

California Road Missionary Church

March 2019 Newsletter

Lifestyle Evangelism: John 5:17b:

“My Father is always at his work, and I too am working.”

At Pastor Bud & Cris’ request, I’m writing, again, to share a special “Lifestyle Evangelism” story. Thanks for taking the time to read it and for marveling, with me, at God’s handiwork! Respectfully, His servant and yours, Cobey Bartlett...

Jesus made it clear that we don’t have to ask Him, or God to work in our lives. They are always at work. I must remind myself to watch and listen to know where He is working. Jesus often works where I work. Not just in the sense of through me, but also in the lives of those around me. This is the story of one of those lives.

I’ve worked in my industry a long time. Not only has God used it to provide an income, He has also allowed me to have some positions of influence. Some time ago, while at my desk working on a training program, I overheard a conversation between two machine operators. They were complaining about a relatively new operator, whom I shall call “Matt,” for the sake of this story. According to the conversation I heard, it seemed that Matt was a source of frustration to many of his co-workers. They were using very emotional language as they discussed their thoughts of Matt as a person. As they traveled out of earshot, I considered that Matt may not keep his job long with this kind of intense animosity. As I bent my head back over the keyboard, I could hear the Spirit whisper, *Matt could use a friend*. That seemed simple enough, so I determined to introduce myself.

The next day, I walked out to the production floor. In my role as quality manager, I also oversaw the class room training of the floor operators, as well as developing on-the-job training methods. My intention was to approach Matt with the training perspective. Matt was in the process of tearing down one of our machines. This includes dealing with pieces of tooling that are heated to four hundred degrees or higher. I introduced myself and tried to carry on a conversation with him, as I observed his methods. During our ten-minute encounter, Matt used language so coarse that it almost felt like a punch to the gut. He also deliberately burned me with a hot tool (as a joke), and he made a very inappropriate comment about my wife (who, of course, he’d never met). I walked away aggravated and returned to my desk. I tried to shut out Jesus’ voice by argument. This man deserved to be left alone.

That evening, while praying, Jesus kept bringing Matt to my mind. He continued to do that every time I prayed during the next few days. He reminded me that He made difficult people into wonderful examples of his work. He also reminded me how much He had worked in me, that I was the same as Matt, except for my relationship with Jesus. Of course, He was right.

Since Matt was already experienced in our industry, I couldn’t schedule him in the normal beginner’s class. Plus, his

reputation had put him on shaky ground with his co-workers. He needed to establish some good relationships. God provided me with an idea to start effectiveness training, as the next level. I approached Matt along with two other men who were struggling with separate issues that were affecting their performance. I selected a curriculum that was not explicitly Christian but had some religious applications, and we met as a group on Saturday mornings for several weeks. At its conclusion, the three had additional training that benefitted their lives. It also gave them a better understanding of each other. Matt now had three allies in his workplace.

During the training time, I learned that several years in the past, Matt had been involved in a drunken brawl with a police officer. He served time in prison and had lost his driving privileges for a minimum of ten years. As Matt opened to me, my relationship with him moved from teacher to friend. Jesus demonstrated this when He told his disciples that He no longer called them servants but called them friends (John 15:15). Jesus will reveal the depth of our friendships, we just need to be obedient. My level of friendship with Matt would soon grow even deeper.

Not long after our training time had finished, I received a call at home from Matt. It was about 8:30 in the evening. I was 15 minutes away from the end of a movie I was watching. Matt asked if I could come to his apartment and talk. I was tempted to ask if we could speak at work the next day, but Jesus reminded me that the friendships He starts are not like those of the world. I’m supposed to be a *“friend that sticks closer than a brother.”* (Prov 18:24). I agreed and left immediately.

When I stepped into the door, Matt’s apartment felt oppressive. It was dimly lit and filled with unsettling decorations of skulls, weapons, and symbols of anarchy. When I noticed a gun under his pillow, Matt confided that he also used to work as a bounty hunter, so he never knew who might try to kick in his door. He also told me of the pain of being kept from children from a past relationship. The damage and sorrow from his past were nearly unbearable. I knew what I could do to help. I could introduce him to another Friend.

Beginning that evening, I shared what having Jesus as my Savior had done for me. Over the next weeks, I shared more and so did Matt. Matt attended a few Bible studies with me on Wednesday nights where he met others who had been rescued by Christ. Through these times, Matt would find Jesus as his own Savior.

Matt would eventually go on to work at another company. God provided a wife and children for Matt. They would also gain a relationship with God through Christ. Matt and I stayed in touch, and just a couple of weeks ago had dinner together to celebrate our friendship with each other and with Jesus.

