



October 2021

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

3950 Burton SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546 • 616.949.5690

www.crosswaygr.com

We're hosting here at CrossWay!

CrossWay's women's ministry is hosting the Saturday session of the annual conference of *Revive Our Hearts* — the Bible-based women's ministry led by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth — which meets in Indianapolis Oct. 8-9.

CrossWay will be "livestreaming" the Saturday conference in the sanctuary from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. A free-will-offering requested but not required.

Together we will listen to outstanding speakers offering Biblical insights and encouragement. And we'll join the worshipful singing presented in Indianapolis, right here in Grand Rapids.

CrossWay's women's ministry will offer snacks and beverages during conference breaks. Participants are asked to bring a lunch or to plan to go out for lunch during the mid-day break.

We hosted this "livestream" event two years ago and are delighted to be offering it again to ladies of the Grand Rapids area. Be sure to bring a friend or two!

Upcoming opportunities

- > Kendricks Fruit Documentary: *Courageous Legacy* starts Fri., Sep. 24, @ Celeb. Cin. GR-S, 1506 Eastport Dr. SE; Celeb. Cin. Rivertown, Grandville; Celeb. Cin. GR-N, 2121 Celebration Dr. NE; and AMC GR 3000 Alpine NW, Walker
- > *Faith in the Public Square: A Firm Foundation for a Culture Adrift* conference by Westminster Theolog. Seminary featuring John Stonestreet; Oct. 9, daylong, \$50; Central Ave. CRC, Holland
- > Open the Bible virtual event; Oct. 16, 11-2; register free at OpenTheBible.org.
- > Voice of the Martyrs bio-movie *Sabina* (Wurmbrand) Nov. 8-10 at AMC GR, Walker

Preaching Schedule

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

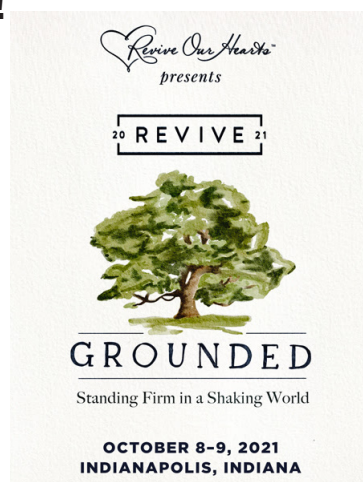
"Elder On Call"

Sept. 25-Oct. 9 <> Paul Samuelson

Oct. 10-23 <> Frank Burt

Oct. 24-31 <> Bob Johnston

(phone #s listed in fellowship directory or via church office)



Can you help?

Once our urgently needed furnace/a.c. replacement is completed for our building's north wing (before winter, please!), our building fund will be depleted, as will the general fund's provision for "old building improvements."

The church board has planned additional projects related to the healing/prayer garden and future Sunday School room build-outs. Will you join in helping to defray the costs of these needed projects? Mark an envelope "building fund" with your special gift or indicate it on your check memo. ❤️

Come to breakfast!

Our monthly fellowship breakfasts are resuming this month. The first Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. CrossWay ladies of all ages gather (Dutch treat) at IHOP on 28th, just up the road from Bob Evans, where CrossWay gents gather for their own breakfast fellowship, also at 9. All are welcome! No RSVP needed.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together

Sunday School • 11:30^{AM}

Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Women's Bible Study at church

Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home, Lowell

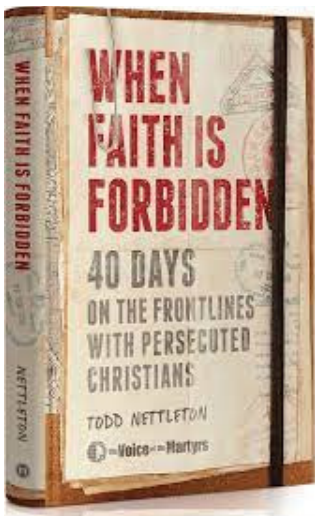
Thurs., Oct. 7 & 21 • 7^{PM} • Small group @ Amanda Le's

home, Grand Rapids

Sat., Oct 2 • 9^{AM} • Ladies breakfast @ IHOP, Men @ Bob Evans

Sat., Oct. 9 • 8:30^{AM} - 5^{PM} • *Revive Our Hearts* livestream

@ CrossWay – invite ladies you know



New to the CrossWay library

Todd Nettleton has been an ambassador for The Voice of the Martyrs for many years, going into some of the darkest places of the world to meet with followers of Jesus, usually in secret. He made a practice of capturing the stories he has heard by contemporaneous journaling, and now he has drawn from his journal entries to bring these stories to our hearts.

