



March 2022

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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Movies with a message

Pop the corn and line up the babysitter. It's time to catch a movie with your CrossWay friends this month!



On Friday, March 11, our men's discipleship program will meet early — at 7 p.m. —

to enjoy the classic story of Christian hero Eric Liddell together. We'll follow up with a brief discussion of this discipleship giant's great modeling for us all.

Fellowship ... and so much more

Every Friday night our CrossWay men are meeting in the South Wing, usually at 8, for time together, gathered around God's Word and learning from each other about God's expectations of them as His disciples. A movie moves the time up to 7 on the second Friday of the month. Make Friday night your time to grow!



Y'all come!

Spring has come, right? So it's time for our annual spring all-church potluck!

Plan now to lunch with your fellow CrossWay folks on Sunday, March 6, in the South Wing after worship.

Please bring at least one dish to share — main dish, salad, vegetable or dessert. And a hearty appetite!



Then, on Sunday, March 20, also at 7 p.m., the whole congregation is encouraged to come out (parental discretion suggested) to experience together a film portrayal of the courage of a giant of the faith, Sabina Wurmbrand, whose true story is set in the tumultuous years of Nazi domination in eastern Europe, an offering of *The Voice of the Martyrs* released for a month of showings in churches across America during March.



You know what to do! March 12, before you go to bed, turn your clock forward and be in church on time on the 13th.

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

Fridays • 8-9:30^{PM} • Men's discipleship meeting

Wed., Mar. 2 • Ash Wednesday

Wed., Mar. 2 • 6^{PM} • Elders meeting

Sat., Mar. 5 • 9^{AM} • Monthly breakfasts - Ladies @ IHOP, Men @ Bob Evans

Sun., Mar. 6 • Special Benevolence offering for missions

Sun., Mar. 6 • 11:30^{AM} • Spring Potluck - South Wing

Thurs., Mar. 10 & 24 • 7^{PM} • Small group @ Amanda Le's home, Grand Rapids

Fri., Mar. 11 • 7^{PM} • Men's discipleship movie night

Sun., Mar. 13 • 2^{AM} • Turn clocks forward/Daylight Savings

Sun., Mar. 20 • 7^{PM} • Movie night: Sabina — Tortured for Christ...The Nazi Years

Sat., Mar. 26 • 9^{AM} - Noon • Pastor Manuel to speak on 'Christian Understanding of Race' @ Church of the Servant



Our Life in God

I write all of this because I have been deeply moved by Colossians 3:1-17, which I have been working at memorizing. Colossians 3, especially verses 3-4, brings me full circle to Deuteronomy 30:20. *"For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, Who is your life, appears . . ."*

Last month I shared with you some words of encouragement regarding our God as both powerful and gentle, and how it is He Who has both begun His work of salvation in us and is the One who will complete our salvation (Phil. 1:6). This confidence and security we have from Him frees us up to energetically work out this gift of salvation (Phil. 2:12; Col. 1:29). This month I want to offer a brief word that touches upon what it means for God to be our life.

Moses told the Israelites as they were about to enter the long-promised land: *"This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the Lord is your life, and He will give you many years in the land He swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."* (Deut. 30:19-20).

I find it interesting that God doesn't say here so much that He will give the Israelites life, but that He IS their life. God wants them to know Him, to enjoy Him, to live in and through Him Who is Life. This reminds us of Jesus's words: *"I am the way, the truth and the life."* (John 14:6)

Jesus is life for us because in Him is life. (John 1:4; 5:26) He who has the Son has life. He who does not have the Son does not have life. (I John 5:12) As a new believer in Jesus, I was (and still am) captivated by John 10:10, where Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."*

Before I proceed in this article, may I ask you: Are you enjoying your life? If we are in Him, obeying Him, we will have His joy (John 15:11) and life will be enjoyable. I did not say life will be easy. It will not be. Jesus tells us as much. (John 15:18ff)

