



September 2019

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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www.crosswaygr.com

Winding down summer...

What can be better than a Sunday School picnic?

Bring your appetite to church on Sept. 8 and plan to have a good time together worshipping and then eating and playing together during our Sunday School picnic.

Y'all are invited! (Bring comfy shoes! And your CW tee shirt!)



A big thank-you to Michael Stevens and the Christian Education committee for taking on the planning for this all-church event.



Hosting a special 'missions' occasion



Evangelical Free Church missionary Tom Becker will be in Grand Rapids on Sunday, Sept. 15, worshipping with us and then at 6 p.m. presenting a report and appeal to his western Michigan supporters, which include CrossWay Community Church!

We are hosting this presentation for him in our fellowship hall, and all in the church are invited and encouraged to attend in support of the Gospel work he and his team are engaged in. (See page 5.)

Tom is a founding member of EFCA ReachGlobal's Marginal Mission Network. He and the team created Pathways to Partnership with/among marginalized people.

There is a revival happening among Europe's 14 million Gypsies. Church growth is so rapid that they are in desperate need of partners to help train pastors and facilitate community development projects.

Working through Roma Networks, ReachGlobal is involved in most European countries. Come hear Tom highlight the dynamics of marginalization and share what God is doing among the Gypsies, as well as how you can be involved.

New 'small group'

Marie & Dennis Veurink will be leading a Bible study for a new CrossWay small group, being hosted by Amanda Le in her home (check the directory) on alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 24. A big thank-you to Amanda and the Veurinks for offering this meaty fellowship. Let Amanda know you'll be there!

Coming up at CrossWay Community

Every Sun. 10 a.m.	Worship together
Every Wed. 7 p.m.	Hinkles' small group
Every Thurs. 6:15 p.m.	Wholyfit exercise (church hosting)
Sept. 7 9 a.m.	Ladies' breakfast @ IHOP
Sept. 7 9 a.m.	Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sept. 8 11:30 a.m.	All-church picnic
Sept. 15, 22, 29 11:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
Sept. 15 6 p.m.	Missions Event
Sept. 19 & 26 2-4 p.m.	Cody Hinkle's Hebrew class
Sept. 22 6 p.m.	All-church prayer meeting
Sept. 24 6:30 p.m.	Amanda Le's small group
Sept. 28 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Revive Women's Conference live-streamed at CrossWay

Tasting Hebrew

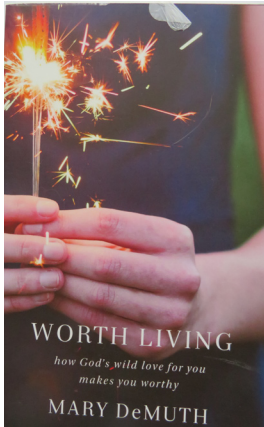
Cody Hinkle is inaugurating a Hebrew class for homeschoolers Sept. 19 - Dec. 12 and offering the opportunity to CrossWay families, too. Several of our members met with Cody after church this summer for six weeks of engaging with the language of the Bible, helping Cody prepare for the class.

The class will meet Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. at our church and will use curriculum furnished by Biblical Language Center, an organization dedicated to improving the church's relationship to its source text. The online curriculum costs \$50 and can be used at home or in class participation. See Cody for more info!



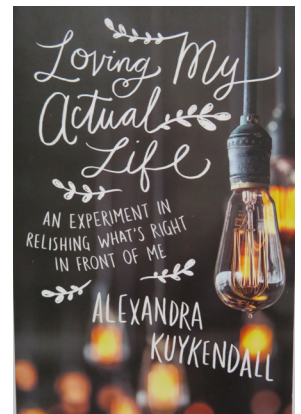
Cody Hinkle (right) has been introducing Hebrew to CrossWay folks this summer, including Dennis & Marie Veurink, Amanda Halash, Will Bell and Pam Reed, all wearing name tags with Hebrew-alphabet names.

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



Applying faith to life, going deeper with the Lord . . . spiritual guidance and practical helps for a life of joy and fulfillment in Christ . . . we feature this month Mary DeMuth's *Worth Living: How God's Wild Love for You Makes You Worthy* and Alexandra Kuykendall's *Loving My Actual Life: An Experiment in Relishing What's Right in Front of Me*.

Both books have been donated to the CrossWay library, located opposite the office suite at the north end of the church, and are available to you; simply jot your name and the book on the clipboard provided, and bring it back when you have feasted.



Revive! women's conference coming to CrossWay — livestreamed

Join thousands of women in "Seeking Him for Revival" on Saturday, Sept. 28, from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. via livestreaming video feed here at CrossWay of the annual women's conference offered in Indianapolis by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth's *Revive our Hearts* ministry.

The *Revive* annual Christian women's conference is widely viewed as a premier event for American women, and bringing this year's conference to CrossWay is a special occasion spearheaded by our Women's Ministry Team, led by Brett Kelp.



