



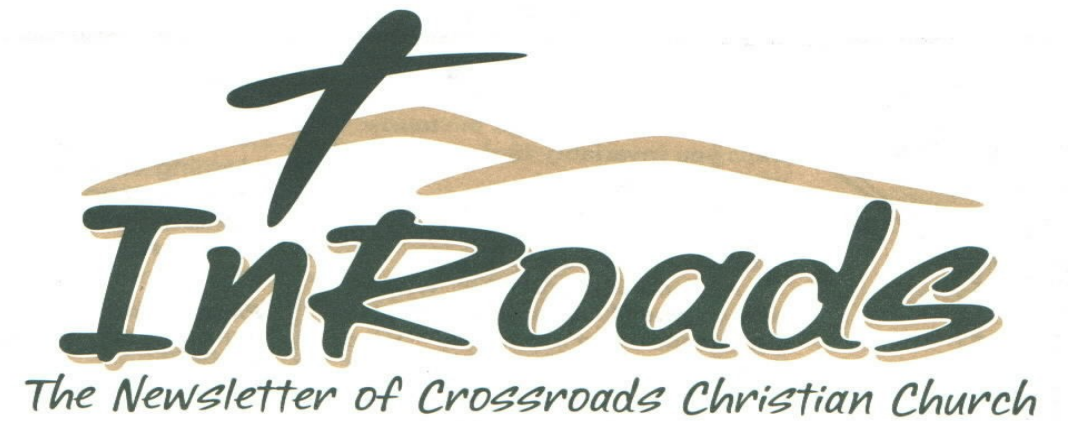
1300 Suncrest Drive
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October 2011

Crossroads Student Ministry



Fall Retreat 2011
October 14-16
Cost: \$55

Sign up in the Youth Room by October 2. If you would like to create a music video to be shown on the retreat, please submit it to Andy by October 1.

Weekly Events: Crossroads Student Ministry is for those in grades 7-12

Sunday:

Worship @ 9:30 am

Sunday School @ 10:55 am- All start in Youth Room

Small Groups @ - Meeting in homes

7-8 grade students at the Aurigema home

9-12 grade guys Purity Group at the McNeely home

9-12 grade gals Purity Group at the Caraway home

9-12 grade mixed gender group at the Craig home

Wednesday: see below

Wednesday Night Schedule:

10/5: Jesus: More than just a man

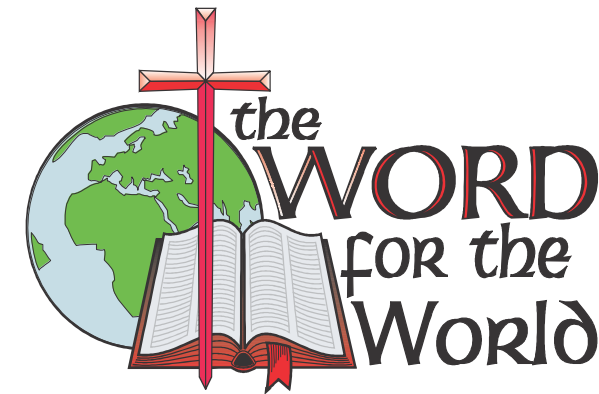
10/12: The only way to heaven

10/19: Halloween POTLUCK! Bring a side dish to share. We will answer some of the questions submitted by students.

10/26: How could a loving God send people to hell?

Sunday School- This semester we will be studying Old Testament Characters of the Bible. 7-8 grade students will meet downstairs beneath the gym in a classroom and so will the 9-10 grade students. 11-12 grade students will meet in the SMB (Student Ministry Building).

Youth Group- Wednesday nights from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm we will be taking a look at some difficult questions people have about Christianity. We'll have different speakers throughout the study and we'll have break out discussions so you can join the conversation.



