



July 2020

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

Our opportunity to say 'thank you'

We will gather on Sunday, June 28, to salute Pastor Bob and Florence Funk and wish them well on Bob's retirement.

Cake will be served in our south wing when our worship service concludes, shortly after 11 a.m.

Thanks are due to Bernie Burt and Marcy Greenhoe and all those who are assisting in the planning for this time of fellowship and appreciation for a couple who have meant so much to CrossWay these past 10 years.



*Farewell,
dear
friends &
faithful
servants!*

Keeping in touch

CrossWay's new pictorial fellowship directory has been published! If you do not yet have one, please check your church mailbox in the sanctuary narthex or ask Pam Reed or Penny Pullen for your personal copy.

The loosely bound booklet offers color photos of most of our attendees as well as contact info, birthdays and anniversary dates. And it's a quick reference for the church's own contact info, staff and missionaries.

Help wanted!

We need a volunteer to step forward to operate the sound and projection booth during the Sunday service. Not a weekly assignment but a key role for our worship time. Training will be provided — no experience needed. Please approach Pastor Manuel or Jane Schultze (find her in the Fellowship Directory) to ask questions or offer your service.

Attend online



This year, The Voice of the Martyrs conference on Christian persecution is online.

Attend at your own convenience by registering at persecution.com/virtual. It's free and so inspiring!

Annual meeting on tap

The church's annual membership meeting is being planned for Sunday, July 12, after our worship service.

Election of new elders is on the agenda, as are financial updates, ministry reports and adoption of the church budget.

Please increase your prayers for our Elders, as they face many decisions for the upcoming season.

Interested in membership?

If you see yourself as part of the CrossWay Community family but have not formally joined the church, you are encouraged to pray about becoming a member and to approach Pastor Manuel with your questions or interest.

And this goes, too, for the young family members who have reached your 18th birthday but have not yet become a member in your own right. Come on board!

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

[Sun., June 28 • Funk farewell party after worship
Mon., June 29 • Day of the Christian Martyr 2020]

Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for Worship Together
Wednesdays • 7^{PM} • Hinkle small group
Sun., July 5 • Deadline for Heartside donations
Sun., July 12 • Annual meeting after worship
Sun., July 19 • Deadline for Camelot school supplies

New to the CrossWay library

I Didn't *Sign Up* for This

FINDING HOPE
WHEN EVERYTHING
IS GOING WRONG

JOHN F.
WESTFALL

Author of Getting Past What You'll Never Get Over

After a series of traumatic losses, pastor John Westfall realized when everything feels like it's ending, sometimes God is on the move.

Through his own story, stories of others and wisdom from Scripture, the author shares with the weary the peace of acceptance, the pleasure of release and the power of risk.

You will find it with recent library additions on a table in the west lobby. Check it out, and visit our library full of faith books in the library itself opposite the office near the north door.



Gathering for worship in a safe environment.

About our denomination

CrossWay Community is the only church in Grand Rapids which affiliates with the Evangelical Free Church of America, an association of autonomous churches united around the same theological convictions.

Many of us were drawn to acquaintance with CrossWay by the denomination's commitment to sound Biblical preaching. Upon formally joining, our members become knowledgeable also about the denomination's Statement of Faith and are asked by our pastors to subscribe to that statement.

The 10 topics of the EFCA Statement of Faith are featured, one each month, in the *Current* this year. In this July edition, we offer the Statement's sixth principle:

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

It's a girl!

Our church family is delighted to welcome another baby girl, Krupa Esther, the first daughter born to Stella & Vijay Michael, joining Vishwas & Sanjeev in a growing family. Can't wait to see her — and them all — in person!

(Time to take out your Fellowship Directory and add Krupa's name and birthday (May 28) to the Michael family page!)



How we can bless our neighbors

The Camelot Community Partnership, through which we represent Jesus to our neighbors, will be giving 200 backpacks to school kids this year and will be needing 200 boxes of 24-pack Crayola crayons and 400 of the 70-sheet wide-ruled notebooks. This is CrossWay's commitment to the back-to-school blessing offered each year to the children who live to our south and west.

Please bring your contributions to the sanctuary narthex no later than July 19. Consider online ordering if you have difficulty finding the requested supplies in local stores. If you have any questions, please approach Pastor Manuel.