The brothers and sisters you will meet in these pages have endured much hostility, even physical and mental torture, for the sake of the Gospel. But their stories are filled with surprising hope and encouragement.

Reading this book will help you prepare your heart for our 6th annual Christmas Cardwriting Party, coming to CrossWay this November. Read it as a devotional or to gain information, then recommend it to a CrossWay friend. Check it out of the library.

It's a girl!

Kelly & Chad Shilton and their six children welcomed #7 — Ella Joy — into our world on Thurs., Sept. 23. We welcome her as well to the growing CrossWay family!



All dressed up for a wedding!

Thanks to Becky Alves and Linda Stevens, CrossWay's sanctuary looked lovely on Sept. 19 when Iraguha and Jannine tied the knot with



Pastor Alphonse officiating and his Rwandan-American church in attendance.

CrossWay's new youth room



Johanna and Jacob Hinkle meet Becky Alves and Jerry Pretzel in the new youth room, located in the suite at the north end of the

building with the office kitchen and the church library /conference room. Check it out! Pretty nice. 🧒🧒



The Samaritan's Purse "Christmas Child" shoeboxes will be arriving in the narthex in mid-October for CrossWay folks to take and fill with useful items for needy children. Due back by mid-November. For information, contact Linda Stevens; her info is in the fellowship directory

You are invited!

Amanda Le will soon welcome CrossWay folks to her home every other Thursday for a small group fellowship; her Grand Rapids address is listed in our photo fellowship directory. Organizing meeting will be Thursday evening, Oct. 7. Please contact Amanda if you'd like to explore this opportunity.

.....Cody and Sarah Hinkle continue to extend an invitation to the congregation to join them at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays for a small group at their Lowell home. They

are currently in a series on the Old Testament by The Bible Project. 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.

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 attender, pick one up at the office.



Jesus, the Only 'Answer' that means Anything

Dear Congregation,

As you read this, I will be entering my last month of sabbatical. Having enjoyed two sabbaticals in the past, I anticipate a growing eagerness and a bit of anxiety upon return. The eagerness is easy to explain; I trust I will be learning much from God and returning with a “full tank,” but that is also the source of a bit of anxiety as well.

You see, I want to be a good steward of the rest, reflection and rejuvenation I believe God will be giving me. Please pray with me toward that end. Thank you!

The themes of my pre-sabbatical and sabbatical articles have been reflections upon either evading or meeting God in “time.” That is, we tend to avoid Him by living too much in the past or the future. He wants to meet us in the “now” of today.

I’ve also reflected much upon a few songs from my favorite musician Michael Card. Here are his lyrics to “Could It Be?” (1988). If you have known me for a while, you will be able to discern Card’s influence by reading the lyrics below.

In the ebb and flow of living,
as we wander through the years,
we’re told to listen to a voice
we can’t hear with our ears.

They say to live by something
that you can’t see with your eyes.

Is there really any purpose to this foolish exercise?

Chorus: Could it be,

You make Your presence known
so often by Your absence?

Could it be that questions tell us more
than answers ever do?

Could it be that You would really rather die
than live without us?

Could it be the only answer
that means anything is You?

In our words and in our silence,
in our pride and in our shame,
To the genius and the scholar,
to the foolish and insane,

To the ones who care to seek You,
to the ones who never will,

You are still the only answer even still. (Chorus)

It’s a question you can’t answer,
an answer you cannot express,

That the gentle Man of Sorrow is the source of happiness.
You’ll never solve the mystery of this magnetic Man.