FAITH PROMISE October 9, 2011

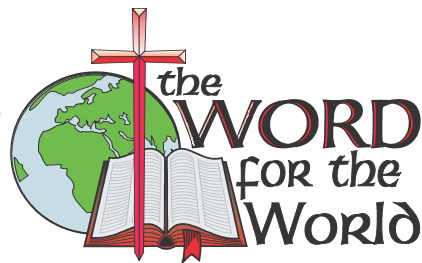
Speaker: Nard Pugyao

Nard was a simple village boy in the Philippines when a Wycliffe Bible translator came and translated God's Word into his language. Through the translated Bible, Nard came to know Jesus Christ and became a JAARS pilot and currently serves Wycliffe and JAARS by speaking all over the world on behalf of Bible translation.

Our Faith Promise funds go to Phil & Debbie Robertson who are with Wycliffe Bible Translators. The Robertsons do not receive a regular salary from Wycliffe, rather they depend on God to provide through those who share their love of the Bible-less people of the world.

The Right Turn!

by Clint Andrews



I am saddened by the fact that I am going to miss this year's Faith Promise Sunday. Okay, I'll be on a Caribbean cruise at the time, so maybe "saddened" isn't exactly accurate. Distressed, perhaps? Or distraught? Maybe, Disappointed? To be honest, it's kind of hard to keep a straight face and talk about being "sad" when you're staring at azure waters from the balcony of your cabin. I mean, get real. But still, I am sorry that this cruise (which someone gave us, by the way) came at the same time as Faith Promise.

Faith Promise is an important part of our Mission Ministry. Years ago, when one of our own members wanted to go on a mission field, we took it upon ourselves to be "living-link" supporters. That means we chose to be the church who contributed the lion's share of their support. However, we could not do that through the church's general budget for several reasons, not the least of which was, when folks contribute money to the church, that's where they expect the money to go. That's when we decided to go the route of Faith Promise to raise the support for Phil and Debbie Robertson.

Faith Promise has several positive elements. For example, each family or individual gets to determine whether or not they want to contribute. So, rather than the church using your gifts and contributions (moneys you expected would go towards the local church) to support foreign missions, you get to decide whether or not you think that's a good thing. Faith Promise may be encouraged by the church...even promoted...but the decision is totally up to you and your family!

Another element of Faith Promise is, as the name implies, Faith. The neatest thing about Faith Promise is how many folks who choose to participate are just like you. That is, they'd like to help...but honestly, their budgets won't allow it. That's where the "faith- part" comes in. Faith Promise is not a Pledge, wherein we pledge to give \$10 out of each of our paychecks for the next year! No. And I repeat, "Faith Promise is not a Pledge." It is a promise based upon faith.

Here, let me give an example: Suppose we discover a mission we'd like to support, but just don't have enough money in our budgets to do so. Faith Promise is this...it is a Promise wherein we say to God, "God, I'd like to give \$10 out of each of my paychecks over the next year...but you know how I can't afford that. However, if you will provide it for me...that is, if you'll make another \$10 show up in my pay check somehow, I promise not to spend it on myself...but give it to support this mission work."

Do you see how Faith Promise works? Faith Promise really is a matter of Faith. How much are you willing to trust God for? How much do you really believe you ought to support this mission for? Putting those two equations together...you might decide to support a mission at \$10...or \$25...or \$100. Just how big is your faith? How much are you willing to trust Him to provide?

The trick to Faith Promise though, is being faithful ourselves. That is, if we make this "faith promise" then we better keep our end of the bargain. What I mean is, if God provides the extra for us to give...then we had better give...rather than use the money to buy the latest electronic toy...or replace our washing machine...or up-grade our computers. No. If we ask God to give us the money...and He proves Himself faithful...then we had better do the same.

Believe it or not, I WILL MISS Faith Promise. The reason is, there are always some amazing stories that come out during the course of the Sunday. Stories of people exercising faith...and being surprised and delighted by God's faithfulness. I've known of people who got raises that covered the cost of their promise. Others who got the opportunity for overtime. Still others switching jobs and getting just enough of a raise to cover their promise. There are lots of stories. How about yours? It can't happen if you don't participate!

