

The CrossWay Current

June 2018

*Notes from CrossWay Community – an Evangelical Free Church
3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546*

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Construction update ...

Whoever said it would be easy?

What a delightful, hopeful day we spent together on April 22 when we ceremonially “broke ground” in the dazzling sunshine of 2018’s best spring day!

With a bountiful outpouring of the Lord in providing the resources needed, an enthusiastic and knowledgeable team of architects and builders in place and ready to go, all that was necessary was the issuance of building permits by the City of Grand Rapids. And that’s where we still stand.

As church chairman Bob Johnston announced to us at the May 20 annual business meeting, the permitting process has raised some issues which appear at this point to be advantageous to CrossWay and may well result in some cost savings.

Serving the Lord at CrossWay

Thank you to Bob Greenhoe for agreeing to serve again on the Board of Elders for our church. He was elected at the May 20 annual meeting.

And thanks, too, to church chairman Bob Johnston, whose service on the Elder Board concluded with the annual meeting and who continues to be an invaluable resource in coordinating the ministry center construction project.

We offer thanks to Elder Paul Samuelson as well, who has completed 10 years of chairing the Missions Team and has recently concluded service chairing the nine-month-long Missions Strategy Task Force, which developed CrossWay’s new missions strategy.

Thanks ... and farewell ... to Rick and Tammie Marlowe as they prepare for a new adventure. Rick has long served our congregation as a worship leader and soloist, more recently adding the role of Worship Deacon. Moving out of the area this month, they will be missed!

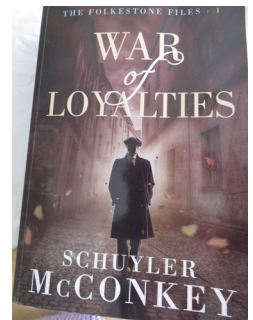
*Thank
you!*

Praise the Lord for the outpouring of financial support for this ambitious project from CrossWay members and attendees.

Prayers continue to be the first priority. Stay tuned for a continued shower of blessings as we build toward ministry at CrossWay – reaching UP, reaching IN and reaching OUT.

New to the CrossWay library

Look for Schuyler McConkey’s *War of Loyalties* in the fiction section, as this novel takes us behind the lines of British spycraft during World War II.



The author is a writing teacher, book reviewer and ministry leader ... and wonderful friend of Linda Stevens. She is described by her publisher as “passionate about classic, Dickensian stories and characters who encounter deep struggles touched by grace.” Enjoy a good read this summer!

Coming up at CrossWay Community

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|-----------------------------|--|
| Every Sun. 10 a.m. | Worship together |
| Every Tues. 6 a.m. & 6 p.m. | <i>Every Man a Warrior</i> men’s discipleship program |
| Every Tues. 1 p.m. | Women’s Bible study |
| Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m. | <i>Wholyfit</i> exercise (church hosting) |
| June 2 9 a.m. | Men’s breakfast @ Bob Evans |
| June 2 9 a.m. | Ladies’ breakfast @ IHOP |
| June 3 & 17 7 p.m. | Youth Group |
| June 7 7 p.m. | CityFest* prayer gathering @ Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church |
| June 10 11:30 a.m. | Potluck luncheon @ CrossWay |
| June 16 2 - 3:30 p.m. | Camelot Ice Cream Social @ Camelot Park |
| June 19 7 p.m. | CityFest* prayer equipping evening @ Gold Avenue Church |
| June 26 6:30 - 8 p.m. | New Members class |
| June 30 6 p.m. | Monthly prayer hour |

* *CityFest* is the evangelistic festival of the Luis Palau Assn., being planned for Sept. 8-9 in Grand Rapids.

Reaching out...

Rescuing human trafficking victims a priority for Evangelical Free Church

The heart of Jesus and of His church was evident in the message which Amy Richey brought to the spring ladies luncheon at CrossWay Community in early May.

We had a strong turnout, thanks to members bringing friends, and a lovely salad bar lunch, thanks to the Women's Ministry team.

And the best part of the event was the message of urgency and the opportunity to make a difference.

Amy is a resident of Grand Rapids and is director of our denomination's ReachGlobal Global Equipping and leader of the Community Development Team. A veteran of the mission field in Ukraine, Amy now helps direct visiting missionaries in their efforts to assist indigenous church and ministry developers across the world.

