



"Pastor Appreciation Month" – October 2018

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

Reaching out ... around the world and around the block

When our Elder Board approved the new Missions Policy written by the CrossWay Missions Strategic Task Force this spring, it set into motion a summer of preparations culminating on Sunday, Sept. 9, with the commissioning of Pam Reed as Missions Coordinator.

Also commissioned with her that day were members of two new steering committees: Marcy Greenhoe, RaeAnne Hansberry and Dennis Veurink for Missionary Support (MSSC) and Paul Samuelson for Outreach (OSC). Stella Michael answered a call to join the OSC following the commissioning, and Pam is seeking the Lord's wisdom for filling at least one more position for Outreach.

Now the work begins! Our pastors graciously gave the first two weeks of Sunday School to the presentation of the new Missions Policy.

First, we discussed plans for reaching out to the mission field in our neighborhood, recognizing the opportunity we have to "make disciples of all nations" among the refugees and immigrants that live right around our church. Once complete, the Outreach Steering Committee will make and implement plans to research this field and develop methods of approaching neighbors.

Then, on Sept. 16, Sunday School attendees were introduced to the nine missionaries under CrossWay's care and invited to sign up as team members, committing to support one or more of these servants through regular communications and prayer. Our MSSC members will be training support teams and monitoring communications, then circulating prayer requests from the missionaries each month.

The Missions bulletin board and table outside our sanctuary have been updated with information given out at the Sept. 16 Sunday School. Anyone who wasn't there is welcome to pick up information, read the profiles and pray about joining one or more teams. Indicate your interest by contacting Pam Reed or any of the MSSC members. Their contact information is available in the church directory or through the office.

Missionary Support Steering Committee member Dennis Veurink urges participation by those who heard Missions Coordinator Pam Reed's Sunday School presentation in mid-September.



How about it, ladies?

The planning team for CrossWay's Women's Ministry is mulling the possibility of a mid-week evening Bible study and has placed a sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary to determine the interest level among our women. No specifics yet; just testing the viability. Ladies, please take advantage of this opportunity to express your interest and/or your availability!

Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday school
Every Mon.* 7 p.m.	Every Man A Warrior discipleship training
Every Tues. 1:15 p.m.	Ladies Bible study
Every Thurs. 10 a.m.	CrossWay Cradles Bible study (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
Oct. 6 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Oct. 6 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Oct. 13, 20, 27 10 a.m.	Spiritual revival prayer meeting
Oct. 17 6:30 p.m.	Women's ministry event
Oct. 28 6 p.m.	Monthly prayer hour

* starting Oct. 8

The Word and the world come alive at CrossWay's Sunday School

Sunday School for adults launched with a bang last month, with the introduction of the new Missions Policy (see page 1) giving way to a delightful “visit” to the Middle East, followed by a new eight-week video/discussion series titled “The God Who Speaks — Tracing the Evidence for Biblical Authority.”



Vijay Michael (at right) displays a fascinating photo collection from his and Stella's recent trip to Israel, Jordan & Egypt. At left, Vijay and Stella document their time at their favorite stop: the Garden Tomb, site of both the burial and the triumphant Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.



October Sunday School topics for *The God Who Speaks* video/discussion series:

- Oct. 7 The Word Made Flesh
- Oct. 14 The Canon of Scripture
- Oct. 21 Understanding the Bible
- Oct. 28 Battles for the Bible

Reaching out ...

Appeal from our denomination

We have prayer requests this month from the Evangelical Free Church of America:



Please pray for God's favor, presence and leading as the ReachGlobal leadership teams prepare for their meetings in mid-October. Pray for God's strength, endurance, unity and joy as these leaders seek to follow God's direction into a future defined by commitment to and empowerment through the Gospel of Christ.



Continue to pray for God's encouragement, peace and perseverance for the people, communities and EFCA churches dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Florence. Pray also for the EFCA Crisis Response team as they continue to come alongside individuals and families, and that God might continue to use this natural disaster to reach people with His love and grace.

Let's be mindful ...