For you must believe to understand. (Chorus)

One of my favorite all-time songs from anyone! I’d encourage you to find Card on *YouTube* and listen to him perform the song. I share it with you now, in anticipating of and (by the time you read this!) toward the end of sabbatical. I expect, and pray, by God’s grace, to have entered once again into the crescendo question of Card’s lyrics. The question that asks, “Could it be the only answer that means anything is You?” You see, this question means more to me now than it ever has.

As I look back at 30-plus years of pastoral ministry and look forward to my “last lap” as a vocational Pastor, this is THE question and reality I hope to experience and help others experience more than any other. If I am not finding and enjoying Jesus and helping others to do so, then my time has been wasted, spent at best but certainly not invested for eternity.

I have many questions. Always have. I’m a bit of a skeptic, but as I have learned over the years to keep coming back to Jesus, I have begun to see that HE is enough of an “answer” for any question I might still have. He is all that matters when all is said and all is done. Like you, I have doubts. Sometimes God or even Jesus doesn’t seem real to me. Listening to a voice we can’t hear with our ears or live by something we can’t see with our eyes? Seems a bit foolish at times. But for me, the bottom line I keep coming back to is that He is faithful, and He will not let me go.

With joy, I echo Peter’s words back to Jesus and trust and pray you will, too. “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” (John 6:68)

~ Bob Manuel



CrossWay's new mission venture

In mid-June, Pastor Greg Norwine of the Evangelical Free Church's GlobalFingerprints came to CrossWay to introduce our congregation to this child sponsorship program, which benefits needy children and their families.

Since his presentation, Becky Alves and missions coordinator Pam Reed searched the ministry's website and selected Ashnaira, an 18-year-old girl in the Philippines, for our church's ongoing sponsorship.



Ashnaira

Ashnaira will be attending college soon, having applied for a scholarship, and teaches little children and serves as a care worker at the local GlobalFingerprints Center. As she studies the Word of God, she is learning more about Him and is more willing to trust Him for her future. Her parents have no capacity to provide for her studies, but she knows it is God Who will make a way for her.

When Ashnaira's brother learned of her baptism, he threatened to kill her if she does not stop going to the Center and continuing in her faith in Jesus. Her mother concurs and has asked Ashnaira to submit in order to avoid trouble. She lives in a Muslim slum in Manila, a sprawling city of 15 million. GlobalFingerprints's Center provides food, education and Biblical teaching to Ashnaira and others like her.

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.

Please pray:



that God will give Ashnaira wisdom in choosing the best school for her college years and for God's provision for her attendance;



for her continued growth in her newfound faith;



for protection and safety, as her family is hostile toward her faith and her Christian activities.

For general information about GlobalFingerprints, search for *globalfingerprints.org* on the Internet.

Register for free

The Voice of the Martyrs is offering free registration for its virtual conference "Imprisoned for Christ," featuring presentations by Czech citizen Petr Jasek, snatched from the airport and jailed in Sudan for 445 days; American pastor Andrew Brunson, imprisoned by the Turkish government after decades of ministry in Turkey; and Dan Baumann, locked up by the Iranian regime for nine weeks on espionage charges. "Attend" the conference by searching the Internet for <https://www.persecution.com/event/>.

Prepare your heart now for writing Christmas cards to a small list of Christians who serve the Lord behind bars, coming to CrossWay in November: our 6th Annual Christmas Cardwriting Party for Persecuted Christians.

Pray that our persecuted brethren will:

- Sense God's presence
- Know we are praying for them
- Experience God's comfort
- See God open doors for evangelism
- Boldly share the Gospel
- Mature in their faith
- Be granted wisdom in covert ministry work
- Remain joyful amid suffering
- Forgive and love their persecutors
- Be rooted in God's Word

**Our refugee family
now has a home in
Grand Rapids, USA**



**Settling here
from across the globe**



**One dad to another ...
Dick Ritsema & Malala at
the welcome home party**



**Malala
consults his
Swahili Bible
app**



**Young Malala
loves
having
a refrigerator**



**Paul Samuelson shows
the family cupboards
he & Elma had stocked**



**Amnobe cradles
a cup of tea
after Marcy Greenhoe
shows her how to use
a microwave**