

# River of Love

**CROSS CREEK**  
BAPTIST MISSION  
*Moving Mountains!*

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**Pastor Ray Gurney**

## LET'S PRAY! by Pastor Ray

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July so close I hope you'll make plans to join Darrell and me to a cookout with homemade ice cream at our shop. We can congregare inside if rain is in the forecast or outside in the shade if it's a sunny day, then at sunset fireworks will fill the sky thanks to our nearby neighbors who launch aerial bombs for every special occasion. Bring your favorite homemade ice cream along with cookies, brownies or other special treats.

Sharing Christ. I recently listened to an audio book written by a famous pastor in Tennessee, who told about a new way of witnessing to people and it became very successful in their church. It was very simple and easy to do. He titled it; **Let's Pray**. He said the regular people in his church had the courage to pray with other people. They simply listened to people they met every day or conversations overheard at Walmart, Home Depot or perhaps restaurants in which they were eating. After hearing someone's need they simple said; **Let's Pray**. And following that statement they said a brief prayer addressing the person's need or request. I believe it was the Pastor who having a conversation with someone in a store listened to their need and said; **Let's Pray**. "Father this person is facing surgery next week and she feels anxious so please calm her spirit. Then make everything turn out good from the surgery. Thank you, Father, amen.

Church people began to share what God was doing for people they prayed with and how it was accepted by them. Soon people in the large church were praying daily with people in need without fear. The positive outcome was the people in need started asking their new prayer person to pray for other needs and eventually many started asking about the Father and Jesus. Many Salvations came as a result of people saying;

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### Special points of interest:

- James: Faith & Works Series
- July 4th Event

**LADIES DAY OUT**

Our July Ladies' Day Out will be **TUESDAY, July 18, 2023 10:45 AM**. We will be heading out to Independence where we will create or own stir fry bowls at **BD's Mongolian Grill**. After lunch, because this is close to the Mardel's Christian Book Store and Hobby Lobby, we can stop there also. Please come and join us. The laughing and fun is always on our trips!

Please sign up on sign-up sheet. Hope you can make it.

Vickie

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 8:00 AM at Golden Buffet & Grill** in Independence, Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

**LET'S PRAY!...continued from page #1****Let's Pray.**

I know Cross Creek is not a large church but we are large prayer warriors and we should be willing to pray without fear. You know as well as I when people are hurting, in need, facing financial crisis or a train wreck at home they need prayer and their often desperate. It's easy to say; I'll pray for you this week and walk away, even if we say that much. How much more effective it is to say; **Let's Pray**. This pastor said he made it easy as he could. He didn't say let's close our eyes and bow our heads or hold hands. He just prayed a simple pray, thanked the Father and was finished. It was very effective. If God gives you an opportunity this week, will you just prayer with someone?

Just today a lady called with a desperate need. After hearing her out and offering suggestions that might help then I said; **Let's Pray**. I ask God to take care of the need. She seemed grateful because she had not been helped by churches she contacted for many reasons. God is always available when we pray and aren't we glad? Now, how about applying those same kind of prayers to your own daily life? So, you are driving along and see someone in need and you can't stop to help them or it wouldn't be wise for you to do that so you can pray right them. **Let's Pray!** Father...help them. Jesus prayed long prayers and some short! The Father is waiting.

**James: Faith & Works Series**

Throughout Scripture, there is a balance between faith and works. Many have great faith but neglect to show it through their works, while others work extremely hard but lack faith. In the Book of James, we are taught how to live out both faith & works, simultaneously. In this five-week series I will teach key principles about life as a believer, helping our church experience a faith that truly works.

We will be placing ads on social media (Facebook) to help you let your family and friends see what exciting things we present as powerful life changing sermon content. I pray these sermons will make us a more healthy, fruitful, and faith-filled as a result of our time together studying from James.

Week 1-Testing & Persevering.

Week 2-Listening & Doing.

Week 3-Faith & Works. Faith without works (action) is a dead faith.

Week 4-Speaking & Boasting. Words are incredibly powerful and carry in them both life and death.

Week 5-Waiting & Praying. Waiting on God and praying in faith are two of the most powerful actions a believer can take.

I'm excited to teach this series the in the coming weeks, I hope you will join, us and invite your family and neighbors to learn what God has instore for us!

**LIGHT IT UP** by Chrissy Kirkman

To avoid running into obstacles, you need physical light to make sure you can see the world around you.

Through His Word, God wants to provide light for your mind, too! The Bible says, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple." (Psalm 119:130 NIV).

God wants to give light—His light—to every single person. He wants to light up your mind with the truth of who He is and His next step for your life.

Biblical meditation is often the key to turning on that light. You have to soak your mind in the light. Biblical meditation is not losing your mind to the universe; it's focusing it on the Word of God. When you do that, you bring light to your life.

Through His Word, God helps you to see life through a different perspective. Psalm 119:105 says, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." (NIV). God's Word gives you direction in life. It shows you the path God wants you to take.

When Psalm 119 was written, the "lamp" referred to a candle inside a lamp that people carried with them as they walked in the darkness. It was similar to how we might use a flashlight today. If you hold a flashlight and you want the light to shine further down your path, you have to take the next step.

I've often been stuck and looking for light from God for my whole path. But through the years I've begun to embrace that God gives us just enough light for the next step. You take that next step, and God gives you light for the step after that.

One of the best ways to turn on the light of God's Word is to pray God's Word, like Psalm 119:18: "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law" (NIV).

If you want to see wonderful things from God's Word, then ask God to open your eyes to what He wants to do through your life.

He is READY to turn on the light!

**Worship With This Word:** Listen to "God Of Revival (Acoustic Sessions)" by Phil Wickham - *"The darkest night, You can light it up, oh God of revival. Let hope arise, death is overcome, yeah You've already won oh, God of revival!"*

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT  
IS FAMILY NIGHT!**

**Wednesday night dinners begin at 6:00 PM.**

The cost is \$6.00 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.

- **July 5, Beef Stroganoff**, mashed potatoes, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.
- **July 12, Grilled Chicken**, Mac' Cheese, veggie mix, rolls, salad & dessert
- **July 19, Roast Beef**, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, roll, salad & dessert
- **July 26, Hamburger & Hot dogs**, chips, baked beans, potato salad, deviled eggs & dessert



## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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**REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, I WILL SAY IT AGAIN: REJOICE! Philippians 4:4**

### **JULY 4TH FAITH & FREEDOM RIDE & COOK OUT/ HOMEMADE ICE CREAM**

We would like to invite you to join us July 4, 2023, for our annual Faith & Freedom Ride. Anyone with a motorcycle or trike, is welcome. We will be leaving promptly at **9:00 AM from the church**. Please sign up on sign up sheet so we won't leave you.

That evening at 7 PM we will be gathering at the Ray & Darrell's shop for hot dogs, chips, home made ice cream and desserts. We will provide hot dogs, buns, chips & water. Please bring *home made ice cream* and *4th of July side dish*. You also may want to bring a lawn chair . Please sign up on sign up sheet. So we will know how many hot dogs to grill.

#### **What Does 4th of July Mean?**

The 4th of July is, in the simplest sense, the birthday of our country. It was the day we, after long years of struggle and months of debate, the duly elected representatives of the original Thirteen Colonies announced to the world that they had formed a new nation.

