



July 2021

# CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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[www.crosswaygr.com](http://www.crosswaygr.com)

## Welcomes abound!



The weather made the Tuboanes' journey from Tanzania to Grand Rapids even longer, but a handful of CrossWay folks greeted them at Ford International Airport after midnight in mid-June, welcoming the refugee family of six we're co-sponsoring with Bethany Christian Services. They were delighted to find some 30 Congolese family and friends on hand as well for the welcoming celebration.

The new arrivals have quarantined at StayBridge Suites and have now moved in with family members who arrived under similar circumstances two years ago, until an apartment can be leased for them. Meanwhile, they're keeping appointments made by Bethany, and we hope they'll soon visit CrossWay to begin getting acquainted and worship with us. Be ready to greet them when they're in our midst! We're looking forward to blessing them with your donations of household goods at their own home soon.

## Blessing Ridge Park students

Children living in our church neighborhood will be returning to face-to-face schooling this fall, and we can help prepare them! Each year the Camelot Community Partnership of area churches put together 200 backpacks for Ridge Park students.

This year, CrossWay's part of the campaign will be to provide 200 boxes of Crayola crayons (24 ct.) and 400 notebooks of 70-sheet wide-ruled paper.

To put it all together, Camelot Partnership has set a deadline of Sunday, July 25, to gather our donations. Please bring them to the church office this month, and please be generous! Questions? Ask Pastor Bob Manuel.



## Sign up now for September's Ladies Bible Study

CrossWay's Ladies Bible Study is wrapping up its current study, taking a break for the summer and enlisting participation now for the study beginning in September.

Those interested in participating on Tuesday afternoons at 1 p.m. next fall are encouraged to sign up now so that sufficient study materials will be available when the ladies resume their weekly time together in the south wing. Please contact Marcy Greenhoe (see fellowship directory for her info) to advise her of your interest and request a book.

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the Name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.  
And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*

*Matthew 28: 19-20*

## Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 10<sup>AM</sup> • Gather for worship together  
Tuesdays • 7 - 9<sup>PM</sup> • Small group at Hinkles' home  
Sun., July 11 • 11:30<sup>AM</sup> • Young family planning lunch  
Sat., July 17 • 10<sup>AM</sup> • Men's discipleship meeting  
Sun., July 25 • Deadline for Ridge Park backpack donations

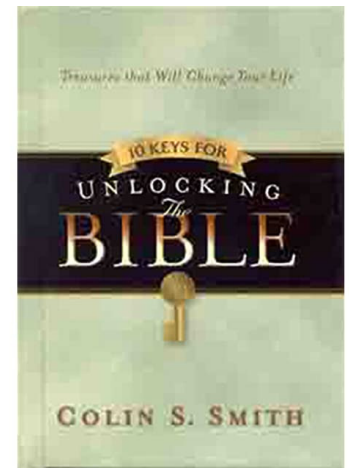
## Treasures that will change your life

The whole Bible is one story, beginning in a garden, ending in a city, and all the way through pointing us to Jesus Christ.

New to the CrossWay library this month is a condensed version of the 4-volume series by Evangelical Free Church pastor Colin Smith.

Great for personal reading as well as giving away to the seeker in your life.

Check it out of the library, and if you really want to give it away, just let Pam Reed or Penny Pullen know so they can order another copy. This one's really too good to keep to yourself!



***Time together . . . treats & tributes & good sharing . . . The ladies of CrossWay gathered June 26 for a summer luncheon in the south wing, offering thanks to the Lord for our 'gray-haired saints' and to them for their example of godliness. A big thank-you to Bernie Burt and her committee for exquisite planning of this joyful event.***



## You are invited!

Sarah & Cody Hinkle are hosting a “small group” (of as many CrossWay friends as wish to attend!) offering a study of the Hebrew Bible.

Folks will gather in the Hinkles' new home in Lowell for a video study and fellowship. All are welcome

to participate either in person or by phone or video conferencing.

The group is also reading together the Book of Deuteronomy.

Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m.





## *Evading God by Living in the Past*



As mentioned in last month's *Current* article, I will be offering some reflections on how we interact with God in "time." Songwriter/Bible teacher Michael Card's song "In the Beginning" will serve as a jumping-off point for these reflections. Here's the stanza that has served to shape and greatly encourage me over the years:

He hands us each new moment saying  
My child, begin again.

My child, begin again. You're free to start again.  
This very moment is filled with His power  
that we might start anew.

To break us away from the past and the future  
He does what He must do.

To some extent and perhaps for different reasons, I believe we all tend to "live" in either the past or the future. Living in the present is far more difficult. Card says, "This very moment is filled with His power, that we might start anew." Do we believe that?

