



CrossWay Community Current

an Evangelical Free Church

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Operation Christmas Child at CrossWay in June

CrossWay has been chosen to host a very special West Michigan evening Mon., June 15, beginning at 6:30 p.m. when Operation Christmas Child presents a very special guest speaker. Alex Nsengimana survived the genocide in Rwanda and will bring us his amazing story of redemption and forgiveness. As a child, he was blessed by an OCC shoebox, and his life was changed gloriously.



Anyone who's been involved with packing shoeboxes for this cherished ministry will be welcomed to come hear his testimony and learn more about the Operation. Family and friends from throughout West Michigan are welcome to experience this first-hand account of the impact our shoeboxes can and do make on the lives of recipients. Let's give all comers a great CrossWay welcome!

Help!...and bring your stuff



Here it comes! Sat., June 13, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. And you can invest in this event by bringing items to sell, helping on sale day, and browsing to buy!

Proceeds go to support the church family camping trip coming up in August.

Samantha Montgomery needs **your help** to set up tables and organize donated items, assist customers during the sale hours, transport leftover items to a local charity, sweep up the gym afterwards, and so much more!

A companion bake sale is planned by some of our children to raise funds for a trip to the Silverside submarine museum this summer. **Bakers and helpers** are welcome for this co-event as well.

Please bring your rummage donations (including bags — especially paper) to the gym ahead of time and park them behind the portable walls in the southeast corner. If you want to retrieve an unsold item, please communicate your request to Sam. You'll find contact info for her in the fellowship directory.

New board in town

The CrossWay congregation met on May 31 to close out our business for the old fiscal year and elect a fresh roster of Elders for the new year that begins this month.

Joining Pastor Manuel on the elder board for the next year will be: Robby Emmert, Bob Greenhoe, Jeff Lash, Mark Mohr, Jed Ostoich and Michael Stevens.

Every member – and attender – of CrossWay is encouraged to place these men on the family prayer list. It would mean a lot to them and would touch the heart of our Lord as well.

Coming Up at CrossWay Community

Sundays • 9:30^{AM} • Prayer, lobby classroom
Sundays • 10^{AM} • Gather for worship together
Tuesdays • 1^{PM} • Neighborhood prayer walks
Wednesdays • 6^{PM} • Family Night
Tues., June 2, 9, 16 • 1^{PM} • Ladies Bible study
Sat., June 6 • 9^{AM} • Men's breakfast @ Bob Evans
Sat., June 6 • 9^{AM} • Women's breakfast @ Russ's
Sun., June 7 • 11:30^{AM} • Summer Missions @ CrossWay
Mon., June 8 • 6^{PM} • Elder meeting
Wed., June 10 • Family Night with special missions guests and set-up for the rummage sale
Sat., June 13 • Rummage sale in south wing (*see left*)
Mon., June 15 • 6:30^{PM} • Operation Christmas Child event
Sun., June 28 • 11:30^{AM} • Summer Missions @ CrossWay

Congratulations in order



Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Alves were married in March at Plainfield, Illinois.

Blessings to Carly and Ezra. Hope to see you at CrossWay from time to time!

On the platform at CrossWay stands a new wooden cross - the emblem of our Lord's sacrifice.

This symbol was built for us by Brian Hagness, a member of exceptional talent.



If you see Brian (pictured at left), please mention to him your — and our — deep appreciation for his dedication to witnessing the Lord's gift to mankind ... Himself.

By the Book

The Sunday sermon series continues, book by book, as we search the whole Bible this year for the presence of the Messiah. Here's the plan for this month:

June 7 Isaiah
June 14 Jeremiah
June 21 Lamentations
June 28 Ezekiel

Don't miss this comprehensive fly-over!

Take a walk ~ save a life?

Every June, folks in the Grand Rapid area step out to take a walk, a walk for Life, benefiting the Pregnancy Resource Center (PRC) by eliciting sponsorships for the walkers, and at the same time, drawing attention to this agency's life-saving, charitable work.

This year's event will kick off on Saturday, June 20, registration at 8 a.m., step-off at 9, convening at PRC's downtown office at 415 Cherry St. SE. Or set out to walk in Middleville at the Paul Henry Trail, walking at 9 after 8:30 sign-in. Or walk your own neighborhood.

All the needed info — and a pledge sheet — can be secured from the ministry's website at <https://prc-forlife.org/events/walk-for-life>. If you download the pledge form and related info now, just think how many donors you can line up to reward you for just a short walk to stand up for "the least of these."

Do you have news of plans for your area of ministry at CrossWay that you'd like considered for the Current? Contact Pam Reed or Penny Pullen. (See fellowship directory for contact info.)

Worth watching — *Rededicate 250: A national jubilee of prayer, praise & thanksgiving*

The editors of the *Current* were privileged, on a Sunday in May, to view a televised presentation of a massive prayer-and-praise rally on the National Mall in Washington, DC.

One of the kickoff events for America's observance of our nation's 250th anniversary of our independence, the event featured outstanding Christian speakers and musical artists.

Our nation's Christian heritage was clearly the theme, our Lord was honored and our hearts were lifted. We heartily recommend viewing the video, which can be found on the Internet at <https://freedom250.org/celebration/rededicate-250-a-national-jubilee-of-prayer-praise-and-thanksgiving>.

It is lengthy! Unless we run into a massive snow event(!), we encourage enjoying it in bite-size pieces.

3 evangelism strategies that no one really talks about

by Tom Becker, EFCA/ReachGlobal

When we hear the word “evangelism” it’s easy to think about sharing Christ as a thing to “do” rather than a way of life.

I know, I’ve been there.

Often times, witnessing becomes an “event” and this mindset sticks with us even into our adult years. I have seen tracts that look like money lying on the ground. I have seen people give service workers a tract instead of a tip. In my early years in the Czech Republic, I memorized the 4 Spiritual Laws in order to learn how to share.

I’m not putting any of those things down, but as a society, we have become more relational in sharing faith. In our town, we quickly discovered different ways of sharing Christ with those around us. I thought some of these might be helpful to you:

1. Invite friends over for a meal.
2. Recommend a book or movie with Christian themes, and follow up with an invitation to discuss it over coffee.
3. Simply be in the right place at the right time.

What are some ways you’ve shared Christ with others? I’d love to know — perhaps they would help me where I’m serving.

CrossWay Missions Coordinator Pam Reed will be happy to forward your email to Tom if you’d like to reply!

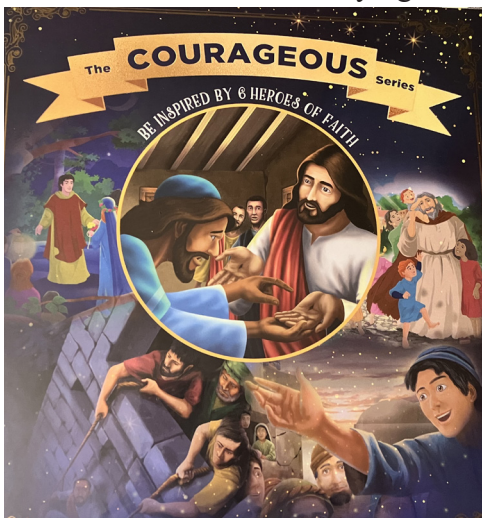
Summer Missions at CrossWay begins for 2026

Families are welcome to encourage three missionary families this month. Two who serve in sensitive areas of the world will be bringing their stories of Kingdom expansion to us on June 7, and our friends who are involved with the EFCA/ReachGlobal Budapest City Team in Hungary will join us at the end of the month, on June 28.

Please plan to stay after our worship time to bless them and be blessed by their stories of building relationships for our Lord. And expect a couple more opportunities in this series coming up in July.

