



September 2018

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

CrossWay men: Ready to run?

Calling CrossWay Men! Bob Johnston took to the pulpit on Aug. 26 to issue a call to the men of our church to say “yes” to enlisting this fall in CrossWay’s third year of the “EMAW” ministry: Every Man A Warrior.

EMAW is a ministry of The Navigators and is all about knowing Christ and making Him known. It’s a tool, Bob explained, to help men intentionally live out the mandates of the Christian life.

Organized in small groups, EMAW is about accountability and confidentiality. It focuses on the Word of God and includes a memory verse each week. “Yes,” Bob said, “you can do it!”

Meeting at a mutually agreed day and time each week for 27 weeks, EMAW “puts tools in your toolbox.”

“The times when I have grown the most and been the most useful to others,” said Bob, “are when I have said ‘yes.’”

For further information — or to say “yes” to EMAW this year — contact either of our pastors.

The time has come!

Invite a friend, change a life — for eternity! Enjoy the soul-winning inspiration of the Luis Palau Evangelistic Team at CityFest West Michigan in Ah-Nab-Awen Park, 220 Front Ave. NW.



CityFest is a region-wide campaign focused on serving our community and region and proclaiming a powerful message of hope.

Saturday, Sept. 8, Family Fun Zone opens at 4 p.m. Appearing on the Main Stage starting at 6 will be The Afters, Danny Gokey, Andrew Palau and Lecrae. Then Sunday, the Family Fun Zone reopens at 4, and featured on the Main Stage Sunday night (starting at 6) will be the City Choir, Mandisa, Mac Powell, Luis Palau and Toby Mac. More info: www.cityfestwest-michigan.org/event-info.

Yes! Really! Here in Grand Rapids!

Bathe it in prayer and come on out for a memorable weekend of joy and awakening.



I Cor. 9:
24-27

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

And ladies ...

Ladies of CrossWay, Tuesday, Sept, 11, brings resumption of the weekly (every Tuesday) Ladies Bible Study in the conference room/library at 1 p.m. Put it on your calendar now and join in!

Aided by video presentations, we are studying *A Life Beyond Amazing* by David Jeremiah — a gem!

Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	<i>Wholyfit</i> exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Small group @ Hinkles
Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29 10 a.m.	Revival prayer
Sept. 1 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Sept. 1 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sept. 8 & 9 4 p.m. - on	CityFest West Michigan at Ah-Nab-Awen Park
Sept. 9 10 a.m.	Missions commissioning during worship service
Sept. 9 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School resumes
Sept. 11, 18, 25 1:15 p.m.	Ladies Bible Study
Sept. 23 6 p.m.	Monthly prayer hour
Sept. 27 a.m.	CrossWay Cradles Bible study

Reaching out . . .

CrossWay at the Camelot block party

August was a good time for area families to prepare for going back to school. So, the Camelot Community Partnership, a coalition of churches with the cooperation of Ridge Park Charter Academy, had a “block party” for our neighbors. A fun occasion with grilling, courtesy of the Orthodox Church, information about Ridge Park, a bouncy house set up by St. Nicholas, a fire truck blasting its pumper, and — say, who’s that right in the middle of things shooting a basket??? Why, that looks like Pastor Bob Manuel!

The Partnership also provided backpacks for children, including CrossWay’s donations of pens and pencils; thanks to you, we met and even exceeded our goals for this year’s offering.



A fun day for our neighbors, and a wonderful way for Christians to serve “the least of these” in our community.



In His Name

Reaching in . . .

Here comes autumn . . . Fall in!

With Labor Day just around the corner, CrossWay is preparing for a new burst of ministry. And that brings new opportunities to serve each other through serving the church. Will this be the season when you step forward to glorify God through your service to His people?