At a deep level, I think we do believe this, and it is precisely because we know God wants to meet with us, we avoid Him by "living" in the past or the future. As for the past, here are some reasons I have found, both from personal experience and talking to others, why we tend to "live" in the past:

- We think somehow "beating ourselves up" over our failures and sins shows God we are "serious" about walking with Him. In reality, this is a way to NOT walk with Him, because among other things, we are NOT trusting the love and forgiveness He offers us through the Gospel of His dear Son. By doing this, we commit idolatry, because we are telling God our declaration of our guilt and shame is more weighty than He is and the forgiveness He offers us through His Gospel.

- We believe God's forgiveness as a doctrine but do not feel His forgiveness at the personal level. His forgiveness is in our "heads" but not our "hearts." Because of this, we can't/won't forgive ourselves over some failure or sin.
- Related to the above, living in the past gives us a sense of control as the shame/guilt/anger toward ourselves keeps us from trusting God by appropriating His grace.

While there may be other reasons why we tend to live in the past, what, as Card suggested, might God do to break us away from the past? I suggest two things:

- First, God will illuminate the Gospel of His Son Jesus upon your life. Jesus and His forgiveness and grace becomes more real. Your sanctification (enjoying and becoming more like Jesus) can perhaps best be understood as the art of getting used to your justification.
- God will allow the pain of living/hiding in your past to surpass any sense of refuge you used to find there. He bids you to come to Him now.

Last month I suggested meeting God in the "now" of today can be "terrifying" and liberating. I think meeting God often includes a mixture of both holy fear and a joyful freedom to fully be what He has made us to be. Both fear and freedom require the humility of trust.

There. That's a "teaser" to get you to read next month's article.

# Being the hands & feet of Jesus for His precious little ones



Leading the GlobalFingerprints ministry of the Evangelical Free Church of America, Pastor Greg Norwine visited CrossWay in mid-June, explaining to us the child sponsorship and spiritual nourishment program of our denomination.

GlobalFingerprints benefits needy children *and* their families, working through a church/church-planting setting to build up families, communities, and churches, bringing the Gospel to hungry children.

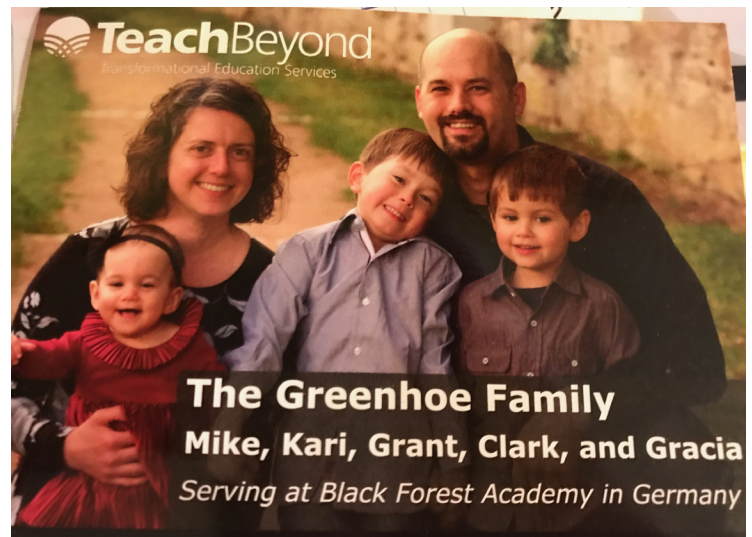
CrossWay is in the process of selecting a child for our sponsorship as a congregation and invites our folks to participate by searching the

ministry's website and making individual commitments to sponsor more children as well. Check out the list of children waiting for sponsorship at [globalfingerprints.org](http://globalfingerprints.org).

## Home at last, for a little while

CrossWay's own Mike and Kari Greenhoe are summering in Grand Rapids this year, on furlough from their service at the Black Forest Academy in Germany. Their children are thrilled to be visiting Grandma and Grandpa for just one more month.

Mike brought our congregation up to date on June 27, talking about the unusual stresses of the past year, teaching students in a variety of formats and arranging for transportation for students making "home visits" with their missionary parents stationed in many places around the world. Mike finds it particularly challenging to teach students who come from a wide arc of attitudes. Many are maturing in their faith, while others are struggling with being away from their parents abroad and their friends back home. Please pray for the Greenhoses as they enjoy a time of rest and prepare for the new school year ahead.



## Eritrea report



Located on the Red Sea, Eritrea is governed by a totalitarian regime that seeks to control every aspect of life. Some have compared Eritrea to the "hermit kingdom" of North Korea, as it is one of the most secretive and isolated countries in the world. In 2002, the government outlawed every religion except Islam, Orthodox Christianity, Roman Catholicism and the Lutheran Church. All other religious groups are illegal, and the government heavily controls approved churches, including their messages. Despite these hardships, the underground church in Eritrea continues to grow due to the faithfulness of church leaders both inside and outside the country. The population is evenly divided between Christians and Muslims. The authoritarian government arrests, imprisons and harasses Christians.

There are many Christians being held for several years without trial, forced to work at hard labor and to "live" in shipping containers with no ventilation or plumbing. Yet, they are faithful.