

CrossRoads Mission's
Compilation of All That Was Completed
Overseen By Pastor Terry L. Laughlin
Until His Resigning from Missions in June 2008

After 200+ hours of study of God's Word, Pastor Terry L. Laughlin sent out many teaching letters and spoke two different messages in the sanctuary of CrossRoads Church. This is a compilation of all that he did in service to the Lord and the Body of Christ of CrossRoads Church regarding Missions.

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This information was in church Bulletin:

Sunday, January 20, 2008:

Missionary Letter: A missionary letter has been sent out challenging and encouraging our missionaries to be fervently in prayer with us in our partnership in the Lord's work. Copy of the letter is available by contacting Pastor Terry.

This is the information that placed on the envelope of letter sent on February 07, 2008:

Important



Missionary Request Letter

(February 7, 2008)

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ:

This letter is being written to the missionaries financially supported by the Body of Christ that attends CrossRoads Church in Norton, Kansas. It is our hope and prayer that this letter finds you and your family in good health, as well as enjoying the grace of God upon the ministries He has called you to.

The leadership of CrossRoads Church met on July 15, 2007 to discuss the financial support we give the missionaries we partner with in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It had come to my attention and has become a great concern to me that our partnership mainly consists of us sending out finances and no real accountability in prayer from either of us. Some of the missionaries we support have not sent us a good Biblical ministry report in quite sometime. The purpose of this letter is to set us on a more Biblical path of partnership in ministry.

As I wrote this letter the Holy Spirit took me to several passages of Scripture, one being 2 Corinthians 8:22-24. This is where Titus is being sent with another Christian and he was chosen by the churches to carry the offering which was sent to honor the Lord as well as help those who had needs. (2 Corinthians 8:18). 2 Corinthians 8:22-24, are in a sense, a letter of credentials that should settle any inquisitive or suspicious concern that may be on anyone's mind or heart. Paul wanted to avoid any criticisms as they administered the liberal gift. (2 Corinthians 8:20).

CrossRoads Church is now a congregation made up of people who attended Living Word Baptist and Community Full Gospel, as well as new members who started attending after the two churches united. Therefore, not everyone knows all the missionaries and ministries they oversee as they should, nor do all the missionaries know the ministry the Lord is doing in the Body of Christ at CrossRoads. This makes it very difficult to pray for each other as we should with heart-felt desire, this hurts generosity in giving and reception in ministry the Apostle Paul encouraged in 2 Corinthians chapter 8.

It is our hope and prayer that the missionaries we support would want to get to know the work the Lord is doing through the Body of Christ at CrossRoads. We have a website www.standatthecrossroads.com. You can find messages, our doctrine, our vision and mission and all about me, the pastor. We have full ministries reports for last year and this year. You may find these ministry reports by clicking on “Messages” and scrolling down to “Ministry Reports.” If you cannot do this or are uncomfortable with the internet, just let us know what you want and we will send you the information requested. In turn, we would like for all missionaries to send us a regular report **(at least quarterly)** on what the Lord is calling and enabling you to do. We are not concerned with numbers but quality of ministry and if ministry opportunities are being faithfully prayed through to

completion.

It is also our hope and prayer that we mean a lot more to you than a source of finances. The Word of God tells us that one of the four signs of a healthy Holy Spirit led church is "Prayer." (Acts 2:42) In order for you to Biblically pray for us I am sending you two prayer guides birthed from the Word of God. These prayer guides will equip you to pray according to the Word of God for our Sunday morning services and for laborers for the church. In order for us to pray for you we need you to send, along with your ministry reports, a prayer list that could be copied and handed out to the Body of Christ in CrossRoads. **(Next Missionary quarterly reports are Wednesdays, March 26/June 25/September 24/December 31, 2008)**

We have weekly schedule times set aside for fasting and prayer:

Sunday Morning 9:15-10:15 A.M. - Prayer for the Sunday morning service

Sunday Evenings 5:00-6:00 P.M. – Prayer for the laborers in the church, Ministry Outreaches and Missionaries

Wednesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 P.M. – Prayer for our Bible Studies

The Apostle Paul wrote, "As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it." (2 Corinthians 8:23) You are our partner and fellow workers in Christ. This church and all of you are representatives of the work of Christ in His church and we are to honor Christ in a way in which the churches can see we have Christian partnership with the Head of the Church Body, Christ Jesus.

After you have taken the time to prayerfully consider how the Lord is working through us, it is my hope that you may partner with us in prayer as we partner with you in financial giving and prayer.

Never are your prayers more needed for this church than now!!!! At no greater time than now do we need to be able to offer some kind of credentials that would settle any inquisitive or suspicious concern so as to do away with any and all criticisms that Satan may want to bring among us.

Thanking the Lord for our partnership and praying that God's will be made known to you and Holy Spirit empowerment to pray the Lord's visions through to a healthy completion. These things our adversary stands against, however, in Christ we win!!!!!!

In His Service

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin

Pastor Terry Laughlin

Send prayer request and ministry reports to:

CrossRoads Church

313 W Lincoln

Norton, KS 67654

E-mail – crossroads@ruraltel.net

This Prayer Guide was Sent to all Missionaries

CrossRoads Church Sunday Morning Services Prayer Guide

Praise: “Know that the LORD is God. It is He who made us, and we are His; we are His people, the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name. For the LORD is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations.” (Psalm 100:3-5) Thank the Lord for blessing us with the opportunity to congregare as the Body of Christ in such a beautiful facility and walk in obedience to His Word. “Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:25)

One: Invite the Holy Spirit to enable you to pray according to God’s Word and with a disciplined mind. The Apostle Paul tells us, “Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.” (Ephesians 6:18)

Two: Pray for the Holy Spirit’s presence on the teachers and in the hearts of the Sunday School students, “God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (1 Corinthians 2:10)

Three: Pray that those who attend the song service will die to their own thoughts and grasp the Lord’s will and be responsive to the Holy Spirit’s enabling to sing in spirit and truth. Ephesians 5:19 says, “Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.” In Colossians 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.”

Four: The bulletins and announcements will reflect the Lord’s will in regards to giving people opportunities to become involved in a local Body of Christ. People will take time to enjoy the Bibles studies, the services and the Christian fellowship times offered through CrossRoads Church. The Bible says, “Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.” (Proverbs 29:18)

Five: Through the people who attend this church, God will provide for the needs of this church Body and that He will prove Himself faithful to those who are obedient to His will. “Jehovah-Jireh,” the Lord will Provide found in Genesis 22:14. “Jireh” meaning to see or to provide or see as prophet, God always providing, adequate when the time comes. Malachi 3:10 says, “Bring in the whole tithe... ‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’”

Six: That God would consecrate our sound system and use it for His glory and He would give wisdom to the soundman and bless his efforts to help us achieve the Lord’s work. “Consecration” is the separation of persons, utensils, buildings, or places from that of secular uses to be used for the worship of the Lord. “Then Moses took the anointing oil and anointed the tabernacle and everything in it, and so consecrated them. He sprinkled some of the oil on the altar seven times, anointing the altar and all its utensils and the basin with its stand, to consecrate them.” (Leviticus 8:10-11) As the vessels were being devoted, symbolically Moses was presenting a picture of the Holy Spirit’s anointing, using the vessels for blessing and grace.

Seven: The message of the Lord through the spoken and written Word will spread and people will respond to it with a right heart. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 says, “Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you.”

Eight: The prayer time would be ministry to the Lord Jesus, to the Body of Christ and pleasing to God. Jesus said, “My [Father’s] house will be called a house of prayer.” (Matthew 21:13) Psalm 116:1-2 says, “I love the Lord, for He heard my voice, He heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on Him as long as I live.”

Nine: That God will do a work in Norton and make us a part of it. Plead for His mercy and that He would deliver people from the bondage of the flesh, the lures of the world, and the lies of the devil; that He would make CrossRoads Church a spiritual hospital, where the Holy Spirit is doing spiritual heart surgery, taking away hearts of stone and giving repentant sinners a heart of flesh so they may be able to love the Lord and have an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ; where the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ is giving Christians a powerful thirst and hunger for the Word of God, Christians are saying, “Lord Jesus teach me to pray,” where we are seeing Holy Spirit fruit being manifested in the lives of born again Christians and Holy Spirit gifts being exercised through sacrificial love.

Close with Praise: The call to pray is from God’s Word and we are given a sure promise, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” (James 5:16b) Our righteousness is accomplished by having Jesus Christ as personal Savior and Lord. By His sacrificial death and victory over sin we are found to be righteous in God’s sight. For this be sure to thank God and Jesus Christ.



Title: A Missionary's Song

Introduction: *Psalm 67 is what could be called a "Missionary Song."* (The Expositors Bible Commentary; The Treasury of David; The Pulpit Commentary; Psalm 67:2) The truths in this song are what should be in the heart of those who either want to be a missionary or be involved in missions. Christians long to see peoples from all nations participating in the privileges that come to those who live a life of praise to Jesus Christ.

"May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us, ^{Ps 67:2} that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. ^{Ps 67:3} May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. ^{Ps 67:4} May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. ^{Ps 67:5} May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. ^{Ps 67:6} Then the land will yield its harvest, and God, our God, will bless us. ^{Ps 67:7} God will bless us, and all the ends of the earth will fear Him." (Psalm 67:1-7) Pray!

What is requested in this song of prayer and why are they so beneficial to the lost and the Body of Christ

Just what is requested in this song of prayer and why are they so beneficial to the lost and the Body of Christ?

I would propose to you that Psalm 67 is from the heart of God, being expressed to His children to what has real importance in regard to eternity. This song is a prayer for God's blessings, His Salvation to include all nations, His righteous rule and His declaration of blessings to the ends of the earth.

