



May 2019

# CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

<http://www.crosswaygr.com>

## A step at a time

The Lord is so good, as He moves forward our longed-for building addition. Among the progress in April: plumbing infrastructure, electrical wiring and windows installed throughout the construction area.

One of these days, we'll no longer be the only church in Grand Rapids with a beach, as the pouring of the concrete floor is anticipated any day, now that the window glass is enclosing the lobby and the new south wing from the elements.

**At right**, the pipes emerge from the "beach" to the west of the sanctuary, awaiting plumbing fixtures for the new restrooms. **Below, right**, Ruth Behn, Kathy Bryant and RaeAnne Hansberry take another close look at the architectural drawing, just inside the doorway where the progress can be seen.

Funds are still needed to pave the parking lot, complete the new kitchen, equip the gym area for basketball, volleyball and other activities, and furnish the lobby and classroom.

Sanctuary air conditioning awaits installation. Yea!



## Coming up at CrossWay Community

### Real treat at ladies' luncheon

The Women's Ministry Team invites CrossWay ladies to the annual Ladies Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 18, 11 till 1:30, in fellowship hall at church.

Celebrating our diverse cultures at CrossWay, the "Mosaic Luncheon" will feature cuisine furnished by ladies of Asian background who bring their own flavor to our congregation. What could be more fun and tasty!

CrossWay ladies of all ages are encouraged to invite friends to share in the feast and festivities. What a blessing for us all. Complimentary and delicious!

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Sun. 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School
Every Mon. 7 p.m.	Men's Ministry
Every Tues. 1 p.m.	Ladies' Bible Study
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
Every Thurs. 6:30 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
May 4 9 a.m.	Camelot neighborhood food truck
May 4 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
May 4 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
May 5 & 19 6 p.m.	Alveses' small group @ Doerrs'
May 11, 18, 25 10 a.m.	Spiritual revival prayer meeting
May 18 11 a.m.	Mosaic Luncheon for Ladies
May 19 11:30 a.m.	Annual congregation business meeting

## Giving at your fingertips

Thankful for the offerings our CrossWay people bring to the Lord each Sunday or every month or even every so often, we are thankful, too, that elder Chris VanHoven has set up an online means for credit card or bank transfer giving, at your convenience and by your choice. When you visit the church website at [www.crosswaygr.com](http://www.crosswaygr.com), you can click on "Give On-line" and then fill out the donation page, taking a moment to designate "General," "Building" or "Benevolent" as your fund choice. You can even set up an automatic monthly gift to match your budget and not have to worry about remembering to write a check or tuck cash into your wallet. It's totally up to you . . . and be assured, online giving is secure and quick.



Chris VanHoven illustrates the ease of online giving during a Sunday School hour last month.



## Celebrating citizenship

She's been waiting and working a long time to become an official American citizen, and her CrossWay family are delighted to celebrate with Bernie Burt her American rite of passage, on Good Friday in Holland. At left, we celebrate her milestone with a patriotic cake in her name here at church. At right, Bernie registers to vote in the foyer of the Holland library, right after raising her right hand and taking her oath of citizenship. Congratulations, Sister!



## Serving at CrossWay

Here at CrossWay, we are a fellowship and a community, worshipping the Lord together, and serving Him together as well.

Several have responded to the call for volunteers during the first quarter of this year. It's time now to plan for your engagement as "the hands and feet of Jesus"

during the second quarter of 2019. Please prayerfully consider how best to offer your talents in service to CrossWay, complete the form below and hand it to a pastor or leave it in the office, even if you filled one out last quarter; perhaps the Spirit is whispering to you a new way to serve Him and your church family.



## Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out ... Serving Christ Together 2019 • 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

As a frequent attender of CrossWay Community, I am willing to serve the Lord by helping the church in the service needs I have checked below. Please contact me about how I can apply my skills, interests and gifts:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in nursery during service               | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up and/or take down tables & chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Man sound booth during service                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in children's worship/<br>Sunday School | <input type="checkbox"/> Serve at neighborhood events            | <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect grounds for repair/<br>maintenance needs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer projection during service          | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in planning church events        | <input type="checkbox"/> Help lead women's ministry                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship team/music                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in nursing home worship          | <input type="checkbox"/> Join a missionary support team                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greet worshippers on Sundays                | <input type="checkbox"/> Bring refreshments                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Visit shut-ins                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collect offerings on Sundays                | <input type="checkbox"/> Set out refreshments                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Host a small group                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take photos at church events                | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant flowers                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Light carpentry/indoor maintenance               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aid in the kitchen                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Keep gardens weeded & trimmed           | <input type="checkbox"/> Offer ideas for bldg. addition use               |



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



*This message*  
*from Pastor Bob Funk*

## One tick at a time

In a sermon entitled “How To Worry,” Ralph Phelps told the story about a clock that had a nervous breakdown. It seems that those old-fashioned clocks ticked away the time at a rate of two ticks per second. This particular clock began to think about how many times it was going to have to tick.

“Two ticks to the second means 120 ticks per minute,” it thought. “That’s 7,200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, 1,209,600 per week for 52 weeks, and a total of 62,899,200 per year!” In the face of such overwhelming numbers, the clock had a nervous breakdown.

The clock was taken to a clock psychiatrist, who patched up the mainspring as well as he could and asked, “Clock, what’s your trouble?” The clock nervously responded, “Doctor, I have to tick so much . . . two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7,200 ticks per hour and . . . .” “Hold it,” the psychiatrist interrupted. “How many ticks do you have to tick at a time?”

“Oh, I just have to tick one tick at a time,” said the clock.

“Then let me make a suggestion,” replied the doctor. “You go home and try ticking one tick at a time. Don’t even think about the next tick until it’s time. Just one tick at a time. That you can do.”

And that we can do as well. Faith is ticking one tick at a time, knowing that God will give us strength for the next tick.

Jesus said, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow.” (Matt. 6:34) He reminded us that “tomorrow will worry about itself.” He asked, “Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?”

### **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.*



Of course, Jesus does not condemn wise forethought and preparation for the future. However, nervous anxiety is not good for us, and it can derail our faith.

Corrie tenBoom, the famous survivor of a World War II concentration camp in Germany, once said to her father when she was a child, “Papa, I don’t think I have the faith to handle real trouble. I don’t know what I’d do if you should die. I don’t think I have the faith that some people have to face trouble.”

Corrie’s father replied, “Corrie, dear, when your father says he will send you to the store tomorrow, does he give the money to you today? No. He gives it to you when you are ready to go to the store. And if you are going on a train trip and you need money for a ticket, does your father give you the money when we decide you may take the trip? No. He gives it to you when you are at the depot, ready to buy your ticket. Corrie, God treats us the same way. He doesn’t give you faith until you need it. But when you need it, He will certainly give it to you.”

“*Do not be anxious about tomorrow.*” That is a principle for living out our faith. Taking reasonable care, we are to face life trustingly, accepting each day fresh from God, and leaving the unknown future in His hands. And that includes all our worries about money, jobs, mortgages, loans, careers, children, health, retirement — and death itself!

*Faith is ticking one tick at a time, knowing that the Lord will be with us, giving us strength and wisdom and help for the next tick.*



*This message  
from Pastor Bob Manuel*

## **Walking in the rain**

Like many of you, I like to walk. And, when I have the time, walking, combined with a multi-day backpacking trek, is my favorite way of padding my pedometer.

