



August 2023

CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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Camelot block party

Thanks to you, CrossWay! We combined our donations of crayons and notebooks with other churches' offerings to fill 200 backpacks for children in need at Ridge Park Academy.

Then, several CrossWay families attended this year's neighborhood block party on Sat., July 29, to chat with the neighbors and open conversations to spark friendships.



Our Tuesday afternoon prayer walkers were able to connect with new friends, and they hope to follow up with more conversations as they continue their weekly walks. To join them as they walk and pray in teams of two, simply meet at CrossWay any Tuesday at 2 p.m.



Equipped for rescue

CrossWay is now equipped with an Automated External Defibrillator, mounted on the wall in the lobby, as a protection for anyone in the building who may encounter a heart-related medical emergency.



We owe a big thank-you to Marcy Greenhoe for leading the effort to secure this device, and now Marcy is asking CrossWay folks (like John Standinger, pictured with Marcy signing up) to volunteer to take training and be available to use the device if ever needed.



New to the CrossWay library

Just 96 pages, this little paperback is written by a pastor of an Evangelical Free Church. On the back cover: "Though the world is overflowing with bad news, the message of Jesus is bigger and brighter than all of it, giving us hope in the midst of every negative experience of our lives. It's always good news!"

Available in the foyer.



Teen help wanted!

A longtime CrossWay member in the Ada area wants to hire teens in our congregation to help her with yard work and organizing her household goods. Each job would be a half-day per week, and she plans to offer transportation. Please call the office for details.

Calling all ladies!

Our weekly Bible study is resuming on Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 1 p.m. We'll be opening with a couple weeks of exploring spiritual gifts and then dig into Paul's letter to the Romans. You'll find us in the library at the north end of CrossWay.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, south wing classroom
Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
Tuesdays • 2^{PM} • Bless Every Home prayer walk — meet @ CrossWay
Tuesdays • 7 - 9^{PM} • Small group @ Hinkles' home
Wednesdays • 6^{AM} • Men's Discipleship @ church
Wednesdays • 6:30^{PM} • Underhill Club @ Marchiones'
Wed., Aug. 2 • 7^{PM} • Elder meeting
Sat., Aug. 5 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sat., Aug. 5 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
Sun., Aug. 6 • 11:30^{AM} • Summer Missions at CrossWay, with Mike & Kari, followed by all-church prayer meeting
Sat., Aug. 12 • 3^{PM} • Open house picnic @ Amanda Le's for those looking to join a small group
Tues., Aug. 22 • 1^{PM} • Ladies weekly Bible study begins
Sun., Aug. 27 • 11:30^{AM} • Summer Missions at CrossWay, with Matyas & Kate



Warfare and His Word

Last month I gave a primer of sorts on the book of Ecclesiastes. While we still have several months left in the Pastoral Epistles, I have been reading through Ecclesiastes and other resources to help prepare us for this series. I trust you, too, are wading through this most intriguing Old Testament book as well.

In this *Current* article I hope to encourage you with what I believe is a most common struggle every believer has every day of the week. This struggle is not just daily but, often, moment-by-moment. And I believe we are often not even aware of the struggle that is going on. I am speaking about the battle between truth and lies/deception.

The battlefield takes place in the mind and is such an “ordinary” battle, we are often unaware of the daily attrition that takes place in our lives from its debilitating effects. I believe that the most common “spiritual warfare” takes place not over some dastardly dynamic demonic activity in our lives, not over some “big” flashy sin we are tempted to indulge in, but in the trenches of the Truth — whether or not we will believe God and what He says, or, whether we imperceptibly believe and then walk in the lies of the evil one.

I suppose you’ve heard much of this before, but let me try to explain what I mean by all of this. I’ll start out with how I woke up this morning! I wasn’t even out of bed, barely awake, and yet these negative condemning thoughts are creeping in. I was discouraged before I ever placed a foot on the floor. Where did all that come from? It came from lies I started to believe about myself, and these lies came from a ruthless killer — the father of lies.

Concerning the devil, Jesus told the Jews of His day: “He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44) I remember hearing years ago that the only power the devil has is in the lie. If the accuser of our brothers and sisters (Rev.12:10) can get us to believe his lies, then we will walk around deceived, divided, and discouraged. The “antidote” to the lie, of course, is the Truth.

