

THIS IS THE FIRST INSTALLMENT OF A MONTHLY PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING SERVICE PROJECTS BY THE STUDENTS OF HERITAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL.

A PUBLICATION OF THE
GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP
PROGRAM AT HERITAGE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

SERVICE AND CITIZENSHIP AT HCS

October , 2007

A CAREER OR A CALLING?

The Global Citizenship Program at HCS is not designed to make kids happy: it's designed to teach them to serve. But in the end, it accomplishes both these goals. It was Parker Palmer, a master teacher from the USA, who said that a student would find their calling "where their own great joy met the world's great need". In other words, once a student finds what they love to do (and people are usually good at what they love), they then need to find ways to serve others with these God-given gifts and talents. Unless one's life purpose has some higher end than finding a quick and easy way to make a lot of cash, people are destined to live unsatisfying lives. Jesus said that until we learn to lose and lay down our lives for others, we will never find personal fulfillment . This is a very



different way of thinking about one's life purpose than is usually given to students in Canadian schools. Rather than laying down their lives in service to others, most Canadian kids are taught to choose a career path

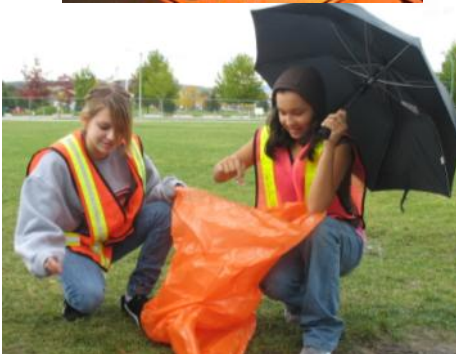
according to the simple criterion of personal happiness: in other words, what makes you as an individual feel best about yourself. This self-centred perspective on

career and life purpose, reverses the Biblical paradox about how to find fulfillment. Real happiness comes from giving, not getting, Jesus said. Indeed, the book of Corinthians teaches that my own God-given tal-

ents are not given to make me happy, but to meet the needs of my community; and through this service to my community will come my personal happiness.



Victor Farkas shares the joy of film making with a young student at Puerto Escondido's School for Special Kids.



VALUES IN, GARBAGE OUT

We've all heard the phrase "Garbage in, garbage out". When applied to teenagers, it's usually intended to show that pouring wrong values into kids through violent or sexually-oriented media will lead to predictable results in their behaviour. But what happens

when you pour the right values into kids? As we see at left, it leads to predictably good behaviour. These students from Heritage Christian School are cleaning up garbage on Hollywood road as part of our "Adopt a Road" program at HCS. This is in no

way intended as a 'punishment' or chain-gang for 'bad' kids. Indeed, we believe that opportunities to serve like this bring out the best in kids. By practicing the right values, we can all begin to get the 'garbage' out of our lives --and off of our streets.

ANCIENT RAINFOREST TO BE LOGGED...

If you've seen Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, where ancient trees thoughtfully discuss whether they should participate in the destructive wars of men, you may have a glimpse of what it is like to walk through BC's Incomappleux Valley near Nakusp. Many trees here are between 1500 and 1800 years old, and the forest contains plant and animal species found nowhere else in the world.

Heritage students from the Geography 12 class traveled here to see for themselves why a controversy is looming about logging this unique ecosystem. In 2005, a stand-off took place here between an American forest company (Pope and Talbott) and a collection of conservation groups seeking to preserve this old-growth forest. The stand-off ended with a court injunction to clear the road of protestors, ironically, just when a

rockslide (an Act of God?) blocked access to the valley, preventing Pope and Talbott from bringing in their logging machines.

Currently, conservationists are trying to convince the BC government to reverse their decision to sell this ancient forest. By seeing this place in person, students were challenged to consider the forest from various perspectives. Trees have value beyond the number of board feet of lumber they contain. As handi-work of the Creator, they have aesthetic and spiritual value as well economic value. Rainforests like this one are now known to be the "lungs of the earth", washing global warming gases like CO₂ from

the air and replacing them with fresh oxygen.

After returning from the Incomappleux Valley, each student in the Geography 12 class wrote to the Minister of the Environment or the Minister of Forests in BC to explain how their visit to the awesome location affected them personally.



www.hcsglobalcitizenship.com

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'GLOCAL' CITIZENSHIP

I have been asked (and not always too nicely) about why we bother taking students all the way to southern Mexico to help them learn to serve, when we our own country, province, and city have more than enough needs to give our students opportunities to serve. But I think most people will realize --as the stories in this publication show-- that the 'global' includes the local. In other words, students who discover the joy of service on an adventure to a lesser developed nation, will bring back to Canada an attitude of gratitude that makes them so much more ready to commit to improving their own communities than they were before they left. Our students may learn globally, but they also serve locally, or, as we like to say, "glocally".

**G C P A T H C S : C H A N G I N G O U R W O R L D ,
O N E S T U D E N T A T A T I M E .**