A year in the life of The Summit using God’s building for His glory

By Pastor Jeremy Murdoch

March 2008 - September 2009 was quite the busy time in the life of The Summit. As you pretty much all know, we began February 2008 as the owners of a brand new home church, downtown Sault Ste. Marie. New to us yes, new ... not quite. The next 19 + months were spent renovating till September 2009 when we were finally able to move in with a temporary occupancy permit. Sunday, September 21, 2009 was a great morning as we dedicated our building to the Lord. We had a few guests, friends of The Summit, to celebrate with us; David Kingston & his family, lead pastor of Calvary Pentecostal Church in Simcoe; Ken Raymer from the district office of WOD; and David Hazzard, Assistant Superintendent for the PAOC were all in support, as we dedicated this building to the Lord. To have so many friends of The Summit, who’ve been part of the journey there that morning was truly a blessing and a joy. The only thing that would have made that morning better, would have been having each of you there who’ve also been part of this journey.

Now we sit with a full occupancy permit in hand and a few remaining items yet to be completed. Lights, coffee bar, stage, window benches, the kitchen, some baseboards upstairs in the kids rooms and touch up paint everywhere is all that's needed to be completed before we have our Grand Opening for the whole city later in 2010.

We have lots of little stories to tell, but here’s one of them that continues to prove to us God’s hand is in this vision for The Summit in our great city:

“We of course needed to finally purchase some extra chairs for our building, 50 to be exact, and so we looked everywhere for a great deal. Finally we settled on a solid chair, with a good look and the best price possible ... it was going to cost us $2900 for 60 chairs shipped to our door. Four days after the order was processed they called to say they no longer had any in stock ... UHHHH!!! Well, what I didn't realize that day was that God had an even better plan. A restaurant closed down, and was selling off all their stuff. To keep it short, we wound up purchasing 50 great (already black) chairs, an industrial toaster, 2 banquet tables, a large food warming table for the kitchen, a large cooler / sandwich bar for our coffee bar area, and 100 white dinner plates with 100 white coffee mugs all for the God price of $1871.”

To see a video of the journey and what you've been a part of please click this link: Summit’s Journey.
On another note, the year has seen a few interesting events as well. To touch on a couple, one of our more brokenhearted moments was the first memorial service ever held at The Summit. One of our own dearly loved family members, Victoria Page, finally went home to dance at the feet of our Lord after a long and victorious battle with cancer. What a celebration we had, God's name was absolutely glorified. It was a great moment of honouring her life, and Christ's in her!

This year we were also blessed with a government grant to hire someone to oversee our retooled campus ministry, now called ONE Campus Ministry. Paul Quesnele, originally on a path to become a lawyer, gave his life to Christ in his last year of university while studying for his law and justice degree. He has answered God's call to full time ministry and is now studying for his Masters of Theological Studies in Pentecostal Studies, as the new Director of ONE Campus Ministry.

Also, as we continued to see steady growth, our Pastor’s Council felt that it was the right time to take a step of faith by hiring Rev. Wade Lodge, part time as our Associate Pastor, who’s been volunteering here since January 2006.

It was also during this time that our Family Ministries Director who had been hired 10 hrs a week, felt she needed to resign with no clear answer as to why. She only knew God said now. Well, a couple of weeks later she found out her mother had cancer and so it was decided that Judi and her girls would spend many weeks down in Indiana, USA to help care for her mother. Wow, it’s amazing how God works. Praise God though, we can now rejoice with Judi and her family because her mother is now healed!

October 24th was another exciting moment for The Summit. Our band held a CD release party. All the proceeds from the sales of these CD’s are going towards our building project. It was such a great night. You can read more about The Summit band in this newsletter.

On November 21st we were finally able to participate in the Santa Claus parade downtown. Judi Kars had an incredible idea to hand out homemade cookies during the parade as people lined the street in front of our building. Well, that idea caught on so incredibly that we wound up baking and giving away over 1200 cookies and 350 cups of hot chocolate. What a sight: to see people walking all through the crowds downtown serving cookies and hot chocolate. At the end of the parade, over 85 people came in through our doors for more refreshments and to just sit and warm up.

All in all, 2009 was clear evidence of God’s hand through people like you! There’s no way we will ever be able to adequately thank each you for your very generous love, prayers and support over these past 5 years, so accept my heartfelt gratitude for everything. This journey would not be possible were it not for godly people like you. Thank you so very much for the sacrificial love you’ve given. I want you to know that you are part of The Summit and if ever you’re looking to take a trip through the Sault make sure you connect with us and see what you’ve had a hand in building.

May God continue to look down upon you with great favour and pour out his overwhelming blessings on you and your family.

Together in Christ,

Jeremy Murdoch
Lead Pastor
serving and honouring God throughout the week really goes hand-in-hand with worshipping our Creator.”

