

Mission Statement

BECAUSE GOD

"BECAUSE GOD has shown us Love and Forgiveness in Christ, we Welcome everyone to experience His Compassion."

How many times have you been in conversation with a child?

And the conversation is held in the aftermath of some kind of disaster.

Somebody's hair was pulled or a shoving match was conducted.

Maybe someone was hit and tears and screams of pain flowed freely.

Of course in all these there is no shedding of blood.

In all likelihood the only thing violated was someone's idea of justice.

So the culprit or culprits are taken aside.

And the "why" question is asked.

"Why did you pull you sister's hair?"

"Why were you shoving each other?"

"Why did you hit your little brother?"

"Why were you yelling at each other?"

And the number one answer is - **BECAUSE.**

Often that is the only explanation.

Sometimes it's accompanied with another phrase.

"BECAUSE he pushed me first."

"BECAUSE she said my mother wears army boots."

"BECAUSE he said 'My dad is smarter than your dad.'

"And I said, 'No way! My dad is smarter and stronger than your dad.'

"Then he said, 'But my dad is richer than your dad.'

"And I said, 'But your dad is my dad.'"

Why do we do what we do as individuals?

Why do we do what we do as a congregation?

Why do we care what happens to our world or our neighbor?

Why do we reach out and share the Gospel?

Why do we think of new and innovative ways to be relevant to Drumheller?

Why do we drag a KidzTown trailer to a park every summer?

Why do we let our building take a beating every week with children and youth?

Why on Tuesday evenings do we kneel at these altars in prayer?

Why does a group of singers and musicians meet early to rehearse songs?

Why is the fellowship hall filled with coffee drinkers from DARTS?

Why do people tithe?

Why do we gather to worship?

Why do people live by faith and not by sight?

Why do people accept nominations that will bring responsibility?

Why do we have dessert auctions for sending kids to camp?

Why do ladies have secret sisters, and men have breakfasts?

Why do we care about people's marriages?

Why do we baptize believers and dedicate children?

There is only one answer.

It is an answer found time and time again in Scripture.

BECAUSE GOD!

Everything that we do is in response to God.

God has always taken the first step.

God created this beautiful world for you.

He crafted everything you see by His powerful word - for you.

He inspired the law - for you.

He recognized Abraham's - for you.

He gave His Son Jesus - for you.

BECAUSE GOD made the first move - for you.

All God has ever asked of us is response.

How have you responded to God?

How are you living - **BECAUSE GOD?**

This phrase "**BECAUSE GOD**" is found throughout Scripture.

It is found as early as Genesis 5:24 about Enoch.

Enoch had a short life.

His father lived 962 years.

His son lived 969 years.

"Enoch lived 365 years, walking in close fellowship with God. Then one day he disappeared, BECAUSE GOD took him."

The phrase **BECAUSE GOD** is found in Revelation.

"In one day, disasters will crush her— death, heartbreak, and famine— Then she'll be burned by fire, BECAUSE GOD, the Strong God who judges her, has had enough."

Sin and disobedience are judged "**BECAUSE GOD**".

This is why our Mission Statement begins with "**BECAUSE GOD**".

God always has the first move.

God is never reactive.

He always has a plan that is revealed to us.

Anything we do is in response to His plan.

This is what we discover in Joshua's farewell address to Israel.

"Now, stay strong and steady. Obediently do everything written in the Book of The Revelation of Moses—don't miss a detail. Don't get mixed up with the nations that are still around. Don't so much as speak the names of their gods or swear by them. And by all means don't worship or pray to them. Hold tight to God, your God, just as you've done up to now. God has driven out superpower nations before you. And up to now, no one has been able to stand up to you. Think of it—one of you, single-handedly, putting a thousand on the run! BECAUSE GOD is God, your God. BECAUSE GOD fights for you, just as he promised you. Now, vigilantly guard your souls: Love God, your God." (Joshua 23:6-11 The Message)

Because God is leading we can stay strong and steady.

Because God goes before us, we experience miraculous victories.

Because God moves first we hold tightly to Him.

Because God fights for us we love Him and serve Him.

Because God - we sing and witness and declare His glory.

"Sing to God, everyone and everything! Get out His salvation news every day! Publish His glory among the godless nations, His wonders to all races and religions. And why? BECAUSE GOD is great—well worth praising! No god or goddess comes close in honor. All the popular gods are stuff and nonsense, but God made the cosmos! Splendor and majesty flow out of Him, strength and joy fill His place." (1 Chronicles 16:23-27 The Message)

"Praise the Lord your God, who delights in you and has placed you on the throne as king to rule for Him. BECAUSE GOD loves Israel and desires this kingdom to last forever, He has made you king over them so you can rule with justice and righteousness." (2 Chronicles 9:8 NLT)

"And why? BECAUSE GOD is the best, High King over all the gods. In one hand He holds deep caves and caverns, in the other hand grasps the high mountains. He made Ocean—He owns it! His hands sculpted Earth!" (Psalm 95:8)

"Hallelujah! Praise the name of God, praise the works of God. All you priests on duty in God's temple, serving in the sacred halls of our God, Shout "Hallelujah!"

