

The CrossWay Current

July 2018

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

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Construction update ...

The ground is broken!

Permits have been issued and contracts signed. The turf has been lifted, forming a footprint for the new ministry center to the south of our CrossWay church building. Neighbors and passers-by are doubtless taking note of our expansion plans, prompting curiosity that will, perhaps, plant seeds in many hearts to watch for signs of new life on the corner of East Paris and Burton.

With God's provision through the 2017 sale of property, stirring generosity toward His kingdom work at CrossWay, and providentially lining up the timing of permits and contracts, we are financially ready for this building process to begin.

The next step in the plans on the table is to bank enough donations to proceed with installing an air conditioning system in our sanctuary, a project that is becoming increasingly dear to our hearts as this summer heats up.

Vacation Bible School

Our church has been invited to participate in the VBS planned for mid-July across Burton Street at the Church of the Servant. Children entering 1st through 6th grades are invited to participate July 9 - 13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Registration forms are available.

Our church has a collection box underway for contributions of materials needed to bless the children of our church and neighborhood with an opportunity to "delight in God as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world."

These young children will learn that "all of God's works are good and that they themselves are beloved creatures."

Questions about this joint venture may be directed to Becky Alves, who is representing CrossWay Community at this year's VBS.



"Even though our initial plans set up a financial deadline of next June for the a.c., if we can raise the money and get that installation done during the major construction, we will save a lot of money," says Bob Johnston, who has been shepherding the expansion project. "As it stands today, we're getting really close to putting it into the schedule for this summer."

So, waddya say, CrossWay? Let's go for it!

Parking during construction

For safety and convenience, the elder board is requesting us to park near the north (Burton Street) entrance, and enter the building at the north door for the duration of the construction. Please park accordingly and note that the dentist's parking lot up a slight hill to the west is available for our use on Sunday mornings. We thank Advance Dental Smile for their provision.

Coming up at CrossWay Community

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| Every Sun. 10 a.m. | Worship together |
| Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m. | Small group @ Hinkles |
| July 1 & 15 6 p.m. | Small group @ Alves |
| July 1 & 15 7 p.m. | Youth group |
| July 5 7 p.m. | CityFest* prayer meeting @
Mission de Fe Church |
| July 9 - 13 6 - 8:30 p.m. | Vacation Bible School @ Church
of the Servant |
| July 11 & 25 7 p.m. | 20-Somethings |
| July 12 & 19 6:15 p.m. | Wholyfit exercise (church hosting) |
| July 17 7 p.m. | CityFest* prayer equipping @
Gold Avenue Church |
| July 22 6 p.m. | Monthly prayer hour |

NOTE: 1st Saturday breakfasts are suspended 'til Sept.

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

Reaching out...

Coming this fall:

CrossWay Cradles Ministry

CrossWay Community Church and the Pregnancy Resource Center/Grand Rapids (PRC) have linked arms in ministry to provide a welcoming space for a Cradles of Grace Bible study for young moms.

Marcy Greenhoe and RaeAnne Hansberry have stepped forward as host/liaisons to receive community volunteers and program participants to CrossWay on Thursday mornings beginning at the end of September.

Initially, CrossWay is providing the facility and hosts; as time goes by, the church hopes to take more ownership of the program as more members of the congregation are drawn by the Holy Spirit to participate in providing childcare (infants and toddlers) and meals, as well as serving food and cleaning up.



Although CrossWay Cradles Ministry will be the first such program in the southeast area of Grand Rapids, we anticipate participation may be small at first. Word-of-mouth expansion of the program will open up more opportunities for Kingdom service in the future.

If you are sensing God's call into this ministry, please get in touch with Marcy, RaeAnne or CrossWay's new missions coordinator, Pam Reed.