Our friend Melva is home briefly to surprise her sister for the latter's birthday. Things are getting more difficult for the international school where she is working, as the principal has just been deported.

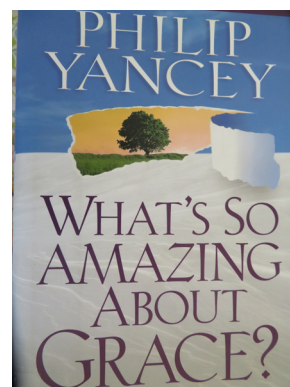
Let's pray for the school and for Melva's visa to be honored when she returns to work. And let's welcome her in our midst again this Sunday!

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

Philip Yancey's book *What's So Amazing About Grace?* has been donated to our library for your equipping and inspiration. At the writing of this book (a 1997 Zondervan release), Yancey was editor-at-large for *Christianity Today* magazine. He's well known for his thoughtful application of Biblical truths to the struggles of daily living. Looking for some good answers? Check it out!



Or if you'd rather curl up with a good novel, Larry Burkett's 1991 volume *The Illuminati* has also landed on our shelves. Leave your name and borrowed book title on the clipboard sheet. And then dig in!

New studies to begin

CrossWay men: Every Man A Warrior is calling you to fellowship and discipleship training. Mondays at 7 p.m., starting Oct. 8, at church.

CrossWay ladies are encouraged to attend the 1:15 Tuesday weekly Bible study, with a new 10-week series

scheduled to begin on Oct. 9 in the CrossWay library. Title of the book to be discussed: *Women of the New Testament*.

Questions? Call RaeAnne Hansberry at 616/957-0262.



*This message
from Pastor Bob Funk*

The Power of Positive Believing



In a recent sermon I reflected briefly on the recent death and the legacy of Richard M. DeVos. I noted his many contributions to the city of Grand Rapids, business and commerce, the arts, hospitals, charities and the mission of the Church. Many people came from and to Grand Rapids to pay their respects; and most shared ways in which Mr. DeVos was an inspiration — a man of encouragement — to many thousands of people here and around the world.

I have a book that Richard DeVos wrote many years ago. It is called, simply, *Believe!* It clearly conveys why and how he inspired so many people. Here are just a few excerpts:

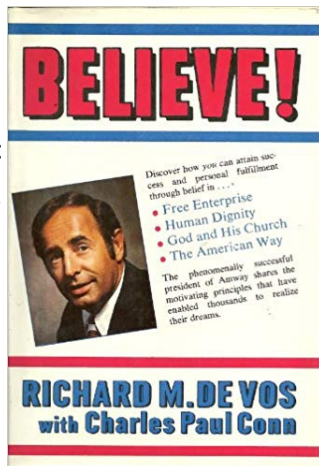
“Those people whose aim is always low generally hit what they shoot at: they aim for nothing and hit it. Life need not be lived that way. I believe that one of the most powerful forces on the world is the will of the man who believes in himself, who dares to aim high, to go confidently after the things that he wants from life.”

“I look back at the forty-odd years of my life, and it seems that, more than any other single lesson, my experiences have conspired to teach me the value of determined, confident effort.”

“Remember that the easiest thing to find on God’s green earth is someone to tell you all the things you cannot do.... Don’t listen to them!”

“If you have that flame of a dream down inside you somewhere, thank God for it, and do something about it.... Believe you can, and you’ll find that you can! Try! You’ll be surprised at how many good things can happen.”

That is a message I have tried to live out and to convey to my own children and grandchildren. “Try! Even if you seem to fail once, twice or ten times, you’ll learn a lot from it. You’ll be surprised at how many good things can happen.”



