



June 2008.Issue 5

THE ANT AND THE GRASS

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With the sun at times breaking out of its cloudy husk, we have watched the grass and weeds grow like...well, like weeds. Our largest pond, which feeds into the ecological reserve, has resumed its swamp like activities. Lily pads, swamp grass, and flowering stalks have emerged. Mother mallards with their ducklings swim around in the pond with delight, washing themselves off and rustling the weeds for something to eat. The eagles, hawks, and herons circle our lakes occasionally for food, and a variety of hummingbirds love to come up on our decks to suck up some sugar water. Unfortunately, ants like sugar water too... There is no need to mention what our carpenter ants like.

Meanwhile, we and the students have been busy renovating the workers' suite in the main house. We have wrestled up and heaved out the carpet and the foam; we have pulled out the desks inset in the walls; and we then cut and laid the Gunstock oak laminate, and have been painting the walls a creamy white. This allows for a clean and spacious suite. When we have enough funds, we also hope to renovate the kitchenette into a more fully-functioning kitchen to accommodate a large group of guests. The students are also helping sand and stain the decks and the picnic tables, clear and till the garden, and organize the house.

The students have also dived into their studies. Reading books or chatting and laughing with one another about a variety of topics, they come primed for table discussions, eager to dig deeper into questions of faith and of life. They, of course, enjoy playing volleyball and ping pong as well. This past month, we have also seen the Ryans, who helped this branch for almost three years, move on to an urban church in St. Louis. We deeply thank them for enabling us to do this work well. It was because of their diligence and care that we are able to face the future with optimism. Such optimism is further fueled by seeing a good interest in this branch. For the summer term, we have a full house of 8

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L'Abri Canada

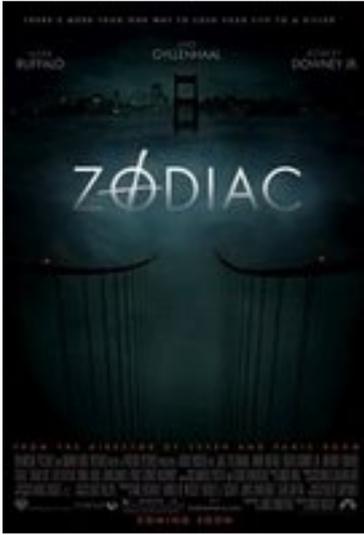
2008 Terms

June 2 - July 24

September 2 -
November 10

If you'd like to apply as a student please visit our website for more information about our branch and a broader treatment of what to be mindful of as you consider joining us on the island. Alternatively you may call or email us, but keep in mind that as we are often engaged outside of the office, email is usually the more effective form of communication.

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ZODIAC. Paramount/Warner Bros. 2007.

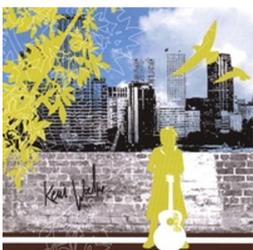
At the top of the month Michelle and I watched this latest film exploration of the Zodiac serial killer mystery. Based on true events (and the book by Robert Graysmith), the film unfolds in a linear fashion, initially introducing the unknown killer and the three men who will become obsessed with uncovering his identity. The tagline of the film, "There is more than one way to lose your life to a killer", highlights that this film is about the obsession of those trying to decipher Zodiac's identity. Writer James Vanderbilt and director David Fincher do an excellent job capturing the psychological fixation of SF Chronicle cartoonist, Robert Graysmith (Jake Gyllenhaal), whose investigations form the true spine of the film; Chronicle crime reporter Paul Avery (Robert Downey Jr.), who becomes an early psychological target of the Zodiac; and homicide detective David Toschi (Mark Ruffalo) who, despite an accumulation of circumstantial evidence, is unable to find conclusive evidence to warrant an arrest.

The chronological scenes allow for a strong set up and a growing desire to discover the identity of the killer. Each time we jump another month or year we see how the lives of the investigators are gradually being changed by fear and obsession. As time passes Avery and Toschi move to the wings, each broken in their own way, by their failure to identify the killer. As they diminish Graysmith's obsession swells until he is unable to focus on any objective but breaking the identity of the killer. Fincher's direction is always "crisp" and arresting. While this film is more plainly shot than some of his other films, it is very powerful, particularly when Graysmith's obsession takes over. By this point his need to know mirrors our own need to know, but while Graysmith's obsession blinds him to his increasing peril we can see it perfectly, and experience some vicarious anxiety. And, because this is great film-making, there's a wonderful scene where Graysmith's awareness suddenly catches up to ours that manages to be funny and terrifying at the same time.

I definitely recommend it as a film. But it's not for everyone. Michelle was very freaked out about it because it was just too real. She finds murder stories, particularly true ones, appropriately disturbing. So take that as fair warning.