The Bible has a truth that should be proclaimed often in the house of God

The first heart cry of this missionary song is, "May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face shine upon us,"

All Scripture is brought forth by the Holy Spirit and God wants us to grasp a truth here. God is the source of all benefits. The Holy Spirit moved the writer and is moving us to ask the Lord to be gracious, to bless and show His love upon us. It is the blessings of God that make life on this earth enjoyable. Jesus intervenes on the behalf of the child of God and enables him to accomplish God's will in this sinned cursed world. God delights in those who seek Him. (The Expositors Bible Commentary)

The Bible has a truth that should be proclaimed often in the house of God, especially in the benediction. It is the speaking forth of a blessing found in Numbers 6:24-27. It is often called the “Priestly Blessing.” The Lord told Moses to tell Aaron to bless His people with these Words, ““The LORD bless you and keep you; ^{Nu 6:25} the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; ^{Nu 6:26} the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace.’ ^{Nu 6:27} So they will put My name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

The heart of the seeker that moves God is the Christian who ask the Lord to “be gracious.” “Gracious” (*hanan*) meaning to “have mercy on me!” (The Complete Word Dictionary, Old Testament) God’s forgiveness of sin is to be sought foremost and that brings a chain of blessings upon the repentant Christian. This heart reflects a death to legal works or claims of merit. It is a heart resting totally on the favor of God given in Christ’ Name.

Verse one of Psalm 67 holds a key truth of a missionary’s heart, may the Lord “make His face shine upon us.” Often in the Scriptures we read this phrase, which is a prayer or blessing spoken. What does it mean? It is an invocation of the Lord’s presence and favor. While those who live outside of the will of God seek to find their happiness in wealth, ambition, in this world’s pleasures and sensual delights – the child of God finds his happiness in service to the Lord and in friendship with God. (Barnes Notes) The psalmist is asking for God’s revelation and presence just as Moses received.

The heart of the missionary goes beyond earthly blessings to a hunger for God and a desiring for Christ-likeness. The apostle Paul said God’s goal for Christians is to “...become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:13; Dr. Jim Berg; Matthew Henry) The child of God will always be maturing down here on this earth, therefore he needs to be daily praying, “Lord mold me and make me what you want me to be.”

Lorica of Saint Patrick had a great prayer that reflects the heart of a missionary who wants to touch the lives of others for the sake of Christ. His heart’s desire was, “Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, Christ in the eyes that see me and Christ in the ear that hears me.” (Sermon Central)

Christians often sing “Jesus be Jesus in Me,” this song reflects the first and utmost truth found in the opening verse of Psalm 67. God’s greatest desire is that the Children of God become Christ-like, in thought, speech and life.

The New American Standard Bible says this about the priestly blessing that is to be spoken upon the people of God, “The Lord lift His countenance on you and give you peace.” (Numbers 6:26 NAS)

The heart of a missionary and mission’s based church will be seeking the Lord’s blessings, peace, a noble countenance that expresses love for the Lord and a life bound by the grace of God. They are Christians that long for God’s ways and salvation to be made known throughout the earth.

Ignorance of the Lord Jesus is the great enemy of mankind

Ignorance of the Lord Jesus is the great enemy of mankind. Just as showers first fall upon the foothills of the Colorado Rockies then afterwards run down in streams into the valleys, so the blessings of God come upon those who live in this world through His church. God calls sinners unto Christ and then sends them out to make known far and wide the Lord’s saving grace. This is the method of sharing the message of mercy to mankind. It is a duty and privilege of the revived children of God to make the message of salvation known everywhere while at the same time being totally dependant upon the God of the universe to open the door of people’s hearts.

Let the Holy Spirit put in your heart the will of God found in Psalm 67:2, “that [God’s] ways may be known on earth, [His] salvation among all nations.” (Psalm 67:2) There are two things that are found in a missionary’s prayer song.

One, that God’s ways be made known to all of mankind, that they may know how to live in a way that is God and Christ honoring. The church with a missionary’ heart has the heart of King David, the man after God’s own heart. (Acts 13:22) David so longed for his son, Solomon to know and walk in the ways of God. Listen to David’s charge to his own son, “When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ^{1Ki 2:2} ‘I am about to go the way of all the earth,’ he said. ‘So be strong, show yourself a man, ^{1Ki 2:3} and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in His ways, and keep His decrees and commands, His laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go...’” (1 Kings 2:1-3)

David’s last charge to Solomon most certainly dealt with his son’s spiritual life. However, the basic instruction was that Solomon should conduct himself in his personal life, and in his role as leader of God’s people, in accordance to the Word of God. All missionary minded people have this same heart cry. That everyone they speak to will seek to understand the ways of God so they may be blessed with God’s righteous statutes and decrees. To know them is to come to know the heart of God and Christ Jesus.

The second thing in the heart of a missionary song is that God's salvation found in Jesus Christ be made known among all nations. It is not that the people in America have their God and other nations have their gods. But that people of all tribes, nations and tongues have the opportunity to choose this very day the god of whom they are going to serve. This is the very heart cry of the apostle Paul found in the Book of Romans and is the same heart of all involved in missions. (Barnes Notes; Matthew Henry; F.F. Bruce; John Wesley notes)

Romans 10:14-15 says, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? ¹⁵ And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

In Romans chapter 10 the Apostle Paul is dealing with Israel's unbelief. He is saying if someone had not been sent to preach to them, there would be no way for them to believe. Time and time again God sent prophets to preach the message of good news to the repentant. Paul writes, "Of course they [heard]." (Romans 10:18) He also writes of his heart's desire in Romans 10:1 saying his "...prayer to God is for the Israelites..." to be saved. The Holy Spirit informs us through the writings of the Apostle Paul that, "Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." (Romans 10:13)

Therefore, Romans 10:14-15 in its application to the church today shows forth the necessity of proclaiming the gospel worldwide. Men, women, and children are to be urged to ask Jesus to come into their hearts and lives to be both Savior and Lord. Sinners cannot believe unless they hear about Jesus Christ. They cannot hear unless someone takes the good news to them. All believers in Christ have been "Commissioned" to fulfill their part in reaching out to a lost and dying in their home town and around the world." (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

Before someone can call upon the Name of the Lord there must be faith, so before faith there must be hearing, before hearing there must be preaching, and before preaching there must be someone surrendered to God's "Commission." This takes a team.

Character traits that are evident in a mission's based church

All through Scripture we see God using people who are sold out to His purposes and there are character traits that are evident in a mission's based church. The mission-based church will have prayer warriors.

Missionaries must be blanketed in prayer. Paul writes about the importance and power of prayer warriors. In 2 Corinthians we read of Paul thanking the Corinthians for their prayers and he encourages them to continue to pray because their petitions to the Lord are powerful and effective. He writes, “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. ⁹ Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, ¹¹ as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.” (2 Corinthians 1:8-11)

James Gilmore was a foreign missionary and he said, “Mission work could not succeed without prayer by God’s children in the homeland. Un-prayed for, I feel like a diver on the bottom of the river with no connecting line to the surface and no air to breath; or like a fireman with an empty hose on a burning building. With prayer, I feel like David facing Goliath!”

Walter B. Knight wrote about a lady who was sweeping the floor of her Canadian home when a powerful move of the Holy Spirit urged her to pray for her close missionary friends in Africa. She had a feeling that they may be in great danger. She prayed earnestly until she sensed the Lord’s pleasure. Then she documented this in her prayer journal.

Later when she had made contact with her missionary friends in Africa, they shared with her about a night when the wife awoke suddenly with a fear that they were in great danger. The moon rays were bright that night and she could see nothing wrong in the room, yet she still felt that they were still immediate danger. She quietly woke her husband and they whispered about her fears. As the husband began to move, that which was hidden by his shadow was now exposed by the moonlight. A very large cobra was in the room with them, and the husband was able to grab his gun and do away with their potentially deadly enemy. The incident was recorded in their missionary journal.

Months later as the missionary couple and the Canadian housewife began to compare notes they were amazed how the two experiences happened on the same date and comparably at the same time. The peril of the missionaries happened at the same time their friend was moved to pray for their safety.

Missionaries and missions are protected and provided for through the prayers offered in Jesus’ Name by loyal Christians to an all-loving God. They are also provided for by practical means.

The word “missions” comes from a Latin word (*mitto*) denoting a task that a person or group has been assigned, usually by God or God’s representatives, and sent out to perform. In the New Testament, mission’s refers to the ministry of the Gospel, in word and in deed. Paul was fulfilling a God-given task during his three mission trips. The church in Antioch was very much fulfilling the Lord’s task in sending Barnabas and Paul out with famine relief to the needy. Missions were being fulfilled in Peter’s Commission to preach the gospel to the Jews. (The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia)

The Lord uses different ways and works through whomever He wishes to provide for the task He has assigned. He is in absolute control of everything and every heart. His provision for His work has come through Christians and non-Christians all through history. Many places in the Bible proclaim this truth. One such incident is found in the book of Ezra chapter one.

This passage of Scripture records the event of God moving upon a king’s heart – Cyrus, king of Persia - to provide for the supplies and the man power needed to rebuild the temple of God in Jerusalem. There is little indication that Cyrus actually became a true follower of God. (Who’s Who in the Bible; The Pulpit Commentary) What is most important is the fact that in fulfillment to the Word of the Lord spoken through Jeremiah, “...the Lord moved on the heart of King Cyrus...” to make the way for the rebuilding of the temple. (Ezra 1: 2-11)

Kings Cyrus receives knowledge of God’s will for him and what the Lord wants to accomplish through him. He makes the proclamation that enables the family heads of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and Levites – everyone whose heart God had moved upon – to go up and build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem. (Ezra 1:5)

The Bible teaches because of Ezra’s proclamation that, “All their neighbors assisted them with articles of silver and gold, with goods and livestock, and with valuable gifts, in addition to all the freewill offerings.” (Ezra 1:6) The point the Holy Spirit of God wants us to grasp today is that the Lord uses people in positions that He has put them in, rather kingship or common worker, for the purpose of providing for His works upon this earth. Thus, we are to be responsive to the Holy Spirit’s prompting and provide in practical ways with what means the Lord has made available to us.

