



September 2021

# CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

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

## God has provided . . . a new home



It's roomy, has "good bones" and is conveniently located just three blocks west of the Calvin campus, one house off the Burton bus line. This is the rental home the Lord has provided for the Tuboanes, the refugee family from Congo that CrossWay is co-sponsoring with Bethany Christian Services.

Several volunteers gathered Sat., August 28, to move the many household and furniture items donated by our congregation and stored at the church just 1.2 miles away. Another set of volunteers provided elbow grease for many hours on Sunday to wipe down counters, drawers and shelves, spruce up the bathrooms, clean hardwood and tile floors, and even clean the carpets. That same crew worked on setting up the kitchen, with others arriving Monday and Tuesday to complete the unpacking and setting up of furniture and decor items. And our moving men returned Monday evening to do some minor repairs around the home.

At this writing, we're planning a Welcome Home party for 6 p.m. Tues., August 31. Y'all come! Contact Paul Samuelson or Annette Doerr for information. (They're in the photo fellowship directory.)

## Upcoming Opportunities

Kendricks Documentary: *Show Me The Father*  
starts Fri., Sept. 10, 5 & 7:30 PM at AMC GrRap  
3000 Alpine NW, Walker

Revive Our Hearts women's conference Oct. 8-9,  
Indianapolis

Voice of the Martyrs bio-movie *Sabina* (Wurmbrand)  
Nov. 8-10 at AMC Grand Rapids (Walker)

## Preaching Schedule

Sept. 5	I John 3: 1-10	• Cody Hinkle
Sept. 12	I John 3: 11-15	• Cody Hinkle
Sept. 19	I John 3: 16-24	• Cody Hinkle
Sept. 26	I John 4: 1-6	• Scott Montgomery
Oct. 3	I John 4: 7-12	• Scott Montgomery
Oct. 10	I John 4: 13-21	• Scott Montgomery
Oct. 17	I John 5: 1-5	• Dr. Bob Funk
Oct. 24	I John 5: 6-12	• Dr. Bob Funk
Oct. 31	I John 5: 13-21	• Sam Moffett

## "Elder On Call"

Aug. 29-Sept. 11 <> Bob Greenhoe  
Sept. 12-Sept. 25 <> Dennis Veurink  
Sept. 25-Oct. 9 <> Paul Samuelson  
Oct. 10-23 <> Frank Burt  
Oct. 24-31 <> Bob Johnston

## Getting to know us...& the Word

Anyone interested in exploring the CrossWay "DNA" is welcome to participate in a class outlining a little of CrossWay's history, our place in the Evangelical Free Church of America and the EFCA Statement of Faith, as well as sharing by each student of his or her own commitment to the Lord and expectation of church membership.

Participation in this class does not commit one to joining CrossWay as a member but is required of those who are seeking membership.

At the same time, Scott Montgomery will be offering a class in Christian apologetics, the study and practice of proclaiming and defending the Word of God.

Both classes begin Sept. 12 and continue for six weeks.

## Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 10<sup>AM</sup> • Gather for worship together  
Sunday School • 11:30<sup>AM</sup> (beginning Sept. 12)  
Tuesdays • 1<sup>PM</sup> • Women's Bible Study at church  
Tuesdays • 7 - 9<sup>PM</sup> • Small group @ Hinkles' home, Lowell  
Tues., Aug. 31 • 6<sup>PM</sup> • Welcome Home party for refugee family (contact Pam Reed)  
Sat., Sept. 11 & 18 • 9:30<sup>AM</sup> • Small group @ Pam Reed & Penny Pullen's home, Hudsonville

## Crisis relief

Many crises have made the headlines day in and day out during the past month. Our denomination has established secure means by which we can get involved through sharing of our “treasure.”

As Afghan refugees flee their country, ReachGlobal Crisis Response needs your help to offer tangible resources and cross-cultural discipling for refugees. Financial donation goal: \$100,000.

ReachGlobal Crisis Response calls for financial generosity to support the response to the recent earthquake in Haiti. Financial donation goal: \$100,000.

Donate through <https://crisis-response.ministries.efca.org/> or designating your check (Afghan response or Haiti response) and addressing it to

EFCA

901 E. 78<sup>th</sup> Street

Minneapolis MN 55420

Check the same website for updates about responses in the wake of Hurricane Ida in southeast US..

