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AUGUST 2011

Crossings Connection

Connecting the Crossings Community

Our purpose is to be a Biblical community of God's servants going into all the world reaching the unbelieving, the unchurched, and the unconnected and nurturing each other to become reproducing Christ-followers.



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Mexico Missions Trip 2011

This month a very important event is taking place in our church body. We are sending our first short-term missions team away from our borders to another country. From July 28th to August 8th a group representing our Crossing's community will be serving in Puebla Mexico. They will be helping missionaries connect with many locals through English classes. Most do not know Christ or how his people believe or live. This certainly aligns with our mission as a church.

Two core purposes of our church are to reach and nurture as a community. If you notice the purpose statement in the upper left hand corner of this newsletter, you will see these two actions. We are a community who strives to reach out to others with the truth that has so impacted our own lives. We accomplish this through talking and walking. We are called to tell of the great works of God and the miracle of the new birth. We are also called to walk out this truth in our daily living of love and holiness. Love should characterize our

Save the Date!

Visit our church calendar @ www.crossingscommunitychurch.net

Crossings Sunday Evening Celebration

August 21st @ 4:30

Get those lawn chairs ready! A special evening of food, fellowship, worship music, games, fireworks and a baptism celebration! Please indicate what food item you will bring and how many will be joining you on our Sunday sign up. This is going to be a great celebration for everyone!

The Shepherd's Pen

Getting Away With Murder

By the time you are reading this Casey Anthony will be out of prison and will once again be a free member of society. Since Anthony's acquittal, news media outlets along with talk shows hosts and anyone else who can profit from the case have been stirring emotions and have been analyzing the justice system of the United States. Was justice served in the Casey Anthony case? Does the justice system in America work effectively? Was the media too involved in publicizing the case? These and other questions have been raised, but what can get tragically lost in the debate and controversy is the fact that an innocent child was murdered by someone.

After the case had been decided by the jury one of the alternate jurors was interviewed and asked a pointed question, "Did Casey Anthony get away with murder?" His response, "No." Of course, the alternate juror's response was based solely on the presentation of evidence given during the trial. Whether or not Casey Anthony really got away with murder...well....only God knows that for sure. I am no expert on criminal law, or the criminal justice system for that matter. There are people more qualified than me to speak on the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of our justice system, and I am more than happy to allow their voices to be heard on the matter. But that one question....that one simple question, "Did Casey Anthony get away with murder?" has really been echoing through my mind. It has really made me think.

Truth is, I do not know whether Casey Anthony murdered her daughter. But, I do know someone who appeared to get away with murder....or at least he thought he got away with murder. He had a well-devised plan...a scheme that involved sexual immorality, gross abuse of power, lying and ultimately murder. There were no cameras; no one was Twittering updates on the crime from their iphones. Nancy Grace, Bill O'Reilly, Geraldo Rivera, Rush Limbaugh, Glen Beck, Wolf Blitzer, etc... etc...none of them were there to offer commentary and opinion on the crime. No

political pundits or legal analysts to weigh in. Just a powerful king, a pregnant woman, a murdered soldier, a bold prophet and an all-knowing God.

The king I am referring to is King David. (2 Samuel 11-12) David was considered a man after God's own heart. One day, as the King of Israel, David looks out from his roof and sees a woman named Bathsheba bathing and decides that he wants to have a sexual affair with her. She conceives a child from the affair. David tries to deceive Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, by calling him back from battle so that he (Uriah) can have relations with her (Bathsheba) and that consequently, he will think the child conceived is his own. When Uriah refuses to be intimate with his wife while the men under his command are fighting, King David decides to have Uriah killed. With Uriah removed, David can now take Bathsheba as his own and presumably in David's mind, they will live happily ever after. But God raises up a prophet named Nathan who confronts David's sin. Not only had David taken another man's wife as his own, he had turned around and had her husband killed.

Had David's scandalous behavior taken place in the 21st century AD the reaction most likely would have been to fire up the tabloid presses because everyone knows that scandal sells. We can easily get so sucked into the "juicy" details of a scandal that we forget the devastating impact that sin has on people. Consider David's situation. Even though David had a repentant heart regarding his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah, he suffered the consequences for the rest of his life. David and Bathsheba's first child died. No longer did the Kingdom of Israel have peace; there was rebellion and power-grabbing among David's children for the throne. David is forced to flee his own kingdom because of the rebellion of his son Absalom. There were consequences for the sinful choices that David made. Sin always has





WOW...Our Great God is at Work!

When I share with women about the WOW ministry at Crossings, they are always surprised at the dynamic and active ministry we have. I believe the success of the women’s ministry can be attributed to the vision of the WOW team, under Paula Rohrer’s leadership, their compassion for women, and their willingness and faithfulness to follow God’s leading.

The Living Bible translation of the WOW key verse (Eph. 3:20-21) says “. . .God who by His mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of—infinately beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.” Thank you, Paula, for your dream and desire to listen to God’s voice and for your compassion for the women of Crossings. It is my prayer that God will continue to do His work “beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes” and that we would bring honor and glory to God through obedience to Him.