---Cobey

Let's Learn...about congregational songs in our worship services.

Purpose of Congregational Songs: The purpose of every aspect of every worship service—including the musical selections—is to facilitate worship. The emphasis should never how much we “liked” the songs or how “good” the sermon was...although we should rightly strive for excellence. We strive for excellence in worship (and in all things), not because we are trying to fabricate an emotional worship experience for ourselves, but because our efforts are a love offering to God. Congregational songs provide an invitation for the entire congregation to participate in this offering, instead of sitting back as if we are watching a concert. Congregational songs pair the power and beauty of prayer and Scripture with the power and beauty of music. What an amazing privilege to worship the God of creation in this way!



Song Selections: Great attention is given to the selection of congregational songs each Sunday. Here are some of the aspects that are taken into consideration:

- **Sound theology:** It is vital that the lyrics of each song are consistent with Scripture.
- **Complements the lectionary texts:** Each week our worship service is built around four Scripture passages (lectionary texts). Selected songs reinforce themes from these texts.
- **Complements the order of worship:** Songs are often selected based on which part of the service they best fit with. For example, “Speak, O Lord” is a beautiful prayer to precede the reading of our Scripture passages, and “Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)” is particularly fitting when paired with the Assurance of Pardon.
- **Congregation-friendly:** Congregational songs should be singable for people of any age or musical ability so that everyone can participate in this musical offering to God. For example, attention is given to the range of each song and the memorability of the melody.
- **Diverse:** Efforts are made to include a variety of worship songs: hymns and contemporary songs, familiar songs and new selections, upbeat songs and pensive ones. Although our songs are about God and not ourselves, we recognize that people have different ways of worshiping God. Maintaining diversity in music styles is a way to attempt to reach every individual. When there are song selections that are not our favorites, we have the opportunity to remember that worship is not about us, recognize that there are others in our midst who find that particular song meaningful, and choose to worship the Lord wholeheartedly anyway.

May we be unified in worship. As Scripture says, “Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!” (Psalm 95:1-2)

Carpet Care

We need your partnership in caring for our church facilities and keeping our new carpet in good condition. Here are some ways that you can help:



- **Cap your cup:** Please keep lids on any non-water beverage that you enjoy at church. The church will soon be purchasing washable coffee cups with lids for you to use. When you're finished with your drink, please leave your CRMC cup in a bin at the kitchen window.
- **No red dye:** Please do not bring/serve any beverages with red dye (fruit punch, red Kool-Aid, etc.) in the church.
- **Sunday samples:** Please enjoy your Sunday samples in the Multi-Purpose Room, where spills can be easily cleaned.

It is not our intent to be legalistic, but rather to be good stewards of the church building that God has given us. Thank you for your help in this endeavor!

Midweek Classes

Midweek classes continue **each Wednesday evening.**

- Supper is served at 5:30 pm.
- Emily Silvia leads an optional music time for children at 6 pm.
- The following midweek classes will take place from 6:30-7:30 pm through May: Cris Walterhouse leads the children's class in Room 111, Aaron Grosse leads the youth in the Youth Room, and Dan Bridges leads a prayer time for adults in Room 106.
- Additionally, Paul Neel is leading Financial Peace University through April. In May, Janice Bridges will lead a Family Life series. More details will be available in the April newsletter.
- Please note that there will be no midweek classes on Ash Wednesday (**Wednesday, March 6**) or during spring break (**Wednesday, April 3**). There will, however, be an Ash Wednesday service. More information can be found on page 4.



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 those who volunteer their time to manage the educational resources in our church library: Sue Matteson, Anne Amstutz, and Janice Bridges.

Children's Resales

There are a couple local spring-summer children's resales coming up this month:

- Granger Missionary Church is hosting a children's resale on **Saturday, March 9** from 8 am to noon. This resale is cash-only. More information is available on the "Granger Children's Resale" Facebook page.
- Another children's resale will be held at the RV Hall of Fame on **Saturday, March 23** from 8 am to 1 pm. They accept cash or checks with photo ID. More information is available on the "Children's Resale" Facebook page.

These resales sell gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, books, bedding, infant supplies, and more. Both events are usually well-attended, so if you're looking for a popular item, you may want to arrive early. Make sure to bring your own shopping bag.

JOY Group

JOY Group will meet on **Wednesday, March 20** at noon. Please bring a dish to share, and come enjoy the meal and fellowship!