In that role, she has learned more than any of us would want to know about the evil of human trafficking and the needs of its victims.

She brought to us not only a touch of her heart but practical suggestions of how we can help, even right here in Kent County. It starts with awareness, and all who were present were shocked and moved by a video Amy showed which dramatically demonstrates the reality that human trafficking has trapped an alarming number of our youth.

So what can we do? Pray for ReachGlobal's Justice Initiative; give to a missionary who is fighting human trafficking; volunteer with Kent County's Juvenile Justice System; volunteer with fostercare and adoption services.



Lord willing, we will visit this issue again in the October edition of *CrossWay Current*, as Oct. 11 is commemorated worldwide as "International Day of the Girl," with an emphasis on sex trafficking and sex-selection abortion.

Can you help at-risk students?

Florence Funk is inviting CrossWay members and attendees to offer an hour of time to young teens in a health-screening exercise at the Calvin College health services office on June 21 and 28.

Students will get practical experience in interviewing "patients," testing for blood pressure and pulse, using a stethoscope, as they explore a career in medicine.

Volunteers get to interact with the aspiring students and get a quick, complimentary, unofficial health screening.

Contact Florence Funk if you can participate; she will have sign-up sheets available at church on Sundays.

Construction financial forecast

Our \$ goals to meet our timeline goals . . .

Balance needed to begin construction	\$15,436	by 4/13	✓
Add-ons needed . . .			
Main entry canopy	\$ 7,195	by 7/13	✓
Complete/equip new kitchen	\$12,310	by 9/14	✓
Furniture, fixtures & equipment	\$15,000	by 10/26	✓
Sanctuary air conditioning	☺ \$25,034	by 6/2019	
Phase I renovations of existing bldg.	\$35,000	by 6/2020	
Phase II existing bldg. renovations	\$35,000	by 6/2021	



CrossWay Community Mission Statement:

God has called us to make disciples of Jesus Christ who respond to His Gospel by committing ourselves to loving God, one another and the world in Christ's name.

This message
from Pastor Bob Funk

Running Until You're 100

I can't honestly say I enjoy running. Fast fitness walking better suits my aerobic style.

On the other hand, I am reading a book by Jeff Galloway called *Running Until You're 100*. Jeff is a former Olympian who has trained hundreds of thousands of runners of all ages. He is especially known for his "run-walk-run method," which has enabled him to run without injury for more than 30 years. Jeff trains prospective runners and seasoned runners alike, helping them to 1) run with fewer aches and pains, 2) stay motivated and 3) increase their enjoyment as a runner. He also helps his trainees to make needed adjustments for each decade of life as one ages, along with wise counsel on rest, diet and goal-setting.

Several things have piqued my interest in this "run-walk-run" method. Consider the following:

1. The Bible often speaks metaphorically of both walking and running. We are instructed to *walk* "in love" (II John 6), "in the light" (I John 1:6-7), "in obedience" (Deut. 5:33, 10:12, 11:22, 26:17), "humbly" (Micah 6:8), "with the wise" (Prov. 13:20), etc. We are also instructed to "*run* in such a way as to get the prize, not like someone running aimlessly" (I Cor. 9:24-26), and "*run* with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus ..." (Heb. 12:1).
2. Some of the things Jeff Galloway teaches, which I listed in the second paragraph above, are also things I value in the pastoral ministry. I want to help train followers to (a) follow Christ "with fewer aches and pains" – arising from the temptations and sins of the world, the flesh and the devil; (b) "stay motivated" to follow, serve and obey Christ; and (c) "increase our joy" as those who are loved, whose sins are forgiven and who have eternal life!
3. Ultimately, running depends upon strengthening one's *heart* and cardiovascular system, while also



building *endurance* and increasing one's sense of *well-being*. Living as a Christian also involves these things. For instance, God searches every heart (I Chron. 28:9) and looks at the heart (I Sam. 16:7). The Holy Spirit is purifying our hearts. God wants us to love Him with all our heart.

