

Break Forth 2008 – Emerging Services

Let's jump away from the "Emerging" title quickly. Emerging has come to mean so many things in the Christian experience. For our purposes "Emerging" will be defined as a way to experience or enhance our worship in a tangible, physical, participatory and communal way.

Each of these experiences can be reproduced in the local church, small group, youth night, or Sunday school class. Don't be overwhelmed by the whole of what you've experienced at Break Forth Canada. Each one of these stations can bring a whole new level of experiencing the Kingdom of God to the people that you are leading.

We've broken the service into 2 rooms. A Dark Room and a Light Room. Within this document you can find photos and basic instructions for each station in each room.

The Dark Room

This room has the intent of emphasizing what the world and our own flesh have done in separating us from the richness and righteousness of the Kingdom of God. We do live in the world, and like Jesus before us, need to deal with every kind of temptation. Each of the experiences in the dark room are to highlight some of the ways we are lied to, pulled away, entangled and bombarded every day.

Soundtrack

Each of our senses takes a beating and this one attacks our ears. We've created a soundtrack (which you can re-create yourselves – sorry, because of legalities we cannot distribute ours). The constant stream of audio stimulation in our every moment distracts us from the still small voice of God.

Supplies

- Four CD players (one in each corner of the room)
- Soundtrack #1- "Dead Man's Rope" by Sting (Album: Sacred Love)
Optional song- "Peace of Mind" by Boston (Album: Boston)
- Soundtrack #2- Crowd sounds downloaded from <http://www.pacd.com/sounds/index.html>
- Soundtrack #3- Traffic sounds downloaded from <http://www.pacd.com/sounds/index.html>

- Soundtrack #4- Industrial sounds downloaded from <http://www.pacdv.com/sounds/index.html>

Each track was recorded on Pro Tools LE software using a Digidesign 002 Workstation. Any alternative recording software will suffice. (A free download is Audacity www.audacity.surgeforce.net)

The Labyrinth

Break Forth Canada provided us with an important resource. Crowds. Within the labyrinth, our team crowded you into this labyrinth. The pressure of deciding if we should follow those in front, take our time to discover for ourselves or even if those behind us are making their decisions based on ours is very stressful. How did you feel in the line? Were you confused, amused, overwhelmed? Did you get to experience everything the way you wanted or were asked to by God? Did you think to ask the question of what God wanted for you in the Dark Room? Or did the crowd move you? Were you an individual or part of a mass decision making process? Another excellent resource is “the Prayer Path” by Group Publishing www.grouppublishing.com)

Supplies

- Stanchions – these can be borrowed from your friendly bank manager, or rented from an event supply company. For a very cheap option, mark the labyrinth out with masking tape on a carpet.
- Lighting – we chose to have dim lighting that added to the “ambience”.

Visuals

We are incredibly swayed by media and today we chose to emphasize the television genre. Stacking these competing DVD’s and TV’s provides a close up of the different influences we allow into our minds.

Supplies

- 5 TV’s, 4 DVD players
- DVD # 1 Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth”
- DVD #2 Workout Video
- DVD #3 CNN
- DVD #4 Infomercials

- TV #5 – static
- Lots of extension cords and powerbars

Message Tent



We are lied-to every day and our own belief system is affected by those lies. By having each person walk through the Message Tent, you are blatantly exposed to these messages that we allow in our lives.

Supplies

- Outdoor dining tent or canopy (without sides)
- Dollar Store clear shower curtains
- Overhead projector and transparencies of messages
- Sharpies or other permanent markers
- Shower curtain rings

Using your word processing program, figure out the messages that would be effective for the group you are working with. (Most are probably similar messages) Print them on transparencies in a very bold font – “Impact” is a good one. Project them onto a shower curtain you’ve taped to a wall and trace and color the message onto the curtain. Hang a message on each side of the tent where the walls would normally go. We chose to end the Dark Room with the message “Come to Me” and had that be an invitation into the Light Room.

Disaster Map

We know that we’re supposed to pray for and to assist and minister in our world, but how do we decide where? Our “global village” media culture brings to our attention every natural disaster, famine, war, accident and terrorist act that occurs. How do we pick which ones we can work on and pray for or are we so overwhelmed that we do nothing?

Supplies

- World map & visual symbols of world disasters

Body Image

Again, media does a bang-up job on helping each of us determine our own love or lack of love for our physical bodies. Do we really love and care for our bodies as a creation of the Most High God and a temple? Or do we criticize and compare against the standard of the world?

