

## Pastor Craig's Itinerary...

**April 6 - 8 Moncton Faith Victory Church**  
229 Collishaw Street, Moncton, NB  
Contact 506-857-8528 for more information.

**April 9 - 10 City Impact Church**  
Fredericton, NB

Join us for special services Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Please call for directions to venue. Call 506-453-9891 or visit [www.cityimpactchurch.ca](http://www.cityimpactchurch.ca) for more details.

**April 11 - 13 Faith Works Centre**  
Charlottetown, PEI  
Contact 902-566-2257 for more information.

**April 16 TOR Taping at CJIL: The Miracle Channel**  
450 - 31 Street N, Lethbridge, AB  
Taping begins at 1 pm. Come be a part of the live audience.

**April 20 & 27 Southside Victory Church**  
6402 - 1A Street SW, Calgary, AB  
Pastor Craig will be ministering during the 10 am services.  
Please call 403-253-7777 for directions or more info.

### Would you like to have Pastor Craig minister at your church?

Contact our office by phone or email and speak with Karen at [info@timesofrefreshing.ca](mailto:info@timesofrefreshing.ca) or at 1-8777-8777-87 ext. 2.

Itinerary is subject to change without notice. For the most up-to-date itinerary information, visit our website at [www.timesofrefreshing.ca](http://www.timesofrefreshing.ca).

## TOR Long Distance...

### Save money and support TOR at the same time!

Times of Refreshing has teamed up with a telephone long distance wholesaler that offers monthly commission to TOR on the telephone long distance bills of people who are referred to them by TOR. These wholesale plans offer competitive rates that can save most people money when compared with other long distance and local telephone providers.

### Don't use long distance?

We'd still like to help. Some local telephone providers charge a "Long Distance Administration Fee" even if you don't use long distance. Our wholesaler offers plans starting at \$0 per month/4.9 cents per minute, which could be a \$5.00/month savings for some people compared to their current long distance fees.

### More information...

If you would like more information on how you can save money on your telephone long distance while supporting Times of Refreshing at the same time, please contact our office.

## Contact Us...

Remember that we continue to pray for each of you, our partners. We would love to know how you have been blessed, specifically through our ministry. Feel free to contact us through any of the information listed below. May God bless and refresh you today! We now have office hours! Contact Karen on Thursdays and Fridays by phone at 1-8777-8777-87 ext. 22



*Times of Refreshing*  
6402 - 1A Street SW, Calgary, AB T2H 0G6  
Toll-free: 1-8777-8777-87 ext. 2

Fax: 403-258-4421  
Email: [info@timesofrefreshing.ca](mailto:info@timesofrefreshing.ca)  
Website: [www.timesofrefreshing.ca](http://www.timesofrefreshing.ca)

Seen on CJIL: The Miracle Channel, featured on Bell ExpressVu (channel 652) and Star Choice (channel 357) and various cable systems across North America.  
Call your cable provider and ask for the Miracle Channel!

# The Times of Refreshing

## From Pastor Craig's Desk...

Dear Partners,

I hope this newsletter finds you blessed and prospering in the things of the Lord!

I was driving out of town the other day and happened to notice some new calves just days old skipping around on wobbly legs in the pastures and farms around Calgary. I was amazed that spring is already on its way when it seems like winter just started.

I've always loved this time of the year! There's a special smell in the air as the earth begins to thaw out and everything that has been frozen begins to come to life again.

I remember as a little boy walking home from school with my friends. We always knew where the big puddles were when the snow melted and would detour that way just to slosh through the middle of them with our boots on. I remember one hole where, if you weren't careful, you'd step in water up to your knees and come home with wet pants, socks and boots. But hey... we were explorers on an adventure!

I can almost hear some of you saying, "It's still freezing here...". Well, for those of you still locked in winterland, I can only say keep your hopes up. Spring is on its way! As I write this to you, it is fifteen degrees and sunny in Calgary.

I feel like we are beginning to experience a "spring" time in the spirit. So many people I talked to in 2007 said it was one of, if not the hardest year of their lives. I am convinced this was the winter before the spring.