Intercultural Update

Nathan and Christina Duran and their son Marco will be moving to Argentina in a few weeks to serve with World Partners. (Since Randy and Carolyn Fudge have retired after many years of overseas ministry, the CRMC Ministry Board voted to shift the financial support that our church had been giving to the ministry that the Fudges did, to the Duran family.) The Durans have a heart for



sharing the gospel through everyday interactions and making their home a place of refuge for those who are searching for the purpose and peace that can only be found in Jesus. If you would like to learn more about their family and their passion for intercultural ministry, you can visit missionsaladuran.weebly.com or ask for information from the church office. The Duran's love for the Lord is evident, and we are excited and honored to support them as they share God's love abroad. Please keep them in your prayers as they transition to life and ministry in Argentina.

Euchre Night

The next Euchre Night will take place on **Friday, March 1** at Mark and Diana Osborn's house. Carry-in snacks will be served at 6:30 pm, and the games will start at 7 pm. Please let Osborns know if you plan to attend so that they can set up accordingly. New players are always welcome!

Bridal Shower

Ladies, you are invited to attend a bridal shower for Kara on **Sunday, March 10**, immediately following the worship service. Lunch, fellowship, and gifts will be shared as we celebrate Chris and Kara's upcoming wedding. Chris and Kara are registered at Target.

Lenten Devotionals

Daily Lenten devotionals will be sent out on the prayer chain again this year. If you would like to be added to or removed from the prayer chain, please let either Cris or Hannah know.



Time Change

Daylight Saving Time will begin at 2 am on **Sunday, March 10**. Don't forget to set your clocks an hour ahead on Saturday night!

Young Adult Fellowship

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

- **March 3:** All young adults are invited to Pastor Bud & Cris' house.
- **March 10, 17, and 31:** 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.
- **March 24:** Tim and Sue plan to host as usual, but Pastor Bud and Cris will be unable to do so, since they will be facilitating the Worship Workers Workshop that afternoon. (See the announcement to the right for more information.)



Jazz Café

Bethel College is hosting a Jazz Coffeehouse Concert on **Friday, March 15** at 8 pm in the Dining Commons. The ensembles are under the direction of Wade Armentrout, and there will be performing works by Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Harry Connick, Jr., and others. In addition, the bands will be showcasing some of their members' vocal talents, as well as the vocal talents of Bethel alumni. Refreshments will be available for purchase, and admission is free.

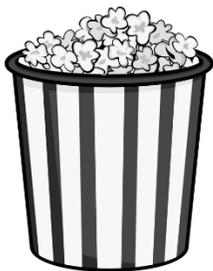
Business Notes

The next Ministry Board meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 19**. Dinner will be served at 6 pm, and meeting will start at 6:30.

an eye on upcoming bulletins. Order forms will be provided by **Sunday, March 17** as bulletin inserts and at the Welcome Center.

SWAP Missions Trip

Please pray for CRMC's missions team as they travel to Harlan, KY from **Monday, April 1** through **Saturday, April 6**. The team will be doing construction on homes, in addition to "people care" and other needs that will arise when they get there.



Finding God in Movies

Everyone is welcome to join the youth for Finding God in Movies. The next FGIM will take place on **Sunday, March 3**. 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.

be provided. Parents, please let Cris know if you need childcare support for children over two years old.

Worship Workers Workshop

Everyone involved in worship service preparation and/or management (worship team, sound and graphics technicians, Scripture readers, prelude/offertory musicians, thespians, etc.) is encouraged to attend the Worship Workers Workshop on **Sunday, March 24**. The workshop will take place at church, immediately following the worship service. Lunch will be served, and training will be provided. The goal of this time is to deepen understanding of the process and purpose of our worship services and affirm unity among those participating as we seek to lead our church family before God's throne each week. (A Worship Committee, made up of a small portion of those involved in the workshop, will be formed in the following weeks, but this first meeting is for all who are involved in the worship service in any capacity.)

Spring Flowers

Easter is just around the corner, which means that it's nearly time to order spring flowers! If you would like to order flowers to both decorate our sanctuary for Easter and honor a loved one, keep



an eye on upcoming bulletins. Order forms will be provided by **Sunday, March 17** as bulletin inserts and at the Welcome Center.

Singles

The next Singles gathering will take place on **Friday, March 8** at 5:30 pm. Come enjoy good food and fellowship!

Ash Wednesday

Our Ash Wednesday Service is set for **Wednesday, March 6** at 7 pm in the sanctuary (in place of regular midweek classes). There will not be an evening meal that night, and nursery care will