The Summitband review from 2009 to now

By Pastor Wade Lodge

This has been an eventful year for our worship ministry. We’ve been focusing on teaching our people what it means to worship God and challenging them to look beyond singing songs on a Sunday morning to seeing how serving and honouring God throughout the week really goes hand-in-hand with worshipping our Creator.

This project had been on my heart, personally, for many years, and quickly became a shared dream. In February, we had the opportunity to spend a month in a professional studio recording mainly original songs that God had laid on our hearts. To top it off, the month was donated 100% by the owner to assist in our building renovation project! God is truly amazing!

On Saturday October 24th, 2009 we held a CD Release Party at The Summit, where we played some of the songs from the CD, as well as some others. We raised nearly $500 for our building project!

Recently, we were accepted to play at a major Christian festival in Gaylord, Michigan called, The Big Ticket Festival, from June 24-26. We are one of fifty-four bands selected to play on the Indie Stage. Three bands will be selected to return next year and play on the Main Stage, and one of these three will be selected to travel to Nashville to compete in the National Christian Festival Association Talent Search for a chance to win a record deal with Word Records! We’re really excited about this opportunity to share songs birthed at The Summit with a larger church audience. We’re also looking at some local opportunities to be involved in.

One particular area of our renovation that needs attention is the upgrading of our Sound System to something more suitable to the building we’re now in. We’re currently using the portable system previously used at the university, which has served us well, but the time has come to upgrade. Since 100% of the sales of our CD is going toward building renovation, we’ve decided to focus the funds in this area. We’ve lowered the price of our album from $15 to $10 per CD. Hopefully this will enable more funds to come in for new sound equipment.

If you haven’t received a copy of our album, please let us know! We would like to bless you, as a supporter of The Summit, with a CD. If you’d also like to sell some on our behalf, we’d love to send a box of CDs your way! You could also direct people to our website should they like to purchase a copy there. Our album is also conveniently available on iTunes.

Please visit these links for more information:
- [http://www.thesummitcommunity.com/the-summitband](http://www.thesummitcommunity.com/the-summitband)
- [http://virb.com/thesummitband](http://virb.com/thesummitband)
- [www.sonicbids.com/TheSummitband](http://www.sonicbids.com/TheSummitband)

Thank you for your continued support. Please pray that God will continue to use the music He has birthed at The Summit to bless the Church as He desires. Also pray that God gives us opportunity to sell enough CD’s to cover the cost of upgrading our sound system.

Blessings,

Wade Lodge

Associate Pastor
Summit Ministries

Summit Kids
year wrap-up
By Pastor Wade Lodge

We are blessed to have such great kids to minister to. We, like many others, see it as a great honor and a great responsibility. Jesus set the example when He didn't turn the children away, but instead took time for them.

Summit Kids meet during our Sunday morning gatherings. We have a time of worship together and then dismiss them to go upstairs to our kids area to be taught by some wonderful volunteers. We currently have three different age groups; nursery, preschool, and elementary. We have between 20-30 kids that attend on any given Sunday, and about 22 volunteers who serve on a monthly rotational schedule.

Here is a summary of some hi-lights of 2009:

- Our Sunday morning teaching time continued a journey through Bible up to David.
- One of our volunteers, Andrea MacArthur, directed a Christmas program.
- Student leaders began leading worship songs in their classes.
- Student leaders began assisting in nursery.
- We held a successful fundraiser for World Vision, where we went door-to-door caroling.
- Passed out cookies and hot cocoa during Santa Claus parade.
- Held Family Bible game nights.

At the end of 2009, we saw a change in leadership. Judi Kars, who started the Summit Kids ministry when our family church began, stepped down. She expressed that she felt God wanted her to step down for now, and as difficult as it was to release the Summit Kids ministry, she obeyed. The reason for her resignation became clear weeks later when she discovered her mother had cancer and needed to be there with her on an ongoing basis. Thankfully all is well now with her mother as God has done it again and healed her body.

In the meantime, our council has asked me to oversee the Summit Kids ministry. We've enlisted the help of Tamara DelBel, who also oversees our Nursery program, to act as a liaison between myself and the Summit Kids ministry, during the morning services.

Thank you for your continued support. Please pray for us this year as we continue to seek the Lord's direction for our kids ministry, wisdom for our volunteers, and God's continual presence over our kids!

Blessings,

Wade Lodge - Associate Pastor

Life Groups
because life should be lived together

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul ... And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.” Acts 2:42-47 (ESV)

The Christian journey wasn’t meant to be lived alone. The world we were called to, will know that we follow Christ by our love for one another. How is this ever going to be noticed if we are not living life together? We’re not advocating communes, but only meeting together quickly in a typically non-interactive gathering on Sunday morning that doesn’t really facilitate the kind of growth the early church saw. And no, we don’t think we need to replace the Sunday gathering for house churches: the early church did both!

