

# River of Love

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

1050 South West 15th Street,  
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**Pastor Ray Gurney**

## Religious Freedoms by Pastor Ray

You are, and have been, a wonderful church family to our family throughout the years. We are now working on Cross Creek's 24th year of Kingdom Work. I am very satisfied to be a part of this church. As Chrissy states in her article - God designed good works for each of us to do. I get a picture of God looking on earth watching to see His kids doing their homework; feeding and clothing the hungry, ministering to others. He sees the work and is well pleased with your handiwork. God has been so good to Cross Creek over the years. There have been some valleys, but I recall many mountain-top experiences also.

With this track record let's remember that we can trust Him with our future to guide us through any of life's ups and downs that come. We've faced some brutal challenges this past year and there seem to be more on the way. These are, of course, troubled times in which we live. We're facing uncertain health risks, inflation unparal-

leled in the past 35 years, overcrowded hospitals and shortages of products we use daily. Food prices are still rising and the American population continues to pay the higher prices with hardly a complaint. When will it stop? We don't know; but if it isn't stopped our life will change and not for the better. Many of us take a lot of medication each day to treat certain ailments. What if we could no longer get them? How would that effect our quality of life? These are challenges we are facing and may become an urgent concern.

I could list a number of what ifs, or speculations, about the coming year, all of which you'd find depressing. Let's just visit the things that will be really important to the Christian. Our freedom of speech and religious freedoms top the list. What will Cross Creekers do if these are challenged or threatened to be taken away? I've been thinking about this for a long time and making plans as to how and where we'd wor-

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### Special points of interest:

- Where Have You Shown Up for God?
- BlendWell Café/ Ladies Day Out
- Monday 10 AM Bible Study

## 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 15th.**

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, January 15th, 2022 at 8:00 AM at Perkins Restaurant, Independence, MO.**

It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.

## Religious Freedoms ...continued from page #1

ship if the Church doors were suddenly barred. It won't be easy but the Lord will provide for His children. He is greater than ANY person or plan on earth.

What would Cross Creek do if suddenly the gates were held open and repentant sinners started pouring through its doors? Have you considered that possibility? Are you ready to take a new Christian under your wing and teach them what you have been taught for the last how many years? If your answer is no, then Cross Creeker get ready. If you have been under the teaching of the Word of God you should be able to perform the three easy steps every Child of God can do; tell someone how your life was **before** you met Jesus. Tell your story of how you **met** Jesus, and finally tell them how your life changed since you **confessed Jesus as Lord** and Savior. That's so easy every Christian can do it. You can't make a mistake; you alone know your history before and after Christ. You don't have to be able to answer every question an unbeliever has. **Just be able to give your testimony.**

Join me in getting excited about the coming year and what God is going to do in the world, America and Cross Creek Baptist Church. I don't know how many years I have left to give or how long He will allow me to

pastor this church but I pray that He gives me the physical energy to give my all without complaining and being critical of others in the ministry. Will you join me in daily prayer that God brings sinners to Cross Creek? Will you pray with me that God supplies our needs? Will you pray that I'll be faithful to the call and finally, if you haven't already, will you make yourself a list of ten sinners you know who need Jesus and start praying for them to come to Christ and come to Cross Creek? I can tell you this; it's time to get serious friends. Revival is coming! **Happy New Year**

### Ladies Day Out!

Mark it on your calendars, ladies. That our first Ladies' Day Out event is January 20, 2020. Please make plans now to attend (unless the weather changes our minds). We will meet at 11:00 AM at the church and head to BlendWell/Community Café 10725 US 24 Hwy., Independence, MO.

If you have a friend and want to bring her with you, please do!

Hope to see you there! Let's start the new year out as a group; having fun, learning a few new things, and worshipping together. Dixie

## WHERE HAVE YOU SHOWN UP FOR GOD? By Chrissy Kirkman

The Bible says, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." (Ephesians 2:10 NIV).

Before you were born, God decided what contribution He wanted you to make with your life. He didn't put you on this planet to take up space and air. He put you here to serve Him by serving others.