Many have come to know the joy of meeting the needs of missionaries in practical ways. They have given sacrificially, gone into the mission field to help build a church, a Christian hospital or orphanage with supplies given by their brothers and sister in Christ on the home front. In this nation right now, those in government positions are enabling and encouraging people to give to Christian-based ministries and give them tax breaks for doing so.

Make a plea to God for servants who can preach the gospel

Missions and missionaries are to be provided for in practical ways and the church with a heart of missions will make a plea to God for servants who can preach the gospel. Romans 10:14 says, “And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?” It is translated in the New American Standard Bible as, “...And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

“Preacher” (*kerusso*) here means someone who can publicly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and the responsibilities that go with it as it was taught by the apostles and the Christian teachers of the God’s Word. This Christian is one who represents Jesus Christ and he is only to proclaim the message of the Word of God. He is not to add in his own ideas, fads, or worldly philosophies. (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon; The Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Bible, New Testament; Practical Word Studies in the New Testament)

The Gospel Herald ran an article entitled “Talks Christ Only.” This article told of story of Pastor Martin Niemoeller who spent six years in a Nazi prison camp. Upon his release, he was approached by reporters, who were hoping to get a juicy story. Instead of getting the story they hoped for, they heard the true gospel. One reporter wrote, ‘Six years in a Nazi prison camp and all he has to talk about is Jesus Christ.’”

Those with a missionary’s heart know that they are to be like the apostle Paul, who wrote, “We are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:20) The church needs missionaries who are focused upon Christ, what He has, can and will do through His obedient Children.

Walter B. Knight wonderfully pointed out that the rich man in hell became a true believer in missions. For his plea was, “Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my father’s house,²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’ (Luke 16:27-28)

Paul Box, missionary to Malaya shared what the missionary needs most when he wrote, “...missionaries go from daylight to midnight in [difficult circumstances] witnessing for Christ but seeing little response. Sickness strikes many of our homes. Depression sweeps new missionaries. We see need after need that must be filled, and yet often have no immediate answers. Our greatest need is for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit of Christ.” Missionaries need our prayers.

Pastor Edward Pruden did a great job in his message on the importance of being involved in missions. He reminded the congregation that “Every Church is the product of some one’s missionary activity. Every church is a monument to the missionary impulse. Every church should be reminded that it has been set down in the midst of a mission field – whether in the heart of Africa or in the heart of Washington, D.C. Every church should be reminded that it has fallen heir to the Great Commission which Christ gave to His disciples.” (Knight’s Treasury of 2,000 Illustrations)

Our Commission comes from the one who gave His life for the church. He has called many of His dear children out into the mission field. They are like the great missionary of India, William Carey, who said, “I will go down if you hold the ropes.” This is the way it should be. The mental picture is “I will go down into the caves that most people will never go into, but you must hold the ropes. I will go down if you will hold on. I will go if you are here holding fast, holding tight.”

The Missionary’s song, or rather prayer, is, I will go if you hold on to the ropes of prayer and provision and trust in the One who has called me.

Let us pray!



Our Vision in Missions

“As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it.” (2 Corinthians 8:23-24)

Brothers and sisters in Christ with a heart for missions:

The Holy Spirit moves through the Apostle Paul to inform us of the necessity of making the effort to obtain a good name with others, especially in the body of Christ in regard to the work of God, so we can prove our love for the Lord. (Matthew Henry Commentary) Paul knew that he had enemies and his critics would not hesitate to charge the work he was overseeing in a way that would draw question to what God was doing through him and others who were serving with him. All critics of the things of God will make every effort to do harm to the Lord's work, thus, we are to make arrangements to ensure that those who examine our ministries find that we have been proven faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2, Barclay, Lectures in the University of Classgow, Ed, Ephworth Commentaries) How do we become ministers of high reputations as we serve the Lord?

A church that is faithful in missions has the same heart as the great missionary, Apostle Paul who wrote, “We want to avoid any criticism of the way we administer this liberal gift. For we are taking great pains to do what is right, not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of men.” (2 Corinthians 8:20-21)

The Bible holds a truth or principle in ministry that should govern all ministry opportunities, “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you...” (1 Thessalonians 5:12 KJ) To “know” (*aida*) generally means to know instinctively, (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) to have intimate or close relationship with or have knowledge of the work someone is doing for the Lord. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) In regard to missionary work, Christians are to be able to possess information about, have knowledge of the high status of their missionaries and the events (Ministries) their missionaries are overseeing. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages) Christians are to be able to take note of the work their missionaries are in and identify the works of those they are in partnership with. (The New American Commentary) To “partner” with someone in ministry means to have fellowship, to be a partaker in common experience in the work of the Lord. (The Complete Word Study; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Therefore, churches and the missionaries they support need to be in regular communication, sharing their vision, battles, successes and most importantly, prayer needs.

In order for those who attend CrossRoads Church to become true partners with the seven missionaries we support we are opening up four different Wednesday nights in 2008 so you can be made aware of the battles our missionaries are in, hear their vision, enjoy their successes and interceded for them in prayer. **Make this Wednesday, March 26, 2008 your first informational meeting.**



Missionary Request Letter

(February 7, 2008) (This letter was sent to CrossRoads Congregation)

“Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ:

This letter is being written to the missionaries financially supported by the Body of Christ that attends CrossRoads Church in Norton, Kansas. It is our hope and prayer that this letter finds you and your family in good health, as well as enjoying the grace of God upon the ministries He has called you to.

The leadership of CrossRoads Church met on July 15, 2007 to discuss the financial support we give the missionaries we partner with in the ministry of Jesus Christ. It had come to my attention and has become a great concern to me that our partnership mainly consists of us sending out finances and no real accountability in prayer from either of us. Some of the missionaries we support have not sent us a good Biblical ministry report in quite sometime. The purpose of this letter is to set us on a more Biblical path of partnership in ministry.

As I wrote this letter the Holy Spirit took me to several passages of Scripture, one being 2 Corinthians 8:22-24. This is where Titus is being sent with a another Christian and he was chosen by the churches to carry the offering which was sent to honor the Lord as well as help those who had needs. (2 Corinthians 8:18). 2 Corinthians 8:22-24, are in a sense, a letter of credentials that should settle any inquisitive or suspicious concern that may be on anyone’s mind or heart. Paul wanted to avoid any criticisms as they administered the liberal gift. (2 Corinthians 8:20).

CrossRoads Church is now a congregation made up of people who attended Living Word Baptist and Community Full Gospel, as well as new members who started attending after the two churches united. Therefore, not everyone knows all the missionaries and ministries they oversee as they should, nor do all the missionaries know the ministry the Lord is doing in the Body of Christ at CrossRoads. This makes it very difficult to pray for each other as we should with heart-felt desire, this hurts generosity in giving and reception in ministry the Apostle Paul encouraged in 2 Corinthians chapter 8.

It is our hope and prayer that the missionaries we support would want to get to know the work the Lord is doing through the Body of Christ at CrossRoads. We have a website www.standatthecrossroads.com. You can find messages, our doctrine, our vision and mission and all about me, the pastor. We have full ministries reports for last year and this year. You may find these ministry reports by clicking on “Messages” and scrolling down to “Ministry Reports.” If you cannot do this or are uncomfortable with the internet, just let us know what you want and we will send you the information requested. In turn, we would like for all

missionaries to send us a regular report (**at least quarterly**) on what the Lord is calling and enabling you to do. We are not concerned with numbers but quality of ministry and if ministry opportunities are being faithfully prayed through to completion.

It is also our hope and prayer that we mean a lot more to you than a source of finances. The Word of God tells us that one of the four signs of a healthy Holy Spirit led church is "Prayer." (Acts 2:42) In order for you to Biblically pray for us I am sending you two prayer guides birthed from the Word of God. These prayer guides will equip you to pray according to the Word of God for our Sunday morning services and for laborers for the church. In order for us to pray for you we need you to send, along with your ministry reports, a prayer list that could be copied and handed out to the Body of Christ in CrossRoads. **(Next Missionary quarterly reports are Wednesdays, March 26/June 25/September 24/December 31, 2008)**

We have weekly schedule times set aside for fasting and prayer:

Sunday Morning 9:15-10:15 A.M. - Prayer for the Sunday morning service

Sunday Evenings 5:00-6:00 P.M. – Prayer for the laborers in the church, Ministry Outreaches and Missionaries

Wednesday Evenings 5:30-6:30 P.M. – Prayer for our Bible Studies

The Apostle Paul wrote, "As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker among you; as for our brothers, they are representatives of the churches and an honor to Christ. Therefore show these men the proof of your love and the reason for our pride in you, so that the churches can see it." (2 Corinthians 8:23) You are our partner and fellow workers in Christ. This church and all of you are representatives of the work of Christ in His church and we are to honor Christ in a way in which the churches can see we have Christian partnership with the Head of the Church Body, Christ Jesus.

After you have taken the time to prayerfully consider how the Lord is working through us, it is my hope that you may partner with us in prayer as we partner with you in financial giving and prayer.