## You are invited!

Pam Reed & Penny Pullen are inviting CrossWay folks to their home for twice-monthly fellowship and a study of “Momentum: Pursuing God’s blessings through the Beatitudes,” led by prominent Evangelical Free Church pastor Colin Smith via DVD and discussion guide. (No prep needed.)

The second and third Saturdays monthly at 9:30 a.m., starting this month, in their Hudsonville home, near the 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue exit on west M-6.

.....Cody and Sarah Hinkle continue to extend an invitation to the congregation to join them for a small group at their Lowell home. They are currently in a series by The Bible Project on the Old Testament. Group attendees are asked to pre-view a video at home for discussion as a group. They conclude with reading a Scripture chapter together and praying for each other.

The Hinkles open their home for this group on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and invite participation in person or by phone or virtual attendance.

RSVPs are not required but will be appreciated; contact info for the hosts can be found in the church fellowship directory.

If you don’t have a directory but you’re a regular attendee, pick one up at the office.

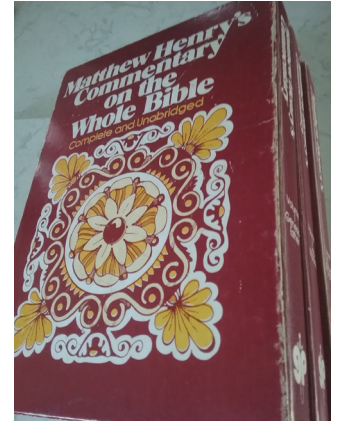


Available at the info cart in the lobby: a prayer calendar with prompts for each day of each month, offered by One Cry prayer ministry. Pick up a copy for you and your family to keep it handy as a daily guide for your prayer life..

## For our Bible students

Studying God’s Word is one of the most valuable practices we can adopt in our quest to know God and understand His will for our lives.

This month, we add to the CrossWay library a classic three-volume set of commentaries by Bible scholar Matthew Henry.



## Enjoying community with Camelot

The weather was perfect for this year’s Camelot Community Block Party, hosted by a coalition of various churches in our area.

Games, food, and distribution of some 200 backpacks for Ridge Park students going back to school!



Austin Shilton brought his basketball and had a great time with neighborhood boys.

## Can you help?

Several projects are pending for improvements for the CrossWay building. Most urgent is installation of new HVAC equipment for the north wing, which needs to proceed before winter.

Our building fund is not carrying an adequate balance to move ahead with these projects without additional donations. The estimated price tag above the balance tops \$32,000. Will you join in helping to defray these costs and support the improvements of our church home?



## *Meeting God in the Now*

As I was pondering, What does it look like to meet God today, to know Him in the now, Jesus's words in Matthew 18:3-4 came to mind. We read there, "I'm telling you once and for all, that unless you return to square one and start over like children, you're not even going to get a look at the kingdom, let alone get in. Whoever becomes simple and elemental again, like this child, will rank high in God's kingdom." (Matt. 18:3-4, *The Message*) Remember last month's article? Don't worry about tomorrow — seek first His kingdom and His righteousness ... (Matt. 6:33) Here Jesus tells us, to do that, we must become like children.

For purposes of my series of articles on not living in the past or in the future but meeting God in the now of today, let me suggest a few characteristics of children. Before I do that, though, I'd like to remind you, the articles in this series are helping me prepare for sabbatical. You see, sabbatical is a pause in one's normal interaction with time. You are graciously giving me an opportunity again to rest, reflect and, Lord willing, to meet with God in ways that will be rejuvenating to my mind, body and spirit.

So, back to a few characteristics of children and how they relate to meeting God now. First, I don't think little ones obsess too much over their past failures. (There's not much to obsess over!) Nor do they think too much about tomorrow. Their lives are all about the now of today. "Mom, Dad, feed me; let's play; hold me," etc. The lives of children are joyfully centered on the moment.