Have a chat with one of our pastors to see where you best fit in . . . or volunteer to be our kitchen co-ordinator, to host a small group, to serve our families by working with their children, to beautify the church grounds with garden planting and/or maintenance, to set up and take down tables and chairs, to shop for furniture for our new “digs,” to usher and greet, to do things you see need to be done. Welcome aboard!

Construction financial forecast



Our \$ goals and timeline goals . . .

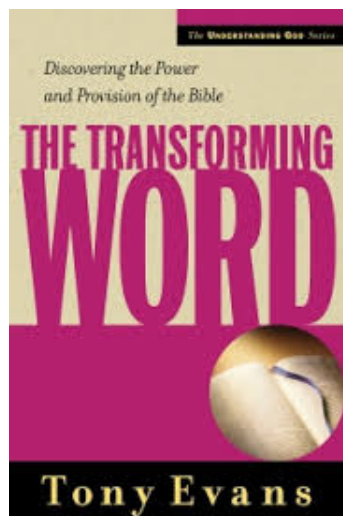
Sanctuary air conditioning **\$2,990 by 6/2019**

Phase I renovations of existing bldg. \$35,000 by 6/2020

Phase II existing bldg. renovations \$35,000 by 6/2021

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

A copy of Tony Evans’ book *The Transforming Word* has been donated to our library for your equipping and inspiration. Check it out! All you have to do is leave your name and borrowed book title on the clipboard sheet. And then dig in!

The foundation is laid . . .

Our long-held vision for a building expansion is underway, but you know that old saw: “The best laid plans... ” Stalled for the month of August by the workings of bureaucracy, we have great hopes for masonry to begin this month, indeed, A.S.A.P.

Let’s pray for the contractor’s rescheduling efforts to bear fruit, always remembering: God has a plan and is our Sovereign Kingdom Builder. And every day He reminds us: He is faithful!

*This message
from Pastor Bob Funk*

Ark Encounter . . . ‘Think Bigger’

Many of us returned to school in September and were required to write and share an essay called “What I Did on My Summer Vacation.” I’d like to share an abbreviated version of that topic, since Florence and I traveled from her family reunion in Ohio to Kentucky to visit both the Ark Encounter in Williamstown and the Creation Museum in Petersburg, Kentucky.

We stayed in between the two sites in a town called Florence, KY. Everywhere we went were things we called “Florence This” and “Florence That.” My Florence is shown here,



Mall.” (Sadly, there was no “Bob This or That.”)

The “Ark Encounter” was a surprising experience. It is the most authentic replica of Noah’s Ark in the world, where the Biblical account of Noah’s Ark comes to life. As the brochure states, “At seven stories tall and a football-field-and-a-half long, the Ark is the largest timber-frame structure in the world.”

This amazing experience, full of multi-media exhibits, seeks to answer our many questions about the Biblical account and how the ark could have been built, filled with animals, survived the worldwide flood. (In addition to sharing the photos here, we also have some extra brochures for this and the Creation Museum, if anyone would like one.)



Our “Ark Encounter” was very visual and educational, as well as inspirational. It may be one of those “you had to be there” experiences, so I will just share one thought here.

The Ark Encounter brochure has two large-type words on the front cover. It simply says, “Think Bigger.” And once you see the size of the Ark, you have to do just that: think bigger.

As you know, the ark foreshadows the church. Only those who entered the ark were saved from the coming flood. Likewise, the church is the New Testament ark, and one must enter through the Door — Jesus Christ — in order to be saved. As Jesus said,

“As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.” (Matt. 24: 37-41)

When I think of Jesus’s words of warning, I am reminded of our mission in the church.

Perhaps we need to embrace the urgency of the ark. Perhaps we also need to “think bigger.”

*This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel*



The Promiser and the promise

This month I'd like to help us reflect a bit on the distinction between the Promiser and the promise.

What I mean is this: God, the One who makes promises to us, is the Promiser. He makes many promises to us. In reading Genesis 22 and following the trajectory of God's many promises to His people in Scripture, I will suggest a summary statement and then make a few brief observations and an application.

