



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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Celebrating the Resurrection at CrossWay

Our music team can hardly wait — Easter is coming at CrossWay! With our celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and Savior comes joy and fellowship and music.

Our 10 a.m. worship service on Palm Sunday will feature a children's choir, and a full adult choir will perform on Easter Sunday.

What a glorious time to invite a friend to worship our Lord with us at CrossWay!



Lent: What a rich time we've had

With Resurrection Day on the way, the Lent season is closing, and our special Lent Light series is coming to an end on Sunday, April 6, with a prayer meeting led by Pastor Manuel, who will be quoting some prayers from Augustine of Hippo (354-430 AD).

It has been a special season of historical faith reflections led by various of our Elders, each Sunday since early March, focused on faith lessons from the first four centuries of Christian thought.

Each half-hour session in the sanctuary followed a half-hour lunch of breads and homemade soups in the south wing.

A big thank-you to all who contributed food for our tummies and food for our souls.



Unity Christian Events is hosting a performance by the Newsboys at Frauenthal Theater, 425 W. Western in Muskegon, on Saturday, April 12, at 7 p.m. (Doors open at 6:15.) It's co-hosted by 89.3-FM Moody Radio. Admission: \$25-75. Further information and ticket purchase available at <https://unitychristianevents.com/event/newsboys-worldwide-revival-nights>.

Personal offer

A family in our church is giving up a hobby and offering an extensive stamp collection — free of charge — wanting to provide for a fun investment for a fellow CrossWay family.



If you are interested in receiving this generous gift, please contact one of the *Current's* editors, and we will put donor together with donee! (Text phone: 847/528-8369; please be sure to include your name.)

Special prayer request

Mike & Kari Greenhoe have special challenges they are facing as they return to the States for a year-long furlough. Please see page 2 for details about their need for prayer at a critical time for their family.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

- Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, lobby classroom
- Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
- Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Ladies Bible Study
- Wed., Apr. 2 • 6^{PM} • Elder meeting
- Thurs., Apr. 3 & 17 • 6:30^{PM} • Small group @ Le's
- Sat., Apr. 5 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
- Sat., Apr. 5 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
- Sun., Apr. 6 • 11:30^{AM} • Lenten prayer meeting
- Sun., Apr. 13, 27 • 11:30^{AM} • Sunday School, all ages
- Fri., Apr. 18 • 7^{PM} • Tenebrae service
- Sun., Apr. 20 • 9^{AM} • Easter Brunch, South Wing

Standin' in the need of prayer

Mike and Kari Greenhoe and family are actively preparing for a year-long furlough in the States beginning in July. But we just received this update from Mike: *I am sending a quick email update and prayer request. Kari's dad, Tom Eaves, has been having some trouble with an infection, which has now turned into a major infection affecting his heart and his digestive system. He may need another surgery to replace a heart valve he had done last*



Happier times
for Gracia and Kari

June. The doctors are conferring tomorrow [now past] about whether that is actually advisable in his condition. Kari flew to Syracuse and is at the hospital in Rochester, New York, right now. She is staying till Saturday [April 5], and I have the [3] kids here. Please pray for everyone involved: Tom and his heart, Kari and her family, and me and the kids here in Germany. Thank you for praying for our ministry.

Gratefully, Mike

Prayers needed for ReachGlobal and GlobalFingerprints

Our EFCA denomination's child sponsorship program GlobalFingerprints (CrossWay sponsors two GF girls in the Philippines) is seeking urgent prayer support for its team in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The GF international leader over Africa, Jim Snyder, indicates that there is a new rebel group in the DRC that calls itself M23. The group is in the east of the country but has stated their aim to take over Kinshasa, the DRC capital.



Most of GlobalFingerprints children are in the northwestern part of the country, but there are young women in Kinshasa sponsored through the Tabitha ministry. At this time, some of EFCA's ReachGlobal staff are making plans to leave the country as the rebels approach. Please pray for wisdom and God's protection.