I count it an honor and a privilege to serve as WOW coordinator, and I welcome your suggestions concerning how we might better serve you in the future.

JoAnn Dilloway

WOW Dates to Note

Coming up in September...

Woman’s Bible Studies

Sept 7th 9:30 AM

Sept 8th 6:30 PM

WOW Special Event:

Embracing Grace

Sept 23rd @ 6:45 PM

See JoAnn Dilloway for information on the above events.

Cuisine Queens

A fun night of fellowship and food. Please contact Reva Hall for more information.

Reading Rendezvous

Aug 2nd @ 6:45
Deb Chu’s house. Please contact Deb for more info.



Summer Kids Calendar

Crossroads @ 6:30 PM

Aug 14th Scavenger Hunt

Aug 28th No Crossroads this week

Family Movie Nights @ 7:00 PM

Aug 20th (Toy Story 3)

Kid’s Play -Thursdays @ 10:00 AM Learning about God’s Creation

Aug 4th, 11th, 18th, & 25th

Coming up in September...

Pizza & Pie Party @ 10:00 AM

Saturday, September 10th

For all kids K-5th grade.

(Crossroads kids may be student helpers. See Jen Rhine if interested).

Kid’s Cooking Camp

We had a really good week! We made meals for others as we learned about service. The kids ended up creating professional looking meals that tasted wonderful! Each day we made food for the sale that we had on Thursday.

Our theme was “A Recipe for Prayer.” When you break apart the Lord’s Prayer you can see how Jesus was giving us a detailed guide for our own prayer lives. We played musical chairs as we learned about some of the names of God, we shared our own prayer requests, we watched a video with a prayer for accepting Christ into our own hearts, we watched as preschoolers were tempted by marshmallows, and we wrapped up the week having Diane Zahn come and speak.

We made \$275.30 at our food sale thanks to 25 generous customers! We shopped at Musser’s together on Friday with that money. The kids made great choices as they bought food for 2 families

Getting Away With Murder (cont.)

consequences. I wonder if David would have made the choice to indulge himself in a few fleeting moments of sexual pleasures if he would have known the lifetime of hurt and devastation that would follow his decision??? That is the dastardly thing about sin...the painful and dire consequences of sin always follow the choice to indulge in the pleasures of it. We think we can enjoy sin without paying the price, but that is a lie coming from the enemy of our souls.

There have been times in my life, particularly when I was younger, when I thought that I could get away with murder (not that I ever tried to ☺). I thought that somehow, some way, I would be exempt from suffering the consequences of sin. I have painfully learned from experience that no one gets a free pass from the consequences of sin. No one.

Did Casey Anthony get away with murder? May I suggest that that is the wrong question to ask? A better question is this, "Does anyone (including Casey Anthony) ever get away with anything?" The answer is....no. Not even the most powerful king of God's people could cover up his sin. Granted, we may never know who killed little Caylee Anthony, but God knows...and there will be consequence.

Bill Hiestand

Credit Where It's Due

I'd like to take a short break from my series on questions to acknowledge someone. As many of you know, my friend Jeff Lease recently left for Tulsa, Oklahoma. Jeff had been a huge help to the worship ministry at Crossings Community Church, and to me personally as well.

I met Jeff when Jen and I were teaching fourth grade Sunday School at a church we attended around the time we got married. We were still in college, and the church was looking for someone to take over the fourth grade class. Nobody else would do it, so we volunteered. Shortly after that, we discovered why no one else wanted to do it: that class was terrible!

And the worst kid was Jeff. I was constantly having to call his parents out of their class to come and help with him. And just to be clear, I'm not telling tales out of school here. Jeff and I have talked (and laughed) about this.

All of that to say this: never underestimate what God can do with somebody. I watched Jeff go from a horrible fourth grader to a capable and God-honoring worship leader, husband, and father. I'll miss Jeff and I wish him nothing but the best in his new endeavors.

Brad Rhine

Kid's Cooking Camp (cont.)

serviced by the Columbia Pregnancy Center. Nyla Martin came and shared about the center on Friday.

Jenny, Pam, Sue, and I were greatly blessed by the opportunity to cook with these wonderful kids this week! I was blessed to be able serve with these wonderful women.

For detailed information about each day at Cooking Camp go to <http://kids.crossingscommunitychurch.net/2011/07/cooking-camp-day-1/>.

Jen Rhine

Mexico Missions (cont.)

community of faith and motivate us to share that truth with others. When we are living out truth and love as a community, it provides a strong witness of God's grace and power to change lives.

Our team will be walking and talking as they travel to Mexico. Reaching others through words and living by an example of Christ's love. As our Crossing's community representatives serve in Mexico, we can greatly support and love them through prayer. As our team is away, I encourage you to commit yourself to pray for them each day. Use the prayer cards printed out for this purpose. A community that prays together grows together, and can accomplish great things together for God's Kingdom.

David Fitzgibbons

For additional information check us out on the web at
www.crossingscommunitychurch.net