As you might recall, much of my reflections in the past few *Current* articles are based on observations from some lyrics taken from a few Michael Card songs. Way back in 1988, he wrote "Know You in the Now," released with his album *Present Reality*. Here are most of the lyrics from the song:

Echo of history, A light so many strain to see,  
The One we talk so much about  
but rarely ever live it out.  
Could You tell me why,  
was it for this You came and died?  
A once-a-week observance,  
when we coldly mouth Your words.  
Lord, I long to see Your presence in reality.  
But I don't know how. Let me know You in the now.  
We should confess, we lose You in our busyness.  
We've made You in our image, so our faith's idolatry.  
Lord, deliver me.  
Break my heart so I can see  
All the ways You dwell in us —  
That You're alive in me.

To close this month's article, I'll share a few simple observations from the lyrics above. My hope is that in sharing them, you will be encouraged to meet God — now.

First, we must not confuse talking a lot about God with enjoying God or knowing God. A big key to experiencing His Presence is to "live His words out." (See John 14:21) Second, we are often far too busy to actually enjoy God, to know Him in the now. We think He wants us to do, do, do, rather than focus on being a child whose chief call is to be loved by God and to love Him in return.

We have made Him in our image, Card says, so our faith is idolatry. This idolatry often takes the form of imagining God is "just like us" — pragmatic, whose chief mantra is often "just git 'er done."

Busy, busy, busy. We rarely take the time to let Him love us and then to love Him and others in return.

Finally, God dwells in us and among us, alive in so many ways. (Eph. 3:16-21) But to see Him, we often need our hearts and what we have been setting them upon, broken.



## Andersons conclude summer missions at CrossWay

Keith and Judy Anderson graced us with a visit on August 15, with Keith taking a turn on the preaching schedule for this summer and then detailing a ministry presentation over lunch in our South Wing.

The Andersons have been instrumental in carrying the Lord's Gospel into Latin America and other regions by directing the Evangelical Free Church's ProMETA internet training for missionaries, pastors and church leaders who speak Spanish. They have developed curricula and training methods over the past several decades, with support by CrossWay since the early 1980s.

Keith has recently welcomed a Canadian gentleman who is raising his own support to move soon from part-time to full-time as the new director for ProMETA, even as the ministry spins off from the EFCA global mission structure and forms a partnership to continue independently. The Andersons will gradually be lessening their time commitment, following the retirement program of the EFCA, through which their support continues but will be reduced as Keith drops back to half-time in the next few months. In the meantime, b



Let us pray for:



the Andersons' adjustment to semi-retirement after so many decades of dedicated full-time service to the Lord through ProMETA,



Keith's success in passing along his wisdom to the ministry's new director,



the continued financial support for ProMETA as the ministry continues its work of blessing Spanish-speaking Christian leaders.

## China report



Mandarin Chinese is the majority language in most of mainland China, though there are many ethnic minority groups. Explosive growth has characterized the church for at least the past 30 years. About 100 million Christians live in China, but only 30 million are affiliated with the government-authorized Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM), the state church controlled by the Communist government. The remaining 70 million worship in unapproved house churches. Despite continual pressure and oppression from the Communist government, house church leaders refuse to compromise the Gospel and join government-approved churches. About 60% of believers in China live in rural areas. Few house church leaders have formal theological training or access to Bible study materials. The main persecutor is the government.

Pastor Li Juncai of the Yuanyang County Central House Church in Xinxiang, Henan Province, is currently imprisoned after protesting the government's attempts to remove the cross atop his church building in 2019. He was arrested and accused of disrupting public service. The next day, Religious Affairs authorities removed signs from inside the church building and forced church members to fly China's national flag from the front of the church. Pastor Li Juncai was charged with embezzlement and obstructing government administration, sentenced to five and a half years in prison and given a fine of more than \$7,000 USD.



The Yuanyang County Central House Church was a government-run Three-Self church until 2013, when it merged with a local house church. Each week, they served approximately 700-800 people.

## Fun & food at the Ladies Picnic in Palmer Park



## ... and then celebrating Bob Pettit's birthday in the South Wing



## Serving ... in more ways than one!

Eagle Scout prospect Isaac Palma, along with Bob Greenhoe & dad Karl Palma, displays the beautiful bench & table made for CrossWay's garden nook.



Talisha McCullough sets up a bedside lamp in the Tuboane home.



Austin Snoeyink cleans the carpet in the Tuboanes' basement.

Bob Johnston wields a bed frame as part of the Tuboane moving crew.

