

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

1050 South West 15th Street,
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Pastor Ray Gurney

The Harvest Trip by Pastor Ray

The Harvest trip to Guatemala was very different than any other I've been on. First, I want to say thank you Cross Creekers for the last-minute donations to get me over there. I asked for help Sunday morning and by the end of the day I had all I needed for the trip. For one year we have been praying with the Jungle Pastors for God to bring in a Harvest. Of course, we know that praying to God will help but there comes a point when we the people of God have to get up and get out to where the lost people live and we have to touch them to get into the Kingdom. We must learn and apply this in our own lives. We talked about this in our Deacons meeting. The people on our year-long prayer list for salvation are probably waiting for someone to talk to them. You are most likely the one they will respond to because God is at work in their lives because of your prayers.

At the time of this writing, it is reported to the Association of Churches located in the jungle that 568 people accepted Jesus Christ as Savior during the time of the mission trip. That is absolutely amazing. After it was all said and done, God worked out the details and claimed the victory over the lives of the jungle people. The pastors have already committed to praying for another year focusing on the lost people. They are excited.

There were some exciting times on the trip. Meeting new people and experiencing their lifestyle is interesting. Like in every country and different cultures there is much to learn about others. Everywhere you go some are going to be poor and some are going

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Inside this issue:

The Harvest Trip	1-2
MEN'S BREAKFAST	2
LADIES DAY OUT	2
WHERE YOU'VE HAD PAIN, YOU HAVE A TESTIMONY	3
SPRING CHURCH CLEANING	3
MEN'S FISH FRY	3
MARCH MENU	4



Special points of interest:

- DAY LIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 13TH
- MEN'S FISH FRY

Men's Breakfast

Men; you will have your monthly **Breakfast Saturday, March 19th, 2022 at 8:00 AM at Perkins, Independence, MO.**

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

March 17, 2022 at 2 PM the ladies will meet in the fellowship hall to celebrate St. Patrick's Day! We will have a movie, eat "movie food" and enjoy getting together. Wear green (if you have it) and be ready to share your favorite verse of the Bible and tell why. Bring a friend and come join us for an afternoon of togetherness. I have Irish blood in me so come help me celebrate!

Dixie

THE HARVEST TRIP...continued from page #1

to have plenty. Some will have good jobs or will be successful business owners. Some will drive expensive cars and others will walk or take the public transportation system to get around town. Nearly everyone in Guatemala has the latest cell phone with unlimited plans. I don't know where the money comes from but they somehow find it to have the phone. In the larger cities in Guatemala, you have Burger King, Taco Bell, KFC, McDonalds, Panda Express and fancy restaurants. It's easy to forget you're in a third world country until you step outside and see the poverty across the street and hungry people looking for a bite to eat. Why don't we see that same hunger for God? Then I remember the god of this age is deceptive, making promises to the people he never intends to keep. It's all a lie. It's no different in the USA and perhaps it's even worse. It seems many Americans will fall for the Devil's lies about everything under the sun but ignore the Living Word of God! What is happening?

My heart is aching for the lost people who are deceived. They believe the lie that if you do good things more than bad things and feed a homeless person occasionally that they have a ticket to Glory. In First John he spells out clearly that we should live like Jesus if we belong to Him. You having trouble with that one? What do we do now? What did Jesus do? He sent His students to proclaim the Good News to the deceived. Our burden for telling the truth to a deceived generation must become priority. The statistics I quoted in my sermon on February 20th claims that America has gone from nearly 75% of the population affiliated with a church to only 50% now saying they belong to a church. It's sad but the reality is that the fields are now larger than ever before and we have the potential to surpass any harvest of souls this world has ever seen.

We must pray the Lord will put into motion the events that are going to initiate the harvest. The Lord said plainly in Matthew 9:37-39, *The harvest is truly plentiful but the laborers are few. Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out Laborers into His harvest* (New King James). We see that Jesus predicted a generation that will be like sheep without a shepherd. They need us to lead them to the Cross of Jesus, the Cross, on which salvation was made. Let's be holy combines for the kingdom of God reaping where He has sown.

Finally, A word about Cathy Burdette. We had a moving memorial service for her on February 19, at Cross Creek. She was a dedicated student who wanted to learn about her Lord and Savior and tell others about her relationship with Him. There was a good turnout for the service and I'd say most everyone who came to visit stayed for the memorial. Her son Craig, said Cathy would have been pleased with the service. We tried to honor her the best we knew how. Pray for her family she leaves behind. Some need Jesus in their lives. Part of the Harvest.

Where You've Had Pain, You Have a Testimony

Your witness to the world will come out of your weaknesses, not your strengths.

A lot of people have it backwards: They think the world is impressed by Christians' prosperity. That doesn't impress the world. They see that everywhere! What impresses non-believers is how believers handle adversity, not prosperity.

Your suffering, not your success, gives you credibility. Your faithfulness, not your fame, earns respect.

The apostle Paul was a pro at using his pain as a witness. He wrote from a prison dungeon in Rome, *"I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News"* (Philippians 1:12 NLT). Paul used his pain to model the message God had given him. While he was chained in prison, he wrote letters to the church that became part of the New Testament.

Paul said, *"In everything we do, we show that we are true ministers of God"* (2 Corinthians 6:4 NLT). That includes how you handle pain, failure, defeat, problems, mistakes, sin, and all of the bad things that happen in your life.

It doesn't take God's power to handle good; anybody can handle good. It takes God's power to patiently endure.

The world doesn't have a good answer for how to endure. But followers of Christ patiently endure suffering, hardship, and trouble of every kind as it's a way to bear witness to the Good News of Jesus (shining among them like stars in the sky.)

Your deepest ministry will come out of your deepest hurt—and your deepest life message will come out of your deepest pain.

In every area of your life where you've had pain, you have a testimony. How will you use it to help bring others from despair to fullness of life in Christ?

Chrissy Kirkman

MARCH 26TH **SPRING CHURCH** **CLEANING DAY**

8 am-2:pm

Pastor Ray said come and join us for biscuits and gravy for breakfast. We need to clean windows, pickup limbs and sticks. Some windows need to be washed and baseboards there are a few easier things on the list. If you are able, come and join in the fun!

Daylight Saving **Time**

begins March 13th

MEN'S FISH FRY

The men will have their annual fish fry on **March 30th** 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.

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

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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.

Mar.2, Cream Chicken Enchiladas , Cilantro Line Rice, Refried Black Beans, Queso & Chips, Salad & dessert.

Mar. 9, Spaghetti & Meatballs, green beans, garlic bread, salad & dessert.

Mar. 16, Corn Beef & cabbage, cheesy potatoes, green beans, cottage cheese, salad & dessert.

Mar. 23, Pork Chops, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cottage cheese, rolls, salad & dessert.

Mar. 30, MEN'S FISH FRY, mac' & cheese, deviled eggs, garlic bread, salad & dessert.