Never are your prayers more needed for this church than now!!!! At no greater time than now do we need to be able to offer some kind of credentials that would settle any inquisitive or suspicious concern so as to do away with any and all criticisms that Satan may want to bring among us.

Thanking the Lord for our partnership and praying that God's will be made known to you and Holy Spirit empowerment to pray the Lord's visions through to a healthy completion. These things our adversary stands against, however, in Christ we win!!!!!!

In His Service

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin

Send prayer request and ministry reports to:

CrossRoads Church

313 W Lincoln

Norton, KS 67654

E-mail – crossroads@ruraltel.net



Summary of Missions Update Meeting Held Wednesday, March 26, 2008:

(April 06, 2008)

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Corinthians 14:40) “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” (1 Corinthians 4:2)

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ:

My records show that at least four times in the bulletin we promoted our “Missionary Update” meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, at 7:00 P.M. It was announced from behind the pulpit on several occasions. On Sunday morning of March 02, 2008 I spoke a message titled “A Missionaries Song” covering the theme “A Prayer for God’s Blessing on His Work” in hopes to prepare our hearts for our “Missionary Updates.” A letter was sent in February, 2008 to all seven of our missionaries. The letter sent to our missionaries was placed in an envelope clearly marked “**Important.**” A letter was sent to our congregation, reminding those who attend CrossRoads of the meeting. This letter had clear teachings on the Biblical responsibility of churches to know their missionaries, their ministry, their trials, their successes and the importance of agreeing in prayer for them.

Ministry Update Responses from Our Missionaries: (January – March 2008)

Lavonne Ponstein – Sent two high quality newsletters / several e-mails / and a clear prayer guide, she had also sent an e-mail regarding Bonnie.

Jeremiah and Kelli Frey – Sent a high quality newsletter / several e-mails / several prayer requests.

Gene Nelson – Good newsletter / several e-mails regarding Bonnie / prayer request

David and Donna Haag – Several e-mails / ministry update / prayer request

James Adams – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update

Todd and Cheryl Laws – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update / Todd did call and left a message on March 27 (day after the meeting) announcing that he would be out of the country starting March 28, 2008 – Youth Ministry Leadership Training.

Mike and Faith Ball – Sent a letter regarding Bonnie / no ministry update

Times Square Church – We do not financially support this powerful ministry, however, they have proved themselves faithful to pray for us, especially when we have requested prayer.

Seven people from CrossRoads attended the informational meeting on Wednesday night and we took time to pray for the ministries that responded to our letter.

In July of 2007, the leadership met to discuss our missionary support. Due to the fact that some of the missionaries of the EMF were embracing teachings not in line with our doctrinal beliefs, it was decided to partner with three missionaries whom are known to teach the same doctrines as us. On the EMF side they are, **Jeremiah and Kelli Frey, Gene Nelson and David and Donna Haag**. When Community Full Gospel and Living Word Baptist joined congregations and became CrossRoads Church we kept missionaries supported by the Living Word congregation, **James Adams, Todd and Cheryl Laws, and Mike and Faith Ball**. It was decided to give missionaries from the EMF and missionaries supported by the Living Word congregation \$70.00 monthly. As a step of faith in giving over and above normal missions we decided to give \$125.00 monthly to **Lavonne Ponstein**. She was supported by both Living Word and Community Full Gospel for twenty plus years and has proved herself to do the work of the Lord in an “*orderly way*” and certainly “*faithful*” to everything the Lord as entrusted to her.

At the present time as a whole most of the people who attend CrossRoads do not know all of our missionaries. Neither missionary group from either side has equipped us in a way so we can inspire a heart for missions. Only seven people were able to make the time to get to know more about our missionaries when given the opportunity.

With our key missionary givers no longer with us or no longer able to have the finances to give as they did, we must keep a close watch on our missionary giving and partner with those who voluntarily enable us to grasp their God given vision, know their trials, enjoy their victories and equip us to pray for them. It is not our responsibility to hunt this information down, it should be made available to us by those we partnership with, just as it is our responsibility to enable our missionaries to partner with us. We did our part to the best of our ability in the February 2008 letter sent out to our missionary.

At the present time we are giving 15% of our gross income. That is very good, right where we need it to be. However, we need to think of ways of getting our congregation informed about our missionaries and we need all of our missionaries to do their part in equipping us with the tools we need to get our congregation equipped to be in heartfelt prayer for them. Those who have a heart for missions need to step up to the plate and learn how to promote missions in the church by talking about our missionaries in our Bible studies and Christian fellowship times and lastly making ourselves aware of our missionaries prayer needs and praying for them.

The Apostle Paul gives those in ministry an exhortation that should be a guide to us as we desire to partner with others who are proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Missions cost money and involves many workers, therefore we need to do ministry in a way that establishes confidence through the way we conduct ministry. The New American Standard Bible says, “Show yourselves in all respect

to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us.” We want to be able to say with confidence we know our missionaries, their vision, and they are able to pray through to completion that which the Lord is calling them to do.

Praying for the Lord’s best in regards to foreign missions at CrossRoads Church.

In His service;

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin



*Missions Vision
In Progress
For
CrossRoads Church*

CrossRoads is made up of people who attended Community Full Gospel, Living Word Baptist and several new families. However, the problem we have regarding missions is that most of the people who attend do not know our missionaries. Our key financial supporters for missions have gone home to be with the Lord or have such serious health problems they can't give like they use to or have moved out of town for different reasons.

Here are the steps I have taken to get mission back into a Biblical order in the church.

- 1.) Gave three months notice of our March 26, 2008 "Missions Updates Meeting."
- 2.) February 2008 sent letter to missionaries we support
- 3.) March 2, 2008 - Spoke Message, "**A Missionary's Song**" covering praying for God's blessings on His Work -
- 4.) March 20, 2008 - Sent teaching letter and reminder of "Missionary's Update Meeting."
- 5.) April 02, 2008 - Sent "Missions Update Summary Letter" to Missionaries and Congregation of CrossRoads Church.

Special note: All ministry done in CrossRoads Church has been made known to the EMF Board in different ways.

If you would like your name added to our missionary's mailing list please contact Pastor Terry Laughlin



*Missions Vision
in Progress for
CrossRoads Church*

The Bible holds a truth or principle in ministry that should govern all ministry opportunities, “And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labor among you...” (1 Thessalonians 5:12 KJ) To “know” (*aida*) generally means to know instinctively, (The Complete Word Study of the New Testament) to have intimate or close relationship with or have knowledge of the work someone is doing for the Lord. (Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) In regard to missionary work, Christians are to be able to possess information about, have knowledge of the high status of their missionaries and the events (Ministries) their missionaries are overseeing. (Dictionary of Biblical Languages) Christians are to be able to take note of the work their missionaries are in and identify the works of those they are in partnership with. (The New American Commentary) To “partner” with someone in ministry means to have fellowship, to be a partaker in common experience in the work of the Lord. (The Complete Word Study; Analytical Lexicon of the Greek New Testament) Therefore, churches and the missionaries they support need to be in regular communication, sharing their vision, battles, successes and most importantly, prayer needs.

To help you to get to know our missionaries we would like to make available to you their ministry updates.

If you would like your name added to our missionaries' mailing lists, please contact Pastor Terry Laughlin.

Name: _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail account _____



*Missions Vision
In Progress
For
CrossRoads Church*

CrossRoads is made up of people who attended Community Full Gospel, Living Word Baptist and several new families. However, the problem we have regarding missions is that most of the people who attend do not know our missionaries. Our key financial supporters for missions have gone home to be with the Lord or have such serious health problems they can't give like they use to or have moved out of town for different reasons.

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- 4.) March 20, 2008 - Sent teaching letter and reminder of "Missionary's Update Meeting."
- 5.) April 02, 2008 - Sent "Missions Update Summary Letter" to Missionaries and Congregation of CrossRoads Church.
- 6.) April 09, 2008 - "Missions Updates Opportunity" were sent out to congregation and placed in bulletins on Sunday, April 13.
- 7.) May 01, 2008 - Sent Informational letter on missionary message, "Biblically Sent Off" to be spoken Sunday, June 01, 2008.



Special Missionary Message Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” (Acts 13:1-3)

May 01, 2008

Greetings in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ:

My records show the steps I have taken to get mission back into a Biblical order in the church are:

- 1.) Gave three months notice of our March 26, 2008 "Missions Updates Meeting."
- 2.) February 2008 sent letter to missionaries we support
- 3.) March 2, 2008 - Spoke Message, "**A Missionary's Song**" covering the theme praying for God's blessings on His Work -
- 4.) March 20, 2008 - Sent teaching letter and reminder of "Missionary's Update Meeting."
- 5.) April 02, 2008 - Sent "Missions Update Summary Letter" to Missionaries and Congregation of CrossRoads Church.
- 6.) April 09, 2008 – "Missions Updates Opportunity" were sent out to congregation and placed in bulletins on Sunday, April 13.

To Date - Ministry Update Responses from Missionaries: (January – April 2008)

Lavonne Ponstein – Sent two high quality newsletters / several e-mails / and a clear prayer guide, she had also sent an e-mail regarding Bonnie.

Jeremiah and Kelli Frey – Sent a high quality newsletter / several e-mails / several prayer requests.

Gene Nelson – Good newsletter / several e-mails regarding Bonnie / prayer request

David and Donna Haag – Several e-mails / ministry update / prayer request

James Adams – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update

Todd and Cheryl Laws – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update / Todd did call and leave a message on March 27 (day after the meeting) announcing that he would be out of the country starting March 28, 2008 – Youth Ministry Leadership Training.

Mike and Faith Ball – Sent a letter regarding Bonnie / One ministry update

Times Square Church – We do not financially support this powerful ministry; however, they have proved themselves faithful to pray for us, especially when we have requested prayer.