Crossroads Christian Church
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Andy McNeely, Student Minister
217-521-5768

Carter Warden, Church Administrator & Worship Leader
753-2222

Robin Johnson, Secretary
477-2229

SUNDAY STATISTICS

September 4, 2011

Morning Worship	545
General Offering	\$15,544.00
Covenant Offering	\$4,270.50

September 11, 2011

Morning Worship	646
General Offering	\$17,967.87
Covenant Offering	\$2,367.00

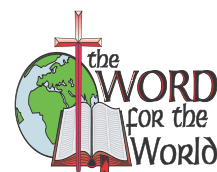
September 18, 2011

Morning Worship	595
General Offering	\$18,904.62
Covenant Offering	\$3,228.64

September 25, 2011

Morning Worship	625
General Offering	\$13,610.04
Covenant Offering	\$2,745.83

Please note: The 2011 General Fund budget requires an average weekly offering of \$15,575.00. The weekly Covenant needed—\$7,307.69.



Faith Promise giving total for year (Oct. 2010—Sept. 2011) was 102% of promised.

There will be a

for
Beth Renfro

Sunday, October 23
3:30—5:00 p.m.
Lobby Classroom

She is registered at Babies R Us.



Crossroads Candy Carnival!!!

This annual event serves to bring the community to Crossroads as we offer a safe, fun place for parents to accompany their children (6th grade & under) for trick-or-treating and all kinds of carnival fun. This event will take place on Monday, Oct. 31st from 6:00-8:00. A fun cast of characters will be available to pass out candy, and there will be food and prizes galore—and it's all FREE!!!

****Volunteers are needed—contact Rob in the church office if you would like to help.**

****Please bring candy—As we do every year, we count on Crossroads attendees to donate individually wrapped candy that will be handed out at the carnival—collection bins will be available throughout our buildings until the day of the event.**



YOUNG AT HEART

(for adults close to 50 & older)

October 22

Heading toward Hot Springs, NC
Leave church at 9:00 a.m.; return no later than 3:00 p.m.
Minimal to no walking required; We may be taking the bus.
We'll eat somewhere in the Hot Springs area.
Come prepared to buy lunch.
Sign up sheet on Lobby bulletin board.

December 17 — Barter Theater—2:00 performance of *A Christmas Carol*. Ticket cost: \$30.00. We might be taking the bus. We will leave the church at Noon (eat lunch before you come). We will eat after the performance (bring money for the meal).

20 seats have been reserved.
To reserve your seat sign up and pay (at the Information Desk) at least a deposit of \$15.00 for ticket by October 16. Make checks payable to Rebecca Sapp.

Remainder of ticket price will be due by December 4.



Mark Your Calendar for Crossroads 10th Anniversary Weekend!!



****Nov. 19th—9:00-Noon**

Service Day in our Community

Part of the weekend celebration will involve service in our community. We'd like to have hundreds (Yes, hundreds) plan to serve in Gray as we work together on community projects.

****Nov. 20th—Combined Worship Service**

9:30—10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time in Student Ministry Room — Juice, Coffee, Doughnuts — Photograph displays of past years.
10:30—Noon—Combined Worship Service. Celebrating God's Faithfulness—Looking Forward to What God Has For Us in the Future.

Continue to watch for more details in the coming weeks.

Start making plans now.
Sign-ups start October 16.
Collection and Dedication—November 13.

7. Crossroads Kids Children's Ministry - A GREAT PLACE TO SERVE:

With the opening of the Dig Site, there comes many opportunities for us to get involved in serving. Several areas of the Children's Ministry are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in being a part of the Children's Ministry please contact Mr. Jim. There are many blessings just waiting for you! Please contact Jim Goehner (Children's Minister) for more details: Call 477-2229 ext. 32 or email jim@crossroadsgray.org.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS!