Loving...Serving...Building! CrossWay Community Church

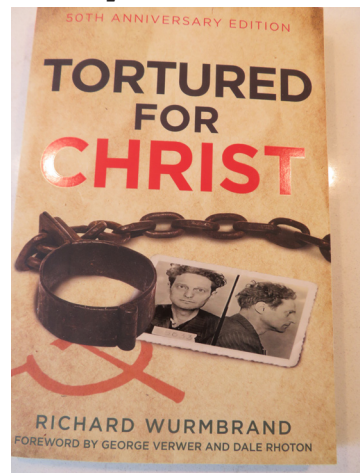


CrossWay Community Mission Statement:

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.

New to the CrossWay library

On March 5, more than 20 CrossWay folks attended the special theatre presentation of Richard Wurmbrand's autobiographical film *Tortured for Christ*. Now, the book documenting his story is available for borrowing from the CrossWay church library.



Pastor Wurmbrand and his wife endured imprisonment and, indeed, torture for the sake of our Savior in a Romanian prison under the despotic rule of the Ceaușescu Communist regime.

Following his ransom by Western Christians, he answered God's call to be His witness by founding Voice of the Martyrs. The movie...the book...offer great inspiration! Check out this great resource.



**Watch
for our
new
website
... in July!**

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	😊 \$2,990	by 6/2019 . . .	
Phase I renovations of existing bldg.	\$35,000	by 6/2020	
Phase II existing bldg. renovations	\$35,000	by 6/2021	

**the sooner,
the better!**

This message
from Pastor Bob Funk

Our commitments matter to God

“ . . . (God) pays special attention to His loyally committed ones.”
(Proverbs 2:8 MSG)

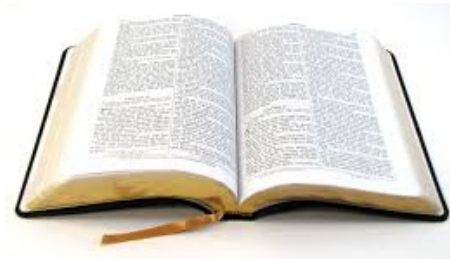
“I’m thoroughly committed to living Your way.”
(Psalm 119:66 MSG)

Our lives are shaped by the commitments we make, or do not make. Almost everything that matters — that offers the potential for satisfaction, happiness or a sense of accomplishment — requires some long-term investment of time, energy and heart — in short, commitment.

Psychologists make a distinction between momentary happiness and enduring happiness. It is not hard to experience short-term bursts of positive emotion. It’s as easy as the nearest chunk of chocolate, the funniest movie, the greatest game or the cutest puppy. Unfortunately, the chocolate melts and the fat lingers, movies end and real life remains, your team can lose that big game, and your puppy or kitten will grow up and demand — you guessed it — quite a commitment!

Enduring happiness, life satisfaction and success require commitments to any number of things:

- **A good marriage** is founded upon committed love.
- **Financial security** is based upon commitment to long-term earning, saving, stewardship and money management.
- **Career success** requires a commitment to education, training and hard work.
- **Good health** doesn’t just happen. To our dismay, we have to commit to long-term habits like exercise, healthful eating, stress management and the avoidance of a multitude of bad habits. That’s the way our Creator designed things, and there is a reason: **Our well-being on this earth and in eternity is linked to the commitments we make.**



We live in an age where emotion rules. Advertisers have trained us to link just about everything to how we feel. Within thirty seconds, a carefully crafted commercial can make us feel hungry, hopeful or happy. It seeks to connect those feelings with a certain product or provider in such a way that we are motivated to act, to buy, to eat or to tune in on Wednesday at 10. We are trained to be discontented, to act impulsively, to indulge any urge and to satisfy impulses quickly. We become impatient and unwilling to delay gratification, and we can become slaves to our own appetites and excesses. We can also become unwilling or unable to make long-term commitments. (Excerpted from *The Greatest Things — Loving God and Living Well As a Committed Christian*, Robert James Funk)

I share the above because, while it is not New Years, it is the beginning of summer. This season can also be a time for reflection, getting away from it all — even if just for a little while — and re-committing to those ideals, plans and goals that we considered back on January 1st.