I preached last year on the circumcision of the heart as I could feel the Lord bringing

attention to things in me that He wanted to deal with. I recently heard someone mention that many of us have felt unusually limited, held back, and somewhat frustrated at the difficulty of trying to move into things we feel we should be involved in. This person went on to use the illustration of the eagle and that God has us in the place of molting right now.

When the eagle is molting, it has a period of time when it can't fly and therefore doesn't eat. It has to wait until all the old feathers are gone and a completely new set of feathers comes in. Needless to say, molting is a difficult and vulnerable time. But when the new feathers come in, they are brighter and stronger and they prepare the eagle for the next level of growth.

I feel this accurately describes what God has been doing with us in this past season. If it's true that 2008 is the year of new beginnings, and I believe it is, we should be expecting things to begin to open up and "thaw out" that have been frozen in our life. There are already signs that things we have struggled with are beginning to change.

I feel like the Lord is asking us to step out and trust again even in things we have tried before without success. As I have embraced the circumcision of my own heart, I am aware of a much greater trust in Him and less of a trust in my own abilities.

...continued on page 2



Pastor Craig Buroker

The Times of Refreshing is designed to keep our partners up to date on what is happening in our ministry, Times of Refreshing.

We are confident you will find this a valuable source of information providing regular contact from the show host, Craig Buroker, a sneak preview about what is next on the show, and our latest product available.

We feel that God is using our ministry to impact this nation both as an oasis of God's presence to its viewers and as a trumpet call to Canada's church.

It is important for our partners to stay informed, and that is why we've started The Times. If you would like to write to us, see our contact information on the back of the newsletter. We love to hear from our partners!

### Inside this Issue:

Page 1 - From Pastor Craig's Desk...

Page 2 - Latest Product Offers...

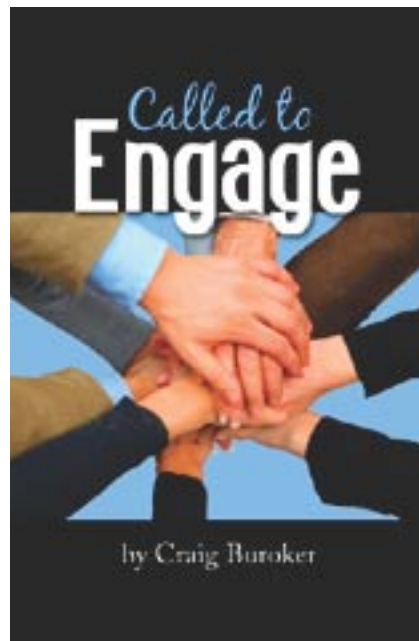
Page 2 - In Between: The Season of Fruitlessness...

Page 2 - Feature Product Offers...

Page 4 - PC's Itinerary...

Page 4 - TOR Long Distance...

Page 4 - Contact Us...



**Called to Engage...** Item 1061

God is calling this generation of Christians to engage in the world like no other generation before it. From changing our world view as believers to engaging in the world's systems, there is an anointing on God's children to win the world from the inside out. This series will change your perspective on how to release life in your workplace and your world.

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\$27.00 CD

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Please mention your partnership discount when you order. All prices are in Canadian Funds.  
\$5 shipping will be added for provinces Manitoba and westward. For provinces Ontario and eastward and the territories, please add \$9 for shipping.

**From Pastor Craig's Desk...**  
*continued from page 1*

In the spring, all the plants "try again," all the flowers "try again," and all the trees bud and bring forth new leaves even at the risk of doing it too soon, when a cold snap could damage the new growth.

Let me encourage you to TRY AGAIN even though you've failed in certain areas before. After all, we are "trees of righteousness!"

TRY AGAIN in the things you knew God was leading you into that didn't work the first time. TRY AGAIN in things that you have asked the Lord for that didn't manifest and you never knew why. Even the world has a motto, "If a first you don't succeed, try, try again." I believe God is telling us to raise our expectations of Him and TRY AGAIN!