The Gray Community Chest is in need of the following food items:

Canned Meats
Peanut Butter
Boxed Mac & Cheese
Jelly
Chef Boyardee products—ravioli, spaghetti & meatballs, etc.



If you would like to donate items, please place them in the designated container in the Lobby. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

PRAYERS AND COOKIES FOR KAIROS

Once again, I would like to thank you, the members of Crossroads, for your ongoing support of Kairos Prison Ministry.

This year we are witnessing to 84 inmates (residents) instead of the 72 that was the standard for several years.

We always appreciate the cookies you bake. Even more, though, we appreciate the prayers on behalf of the residents and the Kairos team members who will be sharing God's love.

We are blessed to have 16 new volunteers this fall, one of which is Tim Hicks who is a member of the Crossroads family. Thanks so much for your assistance, Tim, and for your giving spirit.

Since there are only two members of Crossroads on the team this fall, we only need 200 dozen cookies. I know that sounds like a lot. But, trust me, we have supplied more in the past. If we should wind up with a surplus, that will be wonderful. Many volunteers don't get the support that you, the members of Crossroads, so freely give.

If you would, please pray over the cookies as you bake them. Pray for the residents, their families, and for each volunteer who donates his or her time to share the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Directions as to what cookies are acceptable and the proper packing techniques will be on the bulletin board in the lobby. We request that the cookies be brought to Crossroads and that they be left in the kitchen. Also, the container (not the plastic bag that they are packaged in) should be marked "Kairos" so they will be correctly distributed. Please bring your cookies in on Sunday, October, 23rd. For those of you who would like to bring them in later, please drop them off on Wednesday, the 26th by noon. It is perfectly acceptable to bake your cookies at any time and freeze the cookies for your convenience.

If you have any questions, including how to volunteer or to make a donation to the ministry, please call Delbert Elliott at 737-3735 or Tim Hicks at 956-1364.



God's Special Time



News

1. "Eat Lunch with Mr. Jim"

In an effort to get to know the kids better, I will be going into the elementary schools to eat lunch with the children of Crossroads. This Sunday, there will be information forms at the Children's Information Table on the second floor of the Dig Site. If you have a child in Kindergarten – 6th grade, please fill out one of the forms and drop it in the box (one per child). I will be picking a different name out each week.

Event Contact:

Name: Jim Goehner Phone: 477-2229 ext. 32

Email: jim@crossroadsgray.org

2. Young Discipleship Helping with the Challenger League:

Date of Event: Saturday, October 1

Time of Event: 3:45—6:00 PM

Place of Event: Baseball Fields in Gray (behind the Fairgrounds)

3. Children's Ministry CPR Training -

Attention all Children's Ministry Volunteers - Please either call or email me to sign up for one of the sessions if you are interested.

Date of Event: Saturday, October 15

Time of Event: 8:00 AM—12:00 PM

Place of Event: Dig K-4 Room of the Dig Site

Cost: \$6.00

Event Contact:

Name: Jim Goehner Phone: 477-2229 ext. 32

Email: jim@crossroadsgray.org

4. Young Discipleship Meeting:

Date of Event: Sunday, October 23

Time of Event: 4:00—5:00 PM

Place of Event: The Lab 56 Room of the Dig Site (Building #2)

5. Parents! Check out the October Issue of the Parentlink Newsletter!

It is packed full of information and activities for you and the entire family! Pick one up at the Children's Information Center! We will be printing the Parentlink monthly and will be available to you the first Sunday of each month!

6. Important Dates for Fall Calendar -

Saturday, October 1	Young Discipleship Team helping out with the Challenger League
Saturday, October 15	KidZone (Children's Ministry) Volunteer CPR Training
Sunday, October 23	Young Discipleship Meeting
Monday, October 31	Candy Carnival
Tuesday, November 8	KidZone Ministry Leaders' Meeting
November 11 & 12	SuperStart Conference (5th & 6th Grade)
Sunday, December 4	Young Discipleship Team Christmas Party