By the way, I have developed my own version of Galloway's "run-walk-run method." I call it "**Jog-walking**." I *walk* for a while at a good pace and then *jog* for a bit – mainly to get my heart rate up into the fitness zone I am seeking. My fancy "Fitbit" watch



helps me know how my heart is doing. When I am too out-of-breath (and not enjoying running), I go back to walking again. I still get all the cardiovascular benefits while actually *enjoying* my exercise experience! I also have a sense that I am taking better care of both my physical and my spiritual heart.

Here is a theme verse for the "jogwalkers" in the Lord's family:

"... those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will *run* and not grow weary, they will *walk* and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

May you and I "jogwalk" with Jesus until we are 100, and then live forever happy, whole and well, in His eternal kingdom!

Amen!



*This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel*

June Bugs and Childlike Joy

The reminiscences we have of days-gone-by pale in comparison with the promised hope and joy of finally seeing our Lord face to face. At that time, we will be like Him (I John 3:2-3)! And, so often when we read of what the Kingdom of God will be like, we see celebrations, meals, and parties (Isa.25:6; Matt.22:2-14).

For the past 35 years, June has been a happy month for me, as I celebrate with my wife our wedding anniversary. As blessed as I am to have Sue for my bride, even this relationship of marriage is temporary (as widows and widowers painfully know so well) and is a pale reflection of the joy that we will someday know in full as we, the Bride of Christ, enter into the consummation of our redeemed relationship (Eph.5:27; Rev.19:6-9; 21:9).

So, the next time you see a June bug, don't let it "bug" you too much. Instead, reimagine this little brown bomber not only as a reminder of all our childhoods, but as a precursor of our life to come. If your childhood wasn't that great and memories brings mostly mourning and sadness, even for you a Kingdom is promised (Matt.5:3-4). So, as June rolls around, may each of us ask God for a childlike faith to more fully believe that Someday, we will fully enjoy, an Endless Summer of delight.

Did I mention to you I like June bugs?



Bob Newell

I like June bugs. They remind me of my childhood. June bugs — you know, those little brown buzzy airborne bugs that come out in, well, June. (That's why they call them June bugs rather than May or July bugs.)

If you can't tell already, this month's column will be more playful than usual. Yet, while it may be a bit of a stretch, I'll connect this month's slightly irreverent piece with last month's article which was a reflection on John 15.

You might recall, in May, I explored with you a bit, about our life as branches with our True Vine Jesus. Jesus said as we abide in Him we would experience His joy. Jesus enjoyed His creation. I bet He likes June bugs, too.

I think enjoying June bugs and the things summer brings, can be an expression of real joy. When we find our life increasingly in Jesus (See John 15:1-11; Col. 3:1-3), we become more dependent/childlike, experiencing life in ways that make us feel young again.

Ponder with me. I'm sure you can remember. What did you enjoy about the month of June when you were a child growing up? For me, it was seemingly endless summer baseball games played at the local sandlot, lightning bugs, catching snakes, the smell of fresh cut grass, swimming in Uncle Andy's lake with my cousins (there were more than 20 of us!), ice cream trucks, and, of course, June bugs. I'm sure your list is probably different from mine.

But without being a post-party pooper (these days of youth are long gone for many of us!), there are even better days ahead. There are glorious days ahead!

Reaching out...

The Movement — “It was amazing!”



CrossWay's own Michael Stevens got personally involved when the CityFest Youth Committee launched its youth gathering dubbed “The Movement” on Thurs., May 17.

The event drew 1,400 young adults for an evening featuring rapper Andy Mineo and Texas Pastor Jarrett Stephens, combining entertainment with a clear Gospel message. CityFest organizers are praising the Lord for the response of the crowd, with 100 responses to the Gospel being noted. “We’re rejoicing in how God used it in such a powerful way, bringing together hundreds of students and uniting over 160 churches of different denominations. The event was a beautiful testament to unity and passion for the sake of the Gospel spreading through our community.”

More information and ideas for involvement can be found at cityfestwestmichigan.org.

Opportunities at CrossWay

Summertime usually means putting our commitments on hold and embracing whatever margin we can build into our lives.