Get 'em here by July 19!

Transition Time



In my article last month, I commended the Funks in their upcoming (sadly, now a reality) retirement, with a few deserved “well done” comments. Again, we remain grateful for their years of service at CrossWay.

As you can imagine, my role will shift some. It won’t be new territory, as I’ve “solo” pastored for years, even before we arrived here. Yet, in this transition time, I have been thinking about my own service here at CrossWay. I don’t want to assume I will be here till I retire, yet I think I must strategically plan for at least the next few years.

With that in mind, here are some broad brushstrokes to some of what I would like to see unfold here. I will give more specifics in my annual report. Then, I will seek to hammer out in even more detail some of these broad brushstrokes with your Elders in the very near future. Nothing becomes dynamic until it gets specific. (By the way, this is a great time to share this with you! You will have at least a few months to pray before some of the details begin to be laid out for the Fall ministry season, come September.) Here are the broad brushstrokes:

- **Intentional Discipleship.** Just these two words will perhaps make some of us a bit nervous (it does me!), but we have always tried to let Scripture shape our ministry priorities here at CrossWay. As you know, Jesus told us to “make disciples.” (Matt.28:18-20) Our mission statement refers to His words. I don’t think any of us want our mission to be mere words on a page but truths we are actually doing! Laying out clear pathways/steps for each of us will both encourage and challenge us as we can help one another grow as His followers.
- **Varied Outreaches.** We have been incredibly blessed with our new facility! There has been much discussion on how to use the building for outreach. This is good! Yet, I also envision helping to equip this church to do some outreach outside this building. In fact, while I do believe we will better use our facility for outreach, it is my conviction that because of the very nature of the church (it is a people, not a building), the bulk of our equipping for outreach should be geared for our neighborhoods/homes.

- **Renewed/More emphasis on Prayer.** Some of this may focus on the revival we so desperately need. I also would like to see “Houses of Prayer Everywhere” or “H.O.P.E.” prayer groups. These prayer groups would also be connected to some of the equipping for outreach I want to see happen. A pastor taught me many years ago three things about prayer. He said, **1) Prayer is work, 2) Prayer works and 3) Prayer leads to work.** I will share later how I envision these ideas shaping all our prayer ministries.
- **Equipping for the Future/Building Leaders.** If God wants this church to thrive (and I believe He does), then picture a baton relay race. Instead of a solo runner, we have a relay team. One runner starts, sprints to the next runner and hands off the baton. This second runner receives the baton, runs to the next runner, hands off the baton and so on. Some of the processes for building future leaders will grow out of our disciple-making mentioned at left. I only suggest here, it would be good for each of us involved in ministry at CrossWay to develop a mentality of equipping/building future leaders. If we don’t do this, we will slowly die. This mentality might be seen in simple clear policies, such as not starting a new ministry unless we have both a leader and a protege, a “Paul” and a “Timothy,” as we begin. That way, when “Old Paul” gets a bit tired or comes to the end of his journey, Timothy steps in with the experience of having been with Paul. The ministry continues unabated, to the glory of God.

Finally, in this transition time as we look to the future, your Elders covet your prayers, that we would be eager to serve and would be good examples to the flock as we look forward to the coming of our Chief Shepherd Jesus. (I Pet.5:1-4)

Bob Manuel

The Four Focuses of the Atonement of Christ

Guest commentary by Elder Paul Samuelson

The atonement of Christ involves the perfect sacrifice of Christ through His death and resurrection, which wipes out all our sins. Let's take a look at four focuses of the atonement, which are spiritual blessings that have profound implications for our emotional and core fears when applied to our lives.