Do not confuse this hopeful way of living and dreaming and acting with simply “the power of positive thinking.” Positive thinking is a good, healthy habit to cultivate. For those of us who follow Jesus Christ, this is more about “the power of positive believing.” It is about daring to believe that God “inspires” (*i.e.*, “breathes life into”) us through God-given challenges,

dreams and visions of the way things could be. It is also about much more, including being confident that “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 1:6)

The church is a hospital for repentant sinners, but it is also meant to be an inspiration center for those who dare to dream, act and walk confidently with their God. I hope CrossWay Community will be an inspiration center for God’s

people. May the power of positive believing inspire our members, friends and children to persevere, especially through difficulties, failures and opposition, as we continue, by the grace of God, to walk forward in faith. As Mr. DeVos urged:

“Try!... You’ll be surprised at how many good things can happen.”

Richard M. DeVos, RIP

As a fellow member of Pres. Reagan’s Commission on the HIV/AIDS Epidemic, I was privileged to witness firsthand the positive impact Rich DeVos had in fostering communication and mutual respect among very disparate commissioners, who brought a variety of worldviews and experiences and attitudes toward our work. The love of Christ shone through Rich’s determined — and remarkably successful — efforts to bring us together in mutual respect. He was a prince, whose quiet peacemaking achieved agreement where none could have happened by the workings of the world.

~ Penny Pullen



*This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel*

Our Walk: Of Beauty & Blisters



Many of you know I went with some friends this past week to hike the 48-mile LaCloche Silhouette Trail near Killarney, Ontario. It was to be a somewhat “leisurely” hike of six days, but it seems God had other plans. I got sick the third day (I’ll spare you the details!) and had to hike back with a friend the way I came.

All in all, I totaled around a 40-mile hike when finished. I was simply too sick to go forward, inasmuch as that day brought about a near-vertical 4,000-foot ascent.

Initially, it was a bit of a disappointment to have to turn around and hike the portion (this time backwards) I already had covered, but for what it’s worth for your own “walk,” here are a few things I am processing.

1) Every walk includes both beauty and blisters. We long for, appreciate and look forward to the beauty. Not so much the blisters! If you’re going to walk, you must accept the “blisters” as well as the beauty.

2) We can’t make the walk alone. Even a literal backpacker who “solo” hikes will tell you, in a number of ways, a hiking effort is always a team effort. From family who release them to walk to fellow hikers along the way, no one walks alone. We need each other.

3) Finally, along with #2, humility is one of the most helpful traits to which a “hiker” can aspire. Cockiness, or an overestimation of self, can get you killed on the trail.

We all want to be the “alpha” hiker everyone looks up to — the one people follow and say to themselves, “I want to be a strong hiker like you.” Yet, yet, when the blisters are more prominent than the beauty we experience along the way, how will we react?

I read recently a definition of humility that is serving me well. “Humility is trusting ourselves to God and others.”

So, when the sickness hit me upon the trail, I was initially quite disappointed. My pride was hurt. I had to submit to the Lord’s clear indication that my walk forward was now a walk backward. I needed to trust myself to God and others.

One of the men had already walked the trail the previous week, and he agreed to go back with me after I rested for a few hours. So he did. And me?

I had to swallow my pride and allow myself to be cared for. As God enabled me to do this, though the “blisters” (in this case, some sort of stomach flu!) had changed my plans, He started to work on my heart.

I allowed myself to be loved and cared for by another brother in Christ. In my pride, I’d rather be the one loving and caring for another. It’s tough to be on the receiving end!

I know, I’m twisted. But so are you. And our Trail Guide loves and serves us anyway!

If you’re not a hiker/walker, I hope you can still receive something from this little piece. He walks with you, in both the beauty and the blisters!



Priorities

So where's your treasure?

In John Wesley's sermon "The Use of Money," the great preacher counseled Christians to gain all we can, save all we can, and give all we can.

...We're doing great at gaining and saving — Americans, Christians among them, are building bigger homes and renting more storage space than ever before.

But after skimming the latest statistical update on giving at *nonprofitsource.com*, it seems that there's room for improvement in the giving department.

For example, Christians today give on average 2.5% of their income to charity. During the Great Depression, they gave 3.3%. Nearly 40% of regular churchgoers don't give to churches. And of families making more than \$75,000 a year, only 1% tithe.

However, 77% of those who do practice tithing give more than 10% — anywhere from 11 to 20% of their gross income.