Years ago, I learned from a seasoned hiker that if you are out on a trail for more than a week, *you will most likely have to walk some in the rain*. It's just part of the deal. That's one reason why most experienced hikers put a rain jacket and a pack cover somewhere in their pack. The analogies and applications to our walk in this life are many and helpful. Let me list just a few:

> If you're getting rained on, don't look at it as a punishment. Don't automatically think, "I did something wrong." It's especially easy to think this way when the rain has lasted a long time. Think of "rain" in the way I am using it in this article as the *hardships, inconveniences* and perhaps even the *trials* of life. What I'm getting at here is the simple truth that walking in the rain is simply a part of life. It's going to happen. When we experience hardships that linger, so many people seem to have the natural response of, "God must be punishing me. He's mad at me, trying to teach me something," etc. In the vast majority of circumstances, I don't think so. I want to convey to you that "rain" is just a *part of life*. Remember, the rain falls on the just and unjust. (Matt. 5:45) Oh sure, we learn things in the rain, and I suppose God is pleased when we do, but most of our walking in the rain is just part of what it means to be human. So, don't compound the difficulties of your wet walk by an overactive or sensitive conscience that beats up on yourself.

> There's a way, an art of listening to God, of hearing God in the rain, that you cannot experience on sunny days. This idea of listening to God, hearing Him

(i.e. *prayer*) relates a bit to the point below, so I'll be brief. When it's a beautiful sunny day, I tend to take my walking skills out on the trail more for granted. Oh yes, I haven't forgotten that even on a sunny day in Him, I live, move and have my being. (Acts 17:28), but walking on a sunny day is just easier. When it's raining, on the trail or in life, I feel my *needs* more. I pray more. Sometimes, of course, the prayers aren't pretty: "Come on, already. Hasn't it rained enough? I'm miserable!" Yet all the same, this prayer of need or lament is connecting me to Him.

> Walking in the rain is not all bad! The cliché of "April showers bring May flowers" is so true. But even before the "flowers," there's a beauty, a rhythm of pitter-patter, when you're walking in the rain that becomes like an intimate conversation with the Creator. Again, I think of the word "*need*." That is, when you are walking in the rain, you are more careful, more dependent, cognizant that you could make a misstep and fall at any moment. You learn not to take your trekking for granted. You become amazed you are making any progress at all. You feel vulnerable, *needy*. And, when the tent is pitched at the end of the day, you feel grateful. Yes, a bit miserable too, because you're all wet (hopefully you have some dry clothes to climb into!), but grateful.

Finally, I wonder, does God take more *pleasure* in us when we choose, by faith, to keep walking in the rain? (Heb. 11:6) Does He say about us, like He said of that long litany of faith-walkers, "the world was not worthy of them. They wandered . . ." (Heb. 11:38)

I suppose that's enough for now (!), but friend, let me encourage you: Keep walking in the rain. There's stuff that's happening to you, in you and maybe even through you as you walk in the rain, that you may never see during this earthly walk. But God sees you. So keep on walking, even in the rain.

## Working together for the Great Commission

How blessed we were to have hosted Judy and Keith Anderson during their Grand Rapids visit at the end of April.

As Keith shared during his Sunday School-hour talk, our church has partnered with this couple for more than 30 years. CrossWay supports them financially, and our Missions Steering Committee is actively supporting them in prayer and personal communication to encourage their efforts in ProMeta, an indepth training ministry to equip church planters and pastors throughout Latin America and now, via the Internet, even beyond.



Serving on their support team are Dennis & Marie Veurink (pictured at left), who enjoyed dinner with the Andersons Saturday evening at the home of RaeAnne Hansberry (at right in photo), who is the coordinator for the Andersons' team, which also include Shirley & Tom Wriedt, who were unable to attend.

If you would like to join the communications and prayer team of the Andersons or another missionary, contact Pam Reed.

*"I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. For they have gone out for the sake of the Name .... Therefore, we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth."*

III John 3-8

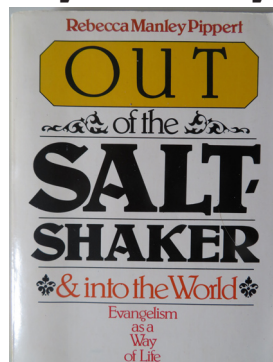
## New to the CrossWay Library . . . available to you!

Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out... How're you doing on that last part of CrossWay's motto?

A gently used copy of the 1979 IntVarsity classic *Out of the Saltshaker (& into the World)* is hitting the shelves of the CrossWay library this month. It's Rebecca Pippert's inspiring

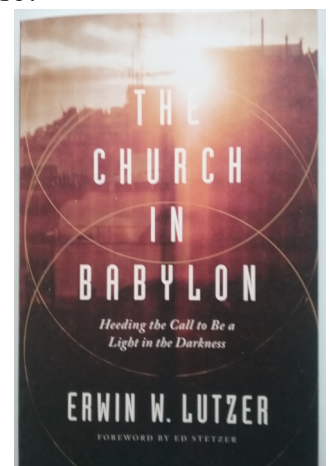
thoughts on Evangelism as a Way of Life, per the book's subtitle. If you found Pastor Funk's lessons on evangelism stimulating, this one's for you!

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



Troubled by the vortex of current events and growing darkness in society around us? What is the calling of the church in times like these?

"A clarion call," a "hopeful light on the cultural battles we must encounter today," a "clear path as we navigate issues" — these quotes are taken from a variety of Christian leaders, defining the latest effort from the prolific pen of Dr. Erwin Lutzer, pastor emeritus of Moody Church, Chicago. A must read!





## CrossWay's frontline worker in Asia: Steve Torgerson








Steve Torgerson leads the Systematic Asian Leadership Training (SALT) ministry, which is transitioning from its focus on assisting pastors in China to working in various countries throughout Asia.

SALT's most recent newsletter focused on Nepal, where the ministry has been busy making new connections after being set back from its original plan. The Lord has blessed their flexibility and given them an unexpected opportunity to try out their new training curriculum *CoreStory*. Steve recommends *CoreStory* as their first foot forward in new, cross-cultural venues and cultures and considers it very likely to be a valuable addition to the teaching curriculum of U.S. churches.

Briefly, *CoreStory* is designed to help people confidently grasp God's story, while also empowering them to teach that story to others. Check it out at [corestory.org](http://corestory.org).

Please pray for:

-  the church in Nepal as it continues to grow and strengthen. Pray for the Lord to raise up a Nepali national teaching team by the end of this year.
-  the launch of SALT's new three-year teaching certificate program beginning at 10 sites in East Asia this year. Pray for safety, high quality teaching, and that the students' hearts will be receptive.
-  implementation of decisions made at the SALT board meeting, which took place in March.
-  effective communication and finalization of the editing process for SALT's *Bible Study Skills 2*, which has been delayed by security concerns.
-  the upcoming meeting of SALT National Trainers to assess 2018 and plan for 2019.

**To join Steve Torgerson's communications & prayer team, please contact Pam Reed.**

## In chains for his faith: Pastor David Lin



In 2006, Chinese authorities in Beijing detained American Pastor David Lin under unclear circumstances. In 2009, he was accused of contract fraud, a charge he denies, and sentenced to life imprisonment. Following commutation and reduction, he is due for release in April 2030. Until recently, Pastor Lin ministered to his fellow prisoners and was translating the Bible into Chinese. Now American officials are concerned about recent reports of Pastor Lin's declining health and potential threats to his safety in prison.

Before his imprisonment, Pastor Lin was active in Beijing's house church movement, which has long faced hostility from Chinese authorities. House churches are independent of state-sponsored religious organizations, and those who participate in and lead house churches often face intimidation, harassment, arrest and harsh sentences. Under President Xi Jinping, the Chinese government has intensified its crackdown against independent religious groups — as well as other religious communities — and closed down several prominent house churches.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom has repeatedly recommended that the State Department designate China a "country of particular concern" (CPC) for systematic, ongoing, egregious violations of religious freedom. The State Department again designated China a CPC in November 2018.

Please pray for Pastor David Lin to be released, according to God's will. To God be the glory.