Seven people from CrossRoads attended the informational meeting.
One Person from CrossRoads Congregation responded to our “Missions Update Opportunity” insert.

After many hours of prayerful study of God’s Word I have put together a message that will help you grasp the heart of the God in regards to sending out missionaries:

Biblically Sent

Enjoying the Protection of Healthy Oversight

This message will enable to understand these Biblical Truths:

- 1.) *Embrace the Source*
- 2.) *Be Submitted to the Separation*
- 3.) *Participate in the Sending*
- 4.) *Give Healthy Supervision*
- 5.) *Biblically Support Our Missionaries*

Mr. Frodsham relates, “Sir William Mac Gregor, whose unflagging zeal for [lost souls] in many parts of the globe has done much for the cause of [Christ]. In discussing the rapid progress of Islamic belief in West Africa, as compared to that of Christianity he said, ‘It’s just that every Muslim regards himself as a missionary; the majority of Christians think it is another man’s work.’” (AMG Bible Illustrations, Logos Library System)

The whole of Scripture presents the heart of missions, the “Great Commission.” Missions is a team effort and when everything is done in “a fitting and orderly way” (1 Corinthians 14:40) the Body of Christ will enjoy what is promised to the New Testament church, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) The church that lives out the heart of Christ in missions will know the promise of Christ, “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Praying the Lord’s leading for you as you make your plans for Sunday, June 01, 2008.



Special Missionary Message
Sunday, June 1, 2008
10:30 A.M.

After many hours of prayerful study of God's Word I have put together a message that will help you grasp the heart of the God in regards to sending out missionaries:

Biblically Sent
Enjoying the Protection of
Healthy Oversight

This message will enable us to understand these Biblical Truths:

- 1.) Embrace the Source*
- 2.) Be Submitted to the Separation*
- 3.) Participate in the Sending*
- 4.) Give Healthy Supervision*
- 5.) Biblically Support Our Missionaries*



Missions Committee Request:

“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” (1 Corinthians 14:40)

May 2008

To the Elder, Deacons and Deaconesses of CrossRoads

Church:

We are needing a mission's committee to take over the responsibility of communicating with our missionaries and promoting missions to the congregation of CrossRoads Church.

Mission's Vision in Progress: Here are the steps I have taken to get missions back into a Biblical order in the church:

- 1.) Gave three months notice of our March 26, 2008 "Missions Updates Meeting."
- 2.) February 2008 sent letter to missionaries we support
- 3.) March 2, 2008 - Spoke Message, "**A Missionary's Song**" covering the theme "Praying for God's Blessings on His Work -"
- 4.) March 20, 2008 - Sent teaching letter and reminder of "Missionary's Update Meeting."
- 5.) April 02, 2008 - Sent "Missions Update Summary Letter" to Missionaries and Congregation of CrossRoads Church.
- 6.) April 09, 2008 – "Missions Updates Opportunity" were sent out to the congregation of CrossRoads Church and placed in bulletins on Sunday, April 13.
- 7.) May 01, 2008 – Sent "Special Missions Message" letter to congregation and to missionaries. Bulletin inserts were prepared and placed in Sunday bulletins all through the month of May.
- 8.) May 2008 – Handed out Missions file to the spiritual leaders of the church. Sent missions files overview to EMF Directors and to Missionaries associated with CrossRoads.
- 9.) Sunday, June 01, 2008 – Planning to speak forth missions message, "**Biblically Sent Off**" covering the theme, "Enjoying the Protection of Healthy Oversight."
- 10.) June 30, 2008 – Resign from responsibilities of overseeing Missions at CrossRoads Church and turn mission's ministry over to a "Missions Committee."

To Date: Ministry Update Response: (January – April 2008)

Lavonne Ponstein – high quality newsletters each month / several e-mails / and a clear prayer guide, she had also sent an e-mail regarding Bonnie.

Jeremiah and Kelli Frey – Sent a high quality newsletter / several e-mails / several prayer requests.

Gene Nelson – Good newsletter / several e-mails regarding Bonnie / prayer request

David and Donna Haag – Several e-mails / ministry update / prayer request

James Adams – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update

Todd and Cheryl Laws – Sent card regarding Bonnie / No ministry update / Todd did call and left a message on March 27 (day after the meeting) announcing that he would be out of the country starting March 28, 2008 – “Youth Ministry Leadership Training.”

Mike and Faith Ball – Sent a letter regarding Bonnie / One ministry update

Times Square Church – We do not financially support this powerful ministry, however, they have proved themselves faithful to pray for us, especially when we have requested prayer.

Seven people from CrossRoads attended the informational meeting on Wednesday night March 26, 2008 and we took time to pray for the ministries that responded to our letter.

One Person from CrossRoads Congregation responded to our “Missions Update Opportunity” insert.

My Heart Concerning Missions: I spent as much as two hundred hours of prayerful research and consultation regarding the Biblical approach to partnering with others in missions. I have sent several letters, put together bulletin inserts and two messages regarding missions. Considering the importance of missions, the declining health of my wife (Bonnie) and the time needed to oversee the ministries set before me I do not have the time to oversee missions at CrossRoads in an appropriate manner. It is going to take a lot of prayer and hard work to keep missions on the same course we have known over the last few years.

I had the privilege of hearing a message spoken by H.B. London. He spoke a truth that must be grasped by all spiritual leaders, “You do not have to have your own blood on every battle field,” meaning that pastors do not have to be involved in every ministry that goes on in the local church. However, it is my privilege and responsibility to give the spiritual leadership of the church all the Biblical instructions I can, especially concerning missions. 2 Timothy 4:2-5 says, “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, **discharge all the duties of your ministry.**” (2 Timothy 4:2-5) I have invested much time in prayer and study of God’s Word to do just that and fulfill my mandate in Ephesians 4:11- 12. I have placed in this file all the work I have done to give clear instructions of what the Lord has taught me regarding to partnership in missions work. If missions is going to grow in a Biblical healthy manner in CrossRoads Church then there must be a taking of ownership of missions by those who are apart of this Body of Christ. Now is the time to discharge the ministry of missions to the oversight of others who have a heart for missions.

Solution: I would like suggest that the spiritual leaders select a committee

chairman and committee to oversee CrossRoads Missions. They are to be responsible for fund raising, mission promotion and communication between the missionaries and the congregation. **This is a huge responsibility for the person who oversees this ministry, therefore, the chairman should be compensated financially.** The committee overseeing CrossRoads Missions along with the spiritual leaders shall determine how much the CrossRoads Mission chairman should be paid. **Whatever amount is decided, I am willing to take that much of a cut in pay. If it is decided that no one is called by the Lord to oversee this ministry, I am still willing to take a cut in pay for not overseeing missions in CrossRoads Church.** We do not have the finances to pay a mission's overseer and keep my wages the same, nor should I get paid the same amount for not being in leadership regarding missions. **I would consider a huge blessing to make this sacrifice in order to get our CrossRoads Missions put in proper order, one that would enable our church family to catch a heart for missions.** This would free me up to spend my "attention to prayer and ministry of the Word. (Acts 6:4)

I am praying that the Lord will lead the leadership and open new opportunities to maintaining and grow missions in the Body of Christ in CrossRoads Church. After Elder Don Malcolm, the deacons and deaconesses have prayerfully consider what the Lord would have them do, I will make time to meet with them on the first Wednesday evening possible.

In His Service

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin



**Pastor Terry Laughlin's
Missionary Partnership Refusal Letter:
Re- Noah Hansen**

To the spiritual leadership of CrossRoads Church:

After spending many hours in prayerful study of God's Word and conferring with different missionary overseers, I have decided to put in writing my refusal to partner with Noah Hansen in ministry. The Holy Spirit brings to my mind several passages of Scriptures. The first two are, "I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people." (Ro. 16:17-18) The King James Bible says I am to "...mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which [I] have learned; and avoid them." "Mark" (*skopein*) meaning I am to "observe attentively, cautiously, and faithfully be on [my] guard against them." {**Barnes Notes Commentary**} I am to "observe them, the method they take and... discern the danger we can [enter] into from such people." {**Matthew Henry Commentary**}

I will not tell people where or who to minister with, however, I will not knowingly partner with those in ministry who closely minister with those who have brought divisions in the Body of Christ. Noah Hansen, by choice, chooses to fellowship with a group of people who have rebelled against the authority of the EMF and that of Community Full Gospel Church. I do not have time to go over in detail all that took place, nor will I because this is not the only reason I have for not entering into partnership in ministry with Noah.

Noah's ministry does not meet the conviction of ministry style of which I feel led to partnership with (I already partner with Lavonne Ponstein who ministers to youth and I do not feel led to join with another youth minister).

The missions ministry style I feel led to partner with is one that ministers to the poor and needy (James 1:27). I am wanting to spend my attention in prayer for, and spend my financial assistance on, those who have proven themselves faithful to correctly handle God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15) as well as have the gift to put into print format that which the Lord has revealed to them. (Romans 12:6; 2 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Timothy 4:13-15; Exodus 17:14; Isaiah 8:1; 30:8; Jeremiah 45:1; Malachi 3:16)

Please take note, this letter is not meant to tell anyone else what their convictions should be, it is only to be informative as to why I choose not to partner with Noah Hansen and to briefly state the ministry style I desire to participate with.

In His Service

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin



2008-2009 Missions Recommendation From Pastor Terry Laughlin

To the spiritual leadership of CrossRoads Church:

After spending many hours in prayerful study of God's Word, conferring with different missionary overseers and thoroughly reviewing the "Leadership Missions File" I have feel led to put in writing the following recommendation for missions June 2008 – May 2009. Please take note of three topics in the letter 1) Missionaries to Partner With, and 2.) Financial Support.

