

River of Love

CROSS CREEK

BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

1050 South West 15th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075
www.crosscreekbaptist.com

Pastor Ray Gurney

One Brick At a Time by Pastor Ray

Update in Jungle-Last November I took mission funds the church gives for mission work in Guatemala. Cesar shared the need for the Medical Clinic that I mentioned in a previous newsletter. He immediately got the project started by purchasing the concrete blocks and taking skilled laborers to build walls to make a scorpion and snake free, secure, clinical building.



Another project that I shared in my presentation in November was the school where I have been working with the trash project. If you recall, their government said the cooking areas for the children had to be separated for some reason. As a result the concrete patio needed reworked. The people didn't have the

funds to meet the deadline before the school year started in late January according to Cesar. I shared the need in my presentation and John Thomas was touched by the pictures and asked questions about getting the job done. Then a couple of weeks later John came to me and said that he wanted to pay for that project as a memorial to his dear Mother who passed away. In Guatemala, there is a school Kitchen that has a newly poured concrete floor that meets the government's standards just in time for the new school year. God Bless you John Thomas, for honoring your Godly Mother with a memorial contribution in Guatemala.



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Inside this issue:

ONE BRICK AT A TIME	1-2
MEN'S BREAKFAST	2
LADIES OUT TO LUNCH	2
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP	3
FEBRUARY MENU	3
VALENTINE'S BANQUET	4
LADIES DAY TRIP	4



Special points of interest:

- Winter Bible Study
- Valentine's Banquet
- Negro League Baseball Museum

Men's Breakfast

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, February 15th, 2020 at 8:00 AM at Perkins on 39th St., Independence.** Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY please bring a couple of cans of soup or canned goods for the Grain Valley Assistance Council on **February 2nd to Celebrate!**

Ladies Out to Lunch!

The **LADIES OUT TO LUNCH** is **February 6th.** We'll eat at **Third Street Social**, 123 SE Third Street in Lee's Summit. For menu www.thirdstreetsocial.com/menu. Those who want to car pool please meet at the church @11:00 AM. Invite a friend!

Thanks, Frankie

One Brick At a Time...continued from page #1

More good news. The books are closed for 2019 and for the second year in a row Cross Creek ended in the black by \$7500, about \$2500 more than last year. In our 21 year history this is only the second time the church ended a year in the black. God has always been faithful most especially in the difficult years. Thank you Heavenly Father.

Building Loan-Another piece of good news is that the church's mortgage has been paid down to \$138,000. Pray with me that we see this paid off this year.

Business meeting will be January 22 following dinner. The church will vote on the 2020 budget.

Ron Mills Bible Study. Ron Mills will hold a winter Bible Study at Cross Creek this year. He will be here Sunday, January 26, at 6 pm and Wednesday, January 29 and then Wednesday, February 5 and ending Sunday, February 9th at 6 pm. Reminders will be in the weekly program each week. Ron is looking forward to be with the Cross Creekers again. He will be teaching from the Gospel of Mark.

Valentine Dinner-The Church will have its annual Valentines lunch on Sunday, February 9th, following the morning worship service. I hope you will come. Everyone is welcome to stay of course but will need to sign up and there will be the cost for the meal.

Growth in Young adult families- Among the top prayers for Cross Creek is to ask God to bring young adults to our church in order to grow our church. They are our future and we need them soon. When we saw the need for children in our family we

witnessed God grow our children's population. With the same urgency please pray with me that God will bring us a new generation to grow the family. We have some very capable young adults right now and we are grateful for them but they need help. The young adults are in our community and we must find a way to reach them.

The Treasure Principle-On Wednesday nights we are studying some amazing things about our responsibilities with the money with which God has entrusted us. One of the first nuggets we found in the series was that "We can't take it with us but we can send it on ahead." Now that makes a lot of sense. Of course we can't take earth's treasures when we leave but we can be smart in handling what God has entrusted to us while we are here. Dr. Randy Alcorn, author of *The Treasure Principle*, helps us understand what God expects His children to do with that which He has given. Randy gives uses the illustration of the value of Confederate money. If we knew that in the future it would be of no value we wouldn't want to hold on to it so tightly. Randy also said that while it's valuable it's good to have some on hand because it's needed to keep a roof over your head and put food on the table. But in this scenario it makes great sense to start saving the money that is going to keep its value for a long time. Heaven is going to last a long time. Save up for it.