First, the atonement involves Jesus as our "Substitute" (Heb. 2:9) taking our place on the cross for our sins, and His perfect death propitiated or satisfied the just demands for sin, turning God's wrath away from people who put their faith and trust in Jesus as our Savior. (Rom. 1:18, 8:1; John 3:18) As a result of Christ's perfect offering on the cross, we are justified and made as holy as Christ, because Christ takes away all our sin and gives us His perfect righteousness. (Rom. 5:1, II Cor. 5:21) The resurrection of Christ proves that He is the Son of God and that God accepted His perfect sacrifice. (Rom. 1:4)

This truth can have many applications to various emotions and core fears, but one application is in the area of being a "perfectionist." The core fear of a "perfectionist" is feeling we are not "good enough," and so we gravitate towards finding our worth through our achievements or accomplishments. The downside to this is that we expect perfection from others; we are supercritical of ourselves; we struggle to complete tasks in a timely manner; we view mistakes or failures as proof that we are inadequate; we invest a lot of energy trying to hide or mask our flaws; we avoid things that may cause us to fail; we beat ourselves up easily when we have failed, leading to more anxiety and depression in our lives; we become very controlling of others, and we struggle to ever be satisfied in our lives.

As we turn to Christ, knowing we are unconditionally accepted and approved by God through Christ's righteousness, we are set free from trying to earn God's approval or other people's acceptance, because we are already complete, whole and "perfect" in Christ. We are no longer judged but are completely accepted by God through Christ.

Second, the blessing of the atonement involves Jesus as our "Sanctifier," Who provides expiation of our sins. (Heb. 2:11-15) Christ's death makes amends or reparation for our guilt and wrongdoing. This truth can be applied to our sense of shame or feelings of being defective or like a failure in life. The complete whole, perfect and unconditional forgiveness of God over all our past, present and future sins allows us to accept ourselves in Christ — failures and all — so we can have the freedom to focus on loving God and loving/serving others instead of hiding ourselves from others or continuously beating ourselves up in our shame.

We can also stand up to the daily accusations of Satan because we know who we are in Christ. Christ's death also frees us from the guilt of sin (Heb. 9:14), the power of sin (Rom. 6:6-7), the penalty of sin (Heb. 10:10, 14), and eventually will set us free from all presence of sin forever. (Rev. 21:27)

Third, the blessing of the atonement involves Jesus as our "Sympathetic High Priest," Who provides reconciliation of man to God. (Heb. 2:16-18, 4:16-18) We need Christ to reconcile us to God through His death because we are subjects of God's wrath. (Rom. 1:18) However, in Christ we are a "new creation" (II Cor. 5:17), and we receive God's peace. (Col. 1:20) Also, in Heaven, Christ continually intercedes for us eternally (Heb. 7:25) to keep us continually close to God.

And finally, Jesus represents us as our Sympathetic High Priest (Heb. 4:14-16), Who can sympathize with our weaknesses and will come to our aid when we are tempted or in need, because He has also experienced rejection, suffering, injustice, sorrow, grief, trauma and death. Through Christ's redemptive and reconciliatory work of bringing us back to God, we become part of community — the family of God — with a new identity in Christ, with new power to live the Christian life from the Holy Spirit with new resources of spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit, and with help and grace from our High Priest Jesus, Who lives to make intercession for us day and night. In short, this truth helps mend fractured family and social relationships by creating harmony and peace through forgiveness and help from Jesus. It also salves our deepest feelings of loneliness and depression by giving us a sense of identity and purpose within the body of Christ, as we use our God-given gifts and talents to love, serve and be served in the body of Christ.

Fourth, the blessing of the atonement involves Jesus as our "Satan Conqueror," Who provides victory over Satan and death. (Heb. 2:14-15) The death of Christ frees us from the fear of death (I Cor. 15:54) and saves us from Satan's power. (Col. 1:13) As a result, we have victory, joy and reason to continue on, no matter what suffering comes our way, because we know that God is ultimately in control over all things. Also, we know that God will eventually judge every wrong and injustice committed in our world and will make everything right and just at the end of time. With this in mind, we know it is worth living for Christ, no matter the sacrifice we make (even death), because "these momentary light afflictions are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory that far exceeds it all" (II Cor. 4:17-18), and we know our labor will never be in vain. (I Cor. 15:58)

Christ's death in these four areas — Propitiation towards God, Expiation of our sin, Reconciliation of man to God and Victory over Satan — meets our deepest emotional needs and fears, such as anger, loneliness, jealousy, shame, rejection, suffering, resentment, bitterness, guilt, self-image, grief, perfectionism, people-pleasing, and many others. Of course, healing is a process (a process of God's grace), and often there is no quick cure. But certainly knowing the blessings of Christ's death in these four areas and applying them to our lives can begin the healing process.

