



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

Inch by inch

You are welcome to take a guided tour of the addition — still in progress — after church on Sundays. Look for Penny Pullen, and she will take you through the construction zone.

The formidable task of lining the great-room ceiling with acoustic tiles is just about complete, and the connecting doorway from fellowship hall to the new lobby has been cut through (see photo at right). It might not be pretty yet, but it's real! And it is progress we can see.

The weather has cooperated most days lately, allowing completion of such outdoor projects as installing electrical power via raising a new utility pole for the upgraded capacity needed for the expansion. (No use installing the kitchen appliances, after all, until the power is fully available!) Can the air conditioning be far behind?



Ladies weekend in the country

CrossWay's Sandy Williams hosted the church's ladies in fellowship around a campfire at her country home on July 26 & 27, including an overnight camping experience, times of games and conversation, prayer huddles, Bible study and even a visit to a local art fair.



The food and fellowship could not be beaten, and the weekend gave CrossWay ladies of all ages a deeper sense of fellowship and service to each other.

Stella Michael, Sandy Williams & Marie Veurink shop for souvenirs at the nearby art fair.

See page 5 for ladies camp pics and page 6 for landscape crew photos

Coming up at CrossWay Community

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Every Sun. 10 a.m. | Worship together |
| Every Wed. 7 p.m. | Hinkles' small group |
| Aug. 1,8,15,22 6:15 p.m. | Wholyfit exercise (church hosting) |
| Aug. 3 9 a.m. | Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP |
| Aug. 3 9 a.m. | Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans |
| Aug. 6 11:30 a.m. | Neighborhood lunch chat |
| Aug. 10 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Camelot block party |

For the budding author in you . . .

Baker Books on East Paris is hosting a writers workshop led by our own Julie Schwab, third Tuesday each month at 7 p.m.

A 20-minute talk is followed by writing time until 10 p.m. No reservation needed; free of charge.



Julie Schwab



In Grand Rapids Aug. 22 - 25
 Celebration Cinema South 5 & 7:50 p.m.
 AMC Grand Rapids at I-96 & Alpine NW 5 & 8 p.m.
 Celebration Cinema GR North 6 & 8:50 p.m.

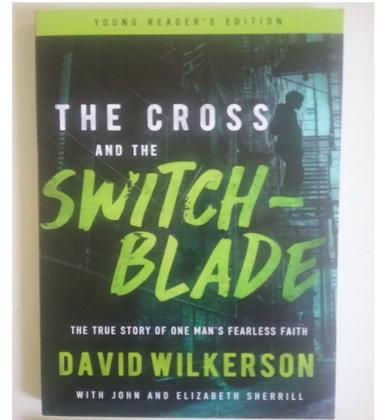
New to the CrossWay library . . . available to you & your family



If you have a heart of compassion — you do, right? — and you’re seeking inspiration from those who have served on the front lines, these two additions to the church library may be just what you are looking for!

One Dress, One Year demonstrates the impact a 16-year-old can have when she has a heart for rescuing victims of human trafficking.

The Cross & the SwitchBlade (Young Readers’ Edition) takes us to the scenes of urban warfare in witness to street gangs, a true story of heroism and victory and the Lord’s grace. It’s a classic!



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 half of this year. It’s time now to plan for your engagement as “the hands and feet of Jesus” amid

the **third** quarter of 2019. Please prayerfully consider how best to offer your talents in service at CrossWay, complete the form below and hand it to a pastor or leave it in the office, even if you filled one out previously; 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 • 3rd 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"/> Call volunteers when needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Set up and/or take down tables & chairs | <input type="checkbox"/> Join a missionary support team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Man sound booth during service | <input type="checkbox"/> Manage new lobby info desk | <input type="checkbox"/> Light carpentry/indoor maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in planning church events | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Offer ideas for bldg. addition use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | | |

Signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Phone # (____) _____

E-mail _____



This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel

God grows His garden

Now I am in no way against planning/forecasting and doing everything humanly possible to make sure the seed of God's Gospel is being planted (Mark 4:1-20). Churches, and church leaders especially, are told to plant and water, but to also remember as they do these things, only God can give the increase (I Cor. 3:6). As a gardener/pastor, learning from the Master Gardener (John 15:1), I'd like to leave you with a few encouraging thoughts in these hot days of August. Here they are . . .

This time of year, gardening occupies a good portion of my time when I am at home. Weeding, pruning, staking, composting, etc. It's all a part of it. And then there is the waiting and the sharing. You wait for the produce. You share it when it comes.

I want to talk mostly about the "waiting" part of gardening. If you've done much gardening, especially if you start your plant from seed, you can wait days, if not weeks, at times for the green sprout to emerge from the dark soil. Sometimes you even wonder if the seed was good or if it "took" to the conditions favorably. Jesus gave a teaching once that reminds me of this dynamic. He said:

"God's kingdom is like seed thrown on a field by a man who then goes to bed and forgets about it. The seed sprouts and grows — he has no idea how it happens. The earth does it all *without his help*: first a green stem of grass, then a bud, then the ripened grain. When the grain is fully formed, he reaps — harvest time!" (Mark 4:26-29, The Message).