Here's the statement: Our faith must be in the One making the promises to us, not in the promise itself. For example, if I promise my grandson a piece of candy, he either believes me or he doesn't. He doesn't "believe" in the candy.

I suppose this might sound like an overstatement to some who read this, because ultimately, God's Promise (capital "P") is Jesus Himself. But then again, because Jesus and His Father are one, (John 10:30) our faith must still be in our Promiser, not His promises.

So, you might ask, why do I say this? Take Isaac in Genesis 22. Abraham and Sarah waited for years for God's promise to come true. It came true in Isaac. Then the One who made the promise says, "kill him." (Gen. 22:2). The only clue we are given as to why Abraham was able to wrap his heart around this seemingly cruel request is, he reasoned "God could raise the dead." (Heb. 11:19) In other words, Abraham trusted God, the Promiser.

If we extend this idea further, into the New Testament, when The Promise (Jesus) finally came, most of the people of Jesus's day could not, would not accept Him. (John 1:10-11) He just did not fit their idea of Messiah.

Why? I will give you just one observation to consider, and, after that, an application.

Observation: God's promises (perhaps especially the Promise of Jesus) rarely look like we think they should look or come when we think His promises should come. Sometimes promises are found in a cattle stall. He came to His own, and His own received Him not. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to Him, nothing in His appearance that we should desire Him.

We have to be ever so careful and prayerful, to trust our Good God, our Promiser — and not so much the promise. This is only because we often think we know what God should do and when He should do it. Whatever "it" might be. And when He doesn't "come through" as we imagine He should, if we are not careful, we can become disillusioned and even cynical.

A simple (not easy!) application: Trust God.

And if and when you don't (and none of us is always totally trusting God!), ask Him for the grace and courage to believe that no matter how many promises you are waiting for, when He does fulfill His promises to you, it will be above and beyond all that you can ask or imagine.

Like Abraham, when God sees we truly fear/trust Him above anything, when we are willing to put even our promised Isaacs on the altar, we will be blown away in wonder and worship as He pours out upon us His incredible blessings.

For ultimately, God's Promise was raised from the dead. For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. (2 Cor. 1:20)

O, to know Him, and to trust Him!

Amen.

CityFest comes to CrossWay



With just two weeks to go until CityFest—the Festival begins, servants from three churches in CrossWay's neighborhood came to our Fellowship Hall for an hour of training via video.

These Christ followers have stepped forward to become "Festival Friends," folks who will be on hand during the evenings' events on Sept. 8 and 9 at Ah-Nab-Awen Park downtown. Their assignment: to extend Christ's love and understanding to attendees who hear the message from the stage and respond. People who perhaps came for the entertainment and found themselves moved by a stirring of conviction and the offer of mercy and grace. These Festival Friends will be praying with brand new believers and seekers and providing them with a connection to a local church for future follow-up communications and shepherding.

Reaching out ...

Welcome, neighbors!

CrossWay Community Church will begin welcoming young moms on Thursday morning, Sept. 27, to study the Bible under the auspices of the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) of Grand Rapids in their Cradles of Grace program.



Marcy Greenhoe and RaeAnne Hansberry will serve as

CrossWay hosts for this study, unique to the southeast quadrant of Grand Rapids. Students will join the study through the PRC, with volunteers from other churches bringing in food and providing childcare. The PRC's coordinator for CrossWay Cradles will teach the study and provide counseling.

CrossWay Cradles will meet weekly until next summer, with some breaks for holidays. The program is designed for three years of study and discipleship training.

We're excited to offer this opportunity to our neighbors.

Reaching up ...

