

River of Love

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

Moving Mountains!

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Pastor Ray Gurney

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE *by Pastor Ray*

Today I'm reading slowly through the book of Colossians. It's so rich and encouraging. I find numerous scriptures that make me smile and some give hope for facing the future. I'm reminded that Paul had a powerful prayer life that ministered to others who were serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Just read the first chapter of Colossians and experience the power of Paul's prayer and the words he used to drive them to a right relationship with God the Father. He makes us feel worthy when we are not, but identifies blessings we enjoy as a result of Christ Jesus coming into the world as an obedient son to his Father.

In verse twelve Paul writes; and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Sometimes I need to be re-

mindful of the future we have in Glory. In

verse 27 Paul writes that wonderful verse that speaks to many believers; *Christ in you **the Hope of glory.***

Just think of this; the time is getting shorter for us to live on earth. That's a reason to be excited. Along with that however is our burden for the lost people. The time is short. Will they listen? Will we tell them the good news of Jesus and His saving grace?

It's football season very soon. The head football coach from Oak Grove, has asked our church to feed 80 Students September 2nd here at the church. We will partner with Faith Community (Pastor Pete Windstead). Cross Creek will host the event since we have room to accommodate that many people. Our two churches will split the cost. The menu is pulled pork, BBQ beans, chips, a drink and desserts. We may call on our church family to provide some of the desserts. I will make that announcement if we need to furnish them. This is a privilege to be able to minister in the name of Jesus to young men

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Special points of interest:

- CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB
- LABOR DAY SEPT 6th OFFICE CLOSED

CHRISTIAN BOOK CLUB**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE...continued from page #1**

Ladies walk through life with a community of women in this new Christian book club launching Tuesday, September 14 at Cross Creek Baptist!

'Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey', is a fictional story of four women who meet at a retreat center and find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support, and personal revelation. Along the way, you will be taken into a new understanding of key spiritual practices and find tangible support for the deeper life with God. This 1st group will be lead by Debbie McCook

This book club will meet Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 8:00 PM; the cost is \$25. A light snack supper will be provided; childcare is not available. We'd love for you to join us! Signup in Vickie's office.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, Sept. 18,
2021@ 8:00 AM at
Rae's in Blue
Springs.

and women in our schools. This is the 11th year the coach has worked with pastors to have football rallies in churches. Thank you, Lord, as it's a pleasure to serve.

Our children have headed back to school and I pray their education will be uninterrupted this year. I doubt if we'll ever know the level of damage inflicted on these kids during the Corona Virus pandemic. It's reported on newscasts that domestic violence has increased, children are suffering more, self-esteem has plummeted in so many, suicide and suicide attempts have sharply increased among our kids as well as other age brackets. Will you please include in your daily prayer lists for God to protect our kids? Can you imagine the fear they are experiencing not knowing what sudden changes they may face at school, at home and in everyday life? They need to have the time together to develop social skills and so much more. They are not created for isolation. When I was a teen, I had a very good family life but every day I wanted out of the house to be with my friends. I prayed for God to make it snow so deep the buses couldn't run. Then when that prayer was answered I'd pray that mom would let us go out and ride our sleds down the street. I feel for the children today. It seems they just can't get a break from the turmoil. On the other hand, most kids in the world would gladly change places with any American child and be happy!

We've returned from a wonderful family vacation. Some quick highlights; Extreme heat and windy

EVERY day. White caps most of the time which made lake fishing terrible. However, the family (except Pastor Ray) went trout fishing two days in a row pulling in more than a hundred trout! While they were doing that, I spent time alone on the boat just drifting for miles in the main channel reading and enjoying time alone. What a wonderful place for prayer time. It was fun until Chrissy came down with the something on the way home. God allowed us to accompany Him the whole trip and we are grateful for the time He gave us to spend together. Thank you, Lord, for your blessings.

