

**FORT CITY
CHURCH**

VISION, VALUES, & PRACTICES



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OUR MISSION

Making Jesus visible as we live and love like him.

OUR MANTRA

Everyone's Welcome

Nobody's Perfect

Anything Can Happen

OUR CURRENT FOCUS

Experiencing the power of Jesus to live and love like Him.

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THE CHRISTIAN JOURNEY

(Or the Discipleship Journey. A Tag Line)

Life. Transformation. Adventure.

LIFE - - - - X

The people of Fort McMurray know how to chase after the good life. Achieving the fullest life possible comes only through Jesus. It is an ongoing restorative experience that continues into eternity. Because of Jesus, the life-giving relationships formed at Fort City Church will empower us to live and love more like Him.

John 10:10, Mark 12:30-31, Psalm 16:11, John 15:11

TRANSFORMATION - - - - X

An authentic encounter with Jesus leads into a life that is marked by ongoing transformation. As we invite Jesus through His Holy Spirit to fill our lives, we are empowered to live and love well, overcoming the destructive work of sin in and around us. In good times and adversity, we demonstrate a genuine love for life. Through this transforming work of Jesus, we will see singles whose lives flourish richly, marriages and families that are healthy and vibrant, work relationships and friendships that are caring and strong, as well as neighborhoods that are more connected and better places to live. It is “Christ in us” that brings about this transformation.

Romans 12:1-2, John 15:4-5, Colossians 1:27, Galatians 5:22-25

ADVENTURE - - - - X

We passionately embrace the adventure that comes from following Jesus. As he leads, we will grab hold of the risk of being bold agents of change, serving our city and world with His love. We will eagerly enter into the life and culture of our city seeking to build strong relationships with all who call Fort McMurray home. Empowered by Christ we will grind it out in the trenches serving the diverse needs of our city, we will be a respectful influence for the life-giving world-transforming mission of Jesus and we will keep our eyes and hearts open to wherever God calls us to join him in his mission to our municipality and world.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, John 13:34-35; Matthew 6:10

WHO WE ARE: OUR TEN-YEAR STORY - - - X

Over the next 10 years we dream of being a growing community of singles, families, children and youth who embrace the ongoing experience of life, transformation and adventure that comes from experiencing the power of Jesus to live and love like him. We see a movement of hundreds if not thousands of gracious barbarians with Spirit empowered tactful tenacity who work together to make Jesus visible as together we enhance life in our city and world. We envision a passionate high impact church family of 1,600 with 800 regularly attending Sunday services, whether in-person or online. We also see expanded facilities on our Spruce Street property as a tool to help facilitate our growth.

We envision our growing family reflecting the diversity of Fort McMurray as we focus our approach to ministry on the average person who calls Fort McMurray home. We call this average person "McMurray Mike" or "McMurray Kim", stereotypical young adults who everyone in our city recognizes and understands. Through Mike or Kim, we invite their family, friends, coworkers including the diversity of our city into a life transforming relationship with Jesus.

As we move into a post pandemic world we remain passionate about the healing power of in-person worship and community while seeking to make the ministry of Fort City including our experience of community an effective quality online experience.

UNDERSTANDING MIKE AND KIM - - - X

McMurray Mike or Kim are in their young to mid-thirties with perhaps one or two children. They may or may not be married. For them Fort McMurray offers the “good life” both financially and recreationally. It’s a fun place to live. Yet deep down they yearn for more, especially in terms of relationships that are energizing and life giving. Spiritually adrift, Mike or Kim are unaware that only Jesus can satisfy this deep hunger for a life that is vibrant and satisfying. Connecting Mike and Kim with the life and love of Jesus is a bridge to impacting the diversity of our city.

With the love of Jesus pulsating through us, we will enjoy and live life to the full with Mike and Kim, their families, friends and co-workers who are all part of the diversity of our city. It is through healthy loving authentic relationships that we seek to reach the people of our city with the transforming love of Jesus as we grow together in our relationship with Him. We see both online and in-person Sunday services as well as in-person and online programming throughout the week creating intentional environments that facilitate exploring and growing in faith while giving space for developing life giving friendships.

Doing life with Mike, Kim, their families and the diversity of their friends means getting into and enjoying his world. We will throw some of the best parties and backyard campfires in our city. We will be in and out of each other’s homes. We will join Mike, Kim and their family in their intense pursuit of sports and recreation – be that action oriented sports like dirt biking, quading, snowmobiling; be that fishing, hunting, the shooting sports, golf, camping, working out at the gym; or team sports like hockey, football, ultimate or volleyball; or quieter pastimes like cooking, beer brewing and winemaking, crafts, painting, scrapbooking and on!