Yes, making and saving money are good, especially when they help us support kingdom work through our giving. So give until it helps! ~ John Stonestreet

After a year of planning and working together, on Sept. 8 and 9, 450+ churches in our area welcomed Andrew and Luis Palau to Ah-Nab-Awen Park downtown to proclaim the Gospel for all to hear!

Large crowds experienced extreme sports, children's activities and concerts, all designed to set the stage for this famous pair of evangelists to deliver a message that brought more than 1,800 people to a point of decision, some for salvation, some for rededication. Members of CrossWay were there, volunteering as Festival Friends.



Thousands turned out for the two-day festival, a culmination... and a beginning for West Michigan.



Reaching up ...

The Ten Commandments, plus

Exodus 20:1 - 17

"I am the Lord your God Who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

1. You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol ...
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother...
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet ... anything that belongs to your neighbor."

The Greatest Commandment

Mark 12:28 - 31

One of the teachers of the law asked Jesus, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this:

'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength!'

"The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Now, you may be thinking, this was a lot of work for a two-day event. Yes, and no!

CityFest has formed new partnerships across denominations and other cultural barriers during this past year. And when the Palau team left town, they left behind a challenge and a network already in place: to continue working together as Gospel-minded ministries, serving West

Michigan through service

undergirded with prayer. A new prayer training event is already in the works.

Let's join hands with others to keep CityFest on the move in Grand Rapids.

Support our missionaries: Keith and Judy Anderson

The Andersons are basking in the afterglow of a week-long August gathering in Costa Rica of EFCA/ReachGlobal missionaries and their own ProMETA leadership, together for celebration, fellowship, worship and a challenge to press on!

"It was energizing," Keith said, "to see how God is using the 12 ReachGlobal missionaries in ProMETA to empower and release our Latin American brothers and sisters for transformational ministry."

Additionally, Keith said, "At the ProMETA retreat this past month, our hearts rejoiced as we worked side by side with our Latin American brothers and sisters who gave leadership to an intense and comprehensive strategic planning process. It was greatly encouraging to see the II Timothy 2:2 principle in action!"

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." — II Timothy 2:2



Please pray the Father:



... will continue to grow the team with the sons and daughters of Latin America whom He has called to equip the Church.



... will provide the necessary resources for these Latin American ProMETA leaders so they can minister unhindered by lack of resources.



... will guide us as we develop new equipping strategies in response to the needs God has brought before us.



... will aid us in making wise decisions this month as more organizational partnership possibilities develop.

The Church ... to the rescue

Ever since Hurricane Katrina, the Evangelical Free Church of America has responded to disasters all over the country under the banner ReachGlobal.

Now, in the wake of Hurricane Florence and its resultant flooding, EFCA volunteers are rallying again to help survivors put their homes and their lives back in order. Donated equipment, skilled and unskilled volunteers, and an army of pray-ers are arriving in the Carolinas even now.

For inspiration, check out *Stories from Katrinaland: God Responds to Disaster in New Orleans*, available in our CrossWay library.



EFCA teams slept on a worship center carpet in Louisiana for a week at a time around the calendar for years after Hurricane Katrina.

We can help, too. Send donations to :

EFCA

Attn: Donor Services/Hurricane Relief
901 East 78th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55420-1300

Let's reach out ... to the Carolinas!

Next trial date: October 12

Though there were some rays of hope last month when Turkey appointed a new prosecutor, Pastor Andrew Brunson remains confined to his home. The former prosecutor was known for repeatedly bringing in false anonymous witnesses. Pray for a fresh opportunity for justice and for Pastor Brunson to be released to come home to his family in America.



Pastor Andrew Brunson continues to wait on the Lord.

The
stones
have
arrived!



Not for a moment
do we cease
our praise
to the Lord!

What a beautiful scene took over our parking lot on Friday morning. Now that the materials are on site to build the walls of our addition, can the workmen be far behind?

Construction financial forecast



Our \$ goals and timeline goals . . .

Sanctuary air conditioning \$4,902 by 6/2019

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

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