Missionaries to partner with:

I believe we should keep the following missionaries:

Lavonne Ponstein
Jeremiah and Kelli Frey
Gene Nelson
David and Donna Haag
Mike and Faith Ball

I believe we should drop the following missionaries:

James Adams
Todd and Cheryl Laws

Financial Support: My records show that it was announced in the bulletin about a new Bible study "**Giving to God.**" One of our best Bible teachers, Dr. David Jeremiah, has studied to show himself approved, and presents in this Bible Study, the whole counsel of God's Word on Stewardship. Christians no longer need to misuse Scripture, follow the philosophy of this world and be overcome by the flesh, which have put them in bondage, keeping them from understanding the foundational principles to enjoying God's best for them. Very few churches can Biblically explain in Spirit and truth the Lord's plan for overseeing everything God has given them. Christians who have Holy Sprit illumination about the truths presented in this Bible study will hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:21)

These topics were placed in the bulletin every week in order to draw attention to these powerful teachings of God's Word.

Giving to God – Covering these powerful topics:

Meet the "Steward" of Stewardship – Genesis 24

The Sermon on the Amount – Malachi 3:10-14

Jesus at the Treasury – Mark 12:41-44

Drawing Interest – Selected Scriptures

The Meaning of Sacrifice – 2 Corinthians 8

Three Dimensional Giving – John 12:1-11

God's Harvest Law – 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

When We Forget God – Haggai 1:1-15

Givers and Takers – Genesis 13-19

Giving too Much – Exodus 35-36

After reviewing the response to this Bible study and the interest shown by those who attend CrossRoads regarding this powerful teaching on Biblical Stewardship, and after reviewing the interest shown towards missions by many new attendees of CrossRoads Church, I believe we need to wait until the end of each month (starting June 2008) and then send 10% of our gross income to our missionaries. The 10% would be split up between the missionaries chosen by the missions committee.

Again these are only recommendations for the "Missions Committee," it is up to them to determine the Lord's will for missions in CrossRoads Church.

Praying the Lord's leading for you on this important ministry:

In His Service

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin



May 27, 2008

To the Body of CrossRoads Church:

I am excited to present a new ministry opportunity for members of CrossRoads Church! After much prayer, study, and consultation with Pastor Ronald Scheimo, and the EMF Board of Directors, I realize the time is right to establish a Missions Committee.

As Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11-13:

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The committee will work with the pastor and spiritual elders to make decisions regarding:

1. re-evaluating our vision for missions as it relates to CrossRoads Church's vision
2. re-evaluating current and future missionaries and mission programs
3. responsibility for re-evaluating financial vision for missions, revenue sources, distribution of funds.
4. responsibility for re-evaluating missions promotion: Biblical teaching of CrossRoads Church's vision for missions, and scheduling missionary visits
5. responsibility for communication between the missionaries and the body of CrossRoads Church: involving consistent, and timely letters, visits, e-mails, etc. to keep current with missionaries' and CrossRoads Church's needs, successes, etc.

Please prayerfully consider being a part of this important committee. Be sure to attend the Missions Meeting, Wednesday, June 4, 2008, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Ask questions. Study the Word of God and listen to the Holy Spirit. If you have a passion for missions and are led to serve with others to fulfill the responsibilities of this work, then don't ignore the Lord's promptings!

I am trusting the Lord to lead in this exciting, new step of faith for CrossRoads Church!

In His service,

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin



Title: Biblically Sent Off

Theme: Enjoying the Protection of Healthy Oversight

Series: Laboring Together With God

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.” (Acts 13:1-3)

The Word of God gives us guidelines for nurturing, organizing and training those who are responding to the high calling of missionary work

The Body of Christ as represented in the local church can be a great assistance to foreign missions. There is a great difference of opinion in how missions should be overseen, but all deep studiers of the Word of God agree that Acts 13 is a valid starting point for consideration of how to Biblically oversee foreign missions. To me foreign mission is any ministry that is sacrificially operated outside the local Body of Christ. The Word of God under the illumination of the Holy Spirit gives us guidelines for nurturing, organizing and training those who are responding to the high calling of missionary work. “The procedure of evangelizing found in the [Word of God] is reproducible and should be reproduced.” (Mark C. Vowels, Director of Missions at Bob Jones University)

Just how can the truths known and lived out in the first century be reproduced in our lifetime in regards to missions?

I would propose to you that the Word of God gives at least five key truths for the enjoyment of foreign missions. Understanding these truths enables us to 1.) Embrace the Source. 2.) Be Submitted to the Separation. 3.) Participate in the Sending. 4.) Give Healthy Supervision. 5.) Biblically Support Our Missionaries.

A healthy missionary ministry embraces the source

The first step to enjoying a healthy missionary ministry is to embrace the source. Matthew 9:35 – 38 says, “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field.’” (Matthew 9:35) The Winston Dictionary for

Schools tells us "to embrace is to adopt; turn to; as, the heathen embrace Christianity."

To embrace Christianity is to become a disciple of Christ. The New International Dictionary of the Bible tells us that a "Disciple, (*mathetes*) is a pupil of some teacher. [The personal application] is the acceptance in mind and life the teacher. The heart of the "Great Commission' is to make "disciples' (*matheteuo*) or followers of the doctrine [of Christ]." (The Complete Dictionary of the Bible)

The spiritual heartbeat of this first division is to have compassion on those to whom the Lord is sending missionaries. Those whom we should partner with regarding missions are to have the same compassion as that of Christ.

The missionary we should partner with has a heart that sees the people they will serve as souls like sheep without a shepherd to teach them about Christ and the Word of God. They grieve in their hearts because they know that those they are sent to reach are unprotected from the wolves of the flesh, the world and the devil. All true missionaries have the heart of the Apostle Paul whom the Holy Spirit led to make this great plea, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (2 Corinthians 6:2)

We see God's heart for reaching the wicked in the story of Jonah, the reluctant Hebrew Prophet. (Book of Jonah) God's call for repentance is so clearly seen in the work He did through John the Baptist, the great Nazarite New Testament Evangelist and forerunner of Christ. (Matthew 3:1-6) Through Phillip, one of the original seven deacons, who led the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ we see God's work in reaching out to those who are hungry to hear the preaching of God's Word. (Acts 8:5; 21:8; 8:26-38) God's heart in making disciples is clearly seen in His sending Apollos, a powerful teacher from Alexandria to Ephesus. (Acts 18:24-28) We see God making the way for true shepherds for the flock in the appointing of Titus to oversee the church in Crete. (Titus 1:5) God's heart and enabling for the work of missions is found in and through the life of the Apostle Paul who was a missionary and evangelist. God used him to write most of the New Testament. (Acts 13-28; 1 Timothy 1:12) Epaphras, an evangelist from Colosse was trained by the Apostle Paul. (Colossians 1:7; 4:12-13)

Those we should partner with in missions must embrace the heart of Christ for the souls of mankind and true missionaries trust not in the efforts of man but to, "...the Lord of the harvest, ...to send out workers into His harvest field."

Biblical separation for missions work

Embracing the heart of God and Christ in the work of missions prepares the heart for Biblical separation for missions work. Acts 13:2-4 says, “While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit...” The heart of this part of the message is “set apart” (*aphorize*) meaning to select to some office or work of the Lord. (Acts 13:2; Romans 1:1; Galatians 1:15; The Complete Word Study of the New Testament)

There are Christians who are sold out to the work of the Lord and they are given the privilege of serving the Lord by going out from the local Body of Christ. There is a leading of the Holy Spirit being confirmed by both those being sent out and those who are joining hands with the missionaries. Though the missionary’s call begins in the heart of the person being sent, the Lord’s people should also confirm it. Director of Missions at Bob Jones University, Mark C. Vowels writes, “Missionary candidates should not go to the field without the approval of godly counsel from those who know them.”

When those who have the Christ apportioned gifts for the edifying and maturing the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13) are truly ministering to the Lord through fasting and prayer their spiritual hearts are enabled to be led of the Holy Spirit of Christ. Frequently in the Book of Acts we read of those who have Christ apportioned gifts being guided by the Holy Spirit. In Acts 8:29 we read, “The Spirit told Philip, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’” This is when the Ethiopian eunuch believed upon the Lord and was baptized.

In Acts 10 we read of the account of Peter’s vision. The Bible says, “While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you... Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them.’” (Acts 10:19-20) In Acts 10 we read that this vision came to Peter after he went to pray. (Acts 10:9) In many different places in the Word of God we read of the people of God being led of the Holy Spirit including Jesus. (Acts 16:6-7; Acts 13:4; Isaiah 6:1; Matthew 4:1)

The New International Dictionary of the Bible tells us, “As the Heavenly Father is God and His Son Jesus Christ is God, so the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit as well as the Son was active in creation; He was active on certain occasions in His own person in Old Testament times and more intensively in the Gospels; and in Acts and the Epistles He becomes the resident divine agent in the church and [her] members. Teaching concerning the Holy Spirit has been neglected and [sadly] distorted, but the subject deserves careful attention.” Romans 8:14 says, “...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.”