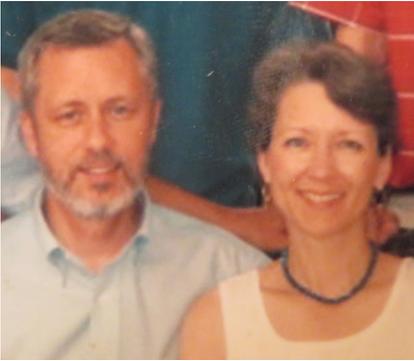
The italicized words, "without his help" in vs.28 is from the Greek word *automath*. We get our English word "automatic" from it. Various translations render the word "all by itself" (NIV), "on its own" (NLT), and "by itself" (NASB). That is, the farmer scatters the seed, goes to bed and sleeps. While he's sleeping, God does His work. Yes, God works while the farmer is awake, but even when the farmer sleeps and forgets about the planting, God is at work. And the beautiful thing is, the farmer has no idea how it happens. The seed grows "automatically" on its own.

— God is at work in and through you, even if you do not see it. One of my favorite Bible teachers, Steve Brown, gives us the four following "spiritual laws." They remind me of what I'm trying to say in this article. Here are the "laws": 1) There is a Sovereign God of the universe. 2) You are not Him. 3) He doesn't need you. 4) Go get a milkshake. I really like this fourth "law!" It suggests my final application:

— Relax a bit. The ever-vigilant and disciplined high-achievers will tend to read just about everything I've said in this article as a danger to encourage irresponsibility or a "laid back" attitude. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, I believe taking Jesus's words to heart empowers a properly focused energy. It gives me the joy to persevere and to keep planting even when I am waiting and sometimes see very little "results." The results are up to Him.

I close with a few questions: How is your planting going? Do you ever wonder if you'll enjoy the fruits of your labor? Do you ever get tired of pulling the weeds, of doing all the "support" stuff and yet you wait? As for literal gardening, the wait is not long. In fact, I've been enjoying, as of the last few weeks, sharing some produce: broccoli, tomatoes, green beans and peppers. And other stuff is soon to come! May I suggest the same is happening in your life — and in the life of this church? God is growing His kingdom, even while we sleep and even when we don't know how He is doing what He is doing. Remember Steve Brown's fourth spiritual law? What would "getting a milkshake" today look like for you? Go get one!

CrossWay missions this month



Big changes are happening this month for these two frontline families supported by CrossWay Community's congregation.

Our Missionary Support Steering Committee covets your prayers for them, as listed below:

Dr. Luke and Nancy Cutherell have been serving the Lord for decades in northwest Pakistan. Dr. Luke is the CEO and lead surgeon at Bach Christian Hospital, where the couple have recently said goodbye to most of their non-indigenous staff who were denied visas under a new government policy. They ask for prayer for strength (physical, emotional, spiritual) as they close down the obstetrics dept. that has traditionally supported half the hospital's local staff financially.

Pray for wisdom in managing the downsizing, for jobs and guidance for the laid-off staff, and for the patients who are depending on Bach and are now having to be turned away. Pray that Christ will somehow be honored in this unusual situation.



Mike and Kari Greenhoe, and their boys Clark and Grant, are arriving back in Kandern, Germany (in that beautiful little corner of Europe where Germany meets Switzerland and France) after a one-year furlough in the United States.

Kari leaves behind her mom in New York State, still battling cancer. And Mike rejoins the staff of the Black Forest Academy, where he leads the science dept.

They seek prayer for moving back into their home while preparing for a new school year with some unfamiliar staff and students. They also are seeking the Lord to provide the final 10% of needed financial support and praising Him for the support already pledged.

Focus on persecuted Christians

Helen Berhane spent years in an Eritrean shipping container, a bare, windowless prison cell. She spent her days — and nights — serving her sister prisoners and leading them in songs of faith.

“It was a kind of test. I know in the Bible it says everything is good for us believers, but I asked, in this what is good? That I am [beaten, tortured]?... They asked for my Bible. I said, ‘It is in my mind.’ So they said they must destroy it.”

Helen survived to tell her story to the world, and she had an opportunity to do so last month in the Oval Office. President Trump welcomed several survivors of persecution during the State Dept.'s second Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom.

Next month, on Sept. 14, you have the opportunity to meet the survivors who are touring the country this year as guests of The Voice of the Martyrs. On that Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., VOM will welcome more than 1,000 Christians to their awareness conference in our area — just 3.5 hours away, at Edmon Memorial Chapel at Wheaton College in Illinois.

Invite a friend or two, and take advantage of the opportunity to hear Gracia Burnham, whose husband was martyred in the Phillipines; Brother Bennie, faithfully sharing the Gospel in India; Dan Baumann, given two death sentences in Iran; and Gilbert Hovsepian, an Iranian musician whose father was martyred for his faith.

It's an inspiring day — and free!



Helen Berhane shared the stage in 2017 for the Voice of the Martyrs conference we attended in Chester-ton, Indiana. Last month, she was in the Oval Office when President Trump brought attention to the plight of Christians in hotspots around the world.



Ladies Ministry Camp



**July
2019
Hosted by
Sandy
Williams**



CrossWay's landscaping crew . . . just us!



Coming soon to the hill s.w. of the parking lot . . . red oaks

