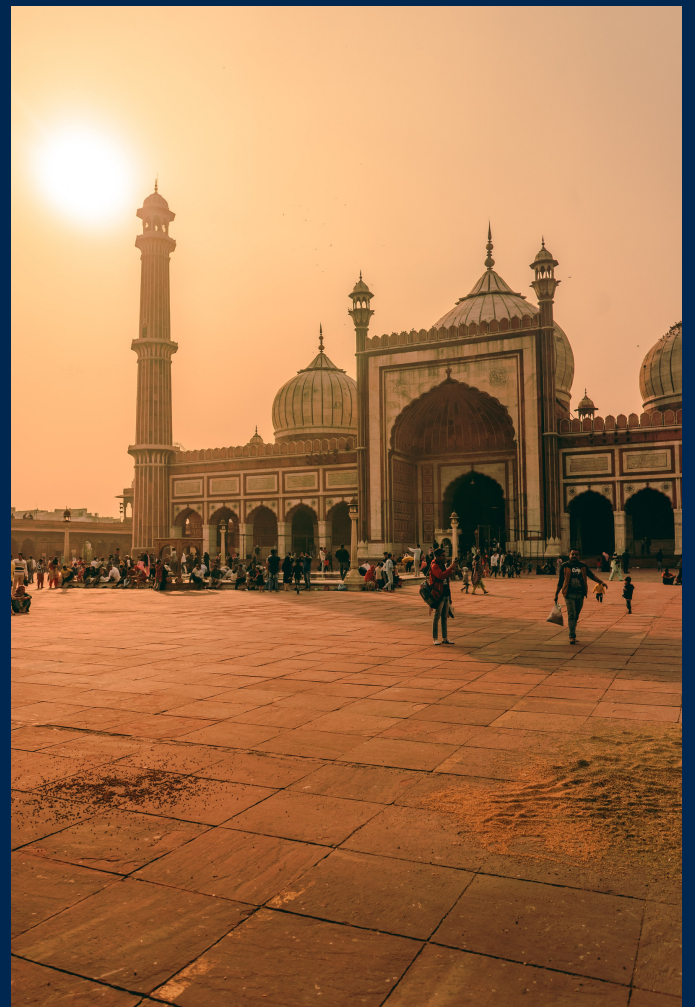
On another note, many minorities in India are undergoing persecution at the hands of the governing authorities, specifically since a fundamentalist Hindu power took control.

Please thank God for the faithfulness of many of the Indian believers despite the persecution.

Pray also for hostilities to end and that persecutors of Christians might come to know Jesus.

Pray also for believers to encourage and care for those impacted by COVID-19 in a real and tangible way that spreads the love of Christ.

See Prayercast video here:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SygdWlc_Gi0



REFLECTION ON LIFE (& DEATH)

From the news above, it is really hard not to look at the dire needs of the world and realize our own limits - our own mortality. It's amazing, even in the midst of this, to learn about some of the wonderful ways God works through his people. Did you know that there was a famous Roman Christian named Fabiola, and she started what could be considered one of the first public hospitals? She would sometimes even carry the sick from the street to her hospital so they could be cared for. In the midst of death and mortality, the Christian life brings hope and the presence of God. It is amazing. You can check out a little bit about Fabiola with your fam by following this link:

(<https://www.publicchristianity.org/youth-resource/the-origins-of-western-healthcare/>)
(Also, check out the website and all the other youth content they have, it would make for great videos to discuss together as a family!)

Being a Christian means giving our lives to love God and others and to care for the sick and the poor in a real, tangible way. But it also means reflecting on life. When we are young, and not sick, it can really feel like we have forever, and that we don't really need to think about death. But what a silly thing - how can we live well if we just ignore death? One Christian writer, Thomas Brooks, states that "the certainty of death should cause you to prepare for death." And maybe that means we should live without ignoring its reality, even when we are young. J. Todd Billings says, "...whether you are nineteen or ninety-nine, whether you are healthy or sick, or whether the future looks bright or bleak, true hope does not involve closing over the wound of death. Instead, even the wound can remind us of who we are: beloved yet small and mortal children of God, bearing witness to the Lord of creation who will set things right on the final day. Our lives are like a speck of dust in comparison to the eternal God, and we cannot be the true heroes of the world. But we can live lives of service, loving God and neighbour, in a way that does not allow the fear of death to master us."