I plan to share more excerpts from *The Greatest Things* in these pages because, as the title of this segment said, “Our Commitments Matter to God.” And the Scriptures have a lot to say about the kinds of commitment to which God calls us.

For now: May the Lord bless you and keep you this summer of 2018 and beyond . . .

Don’t forget the sunscreen! 😊



*This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel*

Finding a better freedom

Last month I wrote a playful little piece about June Bugs and Joy. This month's column will be much shorter, as this issue of *CrossWay Current* is pretty full already.

What comes to mind is the idea of Freedom, especially in how it applies to our faith and relationship with Jesus.

Our oldest child Melissa was born on the Fourth of July. We kiddingly call July 4th our "Loss of Independence Day!"

I recently had the privilege of attending a Michael Card concert at Maranatha Bible Conference in Muskegon; one of the songs he shared was titled "A Better Freedom." He has also written a book with the same title, and I highly commend it to you!

I won't go on and on about how this idea of "freedom" is terribly misunderstood, and, yes, a Christian's freedom can be abused. Nevertheless, we have been called to freedom! (Read Galatians 5:1, 13; John 8:31, 36.)

Join me in meditating on I Corinthians 6: 19-20 and 7:23: "You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body. ... You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men."

Now, ponder Michael Card's lyrics . . .

"A better freedom can't be found
by those unwilling to be bound.

A better freedom is not known
by those whose hearts will not be owned.

But those who follow
find a better freedom."



Neighborhood social in the sun



With our parking lot in turmoil, CrossWay won't be holding a basketball camp for our neighbors this summer. But the ball was moving at the Camelot Community Partnership's Ice Cream Social in June!

The event was organized to give the Partnership opportunity to prime the pump for other activities this summer, including distribution of back-to-school stuff.

Fun prevailed, with ice cream, temporary tattoos, basketball and a popular thrill provided by the fire department!

Around 100 neighbors participated in this low-key event. And CrossWay was there to meet and greet and welcome.



Reaching in ...

June: Great time for a church potluck!



Rick Marlowe greets friends at our June potluck in a farewell message.

Reaching out ...

CityFest West Michigan

CrossWay, it's time to pray! West Michigan has already been blessed by the Luis Palau Evangelistic Assn.'s decision to bring its festival concept to our hometown of Grand Rapids, come September 8 - 9. But no need to wait for that early fall weekend to praise the Lord and call upon His Name.

Preparations have been underway for several months and are now heating up with the coming of summer. Once again this month, there's a pair of meetings scheduled for prayer warriors. And plans are being announced for special training opportunities in August (see next month's *Current*).

Meanwhile, the question remains whether Luis Palau himself will be able to speak at the main event, as he is being treated for stage 4 cancer. His most recent scan showed the chemotherapy had run its course, and his medical team has moved to an eight-week run of immunotherapy. His son Kevin reports, "The medical team remains encouraged, and Dad and Mom remain at peace. They are embracing this next phase of treatment with complete trust in the Lord and appreciate your ongoing prayers."

So, CrossWay, three action items this month: 1) Attend one or both of the citywide prayer meetings; 2) Contact Pastor Bob Manuel for information on getting involved directly in the CityFest-ivities; 3) Pray for CityFest, its organizers and staff, its volunteers, and pray for hearts to be prepared to receive Jesus during the festival week, as well as for the health of the evangelist himself, Luis Palau, and his family.

We gathered for fellowship and a lavish banquet of food right after church on June 10th, a time to celebrate the warming of summer and enjoy each other's favorite dishes and friendship.

It was also the perfect time to say "thank you" to Tammie & Rick Marlowe, as they prepare to leave on a continental adventure, setting off for parts unknown across America.

We are so thankful for this talented couple, devoted to our Lord and to the fellowship here at CrossWay. We'll miss Rick's music leadership and Tammie's contributions as well. Keep in touch, friends! God go with you!

Reaching up ...

HELP!