Let the Holy Spirit take His sword, the Word of God and place it deep within your heart. The church at Antioch were first to set forth the workings of the organized church. (Acts 14:23; A Commentary Critical and Explanatory) The Christian Church was

becoming more organized with heart of deliberately evangelizing the world. Because the church wanted to enjoy God's plan they were willing to be overseen by "prophets" and "teachers." These prophets spoken of in Acts 13 were preachers who had given their hearts to listening for the word of the Lord and at every opportunity provided they took God's Word and made it known. The teachers were men in the local area whose duty was to instruct new converts in Christian doctrine. (Daily Study Bible Series)

"Fasting" (*nesteu*) and prayer in our key text is often the model set forth for the organized church in appointing people to oversee a great work for the Lord. (Acts 13:3; 14:23) Fasting in the right spiritual heart means to be so consumed over a matter that spending time from food or other desires of the flesh is for the key purpose of determining the will of God. (The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible) Satisfying the flesh is replaced with the sole desire of being sensitive to Holy Spirit's leading for the purpose of achieving the perfect will of God. "Reasons given for fasting are to strengthen in prayer [and] to prepare for revelation..." (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

In Scripture we see several purposes for fasting. It's self-control submitting to the control and enabling of the Holy Spirit. It is a way of depending upon God alone and drawing all strength from Him. It is a way of focusing totally on Him when seeking His guidance and help. We tend to think of fasting as going without food, but we can fast from anything. We can choose not to do something we like in order to do what is better so we can spend time with the Lord and give Him proper adoration. (Isaiah 58) There is no power in fasting. It is simply a way of expressing a heart attitude before the Lord that you would rather be with Him and know His will.

Let the Holy Spirit of Christ lay this truth deep into your heart. When the spiritual leaders take seriously the call to reach lost souls for Christ, there will be obedience in separating themselves from living for the flesh, being influenced by the world and listening to the lies of the devil. They will be involved in fasting and prayer, thus, enjoying separation unto the Lord's work.

Participate in the sending of missionaries

Holy Spirit leaders and Christians enjoy separation unto the Lord's work and they participate in the sending of missionaries. Acts 13:3 says, "So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off." Because the term "sending church" is so used in the Body of Christ today to challenge people to become involved in missions, it is important to understand what the Holy Spirit is teaching here.

Here we see the recognition of Christian unity of fellowship and purpose in the Holy Spirit. (New Bible Commentary) The laying on of hands identified the church

with their missionaries' work and acknowledged the Lord's direction for the missionaries being sent. (The Bible Knowledge Commentary)

The church in Antioch fasted and prayed for Barnabas and Saul at the sending off of their first missionary journey. Likewise, there needs to be a core group of believers in a local Body of Christ the Holy Spirit is moving through. They should willingly separate themselves from the pleasures of the flesh to seek the Lord's guidance in whom to send and the Lord's anointing on their work. Mission minded servants of the Lord have the heart of Christ who fasted from sleep to spend the night in prayer before selecting the first apostles. The Bible says, "One of those days Jesus went out to a mountainside to pray, and spent the night praying to God. When morning came, He called His disciples to Him and chose twelve of them, whom He also designated apostles." (Luke 6:12)

Just as Christ took the battle for the souls of men seriously, missions minded Christians take this battle seriously. Fasting and praying for the work our missionaries are sent on is being Christ like because it shows a Biblical concern for their expeditions.

It is imperative that missionaries and the church that sends them are aware of the work God has placed before them and that this work is blanketed in fasting and prayer. Holy Spirit led churches that are mission minded set aside times when the congregation is offered the opportunity to agree in prayer and fasting for their missionaries as the Lord leads.

Holy Spirit calls and anoints

Churches led of the Holy Spirit to be involved in missions enjoy Biblical supervision for the congregations and spiritual leaders who provide direction in fasting and prayer. Acts 13:4 holds a powerful truth that must be grasped, "The two of them [Barnabas and Saul], were sent on their way by the Holy Spirit."

The Holy Spirit calls and anoints. He is the One who is to lead our missionaries in the tasks the Lord lays on their hearts. We have already seen the Biblical way missionaries are selected and sent to the field. We must understand that it is the Holy Spirit who will give the direction of their ministry. Acts 16:6-10 powerfully records this truth, "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them."

Mission boards and the local church are not the ones to tell missionaries to do a work nor who can be on their support team.

When missionaries are truly separating themselves unto the Lord and fasting and praying for Holy Spirit guidance, it will be clearly revealed to them what the Lord's directions are. There will be a support team working with them and that team is to be set up by the missionaries already working in the field.

This is so clearly seen in the appointing of fellow laborers with the Apostle Paul. Timothy had a great testimony among several churches in the area of Asia. (Acts 16:2) However, there is no Biblical evidence that the church at Antioch knew him. What is clear is that it was on Paul's heart to take Timothy with him. (Acts 16:3) It was the Apostle Paul who sent Timothy to Thessalonica. (1 Thessalonians 3:2) Paul sent Timothy and Erastus to Macedonia. (Acts 19:22) He sent Timothy to Corinth. (1 Corinthians 4:17) and Epaphroditus to Philippi. (Philippians 2:19-25) Paul was a servant of the Lord sent on missionary journeys. He prayed and denied himself for the sake of the Gospel and certainly was led of the Holy Spirit. Thus he was able to discern with whom the Lord wanted him to work with. It takes faith to trust the Lord to do His work in and through the missionaries any Body of Christ partners with.

When both the Body of Christ and missionaries are sold out on the work of the Lord they get to enjoy the benefits of that work. In Acts 14:27 we read, "On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." Acts 15:4 gives this accounting, "When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them."

In Acts 11 we read of a time when the circumcised believers criticized Peter for going to the home of uncircumcised men and having fellowship with them. (Acts 11:2) Peter explained in great detail to the Jerusalem church all that led to the ministry's calling to Cornelius's household and all that the Lord did in bringing these gentiles to truly believe in Christ. (Acts 11:1-18) All that the Lord did in the Cornelius home was a landmark in the history of the gospel's advancement. (The Pulpit Commentary) Accountability was necessary in order for the Jerusalem church to enjoy what God had done. Listen to what the Jerusalem church had to say after the full accounting of Peter, "When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God saying, 'So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.'" (Acts 11:18)

The Biblical account of Peter's call and ministry to Cornelius's household spells out so clearly God's working through a believer who is called and supervised by the Holy Spirit. Peter was a man of fasting, prayer, and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading. He clearly explained to all just what the Lord had called him to do as well as what the Lord did. This powerful obedient servant of the Lord even

took six men with him to Cornelius's household and to the church in Jerusalem so they could bear witness to the ministry that took place. (Acts 10:23; 11:12) Missionaries who are valuable to the work of the Lord will show Biblical maturity in accountability. This enables the Body of Christ to rejoice in all that God is doing through those for whom the church is fasting and praying.

Participate in financial support

Biblical Supervision enables missionaries to complete the will of God. All who have joined hands together with them enjoy the reports of the work the Lord is doing. Churches who are missionary minded may also participate in financial support of their missionaries, "For the Scripture says, 'Do not muzzle the ox while it is treading out the grain,' and 'The worker deserves his wages.'" (1 Timothy 5:18) The Holy Spirit places this passage of Scripture just after a powerful truth presented to Timothy through the great missionary, the Apostle Paul, "The elder who directs the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching. (1 Timothy 5:17) In sending out the seventy-two to every town the Lord Jesus said, "...the worker deserves his wages." (Luke 10:7)

All true missionaries are sent and commissioned by the Lord to make disciples of Christ Jesus. Christians who devote themselves to fasting, prayer, and hearing the voice of the Lord and are sold out to taking the gospel message to wherever the Lord sends them are entitled to compensation. The great missionary, the Apostle Paul, lays a principle which is not always followed as it should be regarding missions. The idea in this is to reward for work done well. (New Bible Commentary) 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."

The missionaries who are supported by any certain Body of Christ have, out of spiritual maturity, proven themselves faithful in living the Christian life, faithful in preparation in what the Lord as called them to do and faithful to pray through to completion the ministry to which the Lord has called them. They have shown themselves able to trust in God regardless of the trials of life and conflicts that come in battle for the souls of mankind. They live the life that says as the Missionary Paul when he wrote, "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many." (2 Corinthians 1:8-10)

The Holy Spirit clearly revealed the heart of Christ toward missions in the spiritual heart of missionary Charles Inwood who wrote, "The sob of millions of poor

souls sound in my ears, and this moves my heart. And I try to measure, as God helps me, something of their darkness, something of their blank misery, something of their despair. Oh, think of these needs! I say again, they are oceans depths. And, beloved, in my Master's name, Jesus Christ, I want you to think earnestly about them, until they appall you, until you cannot sleep, until you cannot criticize." (Knight's Treasury of 2,000 Illustrations)

There is complacency in many who are involved in missions and those who attend church today. This makes me think of an illustration I read in doing research for this message:

"Through the quiet streets of a fishing village that lay at the mouth of a turbulent river, a cry rang out 'Boy overboard!' Quickly a crowd gathered, and anxious eyes looked out over the rushing water to the figure of a drowning boy. Each mother's heart asked the question, 'Is he my boy?' A rope was brought, and a known strong swimmer volunteered to rescue the drowning boy. Tying one end of the rope around his waist, he threw the other end out into the crowd and then he plunged into the river. Eagerly they watched the brave swimmer fight the tides with strong strokes. After reaching the drowning boy, the swimmer yells, 'Pull us to shore!' The villagers looked at each other and someone asked, 'Who has the rope?'

The end of the rope had slipped into the water because those in the crowd did not catch the rope. Powerless to overcome the constant raging waters, the brave swimmer and the drowning little boy perished." (AMG Bible Illustrations, Logos Library System)

When the church and missionaries fail to embrace the heart of Christ, to be Biblically separated, to Biblically participate in the sending, or to provide healthy supervision and support for the work of missions, there will not be anyone whom God has called to tie on the rope of the Gospel and plunge into the lost world of souls. There will not be anyone who is on shore holding the ropes of fasting, prayer, and vision for missions.