As I write this, my father is very sick and in hospital, and the outlook is not good. We pray for a miracle, and fully know that God can work in that way! But when we can't escape the reality of death, we also ponder death more fully, and consequently, life too. What kind of purpose are we here for? To live and cherish Jesus!

Ecclesiastes 7:2 says "It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of everyone; the living should take this to heart." And the Psalmist echoes this: "Teach us to number our days, that we might gain a heart of wisdom." (Ps. 90:12). Why do youth not think about this? Well, they should, so that as they grow up to maturity they might grow close to Jesus and cherish the things that really matter in life, and take risks for the things that will last and will not pass away.

One writer, a guy named Matt McCullough, said this, "Jesus doesn't promise to give us more of what death will only steal anyway. He wants to give us what death can't touch." May we encourage one another to pursue the things that death cannot ultimately touch, and seek to do good in our world, like Fabiola, even at the risk of our own lives.

POEM OF THE MONTH

MAKE ME THY FUEL, FLAME OF GOD

The Poem of the Month was written by Amy Carmichael. I first found this poem in Elisabeth's Elliot's *The Shadow of the Almighty*, a biography of her late husband Jim Elliot and His journals. This was one of the poems that he wrote in his journal and that aptly describes His commitment to God. This is my prayer for all of our youth and my own life, that God will give us a heart for Him that would burn like fire and make us his fuel! Consider what Jim Elliot also said, "*God, I pray light up these idle sticks of my life and may I burn up for Thee. Consume my life, My God, for it is Thine. I seek not a long life but a full one like yours, Lord Jesus.*"

And Jim had just that, not a long life but a full one - not one safely tucked away in comfort but one lived to the fullest for God's glory! May we also live to the fullest for God!

*O Prince of Glory, who dost bring
Thy sons to glory through the Cross
Let us not shrink from suffering
Reproach or loss.*

*From prayer that asks that I may be
Sheltered from winds that beat on Thee,
From fearing when I should aspire,
From faltering when I should climb higher,
From silken self, O Captain, free
Thy soldier who would follow Thee.*

*From subtle love of softening things,
From easy choices, weakening,
Not thus are spirits fortified,
Not this way went the Crucified.
From all that dims Thy Calvary,
O Lamb of God, deliver me.*

*Give me the love that leads the way,
The faith that nothing can dismay,
The hope no disappointments tire,
The passion that will burn like fire,
Let me not sink to be a clod:
Make me Thy fuel, Flame of God.*

- Amy Carmichael



ARTIST *of* THE MONTH

NATHAN TROOST

I first was in contact with Nathan Troost while working for Beeson Divinity School Global Center's event called *Missiography*. Nathan Troost sent in quite a number of photos for that event which pictured missions and global Christianity. To say the least, he had some of the finest photos of the event, and some of the stories that went with his photos were not only inspiring and encouraging but also eye-opening. He does global storytelling that is Christ-centered and beautiful. He is a shining example of how someone can use their art to give God glory and pursue their passion in a way that helps people who are poor and disenfranchised, as well as reach people who are unreached with the good news of the gospel! And be encouraged, that God may use your gifts and callings for artistry in ways like this too!