BECAUSE GOD's so good, sing anthems to his beautiful name. And why? BECAUSE GOD chose Jacob, embraced Israel as a prize possession." (Psalm 135:1-4)

"Hallelujah! Sing to God a brand-new song, praise him in the company of all who love him. Let all Israel celebrate their Sovereign Creator, Zion's children exult in their King. Let them praise his name in dance; strike up the band and make great music! And why? BECAUSE GOD delights in his people, festoons plain folk with salvation garlands!" (Psalm 149:1-4 The Message)

"Dear friend, guard Clear Thinking and Common Sense with your life; don't for a minute lose sight of them. They'll keep your soul alive and well, they'll keep you fit and attractive. You'll travel safely, you'll neither tire nor trip. You'll take afternoon naps without a worry, you'll enjoy a good night's sleep. No need to panic over alarms or surprises, or predictions that doomsday's just around the corner, BECAUSE GOD will be right there with you; he'll keep you safe and sound." (Proverbs 3:21-26)

"Don't walk around with a chip on your shoulder, always spoiling for a fight. Don't try to be like those who shoulder their way through life. Why be a bully? "Why not?" you say. BECAUSE GOD can't stand twisted souls. It's the straightforward who get His respect." (Proverbs 3:30-32 The Message)

"Don't walk on the poor just because they're poor, and don't use your position to crush the weak, BECAUSE GOD will come to their defense; the life you took, He'll take from you and give back to them." (Proverbs 22:22-23 The Message)

"Danger ahead! God's about to ravish the earth and leave it in ruins, rip everything out by the roots and send everyone scurrying: priests and laypeople alike, owners and workers alike, celebrities and nobodies alike, buyers and sellers alike, bankers and beggars alike, the haves and have-nots alike. The landscape will be a moonscape, totally wasted. And why? BECAUSE GOD says so. He's issued the orders." (Isaiah 24:1-3 The Message)

"The Spirit of God, the Master, is on me BECAUSE GOD anointed me. He sent me to preach good news to the poor, heal the heartbroken, announce freedom to all captives, pardon all prisoners. God sent me to announce the year of His grace— a celebration of God's destruction of our enemies— and to comfort all who mourn, to care for the needs of all who mourn in Zion, give them bouquets of roses instead of ashes, messages of joy instead of news of doom, a praising heart instead of a languid spirit. Rename them 'Oaks of Righteousness' planted by God to display His glory. They'll rebuild the old ruins, raise a new city out of the wreckage. They'll start over on the ruined cities, take the rubble left behind and make it new. You'll hire outsiders to herd your flocks and foreigners to work your fields, but you'll have the title 'Priests of God,' honored as ministers of our God. You'll feast on the bounty of nations, you'll bask in their glory. Because you got a double dose of trouble and more than your share of contempt, your inheritance in the land will be doubled and your joy go on forever." (Isaiah 61:1-7 The Message)

"Regarding Zion, I can't keep my mouth shut, regarding Jerusalem, I can't hold my tongue, until her righteousness blazes down like the sun and her salvation flames up like a torch. Foreign countries will see your righteousness, and world leaders your glory. You'll get a brand-new name straight from the mouth of God. You'll be a stunning crown in the palm of God's hand, a jeweled gold cup held high in the hand of your God. No more will anyone call you Rejected, and your country will no more be called Ruined. You'll be called Hephzibah (My Delight), and your land Beulah (Married), BECAUSE GOD delights in you and your land will be like a wedding celebration. For as a young man marries his virgin bride, so your builder marries

you, and as a bridegroom is happy in his bride, so your God is happy with you.”
(Isaiah 62:1-5)

“You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this BECAUSE GOD was with Him.” (Acts 10:37-38)

“All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn’t, and doesn’t, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call grace. When it’s sin versus grace, grace wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that’s the end of it. Grace, BECAUSE GOD is putting everything together again through the Messiah, invites us into life—a life that goes on and on and on, world without end.” (Romans 5:2-21 The Message)

“But BECAUSE GOD was so gracious, so very generous, here I am. And I’m not about to let His grace go to waste.” (1 Corinthians 15:10a)

“By an act of faith, Enoch skipped death completely. ‘They looked all over and couldn’t find him BECAUSE GOD had taken him.’ We know on the basis of reliable testimony that before he was taken ‘he pleased God.’ It’s impossible to please God apart from faith. And why? Because anyone who wants to approach God must believe both that he exists and that he cares enough to respond to those who seek him.” (Hebrews 11:5)

“Take the old prophets as your mentors. They put up with anything, went through everything, and never once quit, all the time honoring God. What a gift life is to those who stay the course! You’ve heard, of course, of Job’s staying power, and you know how God brought it all together for him at the end. That’s BECAUSE GOD cares, cares right down to the last detail.” (James 5:10-11 The Message)

“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, BECAUSE GOD raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation,” (1 Peter 1:3 NLT)

“But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, BECAUSE GOD chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.” (2 Thessalonians 2:13 RSV)

“Everyone who loves is born of God and experiences a relationship with God. The person who refuses to love doesn’t know the first thing about God, BECAUSE GOD is love—so you can’t know Him if you don’t love. This is how God showed His love for us: God sent His only Son into the world so we might live through Him. This is the kind of love we are talking about—not that we once upon a time loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to clear away our sins and the damage they’ve done to our relationship with God.” (1 John 4:7-10 The Message)

Are you ready to respond to God?

This is Palm Sunday - a day of response to all that God has poured out on us.

This is a celebration response in advance of the cross and Jesus’ crucifixion.

Anything we do is a reflection of Him.

We love, we serve, we live - **BECAUSE GOD!**

Closing Song -Because of You