The A-B-C's of Salvation

A	Acknowledge yourself as a sinner	<i>Romans 3:10, 23 Luke 5:31 - 32 John 3:3 I John 1:8 - 10 James 2:10 Acts 4:12</i>
B	Believe in Christ	<i>John 3:16, 36 John 20:31 Acts 16:31 Acts 10:43 Hebrews 11:6</i>
C	Confess Christ as your Savior	<i>Romans 10:9 - 10 I John 4:14 - 15, 5:11 - 12</i>
'S	Serve Christ and others obediently	<i>Matthew 12:46 - 50 Galatians 6:7 - 10 John 15:1 - 17 I John 5:3 Philippians 2:1 - 16 I Peter 4:1 - 5 I Peter 3:8 - 12 Luke 6:46 - 48 John 14:15 - 24</i>

CityFest gets underway

Sept. 1 - 4	Prison Ministry
Sept. 4 8 p.m.	Spring Arbor Outreach @ SAU Plaza, Spring Arbor
Sept. 5 Noon	Women's Outreach Luncheon @ DeVos Place
Sept. 6 Noon	Business-Civic Outreach Luncheon @ DeVos Place
Sept. 7 7 p.m.	Fiesta Latina @ Resurrection Life Church, Grandville
Sept. 8 9:30 a.m.	Latina Brunch, Calvary Church
Sept. 8 - 9 4 p.m.-on	CityFest—the Festival! @ Ah-Nab-Awen Park, featuring evangelists Luis and Andrew Palau; entertainers Mandisa, Toby Mac, Lecrae, Mac Powell; family fun zone; BMX + FMX demos

www.cityfestwestmichigan.org

Support our missionaries: Marlan and Mercedes Olson

The Olsons graced CrossWay with their presence during our worship service on Aug. 19, reporting on their success in the growth of El Shaddai Church, which they planted eight years ago in Zaragoza, Spain. They've brought their membership to 28 adults, all of whom are new believers brought to a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ by this dedicated couple in their relationship counseling and one-on-one Bible studies as missionaries with Ripe for Harvest.

El Shaddai members worship together, teach their children in several levels of Sunday School, have been baptized publicly in a nearby lake, and have dived deeply into the Bible for the first time in their lives. Over the few years of the church's existence, Marlan has performed a wedding and a vow renewal service within the congregation and encouraged four other weddings within the congregation. Mercedes says, "People are being changed by the Holy Spirit. Only God can do this."

Marlan's parents, Lowell and Ruth, were longtime missionaries in Venezuela, who also received financial support from CrossWay's missions budget.

Please pray:



for the leaders and members of El Shaddai Church during their pastor's absence. This is a very tight-knit congregation.



for the Olsons to receive additional support, that many will join in partnering with them in reaching more people with the Gospel.



for God to raise up a new pastor from America or from within the congregation to shepherd El Shaddai and give the Olsons an opening to plant a new church in Spain. For their city of one million people, there are just 16 Protestant churches.



for the country of Spain, experiencing turmoil during the refugee crisis that is an everyday pressure on resources and policies throughout Europe.



Please pray, also, for Mike & Kari Greenhoe:

— for their home in Germany to be rented for the rest of their home visit year so they aren't encumbered with double rent.

Reaching out . . .

Answering the call

Here at CrossWay, we're pretty good at reaching up and reaching in. Now, as we begin to build an addition, many of us have been developing a vision for new opportunities to reach out.

A year ago, we were blessed with the wisdom of a consultant from the E-Free Church, who came to help CrossWay kick off a year of strategic planning in modern-day global missions, boosting our participation in the Great Commission.

Our Elder Board has approved a new missions policy for our church, with a new structure in place to organize our efforts.



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

— Matthew 28

Under this new policy, our whole congregation accepts its mandate to support our missionaries and reach out to our neighbors as members of the world community that God has brought to our doorstep.

On Sunday, Sept. 9, during the worship service, CrossWay will commission our new missions coordinator and members of two steering committees, servant leaders to help us with this great challenge. Following the service, we will meet for the first Sunday School of this fall to expand our understanding of the new policy and how we can each answer the call to serve the Lord in a new way.