Advancing the Gospel

CrossWay's own Mike Greenhoe and family are serving the Lord by serving His servants at the Black Forest Academy in Kandern, Germany, where Mike leads the science department. He teaches the children of missionaries who are on the field around the world.



Kari works as a full-time mom these days, with Grant (seated on Kari's lap) and Clark (snuggling with Mike) waiting for the birth of their sister, anticipated to make her debut in early August — the fourth baby girl to be born into the CrossWay family in recent months!

We called Mike the other day to check on how his ministry is faring during these recent times, and he admitted it's been a challenge. When Germany's lockdown started, he and the rest of the BFA staff had 48 hours to convert from classroom teaching to remote instruction. (Just try to teach Chemistry by computer!) Many of their students went home to their parents' mission fields, but the juniors and seniors have returned to campus since May 4, attending classes wearing face masks. So, the staff has been running a two-pronged education system, teaching both in the classroom and online for those unable to return. By now, grades have been turned in, 56 students have graduated, and summer break has begun.

Now the challenge is to prepare for the next semester, with new and returning staff scheduled to arrive July 20, pending full funding for each, with a 14-day quarantine the first item on the program, even for new staff who are setting up their new homes upon arrival.

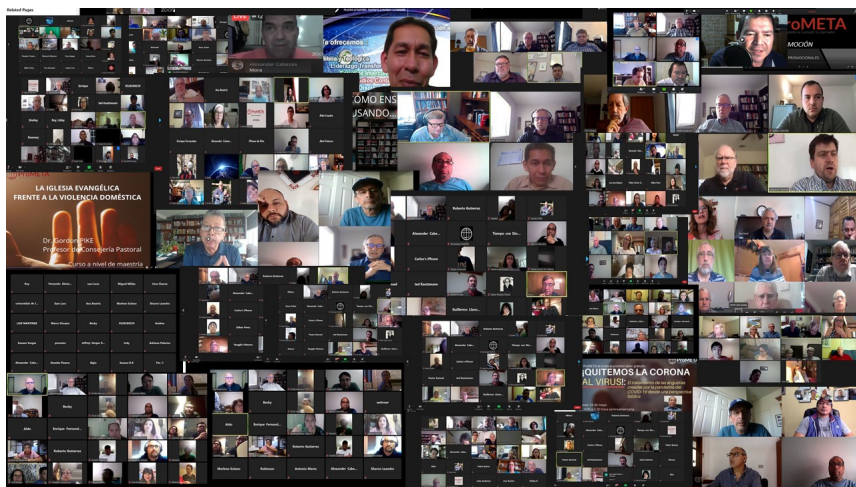
Mike has some items for you to add to your prayer list:

Pray for funding for new teachers, especially several in the math/science field.

Pray for the complex start-up for BFA on July 20.

Pray for the safe arrival of baby girl Greenhoe, whose birth is expected early in August.

Praise with Greenhoses for the start-up of the kindergarten June 29, where Grant will be able to increase his facility with the German language. 🙌



Keith and Judy Anderson have been providing Spanish language Christian leadership training online for years, but never quite as intensively as in recent months!



Among other changes, the ProMETA ministry added a Thursday evening interactive workshop series that appealed to a great many students and drew a particularly heartwarming unsolicited response:

"You are constantly in my prayers. ... ProMETA has formed us as Christian leaders of the family of faith, to face the 'world' and its calamities. In these times of restrictions and isolation, we have been taught [by ProMETA] to be 'servants' to the families of the world, accompanying them, advising them adequately, directing them spiritually, helping them to organize themselves or to reorganize and strengthen their [spiritual] foundations. The Church, too, is a trainer of leaders which can counter the error of inadequate teaching of God's Word. ... Courses such as Spritual Development, Foundations of Counseling, Christian Communication, Family Ministry in the 21st Century, The Evangelical Church in the Face of Domestic Violence and Nehemiah, are some that come to mind and that were 'ahead of their time,' to reinforce the structure, to strengthen the family and to form the representatives of Christ in this new 'ice age.' For me, ProMETA is not only a biblical and theological institution of higher learning, it is 'my home,' where I gain perspectives not taught in [our] institutes, schools or contemporary churches. I thank God for belonging to the 'house' that has changed the model, has broken paradigms and has brought us closer to the reality of a troubled world.... Thank you..., thank you ProMETA... ." PtL!