Simply put, Life Groups is about those journeying towards an elevated life in Christ Jesus, living that journey together in every day ways. It’s nothing fancy or well packaged. It’s not some kind of new program. It’s actually so simple it couldn’t be productive for church life ... or could it? Maybe that’s the answer the early church had. Most of them came out of the complicated, busy religious life of Judaism and didn’t want to make following Jesus a burden. So they lived the Christian life together in simplicity. Life Groups is just that, an opportunity for people to eat together, pray together, laugh and cry together, chew up the teachings of Jesus together, wrestle through Sunday teaching together, minister to friends and neighbours together.

We know that to some, Life Groups seem to be just about people hanging out, and though there is truth to that, there’s something much deeper to it. It’s about intentionally building each other up, intentionally challenging each other, intentionally growing closer to Christ by ‘hanging out’ in Christ (biblical fellowship); in hopes that by our ongoing love for each other, our friends will know that we love and follow Jesus Christ wholeheartedly and desire the same thing.

To date we have various groups of people intentionally living life together on a weekly / biweekly / monthly basis through a number of different ways. We pray that as people continue to ‘hang out’ in Christ, The Lord will continue to add to our numbers those who are being saved.
ONE Campus Ministry
By Paul Quesnele - Director

In May of 2008, Pastor Jeremy approached me with a question that has forever changed my life: have you ever considered going into full-time ministry? In all honesty, at that time I hadn’t but I wasn’t closed off to the idea. Through spending a summer away from the Sault at the Focus on the Family Institute, I wrestled with this question and came to the realization that God was indeed calling me into ministry, and not only that, I really wanted to pursue such a call!

The journey from that summer to now has certainly been like a roller-coaster if you will. Pastor Jeremy took me under his wing and has been mentoring me ever since then with the intent that I would become his successor in campus ministry in this city. With name changes, leadership team shuffles, and a redesign of this ministry to serve the students, we have certainly undergone some intense transformations. Additionally, I went through a fair amount of personal growth and tribulation through a near-death ski accident I experienced just over a year ago that left me with severe bodily injuries and a long journey to recovery. Because I survived, I can confidently say that God truly has a plan for my life and I believe that this ministry is a large part of that plan.

So where is campus ministry at today in Sault Ste. Marie? Well, we’ve been making immense strides on both the college and university campuses, gaining the respect and support of both bodies. We launched officially in September 2009 and have been working toward becoming a vibrant staple on both campuses.

ONE Campus Ministry is a recognized multifaceted organization for students at Algoma University and Sault College that seeks to facilitate the exploration of God and the Christian life within an academic environment. ONE desires to share a message with people on campus, namely that God loves them and that Jesus Christ offers a full and abundant life to all who come to Him.

We’re committed to assisting Algoma University and Sault College in meeting the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of their students.

What has ONE accomplished in this first year? The answer to this is ... A LOT! We’ve offered programming for the students 3 times a week. This has ranged from our Campus Gatherings which are opportunities for the students to gather in a large group for times of worship, thought provoking teaching and discussion, prayer and connection with fellow students. Another way in which we engage with the campuses are through our Action Pods which allow students to put action to their faith by looking beyond themselves and meeting the needs of others in very practical ways. Furthermore, at ONE we realize how important it is that students continue to grow in their faith. That’s why we host Life Pods where we encourage interactive learning in smaller groups so that students can explore what the Christian faith is all about. We want them to begin to think critically about relevant moral and biblical content and how it can be applied to the issues that have an impact on their lives. Finally, we have our fun nights where we host a non-threatening event where students can let loose and have a good time without having to worry about whether they could bring their unsaved friends. These are also a great alternative to the usual “events” that take place at the campus bar, or local dance club.

I am so thankful to The Summit for having this initial vision for campus ministry (The Summit student church), and to all of you who caught that vision because we would not be doing what we’re doing today without such. It has been a year of change, success, heartache, perseverance, and spiritual growth. I can’t wait to see what next year will bring!

If you’d like to know more about ONE Campus Ministry, please visit us online at www.onecm.ca or at our Facebook group ONE Campus Ministry.

Study Groups
because we all need TRUTH

“Sanctify them in the truth, your word is truth” John 17:17 (ESV)

Though we value the importance of teaching in our Sunday morning gatherings, we all need to be able to wrestle through TRUTH in smaller packages and in different ways. Being sanctified, or maturing in our faith, is a journey in the TRUTH we must all embark on. Our study groups will help accomplish this in more targeted ways. We host a variety of these study groups throughout the weeks in an attempt to see our family grow closer to each other and Christ, through solid biblical wrestling with God’s holy breathings.