When the devil lies to us (even before we get out of bed in the morning!), we fight the lies with the Truth of God. This is what Jesus did when He was tempted in the wilderness (Matt. 4:4ff). The devil is deceptive in that he actually (mis)quotes Scripture when he attacks us. We need to know the Word so well that our defense will always be “It is written . . .” (Matt.4:4, 7, 10). Returning again to John’s Gospel, we read: “To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, ‘If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.’” (John 8:31-32)

This battle for our spiritual freedom is so intense, so daily, so “mental,” that we must, along with the Apostle Paul, learn how to “take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.” (2 Cor. 10:5) Notice again, the mental “battlefield” that Paul mentions. We fight in the realm of arguments and knowledge.

Let me close this month with a simple appeal to each of us, that we would pray for a deepening desire to know whom we have believed. (2 Tim. 1:12) All of the Gospels and Epistles, indeed, all of the first covenant Scriptures are about our Lord Jesus, the One whom Paul believed (Luke 24:27). Yes, even the devil and his demons “know” and even “believe” certain theologically orthodox things about God (James 2:19), but it is not a saving knowledge. Their “knowledge” about God is all “head” and not “heart.” It is “truth” twisted to their own demonic desires and ends, and therefore is not the truth at all. Truth is found, ultimately, in Jesus and the lived-out submission/trust we have in Him. (John 14:6)

So, the next time you are aware of the battlefield of the mind, perhaps before you even get out of bed in the morning, remind yourself of God’s Truth! May you believe and walk in truths such as this: “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39) That, my friends, is the Truth!

July — travel month!

Many of our global frontline workers turned into globetrotters last month.

Luke and Nancy got their visas and have returned to Pakistan for another few weeks of shepherding the Christian staffers and managing the affairs at Bach Christian Hospital.

Melva has gone back to the Asian nation where she has served the Lord for more than a decade, after an all-too-short visit with friends and family in the Grand Rapids area.

Anita and Peter have been reunited for ministry in a closed country, after Peter was unable to join her stateside for the summer.

Tom and Dora took a quickly planned one-week trip to India to meet with ministry colleagues they just

ESL training offered

Learn to teach English effectively to refugees and immigrants by taking ReachGlobal's professionally facilitated online short-course *Building Bridges with English*. This course is offered periodically — free for EFCA church attendees — and has space limitations. The next time it's offered: Sept. 6 through Oct. 8. For more information or to register, contact ESL@efca.org.



The changing face of missions

America has long been known for going forth to the ends of the earth, leaving extended family behind for a lifetime of service on the “mission field.” The face of global missions has changed during the 21st century. Nowadays, Christian believers from all over the world are engaged in Gospel conversations, sometimes involving travel but also seeking to reach souls within their own culture. And in many cases, rather than settling into new cultures, American “missionaries” are networking with indigenous believers and training local leaders who haven't had the luxury of attending seminary.

We see this in certain of CrossWay's frontline workers, returning from long-term overseas assignments to coordinate ministry from their homes with occasional trips to meet their trainees face to face. Opportunities abound to join them as short-term missionaries to encourage them and their contacts.

If you sense God is calling you to engage in a short-term missions trip, please contact Pam Reed to discuss seed money available from CrossWay's missions budget to launch your fundraising and answer the call.

met in April at their US conference in April. Their trip is bearing fruit, as they are establishing a new partnership in bringing the Gospel to the Banjara, gypsies in India who number some 80 million with just .05% identifying themselves as believers in Christ. (CrossWay's missions contingency fund assisted in the last-minute costs of this trip.)

Mike and Kari have been stateside from Germany visiting family here and in New York State and **will be our Summer Missions at CrossWay speakers on Aug. 6 at 11:30 a.m.**

And Matyas and Kate have arrived in town from Hungary for the month of August. **They'll be our SMCW speakers on Aug. 27.**

We're grateful to God for the traveling mercies He has granted to our friends and colleagues.

New friends



CrossWay missions coordinator Pam Reed met during July with Dave & Anne, who have joined our denomination's ReachGlobal equipping ministry during this past year to teach Christian leaders in various cultures around the world to embrace and convey to believers a theology of the sacredness of human life. Although they are not on our roster of supported missionaries, they asked if CrossWay would consider donating to their ministry on a single-project basis.

Early this month, Anne will be presenting as a special speaker at Phillipsburg Christian Church in Missouri, where the Vacation Bible School is centered around the theme of the sacredness of human life. Seems a good fit, right?

Thanks to our congregation's approval of an increase in the missions budget for this year, Ms. Reed has approved a special donation for this stateside trip, spending \$250 from the missions contingency fund for this purpose.

Thanks to Anne & Dave for carrying this important message wherever God sends them.

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