MUSIC

Our last term was blessed by the gifts of a couple great singer songwriters who joined us on the island for house concerts. Kerri Woelke, with special guest Brian James, treated us in February, and Matt Epp entertained us in April. Not only were their songs and concert experiences intimate and excellent - it was an extra treat to spend time hanging with these thoughtful, young people who have dedicated their lives to observing the world around them, contemplating the place of God in their experiences and finding the words and music to share their journey with those around them. They each have their own sound but they share a wisdom that belies their years and the talents to make even bitter truths sweet. Samples of their songs and CDs are available online from cdbaby.



Kerri Woelke
(self-titled)
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/woelke>



Matt Epp
Orphan Horse
<http://cdbaby.com/cd/mattepp3>

KUNG FU PANDA Dreamworks.2008.

There's always been something wrong with even the best Kung Fu movies. In fact, the better they are, the harder it is for the viewer to vicariously take the journey of the hero, for great Kung Fu movies tend to tell the story of how someone who is awesome becomes even more awesome than they already are. For the fat, lazy fanboy watching from the sidelines, this is awesome in its own way - but in the quiet of the night, in the haunted realm of dream, the unfettered imagination grasps for more.

This is the palpable problem of Po the Panda who worships the local Kung Fu heroes, dreams that he's one of them, yet wakes to spend his days toiling in the soul crushing family soup business. When extraordinary, and perhaps accidental, events result in Po being revealed as the long awaited Dragon Warrior, he is mystified, but ready to believe. The others are only mystified. His trainer rejects him and his heroes humiliate him - but even so, Po loves them fanatically. It's only when the villain of the piece escapes, that Po's trainer finally accepts the wisdom of his own Master and chooses to believe in Po. With eyes full of faith, he realizes that Po's weakness reveals his greatest strength.

There are wonderful sequences: Po's Dream, The Prison Break, The Fight for the Dumpling, and a good share of strong, individual scenes that impart simple wisdom well. It is very funny and far surpasses the shallow, pop-culture dependent commercials that Dreamworks Animation has been rolling out the last few years. This film took four years to make and shows its research and care for tradition. My complaint - the film, like this review, is too short and the 2ndary characters remain thin. Nonetheless, Kung Fu Panda may cause blindness to those unaccustomed to awesomeness.

THE ANT AND THE GRASS cont'd

guests. Two of them are helpers that have continually showed a readiness to be available. We are even seeing an interest from people in the Fall Term. This does not include the many visitors and friends that have dropped by to say 'hello' and to see L'Abri firsthand. One man named Harold and his sister came by for his birthday! Furthermore, it has been good to be encouraged by some local island folk for our being here and for the work ahead. There is also the lecture schedule, which we believe will prove popular throughout. We deeply pray that our being in the Cove, the 'metropolitan' area of Bowen Island, will bring out those who do not believe in the gospel to inquire and to discuss openly. Being part of the fabric of the island is still on the cusp, but daily we, with the help of others, desire to dissolve any false apprehensions of our wanting to be a part of the island community.

In all this, we believe that continued hard work and faithful hearts will bring forth God's provisions, not because we have earned it, but because we steward what we are being given wisely. We pray that God will remember us as we seek Him in all that we do and in all that we are. With the amount of work that is ahead of us, particularly as we overlook this wondrous but large 20-acre property, we ask that you pray with us that we will be provided for in all areas. Please pray that the Scheibes and the Hardens continue to work well together this summer. With only two couples maintaining the work, it can prove very straining relationally. So, we ask that you also remember us as we move about our day-to-day work with each other and with the guests. Finally, we ask that you pray for our guests, not only that we care for them well but also that the only personal God will meet them where they are, to bring about His transformative grace through Jesus Christ; for without God's powerful grace and love, we are but clanging cymbals, resounding nothing. It is only in Christ that that love will have any content and power.

-- Clarke Scheibe

We are often asked how people may donate to the work of Canadian L'Abri. Canadians may send their donations to our main address (cover page). We issue tax deductible receipts for gifts sent to our ministry. For tax deductible receipts in the U.S. send the donation to Rochester L'Abri with the memo "for Canadian L'Abri".

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Praying Through June 2008

"I call on you, O God, for you will answer me."
Psalm 17:6

Please join with us as we mindfully bring ourselves and our cares to God our Father. Each day is marked with a specific prayer suggestion. Our serving families appear regularly as a reflection of our deep and continuing need for God's daily provision of grace that we might be more like His Son, Jesus.

June 1 Scheibe Family	2 Day of Prayer for L'Abri Korea	3 summer helpers Celeste & Jeannie	4 Students	5 Harden Family	6 Bowen Island churches	7 Canadian Board
8 Scheibe Family	9 Day of Prayer for L'Abri Canada	10 summer helpers Celeste & Jeannie	11 Students	12 Harden Family	13 Bowen Island community	14 Canadian Trustees
15 Scheibe Family	16 Day of Prayer for L'Abri Netherlands	17 summer helpers Celeste & Jeannie	18 Students	19 Harden Family	20 Bowen Island churches	21 Canadian Board
22 Scheibe Family	23 Day of Prayer for L'Abri Canada	24 summer helpers Celeste & Jeannie	25 Students	26 Harden Family	27 Bowen Island community	28 Canadian Trustees
29 Scheibe Family	30 Day of Prayer for L'Abri Switzerland					