Over this past year we’ve had a few different groups take place: a marriage enrichment study called Fireproof for 10 weeks; a ‘new to the faith’ study called H2O A Journey of Faith for 10 weeks; an ongoing ladies study called Becoming a Woman of Beauty and Strength; and a 6 week study on living a life of worship in the every day. This summer we’ll host two more studies called Crossings by Liquid, and Life Principles: a focus on the foundational principles of Christian living by Charles F. Stanley.

It is our hope and prayer that by studying God’s Word together we can challenge and motivate each other on towards an elevated life in Jesus Christ, so that we are better equipped for missional living as the salt of this earth!
I have given my life to the Lord AGAIN! My heart desperately wants to serve Him daily but it seems life, the daily grind and worldly 'things' can easily distract or persuade us otherwise... The Summit messages continuously remind me and challenge me to seek Him, lean on Him and love Him with all my being - daily!

The Summit has become 'home,' a place where many friends have become more like family ...and the coffee is always on! Thank you for the constant encouragement, inspiration, guidance and love that helps keep me focused and connected to our Savior our God!

-- Michelle--

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-- Michelle--

When we started attending the Summit, Sunday mornings were still being held at the university campus. “The Building” had just recently been purchased and the members had just begun to really pour their blood, sweat, hearts and souls into the renovation process. Through all this they still found the time and love to welcome new attendees as well as make meals for new mothers and care for the ill, all while many were working full time jobs. I have never seen such a real outpouring of God’s love. We were not believers at the time and had never met people who really cared for one another in such a way. It still brings me to tears. It is this honest love of God that has brought our family to saving faith. We have never seen anything like the family that exists within the Summit. A group of people fully committed to living in the truth and being a real example of God’s love. It has changed everything we once believed about how to live. We thank God for The Summit as a community of believers. We trust that, as simple as they may be, God will continue to work miracles though each one of us to touch the lives of so many.

-- Dominic and Meghan --
For the first 50 years of my life, I was a sinner. I think the only commandment that I didn't break was, “Thou shalt not kill” - anything else was fair game. Every once in a while during these years I would run into someone who was different, they had a glow, and seemed to be at peace. I would shortly find out why: they had God in their lives. I knew that I wanted some of what they had so I began to hang around them. But I've learned that faith without works is dead. The church that I was brought to by one of these men really didn't accept me. I never felt welcomed or like I fit in. At the age of 50, in a time of despair, a friend of mine said a prayer of protection over me. It was that night that the door was opened in my heart for the Lord to enter, and I was saved. A friend of mine who I didn't even know was a Christian invited me to his church (The Summit). I walked into an atmosphere of love and acceptance. I didn't know anyone except my friend Chris, but I felt like I had come home. I was welcomed and sensed that I was genuinely cared about. When I fell back into my addiction during weak times, there were members of The Summit who would get in their cars and search the streets to find me, and others who would visit my wife to comfort her and support her in her time of fear and pain. These people reached out to us in our time of desperate need. My wife and I have been members of The Summit for 3.5 years. It is here that I've discovered that a church is not a building; it's a gathering of people who let the light and love of Jesus Christ shine through them.

-- Ken --

I came to Sault Ste. Marie in 2007 to go to Sault College for their Aviation Technology – Flight program. When I came here I didn’t know anyone or have any idea what kind of church I would be able to find, but I had a peace from God telling me that Sault Ste. Marie was indeed the place I should go to school. I found The Summit by getting involved in the Summit’s campus ministry. A couple of people from that group went to The Summit and invited me to come and check it out. I was impressed with what I found, a young church with a laid back, inviting atmosphere. I have attended The Summit ever since. Pastor Jeremy’s teaching is solid; he doesn’t dance around topics but tells the truth from the Word of God. There are many people my age, something that I really needed in my life. Some of the best friends I have ever had I’ve meet through The Summit. I continue to enjoy being a part of this group of believers as we continue to grow and chase after the things of God. I will greatly miss The Summit when I have to move away this spring.

-- Jordan, College Graduate --

“One such dream was more than ten years ago about a church in this very location, before there were any plans for The Summit. How can this be? I don’t know, but I do know God has a plan.”

“It is here that I’ve discovered that a church is not a building; it’s a gathering of people who let the light and love of Jesus Christ shine through them.”
Thank-you to all the friends of the Summit!
With your support, a bit of elbow grease, much prayer, and even more faith, we’re finally home!

We want to thank all the friends of The Summit including the numerous churches that are part of our district and fellowship, along with churches outside of our fellowship, the Western Ontario District, National and International offices of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada for your tremendous support throughout our journey with The Summit. Without your multidimensional support, we wouldn’t be able to guide the people in our congregation to an elevated life. We hope that you’ll consider further partnering with us with your prayer, encouragement, and financial support!

Here are some pictures of the journey that we took with our new building. Take a look at the ‘home’ that you helped to build: