

California Road Missionary Church

January 2019 Newsletter

Pastor's Pen

The other day I saw a little sticker on a car window: "Friends don't let friends go to hell! Tell them about Jesus." That is a rather in-your-face way of reminding us of Jesus' commission as Christians to us to go into all the world and make disciples. Yet, we live in a world which quite vocally says, "Mind your own business; I'm not interested."

So, how do we balance this commandment to us from Jesus with a world which seems hostile to receiving the good news of the gospel?

Let's remember that we should not be doing this by our own clever methods. If we allow Him freedom to do so, the Holy Spirit will direct us in every way. He puts us in the right place at the right time, directs our relationships with people, and gives us the words to say that will bear witness to Jesus. In being witnesses, there are three characteristics. 1) Someone who has experienced Christ's intervention in his/her life. 2) Someone who is an example of what Christ does. 3.) Someone who is constantly expressing (in word and/or deed) the message of Christ.

It is easy for us to complain about the condition in which we find our world, and yet Jesus has given to us the hope the world needs to change direction. We know the plan for the salvation of mankind through Jesus Christ! That's good news, and we've been called to share this message of hope.

I read this definition of evangelism: "Evangelism is sharing the good news of Jesus with others regardless of the results. Our primary task is to sow the seed and nurture it. He may use us to reap the harvest, but the preparation for the harvest is that which He alone can do. He will never ask us to reap a harvest that is not ripe."

There are three basic types of evangelism:

Proclamational – This is generally done through preaching. Last summer, Cris and I were with our kids in downtown South Bend at the Art Walk. At one end of the street there was a woman standing on the platform preaching the Word of God. Most of the crowd just kept on walking past her. If that is what the Lord had directed her to do, then she was being faithful in sharing the gospel in a proclamational way.

Confrontational Evangelism – This is contact with strangers either in a public place or just going door to door. There are people who are gifted in this, but for a lot of Christians, the thought of doing this kind of evangelism is scary.

Relational Evangelism – This is sharing the good news in the context of personal relationships. This is where most of us will probably experience opportunities to share Christ with people. This is a matter of everyday living out our personal relationship with the Lord

Living our lives with the intention of evangelism is a natural expression of our relationship with Christ. While we should always be growing in our knowledge of God's Word, we don't have to have a lot of Biblical knowledge before sharing Jesus Christ with others. Knowing the basics of the message of the Gospel equips us with what we need.

We are not coming to people that we don't know. Relationships are built over a period of time, and through this, trust is, hopefully, earned and learned.

Focusing on relational evangelism (aka lifestyle evangelism) should make sharing the gospel less stressful. We understand that there are stages of planting, watering and reaping, and our part is to be faithful right where we are. As people look at our lives, they should see the difference that Jesus Christ makes in our lives, that His presence makes all the difference in who we are and how we live.

Essentially, our part in all of this is learning to cooperate with God's lead, as we live and breathe. He'll provide the opportunities to share the Gospel with others in the most effective way. After all, sharing His plan of salvation for mankind is His idea. That means we can trust Him to make it work. The Lord will direct our ministry of prayer for others, and He'll be the one to draw them to Himself. Is there really any other way to live the Christian life? May the Lord help us to simply follow His lead . . . to trust and obey. He'll take care of the rest.

In His service, Pastor Bud

Let's Learn...about prayer. As we continue our look at prayer, let's consider how we can pray by using Scripture:

What: Praying Scripture is using words and/or ideas from Scripture in your prayers. Many of the songs and prayers that we have in our worship services are inspired by that week's lectionary texts and other Scripture passages.

Why: While there is certainly nothing wrong with praying in our own words, praying Scripture has several benefits: Praying Scripture helps us keep a right perspective by directing our hearts to the things of God. It's hard to hold self-pity, anger, or shame in our hearts when we're confronted by the truth of God's Word. Praying Scripture also keeps our conversations with God from becoming one-sided and allows us to hear His Word as we talk with Him. On the other hand, in the moments when we don't know what to pray, praying Scripture can put words to those longings that we don't know how to express.

How: Here are some examples of what praying Scripture can look like:

- Your Sunday school class has been reading Galatians, and you read about the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23). You pray something like, "Holy Spirit, please work in my heart and make me more loving, joyful, patient..."
- You feel devastated at the death of a loved one and search for Bible verses that address sorrow. You come across Psalm 34:18, and you sit in silence, reflect on the words "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted," and open your heart to Him.
- You wake up to a beautiful sunrise that causes you to marvel at God's beauty and power. The song "O LORD, How Majestic is Your Name" (based on Psalm 8:9) comes to mind.
- During your daily devotions, you read about an interaction between King Saul and David and realize that there are times in your life that, like Saul, you react out of jealousy. You ask God to forgive you and help you be satisfied in His presence.

Talk to Pastor Bud or Cris if you would like more resources on praying Scripture.

May you be blessed as you grow closer to the Lord!



Young Adult Fellowship

Young adults are invited to enjoy lunch and an afternoon of fellowship each Sunday following the worship service.

- **January 6:** All young adults are invited to Pastor Bud and Cris' house.
- **January 13:** Both Tim and Sue Matteson and Pastor Bud and Cris will host. Young adults are welcome at either home, but Tim and Sue generally host the younger YAs, and PB&C usually host the older ones.
- **January 20:** Tim and Sue plan to host as usual, but PB&C are unable to do so this week.
- **January 27:** Both Tim and Sue and PB&C will be hosting young adults.



The first Euchre Night of 2019 will be on **Friday, January 4** at Mark and Diana Osborn's house. Carry-in snacks will be shared at 6:30 pm, and the games will begin at 7 pm. Please RSVP to Osborns if you plan to attend. New players are always welcome!

Singles

The next Singles gathering will take place on **Friday, January 11** at 5:30 pm. Come enjoy good food and fellowship!

Midweek Classes

Midweek classes will resume on **Wednesday, January 9**. Supper will be served at 5:30 pm, Emily Silvia will lead an optional music time for children at 6 pm, and classes will take place from 6:30-7:30 pm. As usual, Cris Walterhouse will lead the children's class in Room 111, Aaron Grosse will lead the youth in the Youth Room, and Dan Bridges will lead a prayer time for adults in Room 106. Adults will also have the option to attend the following classes:

- **January 9, 16, 23, and 30:** Mike Kendall will lead another class on Worship in the library. This will contain different information than the last series that he led.
- **February through April:** Paul Neel plans to lead Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Because materials will need to be purchased, everyone who plans to attend will need to sign up by **Sunday, February 3**. More details will be available in upcoming bulletins, but for now, please talk to Paul if you're potentially interested in participating in the FPU class.

2018 Reports

- 2018 Reports are due to Cris by **Sunday, January 6**.
- Reports will be available at the Welcome Center for you to review by **Sunday, January 13**.
- There will be a Business Meeting following the worship service on **Sunday, January 20** to approve 2018 Reports.

Partners in Prayer

There are dozens of quiet ways that people serve within our church family to help it function as it should. This month we ask that you pray for the elected and appointed leaders who will be serving our church family this year:

- **Board Chairman:** Mark Osborn
- **Board Secretary:** Tim Matteson
- **Church Treasurer:** Wes Rhoda
- **Finance Committee Chair:** Chuck Millslagle
- **Elders:** Cobey Bartlett, Dan Matteson, Chuck Millslagle
- **Deacons:** Chuck Books, Dan Bridges, Eduard Dolgykh, Burl Hatfield, Dan Matteson, Dennis Schmucker
- **Deaconesses:** Barb Garner, Marty Herman, Pat Millslagle, Bev Salazar, Teresa Shoup, Jean Soliman
- **Trustees:** Gene Herman, Wes Rhoda, Steve Rieffel, David Rupp, Dennis Schmucker
- **Finance Recording:** Linda Hatfield
- **Head Offering Counter:** Roxanne Rieffel
- **Head Usher:** Dan Matteson
- **District Conference Delegates:** Tim Matteson, Paul Neel
- **Shift Conference Delegate:** Bob Smith
- **Ministry Board Members:** Aaron Grosse, Kelli Grosse, Hannah Matteson, Sue Matteson, Paul Neel, Pastor Bud, Cris Walterhouse

We're grateful for the willingness of these individuals to serve according to the talents that God has given them. Please pray that God guides their efforts as they seek to honor Him and serve our church family—and beyond—with integrity and care.

Trustee Help

We are excited about the flooring improvements being made throughout the church building! The trustees are looking for lots of volunteers to help with the library on **Saturday, January 26**, beginning at 8 am. Please see Denny Schmucker if you're able and willing to lend a hand that day. Thank you!

Intercultural Update

Last spring was CRMC's first experience serving with SWAP (Sharing with Appalachian People) in Harlan, Kentucky. SWAP is a program of MCC Great Lakes, which provides week-long opportunities for groups to repair homes for low-income families, while growing in appreciation for the people in the Appalachian region. CRMC will be sending another group to serve with SWAP from **April 1-6** (spring break for area schools).



Sharing
With
Appalachian
People

- Anyone can come! Generally, participants should be at least 15 years old, but younger participants are welcome if adequate provisions are made. Any skill set can be used, so don't worry if you don't have construction experience; SWAP administrators match community needs to available skills.
- The cost for the week is \$350/person. This amount covers food and lodging during the week. Additional expenses include any personal purchase and the cost of dining while traveling (2 meals).
- Let Pastor Bud know by **Friday, January 18** if you want to be a part of this team. The first half of your money (\$175) is due at this time. *If you don't currently have the resources to cover this cost, talk to Pastor Bud! We will figure something out.

- If you're unable to attend but want to be involved, consider sponsoring participants. Let Pastor Bud know if you're willing to support another's involvement.



Thank You

- **From the CRMC Office:**
"Thank you, everyone, for your patience and flexibility as improvements are made throughout the church. We appreciate your graciousness!"
- **From the CRMC Staff:**
"To our dear church family, Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gifts. We are touched by your kindness and are very grateful for each of you. You are a blessing in our lives, and we are honored to grow and serve the Lord with you. In His service and yours, Pastor Bud, Cris, Aaron, Pam, & Hannah"
- **From Bob & Jan Byler:**
"California Road Missionary Church, Thank you so much for allowing us to use your cargo trailer. It helped so much to take items down for the Hurricane Michael Area residents. It was great that you could share in this outreach.
Bob & Jan Byler"

JOY Group

JOY Group will meet on **Wednesday, January 16** at noon. Please bring a dish to share, and come enjoy the meal and fellowship!

Advocating for Life

As Christ-followers, we have the responsibility to advocate and personally care for the defenseless in our community and world. There are many ways that we can stand up for the unborn, as well as extend care to these children after they are born.

- **Right to Life Rally:** Elkhart County Right to Life is hosting their annual Rally & Prayer Walk for Life on **Saturday, January 12**. The rally starts at noon at the Lerner Theater, and the prayer walk will follow. Ramona Trevino is the keynote speaker, testimonies will be shared from “Silent No More Awareness” members, and the Silvia sisters will sing a few songs. More information is available at elkhart4life.org.
- **March for Life:** The annual March for Life in Washington D.C. will take place on **Friday, January 18**. Please pray that those marching will advocate for unborn children with both passion and graciousness, boldness and genuine love. Please pray also for those witnessing the march—that hearts are changed and lives are saved.
- **RETA Banquet:** RETA is hosting their annual Celebrating Life Benefit Dinner on **Thursday, March 7** from 6:30-9:30 pm at the Northern Indiana Event Center. The cost is \$30/person, and online registration opens on **Monday, January 7** at retaforlife.com/dinner. Early registration is recommended.
- **Local Ministries:** Part of being pro-life means that we care for people for their whole lives. Prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to extend support to families who choose life for their children:
 - **Adoption/Foster Care:** Ask God if He wants you to open your home to a child through foster care and/or adoption. If God isn't calling you to that ministry, consider practical ways that you might support families who do foster or adopt (bring meals, help with yardwork/housework, provide supplies or financial support, offer childcare, etc.).
 - **Foster Closet:** The Foster Closet at Northpoint is a ministry out of Northpoint Vineyard Church in Granger. They provide foster families with clothing and basic care items. They can use supplies donations and volunteers. More information is available at northpointvineyard.com/foster-closet.
 - **Hannah's House:** Hannah's House is a Christian agency in Mishawaka that offers shelter, support, and programming for the holistic wellbeing of pregnant and homeless, single young moms. They also can use the support of volunteers and donations of supplies and money. Go to hannahshousemichiana.org for more information.
 - **RETA:** RETA (Reason Enough to Act) is a faith-based pregnancy and family resource center in Elkhart, with services including abortion regret care, pregnancy loss support, pregnancy testing/ultrasound, and coaching for moms and dads. They are also in need of financial and supplies donations, as well as volunteers. More information is available at retaforlife.com.



Youth Events

Here are a few of the special youth events coming up this month:

- Our youth have been invited to Zion Missionary Church's lock-in at their church from 7:30 pm on **Friday, January 11** to 7 am on **Saturday, January 12**. The cost is \$5/student. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Aaron by **Wednesday, January 9**.
- There will be Job rehearsals from 6-8 pm on **Sundays, January 13** and **27**.

See Aaron Grosse if you have any questions!

Men's Night

Men of all ages are invited to a night of food, fellowship, prayer, and encouragement on **Friday, January 18** from 6-8 pm. Pastor Bud will be sharing a bit, and a guest speaker, Randy Mullet, will also be speaking. Men's Night is a free event and will be hosted in the gym. Please RSVP at californiaroad.org/current-events or by contacting Eduard Dolgykh.

World Missionary Press

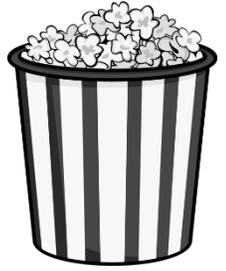
World Missionary Press is an interdenominational faith ministry producing 48-page topical Scripture booklets in more than 340 languages, along with Bible study booklets and New Testaments in a variety of languages. They are producing approximately 7,500,000 Scripture booklets each month to send out free of charge, as the Lord enables them financially. During their 55+ years of ministry, they have sent literature by request into 210 countries and islands of the world. Once a month, we can make contribution to this global outreach ministry by sending four-five volunteers to help in the production process. If you're willing and able to be a part of a small-group team (consider making it a family night event), please sign up on the schedule at the Welcome Center or talk to Aaron Grosse. The next opportunity to serve at WMP is **Friday, January 11**. The group will leave church at 6 pm and will be led by Eduard Dolgykh. See Aaron or Eduard if you have any questions.

More Notes to Notice

The next Ministry Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 15**. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, and meeting will start at 6:30.

Finding God in Movies

Everyone is welcome to join the youth for Finding God in Movies. The next FGIM will take place on **Sunday, January 20**. Snacks will be served at 5:30 pm, and the family-friendly movie will start at 6. See Aaron Grosse if you have any questions.



Memorial Service

On **Saturday, February 16**, there will be a memorial service for Bob Stowe at 11 am at Cal Road. A meal will be served after the celebration of Bob's life.



Join us on **any snowy Sunday** afternoons for sledding. We will meet at the Conservation Club at 2 pm. Bring a sled if you have one, but come even if you don't; there are sleds to share. See Pastor Bud if you have any questions.

Sledding

Speaker

Rev. Dr. Randy Smith is planning to speak during our worship service on **Sunday, February 17**.

We look forward to hearing from Randy as he and his wife Tammy make preparations to serve the Lord abroad in the coming months.

Inclement Weather

In the event that we need to cancel a worship service or any CRMC events due to bad weather, we will announce the cancelation via the prayer chain and WNDU.

Ladies Retreat

The annual Missionary Church North Central District Ladies Retreat, "Divine Design," is scheduled for **Friday, March 1** through **Sunday, March 3** at the Farmstead Inn in Shipshewana. Author Natalie Replogle will be the speaker. Registration will take place sometime in February, so keep an eye on upcoming bulletins and newsletters for more information. Details will also be made available soon at mcncd.org/our-ministries/womens-ministry.

Heavenly Thoughts

Consider these simple yet beautiful truths from the children's book *Thoughts to Make Your Heart Sing* by Sally Lloyd-Jones:

"Something Beautiful for God"

What could you do with your whole life to make God happy?

Compose a symphony? Climb a mountain? Build a cathedral? Paint a picture? Write a book? Invent something brilliant? Pray for hours and hours?

God might ask you to do any one of those splendid things!

But do you know what's more beautiful to God than anything else—what he loves best, what makes him happiest?

When you trust him.

And believe that he loves you.

"Tell me in the morning about your love [God], because I trust you."
Psalm 143:8 (NCV)