Celebrating the faith of the Christian Martyr

According to church tradition, June 29 is the date on which the Apostle Paul was beheaded on the Appian Way in Rome.

This year, Christians around the world will honor the legacy of those who, like the Apostle Paul, sacrificed their lives for the advancement of the Gospel.

Pastor Jean-Paul Sankagui planted a church in a Muslim neighborhood outside Bangui, capital of the Central African Republic, in 1993. He maintained good relations with the community for years. But civil war between Seleka rebels, government forces and anti-balaka militias changed everything. Most of the pastor's church members fled the area as hostility increased toward Christians. And even the pastor's wife, Mary, urged him to leave the area and work some place safer. But Pastor Jean-Paul stayed in obedience to what he believed God had called him to do.

On Feb. 7, 2017, Islamists shot Pastor Jean-Paul to death outside his church in Ramandji before looting and burning his house and church. Mary said they killed her husband because the community no longer wanted Christians in the area. She and Pastor Sankagui had been married 48 years and had 11 children and 17 grandchildren. After losing not only her husband but also her home and all her possessions, Mary had no choice but to leave the area.

Five other evangelical pastors in the region also were killed in the first five weeks of 2017. Pastor Jean-

Paul knew the risks, counted the cost and willingly stayed to shepherd his small congregation and serve as a witness for Christ in the neighborhood.

Pastor Sankagui lived out the urging of the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church at Philippi: *"Only let your manner of life be worthy of the Gospel of Christ ... not frightened in anything by your opponents. ... For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in Him but suffer for His sake."* (Philippians 1:27a, 28a, 29)

In the New Testament, the word *martyr* is synonymous with *witness*. A martyr is one who witnesses for Christ, no matter the cost. When faith costs us something, it becomes infinitely more valuable.

Those who give their lives for the Gospel do not wake up one day and decide, "Today, I'll give my life for my faith."

The Voice of the Martyrs, which invites you to participate in this celebration of others' dedication, suggests that we must intentionally learn, obey and grow to become more Christ-like. Ask yourself, "What is my next step?" And then pray for the courage to be a bold witness where you live.

"And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." (Mark 12:30)



For the sake of the cross

Their house church movement pastor is serving a 10-year prison sentence, and now nine more newer believers in Jesus have been arrested, tried and sentenced in Iran. Their arrests clustered between January 29 and February 23, 2019, while living in Rasht, a northern city, and attending house churches under the aegis of the Church of Iran. Police confiscated such dangerous tools as cell phones and Bibles during their raids.

At their preliminary hearing on July 24, the nine men were accused of "acting against national security" and "promoting Zionism." The judge, who has earned the nickname "judge of death," rejected the lawyer for five of the men and appointed a lawyer who was, in turn, rejected by the defendants. This would-be defiance precipitated the judge sending the five immediately to the notorious Evin prison.

All of the men were sentenced to five years in prison, with the judge calling them "apostates" and arguing that the Bible was "falsified." Their sentence was upheld in February this year at an appeal hearing where neither they nor their lawyers were allowed. Those who had been freed on \$13,000 bail were summoned to begin serving their sentences on June 2.

These men are relatively young, and most have families. Please pray for their faith to shine forth in the darkness of their prison and for their strength to endure for the sake of the Name.

Thanks to The Voice of the Martyrs for this information and for the care that they provide for the families of these dear ones while they stand tall for the Kingdom of God to reign in Evin Prison.



Executive Order on Advancing International Religious Freedom

Issued June 2, 2020, by Pres. Donald J. Trump

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Sec. 1. Policy. (a) Religious freedom, America's first freedom, is a moral and national security imperative. Religious freedom for all people worldwide is a foreign policy priority of the United States, and the United States will respect and vigorously promote this freedom. As stated in the 2017 National Security Strategy, our Founders understood religious freedom not as a creation of the state but as a gift of God to every person and a right that is fundamental for the flourishing of our society.

(b) Religious communities and organizations and other institutions of civil society are vital partners in United States Government efforts to advance religious freedom around the world. It is the policy of the United States to engage robustly and continually with civil society organizations — including those in foreign countries — to inform United States Government policies, programs and activities related to international religious freedom.