Finally, a tribute to our little partner who was a friend to everyone at Cross Creek. Julio was with us for about 15 years and was the longest running door greeter in Cross Creek history. I'd always know when Cathy Burdette, Gloria, Carol, Sue Ashley or Kathy McCready pulled onto the parking lot. He had a unique super loud bark when they arrived. Of course, they gave him treats. He was a good companion for Vickie when I was on mission trips. Annie was his best friend too as she cared for him with baths and home away from home when Vickie and I traveled. She held him as he took the final breath of life after doing everything, she could to make his last day as good as possible. I often said "he was the son I never had". Rest in peace our good and faithful little friend.

P-A-T-I-E-N-C-E by Chrissy Kirkman

When I was seven years old our family attend Broadway Baptist Church in Oak Grove. Our children's ministry put on a musical program that featured a song called 'P-A-T-I-E-N-C-E'. Spelling it out as we sang "P-A-T-I-E-N-C-E, it's easy to spell not so easy to be..." I can't say I remember all the words or any other song from that program, but I certainly remember this line from the chorus as my mom proceeded to sing it to me any time I showed my impatience.

I was convinced she had arranged for them to throw the song in because I needed a good lesson in patience. You see, I wasn't the most patient child; I wanted my way and I wanted it immediately, offering little flexibility and a lot of fit throwing.

So much has changed, yet some things haven't changed. I still find myself wanting my way, wanting it immediately, and throwing an occasional fit. There's something within me that desires to have already "arrived" at a goal, achievement, or accomplishment, flying past all the challenging lessons, wrestling, and refining.

God isn't in a hurry with your spiritual growth. You may think He's in a hurry, but He's not. He's using your current circumstances to develop your character and

make you stronger. He's patient.

Most people, on the other hand, are impatient. Many of our problems are caused by our inability to wait. We get into debt because we don't know how to delay gratification, buying things we don't need with money we don't have to impress people we don't even like. Some people even get into relationships they shouldn't get into because they don't know how to - or don't want to - delay gratification. They say, "I want sex now; I don't want to wait" or "I want companionship now, even if it's with the wrong person." And their impatience leads to problems.

The good news is that, with prayer, you can recover from problems caused by your impatience. The Bible says, *"I waited patiently for the LORD's help; then He listened to me and heard my cry"* (Psalm 40:1 GNT). Remember: God is never in a hurry. Did you know there isn't an example of Jesus running anywhere in the Bible? In fact, it took Him three days to go a mile and a half to get to his friend, Lazarus, who was very sick. And by the time Jesus got to him, it was too late—Lazarus had already died.

But Jesus had a bigger plan in mind. He didn't want to heal Lazarus—He wanted to raise him

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

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 \$2.00. The menu for the month is listed below.

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.

- **Sept 1, Lasagna**, garlic bread, green beans, salad & dessert
- **Sept 8, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs**, Chips, baked beans, potato salad & dessert
- **Sept 15, Sloppy Joes**, Mac' & Cheese, corn, cottage cheese, salad & dessert
- **Sept 22, Smoked Brisket**, baked potatoes, veggies, rolls, salad & dessert.
- **Sept 29, Tacos**, Spanish rice, corn chips, cheese dip, beans & dessert

CROSS CREEK

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“NOW THE LORD IS THE SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

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from the dead. He wanted to do a miracle. And that's exactly what happened! Jesus walked up to Lazarus' tomb, told them to roll the stone away, and said, "Lazarus, come forth." And Lazarus did!

Check out the song 'Rise Up' by Cain for a powerful worship experience through this story.

Sometimes a situation can get so bad that it makes you want to take matters into your own hands.- But don't take shortcuts. Instead, trust in God's perfect timing and expect a miracle. Expect Him to show up for you! The Bible says, "*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer*" (Romans 12:12 NIV).

Those challenging lessons, the affliction, that wrestling and refining, it deepens your faith, builds your character, and makes an impact on

those around you.

God already knows what He's going to do in your life next month, next year, and in the next decade. His timing is PERFECT, and His plan for your life is good and worth waiting for. TRUST HIM!

Sept 16, 2021 will be our next **Ladies' Day Out**. We will meet at 1 pm and go to lunch at the **BlendWell Community Café in Independence/Sugar Creek** area. This is a meeting area that supports the Community Service League with there profits. Bring a friend, relative or neighbor! Hope you will join us!

Dixie