Check out more of his (and his wife's story) at lanternvision.org



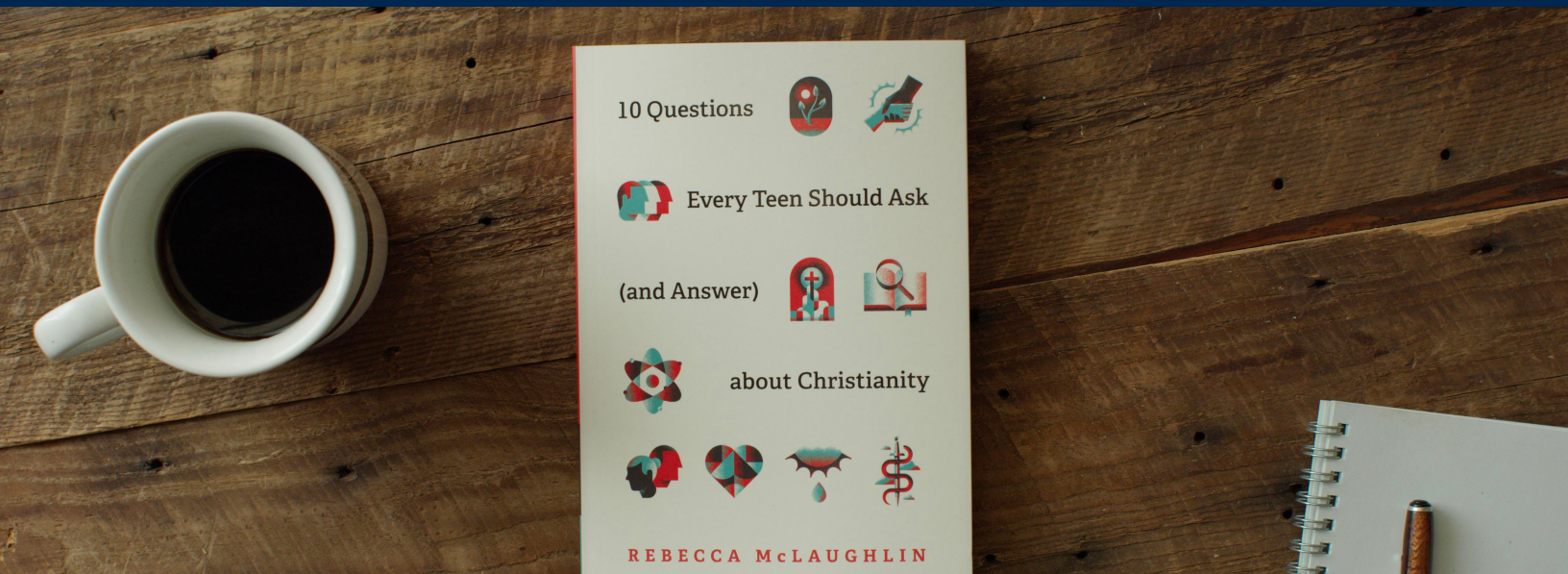
BOOK RECOMMENDATION

10 Questions Every Teen Should Ask (and Answer) about Christianity
by Rebecca McLaughlin

Every now and again a good book comes out that is eminently readable, clear, and engaging for youth. Typically my job is to take good books and good info and make it that way, but I'm happy to say, what Rebecca McLaughlin has written here is already tailored to the age group of around 12-15 years old. And to make it that much sweeter, it's about the hot topics of our day, topics that our youth are going to be asked and are going to be asking. And in this book, they will not only get a few arrows in their pocket for those conversations at school, but they will be strengthened and encouraged to know that what they believe about Jesus is both logical, well supported, and life-giving. It is with this endorsement that I highly recommend you grab a copy of this book and read it with your youth. In the near future, we will tackle these questions, but, and I cannot reiterate this enough, it is you, the parents, who have the wonderful opportunity to raise up the next generation of Christ followers. Get this book into your teen's hands and read it with them!

Rebecca McLaughlin deals with hot topics such as "Why can't we just agree that love is love" in a way that will make for some potentially uncomfortable conversations. She is writing this knowing that some of the people who read it may in fact be same-sex attracted. Same with the chapter on "Who Cares if you're a Boy or a Girl?" What she ultimately points to is that if what the Bible says about Jesus is true, then Jesus demands our total allegiance to him. And the conclusions that leads us to are radically different than what our culture tells us. Be warned - this will open up cans of worms, but it will also provide the hooks and lakes that make the can of worms good things - good for fishing and sharing the gospel. So, dive in, and though you may not agree with the ways Rebecca approaches each topic, I think you will find it helpful in communicating truth to your teen and to your own soul as well.

You can buy it on Amazon by clicking [here](#)



Fireside Reflections: PSALMS OF LAMENT

Back in the mid to late 2000s, I (Colton) had a profound growth in the my faith. during high school It came through a time of loneliness and pain, a time where my faith was challenged but also where I had nothing to rely on for comfort other than the word of God and His sustaining love. During this time, I largely turned to the Psalms, and I found great comfort in how they expressed my cries to God. In the Psalms, I found that how I was feeling was written in God's Word, both expressed and heard. That was a comfort like no other, and so I'd like to encourage you, parents and youth, to look to the Psalms, and particularly those of "lament" as you go through these teen years. They can be very hard, and challenging, and it is possible that you might feel alone (and if you don't now, you very likely will at some point later in life), but the way God speaks and comforts through the words of the Psalms is a profound help and will draw you closer to Him.