Just as we love the smell of the spring thaw and new growth, our Father likes the smell of our new growth, too. And because He loves us in our process, He'll give us some spring mud puddles to jump in along our adventure.

Our God is faithful and He will come through for us and will send us out like "calves of the stall," jumping and running for joy as we see what we hoped for come to pass!

*Pastor Craig*

# In Between: The Season of Fruitlessness...

Sometimes it feels like we are not growing spiritually. You may feel like you're in neutral, or just spinning your wheels, but not making any progress in your walk with the Lord. You may think that once you did great things for God, but all of that fruit has now disappeared.

If this describes where you are, then you are in what I call a season of fruitlessness. Psalm 1:3 describes the righteous as, "... a tree, planted by streams of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season."

If there is a season to bear fruit, then there must be a season not to bear fruit! Every plant goes through a cycle of growth, fruit-bearing, and then seeming dormancy. At some points we, too, must allow ourselves not to bear fruit, but to focus on inner growth instead. The mindset that says, "If it's not getting bigger, it's not God," is not always an accurate one.

Let me liken this stage of fruitlessness to a standard automobile in neutral. While it is in neutral, there's no acceleration, and unless it's traveling downhill, the working of the engine will slow down the vehicle. While in neutral, pressing the gas pedal does nothing. As a matter of fact, if a driver presses the gas pedal too hard and tries to re-engage the engine, he can strip the gears, and damage them.

If you are in a season of fruitlessness, I encourage you not to "try harder" as it won't accomplish anything. A tree that tries to force its sap to move in the winter can damage itself.

When we're in a time of fruitlessness, God works us, not through us. He is working on our roots, not our fruits!

God took Moses through such a season, after he fled from Egypt to Midian (Exodus 2). Like Moses did, in this season, we will see:

**God is at work on our wills** – He asks for a surrender of the desire to have our own lordship. When Moses tried to save the Israelites his own way, not God's way, he had to flee Egypt, and seemingly his destiny.

**God connects us to our spiritual heritage** – This is often far deeper than we understand. Midian was a son of Abraham. God sent Moses to his own relatives, and he worked for and learned from Jethro, his father-in-law for 40 years.

**God contests and contends** with our present value system – so it can become more like His. It took 40 years for God to get the influence of Egypt out of Moses.

Turning to God during seasons of fruitlessness allows God to deal with things inside us that would potentially cripple or disqualify us at the next level of our spiritual walk with

Him. As a matter of fact, when you look back at such a season, you'll see it as your biggest time of inner growth.

But finding ourselves in such a season is hard! It's hard not to feel like we've done something wrong, or that we're being punished for some past mistake.

Avoid these wrong reactions when you find yourself in a season of fruitlessness:

1) Trying to go backwards in God's will, or back to where you were producing fruit. Instead, realize this season is normal, not "bad." It's a test from God, not a trial from the devil. And when God tests us, we don't ever fail – we just complete it again and again until we pass it!

2) Embracing the season so completely that you turn away from your destiny altogether. Understand that the season is temporary, not permanent. Don't settle for not bearing fruit forever!

How can we move out of a season of fruitlessness? Psalm 37 gives us an outline of right reactions when we're in this season:

**"Don't fret!"** This command is repeated three times in the first eight verses. What is going on is normal and you will get through it!

**"Trust in the Lord..."** Allow Him to change and mold you. Let Him deal with your heart issues.

**"...and do good."** One of the best things to do while you go through this is to find someone else, or someone else's vision, to serve. While you're in neutral, you can help further someone else's ministry.

**"Dwell in the land..."** Stay put! Don't make sudden or drastic changes – stay planted by the streams of living water. **"...feed on His faithfulness."** Search out scriptures that speak of God's goodness and meditate on Him.