Mr. Frodsham relates, "Sir William MacGregor, whose unflagging zeal for [lost souls] in many parts of the globe has done much for the cause of [Christ], shared his thoughts. In discussing the rapid progress of Islamic belief in West Africa, as compared to that of Christianity he said, 'Its just that every Muslim regards himself as a missionary; the majority of Christians think it is another man's work.'" (AMG Bible Illustrations, Logos Library System) The whole of Scripture presents the heart of missions the "Great Commission." Missions is a team effort and when everything is done in "a fitting and orderly way" (1 Corinthians 14:40) the Body of Christ will enjoy what is promised to the New Testament church, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witness in Jerusalem, and in all Judea

and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) The church that lives out the heart of Christ in missions will know the promise of Christ, “...And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”



CrossRoads Church's History on Missions

Vision/Support 2003 – June 2008

1 Corinthians 4:2. “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.”

CrossRoads Church has a wonderful heritage of supporting missions. The membership has been faithful for many years providing regular financial support to the following individuals and groups:

Jack Lockwood (Retired from EMF – No longer in Ministry):

Community Full Gospel and Living Word had a joint service on October 12, 2003. Promotion was done through the bulletins for three consecutive Sundays. Jack was used of the Lord to plant churches in China, Russia, South Africa and many other parts of the world. We have not seen nor heard of him since he retired.

Teen Challenge: In March 2004, men from Teen Challenge came to Living Word and Community Full Gospel. Promotion was done for three consecutive weeks in both church bulletins and the *Norton Telegram* (going into 4,600 homes each week). Pastor Terry spoke at Teen Challenge in Denver in September 2004, and a \$1,500.00 offering was given to them. Teen Challenge is a powerful ministry birthed out of a work overseen by David Wilkerson and specializes in helping those hooked on drugs break free by introducing them to Jesus Christ.

Jeremiah and Kelly Frey: In June of 2003, Jeremiah and Kelly Frey visited us. We spent three weeks promoting their coming. A special Christian fellowship dinner was planned and enjoyed by both congregations of Community Full Gospel. The Freys returned to see us in July of 2005. We spent three months promoting this ministry opportunity, and the Lord blessed them and us in several different ways. We had great fellowship, a wonderful ministry report, and a \$479.00 offering was presented to them. Our key passage of scripture, used to prepare the Body of Christ for this generosity, was 1 Corinthians 16:2 which says, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”* Jeremiah and Kelly do a powerful work in Mexico. Jeremiah teaches English classes to make a connection with those in the area he works in. He has planted a new church, and he is very faithful to keep us updated on what the Lord is doing in and through their ministry.

Mike and Faith Ball: In August 2004, we started promoting the coming of Mike and Faith Ball. We promoted this ministry opportunity for 4 weeks in the church bulletin, and an informational letter was sent out to the congregations of Living Word and Community Full Gospel churches. The service was held in the

sanctuary of Living Word church on September 19, 2004. We had a Christian fellowship supper after the service. The Balls have a work in Mexico. At the present time we have recently received news of a work that Mike is doing in Villa Garcia. He oversees a door to door ministry and then invites people to attend Bible studies. This is all I know about his ministry.

Dick and Beverly Olson of KJNP: We spent three months promoting the ministry of KJNP coming to Community Full Gospel. We sent out letters and put information in the Norton County paper. Our key passage of Scripture was 1 Corinthians 16:2, which says, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”* The service was held on October 17, 2004, in the fellowship hall of Community Full Gospel church. People from several different churches attended. The offering was over \$1,000.00 All were blessed with hearing all that the Lord had done and is doing through the ministry of KJNP. The Olsons have been with KJNP from the very beginning. KJNP sends us a news report, “The Trappe,r” every three to four months. Their radio and TV ministries are being used to proclaim God’s Word all through Alaska and even into Russia. There have been many letters sent to them saying how people have received Christ and are ministered to by the programs being broadcast out from KJNP radio and TV stations.

Haags Coming to North West Kansas and Colorado 2007: Our records show that from September 2006 – January 2007, I spent a great deal of time helping David and Donna Haag make a tour through the Kansas/Colorado EMF churches by setting up speaking dates, promoting the ministry they oversee, and the Lord led me to put together a “Prayer Guide” bathed in Scripture. Their ministry report was wonderful, the fellowship was great, and the Lord blessed with a \$705.00 offering. The Haags have been partnering with us for many, many years and have planted over forty different churches throughout South Africa. They have a Bible college that trains pastors. The graduates go on to plant churches and oversee churches already planted and overseen by David and Donna Haag. We hear from them several times a month. Their communications minister the Word of God to us and even provide material we sometimes use in our CrossRoads ads in the *Norton Telegram*.

Gideon Bibles: This ministry was initiated and has been primarily overseen by Don and Linda Malcolm. We started in June of 2007, promoting this ministry outreach through our church bulletins and Wednesday night Bible studies. We had a special Gideon speaker on Sunday, October 07, 2007. Our Key Scripture for preparing the Body of Christ to give for this ministry was First Corinthians 16:2, *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.”* We gave the congregation the opportunity to put loose pocket change in a jar in the back of the sanctuary. We took an offering on November 18, 2007, and received over \$700.00. For the special

service we had a Gideon representative from our sister church in Goodland. We continue to collect loose pocket change, averaging \$13.00 a month which is set aside as additional offering for Gideon Bibles. Linda Malcolm has given us updates on mission trips scheduled by Gideon members.

Missionary Christmas Support: September 14-15, 2007

The Ladies Group, encouraged by Jaynell Matzek, Ladies' Group president, felt led of the Lord to organize a garage sale during the "Highway 36 Sale" sponsored by the city of Norton. The vision the ladies shared was to earn money for our missionaries' Christmas gifts. The ladies' group planned for this event for over three months. Announcements and weekly bulletin inserts reminded the congregation to begin saving items and baking ahead for the sale. Donna Mock had church members begin signing up for work times several weeks prior to the date of the sale. The women planned to sell sloppy joes and baked goods on Friday afternoon and evening. They asked church members to bring their items for sale to the site early on Saturday morning. Many men and women from the congregation arrived at the park on Friday afternoon to help set up tables. Several people brought things to sell Friday as well. The sloppy joe sales and baked goods sales were excellent Friday afternoon and evening. On Saturday morning, even more church members arrived at the park early and stayed for most of the afternoon working and having fellowship. Many in the church donated baked goods and odd items for sale. When it was time to tear down the sale on Saturday evening, again there were many church members available to complete the work. The unsold items were donated to The Senior Center for their sale, which they planned to continue on Sunday. The weather conditions were cool and windy. The Lord blessed the ladies' faithfulness **and brought in \$625.00**. Jaynell Matzek, who had cooked and served the sloppy joe mixture, took the remaining hamburger mix, added ingredients and served a chili lunch for the membership after service the next day. The other ladies added deserts and salads to make a nice lunch. The luncheon was well attended by the Sunday morning worshippers. The Lord blessed this event from start to finish with sweet Christian unity and fellowship. The majority of the faithful worshippers at CrossRoads Church were involved in this event in one way or another.

TFC Connection (Lavonne Ponstein) – We have a long term partnership (20+ Years) with Lavonne, who oversees a powerful youth ministry. She sends out high quality ministry reports each month and has proved faithful in great trials. She is solid in her teachings of the Word of God and ministers to youth in Almena and Logan and is overseeing a work started by Noah Hansen in Norton who also works with youth.

Todd and Cheryl Law: (Young Life) – Young life is a ministry working with youth. I know very little about the Law's ministry. I have not seen any Biblical

ministry reports nor do I know anything about the Law's short or long term ministry history.

James Adams: I know nothing of this man's ministry nor about who he is associated with.

Times Square Church: In January of 2003, David Wilkerson found out about Bonnie's brain cancer. By June of 2003, Time Square Church made the way for Bonnie and I to get to go to New York and be ministered to by the Body of Christ at Times Square Church. Living Word Church, Community Full Gospel and others in the Norton County area helped us with extra funds so we could have what we needed in order to buy food, gas, pay for taxis, etc. In October of 2003, we partnered with Time Square in prayer for their Jamaican Crusade and Pastor's Conference. Times Square Church sent us a full twenty-one page report loaded with testimonies, the type of ministries offered and testimonies of people who came to Christ. On September 19-21, 2006, Time Square Church took time to fast and prayer for CrossRoads Church. Literally thousands of people interceded for us. On Sunday, September 30, 2007, the Body of Christ at Times Church agreed with us in prayer for Doris Stump. Thousands prayed for Doris' most heart felt prayer, "I want to go home and be with Jesus before I completely lose my mind, I want to see Jesus." On Tuesday, October 23, 2007, Doris' health began to fail, and on Wednesday, October, 31, 2007, Doris was home with Christ, where she could enjoy for eternity uninterrupted praise to her Lord, Jesus Christ. For this, we do thank the Lord. We have never financially supported Times Square Church, except to purchase ministry material at a very affordable price.

As you can see, over the last several years, I have spent a great deal of time teaching and showing by example how to oversee missions by CrossRoads Church. This history describes two examples of visions for fund raising being initiated by individuals in the body. Their visions were embraced and wonderfully supported by the church body. These are examples of the church body hearing the prompting of the Holy Spirit and taking a step of faith to complete the work. The results of both of these activities brought unity and joy to the body. The Lord has always been faithful and blessed His work when church members were faithful. As pastor, I know that the body of CrossRoads Church is prepared to take the next step to take responsibility for our current and future missions' vision. A Missions Committee, along with the pastor, will oversee our responsibilities to our missionaries. The members will communicate, pray, and assure financial support for the missionaries CrossRoads Church chooses to partner with.

Pastor Terry L. Laughlin