According to a recent report by Joshua Arnold for *The Washington Stand*, in February, ISIS-affiliated terrorists in the DRC corralled 70 Christians in a church, beheaded them, and left their bodies to be found later. Mr. Arnold included in his report these encouraging words: "Scripture declares that these defenseless Christians are not pre-eminently pitiable, but blessed. 'Blessed are you,' Jesus taught, 'when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.' (Matthew 5:11) He added that anyone who heeds these words would be established like a house on a rock, which is able to withstand the oncoming storm. (Matthew 7:24-25)"

So, let us take heart, and pray, that our brothers' and sisters' work might continue and bless many in this land far away and suffering much chaos.

Taking our mission personally

"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." — Revelation 7:9

It's really pretty easy to discern God's plan for the world when you read the book of The Revelation of Jesus Christ. God stretches out His arms wide to us all,



issuing a Divine invitation to join Him in the greatest mission: opening His Kingdom to all who will receive Him. And how can they come if we do not go?

There are many ways to participate in the Great Commission! First, read Matthew 28: 18-20. Then, pray to receive your own marching orders on how you can "go and make disciples." It's such a blessing to bless others!



All for Love's Sake Became Poor

All for Love's Sake Became Poor. These words, taken from a contemporary worship song and partly based on 2 Corinthians 8:9, sum up well two main themes of Lent. Really, it summarizes how we are to live *all of our lives* before our Lord Jesus, not just during Lent. The two themes I am thinking of are those of **love** and **sacrifice**.

I'd like to reflect upon these themes of love and sacrifice, hoping it will help us live a "Lenten" life before Him and one another. Let's first look at "sacrifice" — or the way of the cross. I borrow some ancient words from Augustine (lived from 354 to 430 AD), the bishop of Hippo in Northern Africa. In a sermon he stated:

We are soon to celebrate the Passion of our crucified Lord. It is therefore in keeping with our commitment to Him that we should crucify ourselves by restraining the desires of the flesh. To hang on such a Cross brings no shame to the servants of God; it is something in which they glory, as Saint Paul does when he says: *'Far be it from me to glory in anything except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.'* This crucifixion, I repeat, is something that must continue throughout our life, not for forty days only. It is true that Moses, Elijah, and our Lord Himself fasted for forty days; but in Moses, Elijah, and Christ we are meant to see the Law, the Prophets, and the Gospel, and to learn from them not to cling to this present world or imitate its ways, but to nail our unregenerate selves to the Cross. Christians must always live in this way, without any wish to come down from their Cross, otherwise they will sink beneath the world's mire. But if we have to do so all our lives, we must make an even greater effort during these days of Lent. It is not a simple matter of living through forty days;

Lent is the epitome of our whole life. — Augustine of Hippo (354-430): Sermon 205,1 (PL 38:1039-1040); from the Monastic Office of Vigils, First Sunday in Lent, Year 2.

I love that last line of thought! "*Lent is the epitome of our whole life.*" In the last verse of I Corinthians:12, Paul prefaces the "love chapter" (ch.13) with the words "*And yet I will show you the most excellent way.*" The way of sacrificial love, of course, was originally epitomized by our Lord Jesus who was THE Way. **All for love's sake became poor.** Yet, Paul also gives a word of caution as he suggests we can be "sacrificial" and "give our body to hardship" (13:3) and not do it out of love. In other words, during Lent or any other time, we might "hang on our cross" of hardships and denials, but not do it out of love for God or others. Sacrifice might be done out of selfish reasons — i.e., "Look how spiritual I am." "Won't others be impressed by my sacrifice." "Maybe this sacrifice will earn me some points with God." "Maybe this sacrifice will get God off my back." The answer to a loveless sacrifice is not to stop the sacrifice or the discipline. Our lives must reflect the sacrifice of Jesus as we follow Him and His ways.

I think the "answer" to a loveless sacrifice is found when, by the grace of God, we become enamored and moved by the perfect love of Jesus toward us in our brokenness, duplicity, and sin. **All for love's sake became poor.** Let the line of that song sink in. Deeply. "*For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again.*" (2 Cor. 5:14-15)

So, during this season of Lent, may it not be a simple matter of living through 40 days. May Lent, moved and shaped by the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Rom.5:5-8), become the epitome of our whole lives.