The Psalms of Lament

The Psalms is really called "A book of praises." But surprisingly, or perhaps unsurprisingly, 46% of the Psalms are called "laments" - and lament doesn't really mean to praise something, it's more like crying out, being sad about something and talking or writing about it.

“Every situation in life is in the book of Psalm, represented somehow. And these train you for the kinds of things you will find in real life. Real spiritual, social, and emotional conditions. These wonderfully written, poetic, songs, will point out where there is danger in our attitudes. They will remind us of what to remember, tell us what our attitude should be, how to talk to God about it.” - Tim Keller

Lament in particular captures our real pain, and really, it is a right response to the evil that we see in our world. We bring it to God.

In Laments we often find a call or a cry - a plea for God's help. Then we see the complaints - what is really impacting the one crying out to God. Then we see a confession of sin or an assertion that the one crying out is innocent. After that, enemies are called out - and sometimes cursed for their evil! And then, we see a confidence in God, and typically, after that, we see praise. In fact, all of the Psalms except one psalm, end in praise. Praise roots the Psalmist back into reality.

On the next page, I'm going to write a little bit to help you reflect on two Psalms of Lament. Take some time to read the Psalms together and consider some of the questions.

Fireside Reflections:

REFLECTING ON PSALM 3 & 130

Psalm 3

1. Read Psalm 3.

- a. This is actually really the first Psalm of the Psalter, after two introductory Psalms. Eugene Peterson argues that it is significant that "trouble triggers prayer" and that this is the first Psalm. What in your life tends to trigger prayer?
- b. The background of this Psalm is Absalom's rebellion against his Father, David. SO this is David's prayer in trouble. After explaining his trouble, David turns to who God is (v.3-4). What kind of God is our God? Write down some of the things you've learned over time and that the Bible supports about who God is.
- c. In verses 5-6, David talks about how God sustains him and allows him to sleep. He doesn't have peace from the craziness of life, but he does have peace in it. He has a God who shields and sustains his life, and he finds peace in that. Where are the places you typically turn to find "peace in turmoil"? (i.e. do you try to watch tv, thumb through a book, scroll through social media, etc.) Do they provide lasting help?
- d. In the last part (v. 7-8) David calls on God to "break the teeth of his enemies." Make it so that they can't bite him or harm him - this is David's own son he is praying to God about. But he is also being real - he can't have full peace until God deals with his enemies. And so rather than taking action to get revenge, he entrusts vengeance to God and prays His real feelings to Him. What are some things you need to entrust to God rather than just try to control the outcome of them? How will you do that?

Psalm 130

1. Read Psalm 130. Here is a psalm for some anguished prayer, as Eugene Peterson puts it, giving "dignity to our suffering." I have long loved this Psalm because so often it characterizes exactly how I feel and what I put my hope in. I wait for the Lord.

- a. Write down some circumstances in life where you would find yourself praying this Psalm.
- b. *"Eight times the name of God is used in the psalm. We find, as we observe how God is addressed, that he is understood as One who forgives sin, who comes to those who wait and hope for him, who is characterized by steadfast love and plenteous redemption, and who will redeem Israel. God makes a difference. God acts positively toward his people. God is not indifferent...line. God is at the foundation and God is at the boundaries. God seeks the hurt, maimed, wandering and lost. God woos the rebellious and confused."* (Eugene Peterson). Take a moment and ask yourself if what Peterson described here is who you know and pray to. Do you pray to God like this Psalmist? Where or what else do you cry out to when you are in trouble or pain?
- c. *Waiting and watching* are the things that the Psalm encourages us in when we are in trouble. How can you be a watchman, someone who is waiting through the night for the "dawn"? It doesn't mean doing nothing - it means going about what you are called to do as a follower of Jesus, while waiting on God to take care of the conclusions and the meaning. Waiting for God to bring the dawn. What do you think being a watchman, as a teen, looks like? How can you be faithful to follow God when things are tough?

STAY TUNED FOR THE RELEASE OF SOME NEW AND COOL SUMMIT DRIVE
YOUTH LOGOS!