Perfect summertime reading for CrossWay kids

One of our CrossWay moms has thoughtfully donated a whole collection of kid-friendly, faith-affirming books to the CrossWay library – a great opportunity for families to establish an edifying summer reading list.



Has your family signed up for a summer reading challenge at Baker Book House or your library, perhaps? Do you have a summer reading program of your own — or do you think it’s time to try one?

This collection from The Voice of the Martyrs offers a spiritual message and plenty of character-building experiences for your child.

You can pick up these books — one at a time, please — from the library table in the CrossWay lobby.



Global terror ... and the Great Commission

Source: Mission Network News
by Abigail Hofland – April 16, 2026

A new report shows that of the five countries accounting for the highest numbers of terrorism related deaths, only two nations are experiencing a recent uptick in violence: Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Nigeria saw a 46% jump from 2024 to 2025, with 750 total deaths by terrorism last year. In the DRC, the toll rose from 365 in 2024 to 467 in 2025, a 28% increase.

While global deaths from terror have dropped in the last year, Boko Haram in Nigeria and the IS-affiliated Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the DRC continue to plague those countries with terrorist activity.

Greg Kelley with Unknown Nations* says location is not coincidental as terrorists have a clear strategy. “They look for vulnerable areas: places where they can create more strongholds with their radical ideology. Northern Nigeria is a representation of that. [DRC], because of its instability, is representative of it. Kelley says the absence of government response in these areas emboldens the terrorists.

For the church’s part, many Christians in Nigeria’s south struggle to empathize with or minister to their northern Muslim neighbors. But there, in predominantly Muslim communities, the believers have a different outlook. “If you go to the North,” Kelley says, “and you meet someone who came out of Islam who would be a Muslim Background Believer when they come to faith in Christ, they become infernos for the Gospel.”

He points out that the believers’ insistence on staying in their area mobilizes ministry partners to join the work. “We constantly have to move missionaries. The reality is that’s where the mission need is. It’s not in the South. It’s in the North.”

Meanwhile, in the DRC, ongoing conflict and humanitarian need further expose the vulnerable citizens of that nation. Kelley says where the battleground exists, our mission should follow.

“Where are the battlelines? Where is the threat coming? That’s where we need to mobilize and deploy our resources, which in this case is Northeast Congo,” he says. “That’s the location that people [reading] this, praying for this, need to center their targeted resources: prayer, finances, personnel.”

The citizens of these countries are suffering, and they represent the least of these Jesus talks about in Matthew 25: 40. Without diminishing the call to meet their physical needs, Kelley reminds us of another instruction from Jesus: one in Matthew 28: 18-20.

“We need to look at these places and then ask the next question, which is ‘What is the nation or people group being affected? Have they had a Gospel witness, or have they not?’” Kelley says. “Because you could be responding to a humanitarian need in a place that’s 95% Christian. That’s wonderful. No one is telling you to stop doing that. But that can’t be your only expression of the Great Commission.”

Please pray for Nigeria and DRC, including the various people groups represented within these countries. Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send forth workers, and pray for a plentiful harvest as a result.

Please also pray for the families, communities, and nations affected by global terrorism. Ask the Lord for protection, courage, and resilience as believers live out their faith in the toughest of circumstances.

Pray also for the terrorists, whose hearts of darkness mirror those of every sinner in need of our glorious Savior Jesus Christ.

May the Lord be glorified as these souls find hope in Him.

* Unknown Nations is a Grand Rapids-based ministry that supports 3500 indigenous church planters with training, humanitarian project support, and distribution of solar-powered multi-language “Bibles,” reaching the nations where Jesus is unknown with the Gospel.

Our 2026-27 church budget includes funding to be distributed strategically to both Unknown Nations and Mission India as we have entered a new phase of missions activities as a church, supporting these two organizations that go into hostile territories to open new ground for the Gospel to go forth.