Just how much are we enjoying Jesus? I say I "believe" in Him, "trust" Him, and even perhaps "know" Him. Those are good and necessary things. But I want to enjoy Him and find Him to be my "all." (Col. 3:11) To enjoy life/Him, I must both "put to death" things that are contrary to His life (Col. 3:5ff) and also "put on"/clothe myself with things that flow from Him and His life. (Col. 3:10-14) If I try to find "life" and all that I think will bring it (all the "good" things I desire to enjoy my time upon this earth), but I am not first of all seeking to know and enjoy Jesus, the things I desire will become dumb idols. Also, the enjoyment of life will be forever elusive. But if I seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33), or "seek Jesus above everything," then life in its fullness will be mine because I am enjoying Him Who is Life, Who gives Life, Who is giving Himself to us all.

None of us has this enjoyment of Jesus down fully pat. I get sidelined and fooled all the time into thinking I can find "life" elsewhere. Elsewhere, Paul reminds us, *"Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace."* (Rom. 8:5-6)


You see, Jesus is never a means to an end. We cannot use Him to give us the "good life" — however you might define the good life. He is Everything. Yes, when we seek Him above all, He does promise that *"all these things will be added unto you as well,"* but that is not why we seek Him. We seek Him for Him. He is the highest good we are after. He is the "cake" and all else that He might choose to give (life and peace — Rom. 8:6) is the "icing." May our good God give us great desire to know Him. For to know Him is life eternal. (John 17:3)


On the run



We've told you about Tom and Dora Becker organizing God's messengers to the Roma people throughout Europe. At the end of February, when Russia invaded Ukraine, we contacted Tom to see whether any of his team has been affected by the turmoil. Not surprisingly, he responded that he is in contact with several servants who have suddenly found themselves uprooted and on the move to safer ground for a season.



 Pam D'Andre is on the EFCA/ReachGlobal team with Tom. She and another American missionary named Brandon fled Ukraine into Romania and are working their way in a long line to get into Hungary, where they will huddle with other missionaries until they can decide what comes next.

 Nina is a Ukrainian ministry partner of Tom, who serves through the Inspiration Center. She and her family live in a smaller village but have been sent into hiding in response to strange noises in the town square.

 Jaime was reassigned by ReachGlobal just before the invasion and left Ukraine before the war.

 Tom's Finnish ministry partners Kirsei and Veikko have also just left Ukraine and are safely back in Finland. They are organizing prayer gatherings online.

"We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power, so that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

II Thessalonians 1: 11 - 12



A pastor in Kyiv shared the following with a member of EFCA/ReachGlobal's staff:

"I counseled, comforted and cared for the people of the church and the neighbors as we first heard rockets and bombs explode...A lot of prayers, a lot of service to people, a lot of analytics and planning, while fighting is already going on around Kyiv and we hear the voice of war."

For decades, ReachGlobal missionaries have faithfully served in Ukraine, building deep relationships with national partners and the Ukrainian people. The work of faithful missionaries to extend Gospel ministries in this former Soviet state revealed a people hungry for the good news of Jesus Christ. Lives have been transformed and churches planted.

Crisis Response wants to mobilize you, the body of Christ, to partner with them in their efforts to serve and love Ukrainian refugees.

How can you help Ukrainians in the wake of this crisis? Here are a few ways:

- Give to the response. ReachGlobal Crisis Response is blessed with many national partners in Ukraine, Hungary, Romania and Poland. They're currently identifying ways to serve displaced Ukrainians. Your financial generosity will meet the needs of the refugees, support the work of the national partners and expand their ability to minister in the midst of this crisis.
- Pray for Ukrainians. God hears our prayers, and Ukrainians need prayer. We humbly bring this conflict, the Ukrainian people and leaders throughout the region to our Heavenly Father. Pray for God's protection, for His comfort, for His intervention and that He would open doors for Gospel opportunities.
- Encourage your local church. God works powerfully through the local church and your church can help Ukrainian refugees. Encourage your church to gather to pray for the Ukrainian people and to mobilize support for the Ukrainian Refugee Response.
- EFCA Crisis Response: 901 E. 78th Street, Minneapolis MN 55420