Speakers will include Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, Mary Kassian, Dannah Gresh, Damaris Carbaugh and many more, who will open God's Word to reveal the heart of true revival. An inspiring day, open to CrossWay ladies and friends you can invite.

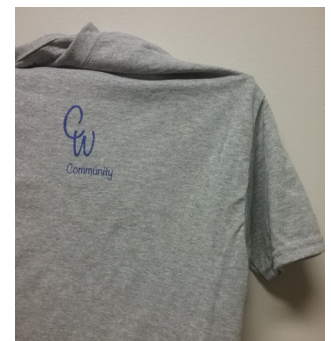
Snacks will be available, and our ladies will break to go out together for lunch. No charge for this exciting day!



For those looking for more information or desiring to invite others, we recommend a visit to the Internet website page: <https://www.reviveourhearts.com/events>. For information about CrossWay's livestreaming of this event, contact Brett Kelp (see directory).

Got Kingdom wear?

For just \$5, you, too, can sport a quality tee shirt that begs the question: "What's CW Community?" And you can answer it by talking about the congregation you love, where we hear the Word of God and do life together as His children.



To wear your heart on your sleeve, see Pam Reed. We have sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL, in limited quantities. Grab yours soon...and wear it with purpose!

This message
from Pastor Bob Funk



Church signs to lighten your day

If you are like me, you need to get away from all the political animosities in the news occasionally. Sometimes I'll switch the channel to something like *American Pickers* or *HGTV* or sports just to enjoy a brief getaway from all the seriousness of so much we are encountering in our culture and our world.

The world of religion and church is like the news. Sometimes I think we need to lighten up a bit, laugh a little more and regain a more balanced, healthy perspective on life. I know I'm not alone in these thoughts. You may have seen the many emails, tweets and videos of churches that have used their church signs to lighten hearts and, perhaps, bring a smile to passersby.

Here are several that I thought you might enjoy:

This one is a new take on the old "hellfire and brimstone" approach —

"Whoever stole our AC units, keep one. It is hot where you are going."

Here is a morbid thought that might make some think about eternity —

"Cremation is your last chance for a smokin' hot body."

And for all of us iPhone users —

"Adam and Eve — The first people to not read the Apple terms and conditions."

For all the rock music fans —

"The fact that there's a 'Highway to Hell' and only a 'Stairway to Heaven' says a lot about anticipated traffic numbers."

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.

We can't leave out the Golden Rule —

"Tweet others as you would like to be tweeted."

Finally, we can't end without some sort of altar call —

"Honk if you love Jesus — Text while driving if you want to meet Him."

So, there we have it, church sign theology — and therapy. I hope you were able to smile a little.

Our mission is serious business.

The thing is, we are still human beings who need to offset our seriousness with lightheartedness and our tears with laughter.

I leave you with the inspired words of Psalm 126:1-3 —

*"When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion,
we were like men who dreamed.
Our mouths were filled with laughter,
our tongues with songs of joy.
Then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are filled with joy."*





This message
from Pastor Bob Manuel

Being Good and Angry

My article this month is a bit different, because I want to encourage you to be good and angry. This is hard to do. That is, it seems we'd rather settle on one or the other. That is, if I perceive myself to be "good," then I won't be angry. Likewise, if I am "angry," then I am not being good/kind, etc.

Well, it seems to me, we are called to be both: BOTH good and angry at the same time. (Eph. 4:26)

This Scripture suggests we can/should be angry without sinning. That is, we can be good and angry.

It seems Jesus knew how to be both good and angry. (Matt. 21:12-13, Mark 3:5, John 11:33-34)

I'm writing this month about anger in response to a story I read last week in the *Grand Rapids Press*. It was about a London, England-based dance troupe called "Drag Syndrome" that is coming to Grand Rapids to perform for Art Prize. This troupe is comprised of five individuals with Down Syndrome who dress in drag (contrary to their "understood" gender) and perform onstage for their act/presentation.

ABUSE and EXPLOITATION. That's how I see this. It's exploiting a vulnerable population in the name of "art" for the purpose of advancing the narrative of "gender fluidity" and some within the LGBTQ+ community.

I understand there are defenders of this troupe who would contend my comments here are "close-minded" and intolerant to anyone who would disagree with their "openness." But that last sentence calls for a whole different article which I don't have space for here!

[CrossWay Current editor's note: Downtown building owner Peter Meijer has withdrawn his facility from the ArtPrize organizers' intent to present the offensive dance stunt, sending a letter to ArtPrize stating "After deep reflection on the nature of Drag Syndrome's performance, I cannot approve of their use of Tanglefoot's facilities," citing concerns about "potential exploitation of the vulnerable," according to WOOD-TV. Meijer is grandson of Frederick Meijer.]