Supplies

- Magazine collage of “beautiful people”
- Full length mirror

So Easily Entangled

Sometimes we are so busy with all our other senses that we lose track of where our feet (or our lives) have taken us. Suddenly we’re stuck or slowed down by the sins and temptations that have shallow but stubborn roots in our lives.

Supplies

- 2X4 plywood (this needs to be heavy enough that it won’t come up when people stick to it)
- lots of duct tape wrapped around the plywood sticky side up.

- Balloons in a tarp- it's a great idea to have a compressor of some sort to blow up this many balloons – we got quite light headed!

It's probably a good idea to have a "guide" here, especially if the lighting is dim, to remind people that they need to watch their step.

The Light Room

When we "emerge" into this room the intent is for there to be a huge contrast between the dim and confusing Dark Room and the light and environment in the Light Room. Bright lighting, clear instruction, individual or small group worship activities are all features. This room can be self-guided or guides can be provided to help those who may be struggling with the new way of experiencing worship. There is no particular order for these activities, nor are there time limits at each station.

Communion Table



A wooden cross for a Communion Table. Sometimes the way we take communion has become very routine. This particular method makes each person kneel or stoop down placing them physically in a humble posture as they take the communion elements.

Event Instructions:

Spend some time contemplating the life and sacrifice of Jesus as you kneel or stoop to reach the communion elements. Consider the symbolism of the grapes (the vine) and the blood of Jesus. Think about the symbolism of the bread as the Body of Christ and of the Body of Christ (the church). Take as much time as you need here.

Supplies

- Cross
- Communion cups, juice or wine and bread
- Breadmakers. We chose to use these to provide the scent of freshly baked bread – engaging another sense.

Be sure to check with your minister if you are at all unsure about how your church tradition would reconcile this activity. Unity is far more important than a “new experience”.

Worship in Music

In our church culture, we are so used to the worship band and audience model. Having the band in the center of the room provides a different “look” to the worship team. We also deliberately did not provide lyrics so that the band was forced to use more familiar songs that lots of people could easily sing along to. What was your experience? Did you find yourself singing along in each of the stations? Did you take a moment to stop in the Light Room and worship with singing? Or has worship through music become a “background” activity for you? When was the last time you purposefully had a singing worship time by yourself?



Supplies

- Acoustic band (volume is an issue here)

- Extension cords – having a band in the center means no power – make sure to have power getting to them and taping it down for safety.

Visual Worship

For a long time the church has decided that musicians are the artisans who lead worship in our congregations. But the ancient church has an amazing history of worship through the visual arts and dance as well. We've invited friends who are painters, sketch artists, photographers, graphic designers and graffiti artists to worship with their skills as well. We've also put up a congregational mural for the group-at-large to contribute visually.



Event Instructions:

Use the crayons provided to express yourself to God through drawing, symbols, words or colors. There are Bibles provided if you would like to quote Scripture in words or draw what a verse or passage means to you

Supplies

- Artists with their own supplies – they know best what they'll need (ask them to provide a tarp for underneath their easel or table to protect the flooring)
- Sturdy mural paper (don't use newsprint – it will rip)
- Crayons (the art form of the masses – everyone knows how to use a crayon)
- Bibles – to provide accuracy for people's scriptural quotes and a way to find some words for their expression
- "seeds" Put a few drawings or quotes or prayers onto the mural to get people started.

Intercession

How often has a prayer concern come to you and you've said "I'll pray for you" and then you forget all about it. This is a station where gifted prayer warriors can immediately intercede for those in need. It also provides a visual for the Revelations "picture" of the prayers of the saints rising like incense to heaven.



Event Instructions:

Using the markers, write your prayer request (remember to consider privacy here) on the whiteboard. Our intercessor(s) will pray this morning for your concern. You are welcome to stay and listen if you like.

Supplies

- Whiteboard with markers
- Gifted intercessors (ideally well-trained prayer warriors)
- "seeds" Put a few prayer requests on the board to give people the idea.
- A safe place to burn incense (we tried to track down unscented incense – it does exist, but couldn't get it on time) Regular incense is very tough on those sensitive to perfumes and strong smells.