As part of our passion for Mike and Kim to experience life to the full, we are committed to helping their kids come to experience the life, transformation and adventure that comes from knowing and following Jesus. To do that, we will create some of the best kid, youth and family events and programs in our city. As we do we will be sensitive to and inclusive of single parent, often single mom families.

At the same time, Fort McMurray has always been home to a large number of single adults who do not always fit well into family programming. We are equally committed to doing life with and inviting the singles of our city into a growing life transforming relationship with Jesus.

VALUES & BEHAVIOURS THAT SHAPE OUR CULTURE & PRACTICES - - - - X

WE LIVE LIKE...

JESUS COMES FIRST.

Jesus is first. He has transformed our lives. He is the focus of all our efforts. He is the reason we do what we do. We are Jesus followers.

PEOPLE NEED LOVE.

God is love. We experience His love. Jesus empowers us to love. Our capacity to love is one of His greatest gifts to us.

PRAYER IS POWERFUL.

Before we do anything, we pray. Prayer plays a vital role in everything we do. We pray believing anything is possible.

FAITH IS A JOURNEY.

It's full of ups and downs. With the power of the Holy Spirit we are becoming more and more like the God who created us.

GRACE IS FOR EVERYONE.

We lead with grace. Our church is a community where everyone is welcome, no one is perfect, and anything is possible.

HOPE IS WORTH SHARING.

The story of Jesus is the most important story ever told. It is a story of hope that people need to hear. We are Jesus followers, committed to helping others become followers.

THIS IS OUR CITY.

Fort McMurray is our home. We are here to play a life-giving role and be a part of its story. We are here on purpose.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER.

We are part of something bigger than ourselves. We are a movement with far-reaching impact. Each of us has a part to play. We won't do this alone.

FOLLOWERS OF JESUS - - - X

The invitation starts now. Jesus gave all of us an invitation to follow him. Just as we are given an invitation, we are all free to choose to follow Jesus or not. Just as his love for us is real, so is his desire for us to follow him with our lives. When we choose to follow Jesus, we also choose love. We are Jesus followers, committed to love, helping others become followers.

FOLLOWERS CREATING FOLLOWERS - - - X

At Fort City Church we seek to assist people forward in their relationship with Jesus in the following ways:

- 1 . **We pray for our church, friends, family, and co-workers.** We take the needs of our church, friends, family, and co-workers to God in prayer. We believe that prayer accelerates God’s purposes and creates a passion for life transformation.

- 2 . **We craft Sunday Worship Services, whether in-person or online in a way that people, regardless of where they are on their faith journey, will have life transforming encounters with God.** Everything we do is focused on God and his love for us. We are mindful of the faith process of McMurray Mike, his family and diversity of friends who have not yet chosen to follow Jesus, while being equally committed to creating an environment conducive to the ongoing growth of committed Jesus followers.

- 3 . **We invest in our future by leading the next generation to God, encouraging them to use their full potential to follow him and change the world.** The work of Kid City and Fort City Youth is to lay the groundwork for the future of Fort City, Fort McMurray, and the world. We believe that our children and youth are an integral part of Fort City. They are on mission with us.

- 4 . **We serve on growth-oriented teams, becoming a part of the mission of Jesus.** Serving on a team is a critical component of being a Jesus follower at Fort City. Teams are where people become a part of the mission of Fort City, part of the mission of Jesus. Teams at Fort City connect people with servant leaders, train them in areas of service, and most importantly teams help build the basics of their faith.

5 . **We are actively involved in groups. Groups foster relationships, community, and build our faith.** We believe encouraging others to follow Jesus is best done through personal relationships. Groups bring people together, creating places of powerful community. Groups while best experienced in-person could also be an online community.

6 . **We are sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit in inviting family, friends and co-workers to worship services, groups, and events.** Loving, authentic relationships are critical for most people before they will come to and stay connected at a life transforming church. Because of our love for the people around us, we want them to experience the power of God in their lives.

7 . **We have authentic, loving relationships with our neighbours, co-workers and friends, living and loving like Jesus.** We will work and play alongside of our neighbours throughout the city, pointing them to Jesus.

8 . **We are bold for God, making Fort McMurray an even better place to live.** We will willingly grind it out in the trenches serving the diverse needs of the people of our city. As we serve, we will be a respectful influence for the life-changing message of Jesus.

9 . **We add value to life in our city by providing events that engage the passions of the people of Fort McMurray.** This includes events like the Fort City Car Show, Christmas Lights Bus Tour, Christmas Eve Services, Kid City Camp, Family Movie Nights, and so on.

10 . **We meet people where they are. We leverage social media and other promotional outlets to promote the work of Fort City Church for the glory of God.** We believe that social media can be used to point people to Jesus, create community, and change lives for the better.

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