

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

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

Pastor Ray Gurney

PRAYER CHALLENGE 2024 by Pastor Ray

Prayer challenge 2024-In this ever-changing world we'll survive only by prayer to our heavenly Father who knows and sees all things. Nothing now, or ever will be hidden from Him. No one can sneak up on His children unless God allows (see the book of Job).

I'm going to form a prayer team of Cross Creekers willing to get serious about prayer for our church and personal lives. I'm thinking about radical praying; Pray all night in 2024. Maybe more than once. The church is found lacking in prayer. Since the prayer team formed and prayer warriors are in the prayer room each Sunday during the service, there is a power in the room and power in the spirit of Cross Creek. We need so much more prayer if we hope to become the church on holy ground that our community

looks to in order to find Jesus Christ. Are you ready to get radical for the Lord Jesus? Lately I've traded distractions that rob me from my prayer time with the Lord. I've also decided when awakened during the night by a barking dog or a leg cramp that I'll go pray till it's time to start my day. It may sound crazy but I've seen results like never before. Are there still disappointments? Yes. I don't always get my way and circumstances out of my control that are costly frustrate me but I'm not getting down. I'm praying for people and seeing results. My goal is to incorporate as many of you as possible to join this church in radical prayer.

Cross Creek needs unity. We can have that in Jesus Christ when the Holy Spirit is working in our midst. We need to strengthen our prayer life, church. Pray-

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Special points of interest:

- PRAYER CHALLENGE 2024
- FIERY FAITH & WORSHIP
- LADIES HEADED SOUTH!

COLLECTING

Bibles

New or used, any translation, New Testaments or other portions, individual gospel booklets.

Reference Material

Dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, etc.

Books

All Christian books – adult or children, non-fiction.

Magazines and Daily Devotionals

Any devotionals or magazine from a Christian publisher.

CDs, DVDs, BluRay

Music, movies, teaching from well known speakers (Billy Graham, Swindoll, etc.)

Tracts

All tracts

If you would like to give these items away to other Christians ministries bring them to Vickie's office before **January 3rd.**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, January 20th, 2024 at 8:00 AM** at Perkins in Independence. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

PRAYER CHALLENGE 2024...continued from page #1

brings joy, understanding, patience, peace and Holy Spirit power and a host of other benefits. If you'd like to join a planning session to get started, we'll see if Gloria will head it up. This is her department and we couldn't be in better hands. I'm getting excited just thinking of the possibilities we might experience. If we experience revival Cross Creek, it'll take a prayer vigil. Will you pray about joining us? There are no details yet but start praying. Don't let fear keep you from getting what God has in store.

There is an election battle in 2024 and if ever we need God in an election to save our country it's now. We have so much to pray about. Join us please.

The year 2023, was not easy. We lost so many good people from our church. People who loved God and us, and we loved them back. They were faithful to God in every way. I pray God sends replacements to help us achieve revival we've longed for. The loss of these members were my friends. I was involved in everyone of their lives and it's been painful and hard to get through it. I miss Bill Neland, Kathy Paine, Don Cone and Virginia Robbins. Perhaps the Lord will get me through the pain as I pray each day.

On a positive thought, God is already sending prayer warriors to make up the team that will battle through struggles we face. It's time we praise God for the miraculous happening at Cross Creek. Are you ready to let go and let God take the reins? Imagine the unlimited possibilities.

Missions 2024 My mission for next year is to decide if I should make one more trip to Guatemala. Cesar and I are the same age and I wonder if I should make one more trip over there and spend time with him and Elba. I think he has a plan for the two of us after the cowboy's mission trip in January. If flying is back to normal, I'll probably go. But I'm not taking any more shots or sticking swabs up my nose just to board a plane

Insurance Coverage. Our insurance premium more than doubled. Last year's was more than \$5000. 2024 will be more than \$10,000. I have talked with other churches and they are experiencing the same. So, join us in prayer asking God to provide. For example, five families/people giving \$25 above their current tithe weekly we'll have the extra \$500 to pay the insurance. God is good.

Happy New Year Cross Creek!

Grace to Make It Through Troubled Times by Chrissy Kirkman

God! Only He offers you the kind of grace you need to keep going in spite of temptations, trials, tension, tiredness, and troubles.

To accept His grace, do these four things:

1. Cry out for God's help. When you pretend to be self-sufficient, you short-circuit God's power in your life. Simply admit your inadequacy and say, "God, I can't handle this!" The Bible says, "*God is against the proud, but he gives grace to the humble.*" So give yourself completely to God . . . "Come near to God, and God will come near to you" (James 4:6-8 NCV).

2. Fill your mind with God's Word. Let God's Word comfort, strengthen, fill, soothe, and energize you to keep going. Get into it every day of your life. The psalmist prayed, "*I lie in the dust; revive me by your word*" (Psalm 119:25 NLT). If you could find the solution within yourself, you'd already be changed. You need to look to God! He's the only One with sustaining strength!

3. Accept support from God's people. The Bible says that, by helping each other with our troubles, we obey the law of Christ, which is, "Love your neighbor as yourself." God never meant for you to go through life on your own. Our weaknesses help us realize how much we need each

other. It's okay to accept support from God's people. (This family of Cross Creekers is a GIFT!)

4. Hold on to God's promises. There are around 5,500 of them in the Bible waiting to be claimed. Here's one: "*He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint*" (Isaiah 40:29-31 NIV). Keep your hope in the Lord and your eyes focused on the hope of heaven, not just on the here and now.

The Bible says, "*Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'*" (2 Corinthians 12:8-9 NIV).

When you're going through a problem you can't fix, don't give up. Look up!

Talk to God about it... in what situation do you need God's sustaining grace right now? Which of God's promises do you need to claim for that situation?

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.

Jan 3, Breakfast Caserole, bacon, sausage, biscuits & gravy & fruit.

Jan 10, Sloppy Joes, Mac' & cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Jan 17, Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Jan 24, Chicken & Pork Burritos, Rice, Cheese Dip, chips, salad & dessert.

Jan. 31, Chicken Pot Pie, corn bread, cheese and 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



JUST AS YOU RECEIVED CHRIST JESUS AS LORD, CONTINUE TO LIVE IN HIM. Colossians 2:6

FIERY FAITH & WORSHIP

The emboldened, fiery faith you long for is being fashioned by God in your life right now! Cross Creek Ladies and friends, join Chrissy on Friday, January 26th at 6:00 PM to begin an exciting journey that will revive and refresh your faith in God.

Dress comfy, bring a blanket and journal, and gather in our newly remodeled Discipleship Room for a sweet time of worship, a devotion on fiery faith, and soaking prayer with the Holy Spirit. We'll enjoy warm soup, drinks, and a dessert, so bring your appetite!

LADIES DAY OUT

Ladies, are you ready to head South of the border where it's warmer? Our first Ladies Day Out event of the new year is January 16 and we'll be going to Los Cabos Mexican Grill! Please make plans now to attend (unless the weather changes our minds). We will meet at the church at 10:45 AM and head to **Los Cabos Mexican Grill in Independence**. Then, we can head over to Mardel and Hobby Lobby if we want.

If you can be there, please add your name to our sign-up sheet in the lobby. Hope to see you then!

Vickie