Local / Relational Evangelism



Are we being effective in our own spheres of influence? Where are you praying for people's salvation? Where are you a light in your neighborhood? Are you praying for your spouse and children as they are a light in the darkness too?

Event Instructions:

Take a post-it note and write the name of the specific person or group you are passionate about. Stick it to the place in the "neighborhood" where they are. IE, a downtown building, a school, the soccer field or hockey rink, the grocery store...use your imagination here. Feel free to do more than one

Supplies

- Child's cityscape carpet for toy cars
- Lego houses, stores, businesses etc.
- Post-it notes and pens

International Evangelism / Missions

Is there a burning in you for a specific country? Have you spent time on a short-term mission or do you support missionaries? Do you sponsor a child? Where are your life and prayers making a difference in the world?

Event Instructions:

Take a post-it note, write your name on it, and place it on a country on the map where you have a passion to see the Kingdom of God increased. Take a card from the country stats and keep it with you to help you pray. Feel free to do multiple countries.

Supplies

- Large world map (ideally laminated for longevity)
- Post-it notes and pens
- notes about specific countries (these are attached for you to use)

Footwashing



This is the ultimate in humility and servitude as demonstrated by Jesus on the night of the last supper. Providing the opportunity to be this vulnerable as we serve fellow believers can really open up the heart to hear the Lord and to express worship within community in a new way.

Event Instructions:

Come together or alone to wash or have your feet washed by one of the leaders of this elective. We're not talking a pedicure or scrubbing here, but the symbol of humility and servitude toward your

fellow believers. Use fresh water in a pitcher and put your used water into the appropriate container when you are done. Spend some time speaking into each other's lives if you are there with a partner.

Supplies

- chairs
- basins and pitchers

- a clean water source and gray water disposal (we used clean wheeling garbage cans)
- towels or paper towels
- an indoor fountain (providing the sound of water is an auditory stimuli in this experience as well)

Confession

Many of the church traditions have done away with public confession as a part of their liturgy or sacraments. This method is still private to the individual, BUT public in its act. And it is more than words. Nailing our sins to the cross is a very disturbing act as we realize that Jesus took on our sins and His very flesh – the same as ours- was nailed to the cross.



Event Instructions:

Spend some time contemplating the things that you need to confess to God. Write the specifics of that confession on a paper(s) and using the hammer, nail that sin to the cross as you confess it and ask forgiveness. (Please know that all the papers will be destroyed immediately after the services)

Supplies

- free standing or well-stabilized wall cross
- papers and pens
- nails and hammers
- another option is to add a “forgiveness” portion. Many liturgies have a confession and then the minister speaks words of forgiveness acknowledging the confession over the congregation. One way this has been done is to have someone there with a can of red paint and a paintbrush putting a mark over each paper as it is nailed to the cross.

Journaling



An excellent way to “seal” the work God has been doing and to record that work and go back to it in the future is to journal. There are tables provided with papers and pens so that journaling can begin or continue in this experience. There have also been some starter questions provided. Journaling within the actual experience as opposed to afterward can be a very effective tool where sometimes God will speak.

Event Instructions:

In this great atmosphere, use the paper, pens and questions provided to record how you are feeling, what God is doing and saying to you and how you will continue in this attitude of being “engaged” in worship.

Supplies

- tables and chairs
- notepads and pens
- starter questions

Blessing Team

Remember when the pastor used to stand at the exit of the sanctuary and everyone shook his/her hand on the way out? This was a way to receive a personal blessing as we ended our worship experience. No big deal, not an extended prayer time, just a short “sealing” prayer as we head into the world.

Supplies

- Gifted blessing prayer people (ideally well-trained prayer warriors who also have the skill of an engaging smile and personality).

It is our hope and prayer that God will have worked in some new or powerful way in your life as you experienced the “Emerging Service” at Break Forth Canada. It was our privilege to provide this for you.

The Emerging Services Team

Kim Fast – Renaissance Community Church

Paul Gericke & Stephanie Leverette – Central Baptist Church

Caris Rinas – City Centre Church

Mike Berg – Millcreek Church of God

Many thanks to our army of volunteers!

Volunteer Roles:

Coat storage supervisor

Line Up “Guides” to explain the way

Dark Room

 Duct Tape board “watch your step”

 Balloon Tarp re-fillers

Light Room

 Foot Washer

 Band Members

 Intercessors

 Communion Supplies re-filler

 World missions attendant

 Blessing Team

 Guides in various areas