Sec. 2. Prioritization of International Religious Freedom. Within 180 days of the date of this order, the Secretary of State shall, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, develop a plan to prioritize international religious freedom in the planning and implementation of United States foreign policy and in the foreign assistance programs of the Dept. of State and USAID.

Sec. 3. Foreign Assistance Funding for International Religious Freedom. (a) The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, budget at least \$50 million per fiscal year for programs that advance international religious freedom to the extent feasible and permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations. Such programs shall include those intended to anticipate, prevent and respond to attacks against individuals and groups on the basis of their religion, including programs designed to help ensure that such groups can persevere as distinct communities; to promote accountability for the perpetrators of such attacks; to ensure equal rights and legal protections for individuals and groups regardless of belief; to improve the safety and security of houses of worship and public spaces for all faiths; and to protect and preserve the cultural heritages of religious communities.

(b) Executive departments and agencies that fund foreign assistance programs shall ensure that faith-based and religious entities, including eligible entities in foreign countries, are not discriminated against on the basis of religious identity or religious belief when competing for federal funding, to the extent permitted by law.

Sec. 4. Integrating International Religious Freedom into U.S. Diplomacy. (a) The Secretary shall direct Chiefs of Mission in countries of particular concern, countries on the Special Watch List, countries in which there are entities of particular concern, and any other countries that have engaged in or tolerated violations of religious freedom as noted in the Annual Report on International Religious Freedom required by ... the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998... , to develop comprehensive action plans to inform and support the efforts of the United States to advance international religious freedom and to encourage the host governments to make progress in eliminating violations of religious freedom.

(b) In meetings with their counterparts in foreign governments, the heads of agencies shall, when appropriate and in coordination with the Secretary, raise concerns about international religious freedom and cases that involve individuals imprisoned because of their religion.

(c) The Secretary shall advocate for United States international religious freedom policy in both bilateral and multilateral fora, when appropriate, and shall direct the Administrator of USAID to do the same.

Sec. 5. Training for Federal Officials. (a) The Secretary shall require all Dept. of State civil service employees in the Foreign Affairs Series to undertake training modeled on the international religious freedom training described in ... the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-465), as amended by section 103(a)(1) of the Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act (Public Law 114-281).

(b) Within 90 days of the date of this order, the heads of all agencies that assign personnel to positions overseas shall submit plans to the President, through the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, detailing how their agencies will incorporate the type of training described in subsection (a) of this section into the training required before the start of overseas assignments for all personnel who are to be stationed abroad, or who will deploy and remain abroad, in one location for 30 days or more.


(c) All Federal employees subject to these requirements shall be required to complete international religious freedom training not less frequently than once every 3 years.

Sec. 6. Economic Tools. (a) The Secretary and the Secretary of the Treasury shall, in consultation with the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and through the process described in National Security Presidential Memorandum 4 of April 4, 2017 (Organization of the National Security Council, the Homeland Security Council and subcommittees), develop recommendations to prioritize the appropriate use of economic tools to advance international religious freedom in countries of particular concern, and any other countries that have engaged in or tolerated violations of religious freedom as noted in the report required by section 102(b) of the Act. These economic tools may include, as appropriate and to the extent permitted by law, increasing religious freedom programming, realigning foreign assistance to better reflect country circumstances, or restricting the issuance of visas under section 604(a) of the Act.

(b) The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may consider imposing sanctions under Executive Order 13818 of Dec. 20, 2017 (Blocking the Property of Persons Involved in Serious Human Rights Abuse or Corruption), which, among other things, implements the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (Public Law 114-328).

[Concluding with "Definitions" and "General Provisions" which protect the US taxpayer and our government from liability and which safeguard the legitimate actions and authorities of our government (too lengthy and detailed to fit this page!).]

By the hand of



Worshiping our great Lord

at CrossWay — in person

... and in song

In Christ alone
my hope is found;
He is my Light,
my strength, my song;

No guilt in life,
no fear in death
This is the
power of Christ
in me;

From life's first cry
to final breath,
Jesus commands
my destiny.



'Til He returns
or calls me home,
here in the
power of Christ
I'll stand!