He also tells us that according to the scripture we are to consider that the money we have in our hands is money that God has placed there for us to distribute to the good of others. He says as long as we are moving those funds and material possessions for the good that God will continue to replace it. I have found that to be true. If you'd like to learn more about the Treasure Principle come on Wednesday nights and join us for Prayer, Bible Study and a good meal.

WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP *by Chrissy Kirkman*

When things don't happen right away or when we think they should, it doesn't mean we should quit. We need to be diligent. We need to have endurance. We need to press on!

The Bible says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." (Galatians 6:9 NIV).

My son Trevor has played baseball the majority of his life. As with any sport, conditioning can be challenging and the constant repetition of working to improve mechanics can be tiresome. Every now and then, Trevor would feel like quitting. When he voiced this to his dad, Todd explained to him that while we would never force him to participate in an activity he wasn't passionate about, we would require him to fulfill his commitment to his coaches and team through the end of the season. By then, if he still desired to be done with baseball, he could make that call.

Todd also helped him understand a valuable lesson during those learning moments. Quitting something the first time is hard. The second time, it's a little easier. And the more you get comfortable with quitting, the easier it becomes... before you know it, it's second nature to give up on sometime when it gets hard. But sticking to commitments and battling through adversity and painful seasons of growth when you feel like giving up is an admirable quality that builds strength, character, and integrity.

Trevor played baseball every spring, summer, and fall until his Junior year of college, when he determined his major and chose to focus on academics and earning his degree. He made the dean's list three out of his four years of college, was a leader in his fraternity, and has landed a full time job at Black

and McDonald. He never quit on his team; as he grew and life changed, his priorities changed and he made decisions based on where he wanted to go in life. We couldn't be more proud of his endurance; the seeds we planted as parents have grown and are producing good fruit!

So where do you feel like giving up? Maybe you feel like giving up on your marriage; maybe it feels like it's dead and going nowhere. (If you're in a marriage enduring any type of abuse, it's time to use your voice and trust God to lead you out of harm and into safety.) Maybe you feel like giving up on your dream or a goal. Maybe you feel like giving up on yourself.

But think about this; a thousand years before you were born, God knew you would be reading this today, and His message to you is simple: Trust Me! I love you and I have a plan for your life!

The tunnel seems incredibly dark right now, but there's always a light at the end. It may be just around the corner! You are known, you are loved, and you have a purpose. Don't get tired of doing what is right. Don't think what you're doing doesn't matter. Don't think anyone would be better off without you. Those are lies from the mouth of the Devil himself. Remember what God has said about you. Remember He wants to bless you. Remember that sometimes things need to come to an end for something better to take its place.

Look up to God. Draw near to your spiritual family - your fellow Cross Creekers - to help you through the tough times. Meditate on God's Word for encouragement.

Never give up on God. He will NEVER give up on you!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00

PM. The cost is \$5.00 a person for ages 7 years through adult. 6 years and under are \$3.00. The menu for the month is listed on the right.

Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week. If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

- **Feb. 5, Pork Chops,** mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- **Feb. 12, Roast Beef,** mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- **Feb. 19, Chicken & Pork Burritos,** Rice, Cheese Dip, chips, salad & dessert.
- **Feb. 26, Potato Soup & Broccoli Cheese Soup,** corn bread, cheese & crackers, fruit, salad & dessert.

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

1050 SW 15th Street
Oak Grove, MO. 64075

Changing lives...

Phone: 816-690-0019
Email: rayg2day@sbcglobal.net
News Letter Editorials:
vmg2day@sbcglobal.net
www.crosscreekbaptist.com



Valentine's Banquet

Sunday, February 9, 2020 @ 11:30 AM

\$13.00 per person *kids free*. Please have your money in by **Feb. 2nd**. Make checks to Cross Creek Baptist Mission. Please write your name on the signup sheet and number of people coming with you.

Menu: Mediterranean Chicken Breasts, Salisbury Steak, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Party Potatoes, Corn, Country Green Beans, Rolls, Garden Salad, Tea, & Dessert.



Ladies Day Trip

We are going to **The Negro League Baseball Museum February 20th**. This is a self-guided tour experience. The exhibition features text panels, hundreds of photographs, artifacts and several film exhibits that is integrated with a timeline of baseball and African American history.

Admission is \$10.00 for adults, \$9.00 for seniors (65+ years) we will leave at **9:30 am** from the church and car pool to Kansas City. After our tour we will eat at Cheddar's Restaurant in Independence.