Another name for "good works" is "ministry." Any time you use your talents and abilities to help somebody else, you are ministering to them. God also says that when you help somebody else, it's like you're doing it for Him.

**You serve God when you serve others.**

At Cross Creek we spent 2021 becoming more aware of where God has shown up for us, practicing the acknowledgment of His provision and goodness, and reminding ourselves we don't need to be afraid or discouraged in this life because He is with us wherever we go.

In 2022, we're shifting our focus to "**Where Have You Shown Up for God?**" with our theme verse as Philippians 2:14-15 (NIV) "Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky."

You can show up for God in big and small ways; and when it's

sincere, it's pleasing to Him. You can start by being intentional to have quiet time with God, talking with Him, thanking Him, being in His Word.

It can look like being respectful to your spouse, kids, church family (when you feel like lashing out), being kind to the retail associate or server (because they put up with a lot throughout the day), saying you're sorry for where you've done someone wrong, and applying the fruit of the Spirit in any situation (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

You can show up for God by helping with church events, joining the prayer team, helping clean the Lord's house or wash dishes after a meal, starting a Bible study, leading a Sunday school class, or starting a ride share ministry to bring Cross Creekers to and from church. And it can grow from there! What might God do in your life, in the lives of others, and in Cross Creek if each of us make it a point to be joyful in showing up for Him?

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

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

The cost is \$5.00 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.

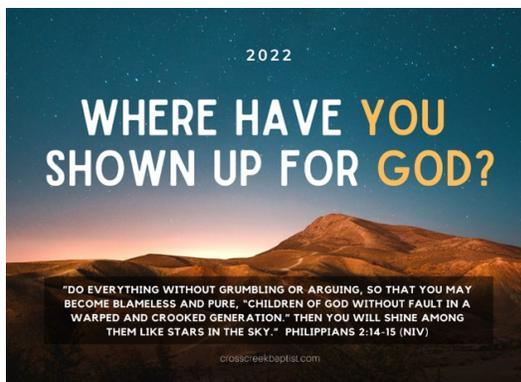
**Please sign-up on the list on the information table each week.** If you are running late that night, please call the church so we can set aside the proper number of meals for you.

**Jan 5, Beef Stew,** biscuits, cheese and crackers, fruit & dessert.

**Jan 12, Roast Beef,** mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

**Jan 19, Chicken Enchilada Soup & Broccoli Cheese Soup,** corn bread, cheese and crackers, fruit, salad & dessert

**Jan 26, Spaghetti & Meatball,** green beans, cottage cheese, garlic bread, salad & dessert



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

### MONDAY BIBLE STUDY: WHEN TO WALK AWAY by Gary Thomas

Your life's calling is too important to let toxic people take it away. *When to Walk Away* draws from biblical and modern stories to equip you to handle toxic people in your life and live true to your God-given purpose.

As Christians, we often feel the guilt and responsibility of meeting the needs of unhealthy people in our lives. Whether a sibling, parent, spouse, coworker, or friend, toxic people frequently seek to frustrate our life's calling. While you're seeking first God's kingdom, they're seeking first to distract your focus and delay your work.

Instead of attempting the impossible task of mollifying toxic people, it's time we dedicate our energy to the only worthwhile effort: completing the work God has given us by investing in reliable people. It's only when we learn to say no to bad patterns that we can say yes to the good work God has planned for us.

Drawing from years serving as a pastor, Gary Thomas (bestselling author of *Sacred Marriage*) looks at biblical

examples from the lives of Jesus, Paul, and Nehemiah to give you insightful, biblical takeaways that you can apply right away. You'll discover how to:

- Learn the difference between difficult people and toxic people
- Find refuge in God when you feel under attack
- Discern when to walk away from a toxic situation
- Keep a tender heart even in unhealthy relationships
- Grow your inner strength and invest in reliable people

We can't let others steal our joy or our mission. It's time to strengthen our defense, learn to set healthy boundaries, and focus on our God-given purpose. It's time to know *When to Walk Away*.

Vickie will be teaching from this book starting January 10, 2022; introduction on Wednesday nights.