When feeling discouraged or defeated

Romans 8:28, 31 - 39 II Corinthians 4: 8 - 18
Philippians 4: 4 - 8 Hebrews 4: 14 - 16
Matthew 5: 3 - 12

When worried or anxious

Matthew 6: 25 - 34 Matthew 11: 28 - 30
Philippians 4: 6 - 13 I Peter 5: 6 - 7

When sorrowful or bereaved

Matthew 5: 4 John 14: 1 - 4
I Thessalonians 4: 13 - 18

When tempted

Matthew 26: 41 I Corinthians 10: 12 - 13
Philippians 4: 8 James 4: 7 - 8
II Peter 3: 17 - 18

When backsliding

I John 1: 4 - 9 I John 2: 3 - 6

When in need of healing

Matthew 7: 7 - 8 Matthew 9: 29
Matthew 11: 28 Mark 6:56
Mark 9: 23 John 15: 7
Romans 8: 38 - 39 II Corinthians 12: 9
James 5: 14 - 16

When fearful

Matthew 10 28 - 31 II Timothy 1: 7
Hebrews 13: 5 - 6

When prayer is needed

Luke 11: 1 - 13 I John 5: 14 - 15
John 14: 12 - 14 John 15: 7 - 16

When loving is difficult

I Corinthians 13: 1 - 13

Praying for our friend living in the Far East



CrossWay member Melva Whaley enjoys lunch at her favorite neighborhood Applebee's after gracing CrossWay with her annual report in June.

Melva Whaley joined the staff of Leadership Development Institute (LDi) 11 years ago, called to this service directly from CrossWay Community Church. She presently serves as ESL and special education director for six schools in East Asia and a school in the Middle East, all of which open their doors to families with foreign passports. So far, LDi schools have been treated by their host countries as “guests,” but the political winds are changing, and LDi and its staff anticipate increasing turmoil. However, they are resolved to serve well their nearly 400 students while they are able. American staff and their families total 100 - 150 people, each of whom needs visa renewal annually and may be directly affected by geopolitical and economic policies presently in flux.

Please pray . . .



for God to do all that's needed to bring more teachers onto the LDi staff, particularly in the elementary levels and in science/robotics.



for visas to be granted for new teachers and honored for those presently in transit, including for Melva herself.



Good news from Eritrea!

The senior pastor of Kale Hiwot (Word of Life) church in Eritrea, Oqbamichel Haiminot, has been released after 3,881 days in custody. He had been arrested in early 2005 for participating in a Christian wedding ceremony, along with

66 other evangelicals. Most were released, but Pastor Oqbamichel, having refused to recant his faith, was put into solitary confinement and suffered extreme abuse, causing a mental breakdown that resulted in his release.

He was subsequently rearrested in October 2007 for his continued Christian activities. Married, with three children, he is known as a passionate preacher, caring pastor and hard-working church leader.

Pastor Oqbamichel was one of 17 persecuted Christians to whom 40 of us addressed greeting cards for Christmas 2017.

Voice of the Martyrs has received confirmation that Pastor Oqbamichel has been released and needs medical care. Just as we prayed for him in November when he was in chains, let us continue to pray for him and his ministry.



Remember Pastor Andrew Brunson

American Pastor Andrew Brunson faces the next phase of his “terrorism” trial in Turkey on July 18. He has served the Lord faithfully, meeting the physical and spiritual needs of the people there for 23 years and is being subjected to an autocratic judicial system. It has become obvious that Turkey's government is using Pastor Brunson's detention for political purposes in its international relations with the United States.

Meanwhile, when the Defense Authorization bill arrived from the U.S. House to the Senate in June, three Senators worked together in a bipartisan effort to apply pressure on Turkey, citing Pastor Brunson's plight and specifying in the legislation that the pastor's release is to be a precondition for an extensive sale of military jets to Turkey. The addition of the amendment has put the bill back into the House for its approval before the legislation can be transmitted to the President for his signature.

If you are so inclined, please contact your Congressman to advocate on behalf of Pastor Brunson, and, moreover, please pray for his release.