But ministry continues at CrossWay, even during vacation season:

- Church potlucks are happiest when someone coordinates the event. Next one: June 10. Good chance to try out a new way to serve at CrossWay. Contact Florence Funk.
- Children’s Church happens on Sunday morning when we’re all gathered together. The curriculum is available; it just needs willing servants to step forward and answer the call of God to serve our children. Please contact Becky Alves for details.
- With Rick Marlowe’s move, we need someone to take responsibility for selecting and leading the music on one Sunday each month. It’s a role that involves teamwork and attention to detail. Please contact Pastor Bob Funk if God is laying this opportunity on your heart.
- With construction starting soon to extend our building to the south, the north end of our church property needs a little TLC. Construction draws extra attention from the public. Can you join the volunteer crew to beautify our Burton Street entrance and our new sign? See one of the pastors!

In serving at CrossWay, you serve the Lord. Will you say, “Here I am, Lord,” when you hear the call?

Reaching up...



Great Bible Chapters (a quick guide)

New Birth	John 3
Bread of Life	John 6
Good Shepherd	John 10
Humility	John 13
Fruit-bearing	John 15
Holy Spirit	John 16
Prayer	John 17
Judgment	Matthew 25
Sowers	Luke 8
Lost and Found	Luke 15
Sinners	Luke 19
Pentecost	Acts 2
Victory	Romans 8
Consecration	Romans 12
Love	I Corinthians 13
Resurrection	I Corinthians 15
Armor of God	Ephesians 6
Faith	Hebrews 11
Tongue	James 3
Heaven	Revelation 21

*Following Jesus.
Walking HIS way.*

Asia Bibi, condemned to death by Pakistan

For nine years this mother of five has been under condemnation by the Pakistani courts. Her attorney continues to appeal this sentence, which resulted from her sharing Christ with Muslim women working with her in the fields.

Several countries have offered her immediate citizenship, if only the government of Pakistan would release her to deportation. But the Supreme Court has a backlog of more than 2,000 blasphemy condemnation appeals, and, despite international pressure, they seem in no hurry to consider her case.

In the meantime her family and anyone in Pakistan who supports her is in danger. A few months after her conviction, a former provincial governor was murdered for having supported her and trying to change the nation's blasphemy laws. We at CrossWay have enjoyed the freedom of expressing our support and concern for her from a distance by addressing Christmas cards to her at our card-writing parties for persecuted Christians in November 2016 and 2017.

As you pray for Asia Bibi and her family, who receive strength and comfort from the international concern that has been expressed for her throughout her imprisonment, please remember to thank our Lord for the freedom we have to worship Him and speak on His behalf as we enjoy the many blessings of living in the United States.

Please pray also for our Pakistani Christian sisters in general, hundreds of whom are being forced into marriages with Muslim men each year. One such, 25 year-old Asma Yaqoob, has just died after being set on fire for refusing to comply with this demand. Pray for the women and girls who marry under these circumstances that they will be a light for Christ within these "marriages." And pray for the country of Pakistan to reform both its blasphemy laws and its practice of forced marriage, which is a form of human trafficking.



Praying for our missionaries to the Roma people



Pastor Bob Manuel was delighted to welcome old friends Tom and Dora Becker on Sunday, May 27, when the missionary couple presented their ministry to the last Sunday School class of the season.

Beckers returned to the States five years ago to serve the Evangelical Free Church of America's missionaries, equipping and connecting them to individual churches in the U.S. in their overseas church planting efforts among the Roma people.

Tom let a recent documentary film titled *We Are Here* do most of his speaking for him and then proceeded to answer questions. We now know that the Roma people live in communities throughout Europe and are citizens of the countries where they live but retain their own distinctive culture. They've traditionally been known as gypsies but no longer live as nomads and prefer to lose that antiquated identity. God is doing wonderful things among the Roma, and EFCA/ReachGlobal is doing its part to bring the hope of the Gospel to them.

Please pray . . .



For Tom, as he travels to Beirut, Lebanon, this summer to explore how to mobilize partnerships between U.S. churches/non-profits and Syrian refugee ministries in Lebanon. In the fall, he will host a short-term mission trip to Eastern Europe to connect with Roma people.



For Dora, as she prepares for a new career teaching fifth graders at a Chesterton area school which serves, among others, many Spanish-speaking children. Dora is hoping to add a new language to her toolkit as she interacts with these students.