Here's a few questions for us to consider in relationship to this article about being good and angry:

- Is there anything you are good and angry about today? If not, why not? After all, to be angry but to not sin (being good and angry) is a command, not an option. (Eph. 4:26)
- How do you process/express this anger in healthy ways?
- Are you afraid to be angry? If so, can you identify why are you reluctant to be angry?
- If someone were to slap your wife/husband/child/friend/grandchild/roommate, etc., and then verbally abuse them, would this make you angry? What if they viciously kicked your dog/cat? In these scenarios, how would you be good *and* angry at the same time?

Now I realize none of us ever want to be known primarily as angry people. I don't want to perpetuate the (unfair) stereotype of the "angry Christian" who is known more for what we are against than what we are for.

Do you remember the dwarf "Grumpy" in *Snow White*? He was asked by another dwarf named Bashful, "what are wicked wives?" Grumpy replied, "I don't know, but I'm against 'em!"

I think we're dropping the ball if, as Christians, we are known primarily for our grumpiness and what we are against. After all, we are to be Good News (Gospel) People.

Yet, in today's world, we must not be afraid to be angry. There's nothing wrong with being good and angry. Indeed, the most vulnerable of our population — babies, elderly and the disabled — need good and angry people in their corner.

So maybe just for today I would like to encourage you: Be good and angry! (Then go get a milkshake!)

Missions Event Sunday, Sept. 15



Tom and Dora Becker went to Europe more than a decade ago in the Lord's service to the Roma people through EFCA/ReachGlobal, our denomination's mission arm.

On Sunday, Sept. 15, Tom will be coming to CrossWay for a brief talk in our morning worship service. At 6 p.m. that day, we'll be hosting a presentation event for him, with an open invitation to the public. He's inviting other Grand Rapids supporters, and Pastor Manuel is inviting other local pastors and regional E-Free pastors as well.

Our Missionary Support Steering Committee and Tom's support team will host and staff the event. We'd like your help with light refreshments. And please attend yourself and bring a friend!

Tom's been making some strides in his formation of a network of partners in this ministry and looks forward to telling us his story. Feel free to wear your Cross-Way tee shirt!

The Gospel advances, in unexpected corners

"One of the fastest growing Christian movements in the world is flourishing in one of the most unlikely places — the repressive Islamic nation of Iran. And, given that they're viewed as second-class citizens in Iran, it's extremely surprising that women are spearheading this movement, often at great risk to their lives." This is the opening statement of a recent entry by Christian blogger Julie Roys.



Her source for this welcome news was her conversation with *New York Times* best-selling author, filmmaker and teacher Joel Richardson, who told her the number of Christians is growing by 20 percent annually in Iran in spite of the Iranian government's systematic, ongoing effort to erase Christianity. (Iranian law specifies the death sentence for proselytizing and attempts by non-Muslims to convert Muslims.)

According to Roys, "Richardson said the people in Iran are broken and receptive to the Gospel. The country is facing an economic crisis. Drug addiction and joblessness are rampant. But women are especially open to the Gospel because so many of them are being abused."

After outlining the struggles of the Iranian people in general, Richardson went on to discuss the attraction of women in particular to the Gospel. Roys was frank in her summarization of his thoughts: "Islam doesn't exactly offer the hope of paradise for women. (The Koran describes the afterlife as a place where

men are given virgins for their enjoyment. And some of the hadiths, or collections of the sayings and actions of Muhammad describe heaven as a 'slave market where there will be "no buy and sale, but... If any man will wish to have [intimate relations] with a woman, he will do at once."'")"

Roys continues, "Richardson said these women are coming to Christ in large numbers and making a huge difference, despite their low standing in the culture. Many of the new converts are women who have shared the Gospel with other women, seeking not merely to convert them, but also to disciple them.

"Others are coming to Christ through supernatural encounters with Jesus. Richardson told of one woman in particular who sought to kill herself by hanging but instead blacked out, had a vision of Jesus rescuing her and then woke to find the copper cable she'd used to hang herself laying perfectly straight on the floor!"

Roys indicates that this woman's story is one depicted in the new Richardson film *Sheep Among Wolves*, just released by Frontier Alliance International Films.

Who would have thought we'd hear this news coming out of Iran and that Iranian women would be in the forefront of the Gospel going forth in that seemingly closed region of the world? Is there anything too difficult for our Jesus? He works in mysterious and wonderful ways. Let's give Him all the praise, today!

Meeting and serving neighbors in the Camelot community . . . a summertime CrossWay tradition



Arrival of the fire truck . . . always a popular attraction for the children and arranged by CrossWay's Michael Stevens.



Pastor Bob Manuel greets fellow Pastor Sam Moffett of the House of God.



Elma Samuelson prepares balloons for Annette Doerr's special art, while Annette makes new friends in Camelot.



Pastor Bob Funk makes a couple of new friends and adds some humor to the hair-cutting venue.

Progress is beginning to be visible . . .

Drywall . . .

stacked . . .

and on the walls!



*Take a tour
any Sunday
after church!*

And the new kitchen is painted and cabinets installed!

