

River of Love

CROSS CREEK
BAPTIST MISSION
Moving Mountains!

1050 South West 15th Street,
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Pastor Ray Gurney

PASS IT ON! *by Pastor Ray*

Ferne Albert Ferne has moved to an assisted living facility in Blue Springs. Ferne's home is on the market to be sold and she can't drive any longer. The hip pain became too intense for her to walk.

Ferne is a charter member of Cross Creek. She and her mother, Nancy Albert, started attending Cross Creek the first year when we were meeting in the Grain Valley High School. They were invited to come by Ferne's niece. Ferne and her mother were also Charter Members of Gashland Baptist Church North of the River. We'll miss seeing her Sunday's.

Watson Baptist Church celebrating 125th Anniversary; My mother's home town church is celebrating its 125th anniversary in September. It happens that Cross Creek is having its 25th anniversary this year. To think that we began exactly 100 years after Mom's church is amazing.

I have been invited by the planning committee at Watson, to preach September 10th at their celebration Sunday service. I'm looking forward to seeing family that I've not seen for years. I hope you'll pray for Vickie and me as we travel to Illinois on September 8. Some interesting facts about this church; when our family went to Watson to see my grandparents, we'd always attend Watson Baptist. At that time it was a small, wooden structure that needed work. Today, it's a modern brick building with a fancy sign out front. They have wooden pews.

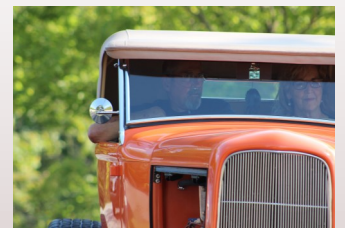
After our mother died my sister found many keepsakes that she passed among us boys. One document she showed us was an award certificate showing that our mother was the State Champion for the entire state of Illinois, Bible Drills. Mom was a great Christian woman with a humble spirit. I'm surprised she didn't say anything about the award she'd received so many years ago. That was just like my mother to never bring attention to herself. I'll try to honor her name at the 125th celebration.

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Special points of interest:

- **CRUISE, BLUES, & BARBEQUE**

LADIES DAY OUT

Our Sept. Ladies' Day Out will be **Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2023 10:00 AM**. We will travel to the Rosa Orchards east of Lexington. They also have fresh produce. Then we'll have lunch at Tuscono's in Buckner to get Italian food, where they feature woodfired pizza and pasta.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 at 8:00 AM at Perkins 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.

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Cruise, Blues & Barbecue Here it is, time for another Cruise, Blues & Barbecue. I hope we can keep hosting this event. God has provided for us every year and He keeps giving us the power to keep on going. The Bluegrass band, Liberty Highway Band, will return again this year to bring the music. They are excited to come again this year. They feel like part of the Cross Creek family by now. I hope this heat breaks and that we have a good day for the event. Pray with me that the Lord gives us a pretty day.

Cross Creekers, we need to ready ourselves for growth in the fellowship. Have you noticed the new faces in our church lately? God is at work at Cross Creek, and we should be too. It's like this; God blesses the efforts of His people. How hard is it to invite someone to church who is in need? We know God can fix it so why not just say; come to church with me? Look for people in need. So many times, we need to offer them what we know will help their circumstances. I see this happening at Cross Creek and I'm proud of you. Let's make it happen. We have all the room we need to grow. God bless you Missionaries.

AWAKEN A BETTER YOU by BJ Thompson

Born to a seventeen-year-old mother on the gang-permeated streets of Dallas, Texas, BJ Thompson understood that as a Black man his starting place was disadvantaged, under-resourced, and unequipped. However, as he did with Moses in the wilderness, God prompted BJ to look down and see what was in his hands. What BJ thought was a disqualifying story qualified him. Everything that he thought made him weak, disadvantaged, and insignificant where things God would use in powerful ways.

With this new understanding, BJ grabbed hold of his agency and rose above the obstacles set before him to transform his life. Now an influential life coach, BJ has inspired millions and coached more than 10,000 people toward transformation with his propriety model. It's your turn now. BJ wants to help you get unstuck, overcome your unique hurdles, and enact real, lasting change in your life.

Join us on **Wednesday night** for *Awaken a Better You!*

ADOPTED INTO THE FAMILY author unknown

Most people think Christianity is a belief system. It's true that Christianity includes beliefs—but it is SO much more than that. It's about belonging and connection! When you're a Christian, you belong to the family of God and are connected to the body of Christ. And at Cross Creek, you become a "Cross Creeker"!

There are only two ways to get into a family: You can be born into it or adopted into it. Both phrases are used in the Bible to explain what it means to be brought into the family of God. You are "born again" into the family of God, and you are "adopted" into the family of God.

Once you're born, you can't be unborn. Your relationship with your parents may be broken, but you are still their child. In the same way, once you are born again into the family of God, you can't be unborn. You remain in the family of God!

God also says you're adopted into his family. According to New Testament-era Roman law, people could disown children they birthed. But if they adopted children, they were forbidden to ever disown them. God says you are not only born again into His family, but He has adopted you—and there is no way He will ever disown you. That's good news!

You may ask, "Really? No matter what I do, God won't let me go?" Yes, no matter what you do!

When you become part of the family of God, you become part of His church. Church isn't something you go to; it's something you belong to. The Bible says, "*I want you to know how people who are members of God's family must live. God's family is the church*" (1 Timothy 3:15 GW).

And Romans 15:6-7 explains more about what the church—the family of God—looks like: "*You will all be joined together, and you will give glory to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ accepted you, so you should accept each other, which will bring glory to God*" (NCV).

Just like you are God's child forever, you are part of His bigger family—the church—forever. That has been God's plan all along—to make you part of His forever family!

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.

Sept. 6, Pork & Chicken Burrito, cheese dip, black beans, Spanish rice, & dessert.

Sept. 13, Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, veggies, cottage cheese, salad & dessert

Sept. 20, Hamburger & Hot dogs, chips, baked beans, potato salad, deviled eggs & dessert.

Sept. 27, Lasagna, green beans, cottage cheese, garlic bread, salad & dessert

CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

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GREAT IS THE LORD, AND MOST WORTHY OF PRAISE. PSALM 48:1

Cruise , Blues, & Barbecue



Saturday, October 7, 2023 will be our 11th annual Cruise, Blues, & Barbecue event. Starting at 4:00-7:00 PM. If you have a classic, antique, hot rod, car, truck, or motorcycle you'd like to exhibit, join our car show, free food, children's corner, and music, share your stories about your rides with the crowd. Bring your family and friends to this great event! **WHAT'S YOUR CRUISE?**

LIBERTY HIGHWAY BAND