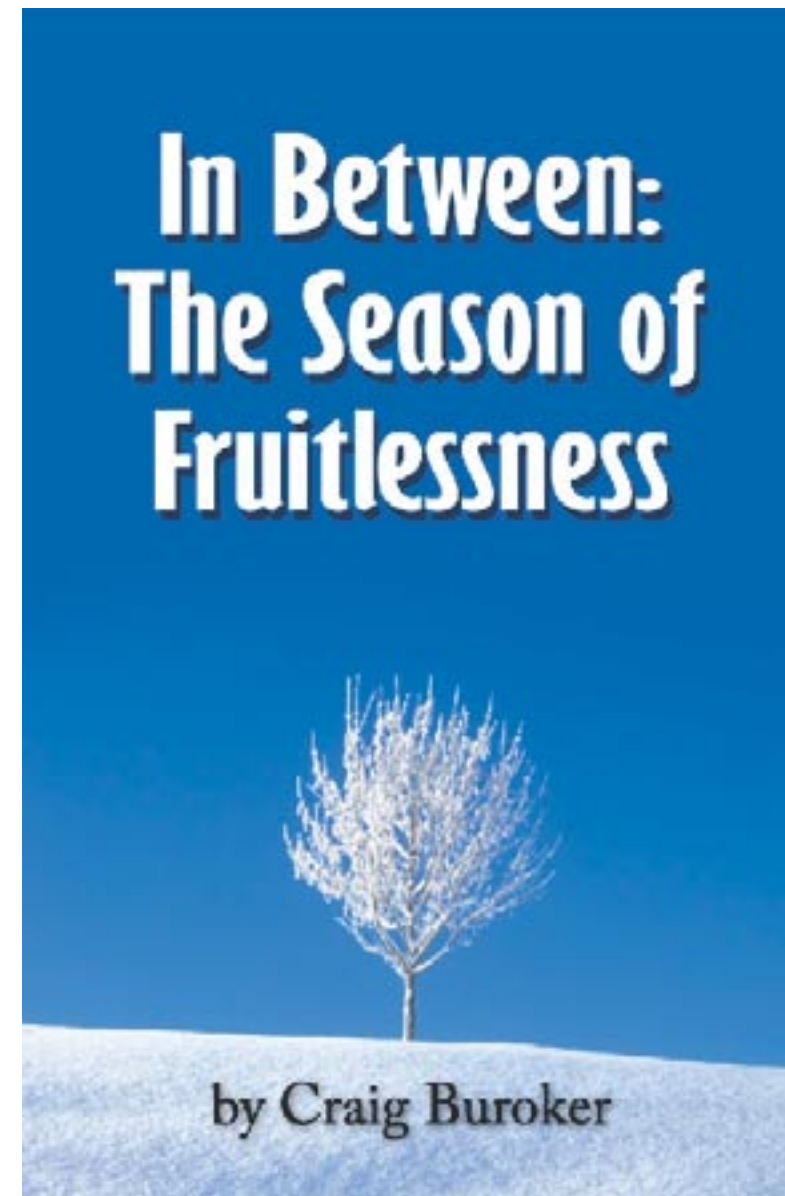
**"Delight yourself also in the Lord..."** Don't turn away from Him and find something else to do. It will only prove to be a distraction and set you back from the growth God wants to accomplish IN you.

**"Commit your way to the Lord..."** Roll the weight of fixing yourself onto Him. He's a lot better at fixing us than we are!

**"Trust also in Him..."** He is faithful to complete that which concerns us! He will do it!

**"Rest in the Lord..."** This phrase literally means to be silent before Him. Learn to hear God's voice and direction. **"...and wait patiently for Him."** This is probably the hardest part for a lot a people, but is the part that makes us

grow the most.



Between every gear you must pass through neutral. Before each new season of growth, you will experience a season of fruitlessness. As you gain experience, passing through these seasons will not only get easier, but faster and smoother. Before you know it, you'll be a tree again, "that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever [you] do shall prosper."

*Edited by Mara Fraser*

**Order this teaching series for your library!**  
**Visit our website or call our office today.**

**In Between: A Season of Fruitlessness...** Item 1060  
**Partner Prices:** \$36 DVD \$27 CD

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