

# River of Love



Pastor Ray Gurney

## PART OF THE JESUS REVOLUTION by Pastor Ray

Our favorite celebration, Easter, is here. I hope we have a great turnout for our Hope in Jesus Sunday. We should celebrate jointly what Jesus Christ did for us on Calvary. Experience the Joy of the Lord at Cross Creek on Easter Sunday.

Many of our church members watched the **Jesus Revolution** movie recently. In this article, I want to share some details about my connection to that sweeping revival that lasted years. There is no way to calculate how many people turned their lives to Jesus as a result of the revolution. It was during this time that I gave my life to Jesus Christ and I was hungry for God to do something with my yielded life. I was reading as much Bible as I could every day and praying for at least an hour daily. That, and attending church on Sundays and Wednesdays, wasn't enough to satisfy my starving spirit. God knows our hearts, our needs, and how to satisfy them.

As a result of the revolution in the 70's in California, where all this started, there were many hippies who hungered like me. So Chuck Smith, the Pastor at Calvary Chapel, looked for a way to help people like me. They began a cassette tape ministry that spread across the globe. I was introduced to Chuck's teaching when a security guard on the midnight shift at ARMCO Steel, witnessed to me while we waited for the Kansas City Southern train to clear the crossing. That train sat there for nearly an hour giving us plenty of time to talk. After telling him how Christ changed my life, he asked if I'd be interested in listening to Chuck Smith's teaching tapes. I said I'd give it a try. He passed to me what looked like a big book. Inside were 20 cassette tapes containing hours of Chuck Smith teaching the Word of God. He preached all the way through the Bible and it was amazing to hear him. I was hooked! Vickie and I started buying the series and eventually had a room full of those tapes. We bought extras to share with friends and saw God change people through Chuck's teaching.

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### Special points of interest:

- GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
- EASTER
- LIFE LINE MAY 2nd

**Men's Breakfast**

**Saturday, April 15th, 2022 at 8:00 AM at Perkins Restaurant** 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.

**Ladies Day Out**

Ladies, this month we are going to do something different. Candy is hosting a salad luncheon at her home on **Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 am. You may be thinking "Salad? That's a lot of green!" But maybe not! Let's be creative and see what we can come up with.

Here are a few ideas to get you to thinking: pasta salad, potato salad, bean salad, BLT salad, wedge salad, fruit salad, layered salad, I'm sure you can think of some others. Candy will also be sharing about some history that she has been learning. So bring a salad and join us for a good time of laughter and fun. Next month, we may be on the road again!

Vickie

**PART OF THE JESUS REVOLUTION...continued from page #1**

At the steel mill, my nickname (behind my back) was "Jesus". "Here comes Jesus", they'd say and laugh. Over the years, I placed a message into the hands of the very men who laughed at me when they were going through a hard time. Watching **Jesus Revolution** may give you an idea of how I think and how I arrived where I am today in my long walk with Jesus. Chuck Smith was an amazing teacher who understood that hippies (outcasts) needed Jesus. I'll bet he put up with a lot of things most pastors wouldn't tolerate. As a result, hippies were saved by the hundreds, even thousands. They spread the gospel all over the country. Many of them became business professionals who also became wealthy students of Chuck Smith's who taught them what the Word of God says about tithing. Calvary Chapel became so wealthy it purchased the bank where they did business, and they granted loans to help people get fresh starts. The list goes on of what happened as a result of Pastor Chuck who, in desperation, took a stand to let a hippy preach to his small church.

Perhaps you're wondering if God could do the same thing at Cross Creek. He can! He only needs a willing church who will submit to Him. What if we are called to accept smelly, long-haired, hungry people for Jesus in our clean church? Could you handle that? Some of Chuck's people couldn't and left the church. And they missed out on blessings others received.

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 7, AT 6:00 PM**

**Good Friday Service** is April 7<sup>th</sup> We will try to make it meaningful and fresh as we hope to do each year. As we approach Easter I've been thinking that with each passing year we could possibly be celebrating the last Good Friday before the Lord's return. Wouldn't that be something? It would, if in fact we understand the Holy Scripture correctly. But for now lets celebrate that we have been found worthy in the sight of God to be saved from eternal death. Meet us Good Friday and we'll share The Lord's Supper together.

## COME AS YOU ARE *by Chrissy Kirkman*

Everything that Jesus did for you, He did out of love. The Bible says God made you to love you. The only reason you're alive is because you were made to be loved by God.

God didn't just say He loved you; He showed it. His Word says, "God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8 NLT). It says **while we were still sinners**. Before you even knew you needed God in your life, Jesus died for you.

Satan loves to lie and convince you that you've got to clean up your act before you can come to God. Maybe you've thought, "There are a few things I've got to get right in my life first, and then I'll come to God." No! You can come to God with your problems - the good, the bad, and the ugly - just as you are, RIGHT NOW!

God says, "You don't have to clean up your act. Just bring it all to me. Bring me all your problems and all your mess. I have all the answers. Come as you are."

Easter shows the depth of God's love for you. The Bible says, "*He will send down help from heaven to save me because of His love*" (Psalm 57:3 TLB). That's what Jesus did on Easter. He sent himself from heaven to save you because of His love. You CAN bring your problems to God—because He loves you and He has the answers.

If you don't act on this Good News, then the death of Jesus Christ and his Resurrection are wasted for you personally; they'll make no difference in your life. It's not enough to recognize God's gift; you have to receive it.

*"You will be saved, if you honestly say, 'Jesus is Lord,' and if you believe with all your heart that God raised Him from death. God will accept you and save you, if you truly believe this and tell it to others" (Romans 10:9-10 CEV).*

God is not asking you to make a promise you cannot keep. God is asking you to believe a promise that only He can keep. Come to Him exactly as you are.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS FAMILY NIGHT!

### Wednesday night din- ners 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.

- **Apr. 5, Broccoli Cheese Soup & Chicken Enchilada soup**, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 12, Ham**, Mashed Potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, rolls, salad & dessert.
- **Apr. 19, Roast Beef**, mashed potatoes, gravy, carrots, cottage cheese, corn, salad & dessert
- **Apr. 26, MEN'S FISH FRY**, mac' & cheese, deviled eggs, garlic bread, salad & dessert.

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**DO NOT BE AFRAID. I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY THAT WILL BE FOR ALL THE PEOPLE. LUKE 2:10**

### MEN'S FISH FRY

The men will have their annual fish fry on **April 26th** for the Wednesday night meal. They are offering some fresh caught fish this year along with the catfish filets that are cooked to a golden perfection.

Sunrise Service at Grace Methodist Church in Oak Grove. The Youth Pastor from FBC is giving the message. 6:30 AM

### CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

### EASTER SERVICE

### ROOTED "HARVEST"

### GROW DEEP, LIVE STRONG.

**April 9th,@10AM,**

**Life Line Screening here at Cross Creek May 2nd. Information on welcome table.**