

CrossTalk

"If we have the opportunity to be generous with our hearts, ourselves, we have no idea of the depth and breadth of love's reach."

Margaret Cho

A Monthly Newsletter

March 2009

Seth Godin, in his book *Tribes*, says, "People want connection and growth and something new. Human beings can't help it: we need to belong." From what we feel to be true, and from the scriptures we follow, I believe Godin is right—we can't resist the rush of belonging and the thrill of the new. This new year at CrossWalk presents us with an opportunity to push ourselves farther because of the leverage we have to make things happen, the desire to do work we believe in, and our collective will. The key to our connection and growth and experiencing something new this year is our willingness to share our story. I fully believe if each one of us took the risk of sharing our personal story—not beliefs, doctrines, or end-time charts, but our experience of Jesus—we will become the kind of faith community we have always hoped for. Being connected, becoming remarkable, and experiencing something new this year begins with our willingness to share our stories, our lives, with the people around us. ~ Michael Knecht

Connecting with Our Divine Companion



It's hard to stay connected to God. We get distracted by many things—even good things. Yet even though we may feel disconnected from God, He's never far from us. The divine is real and present and al-

ways reaching out to us. Often our relationship with Him is like lovers who are with each other everyday yet find their souls far apart. If only we could stop more often to be aware our True Lover is right by our side, waiting to be with us.

If you can relate, then here's a simple opportunity CrossWalk is offering to reconnect with God. Each year Christians around the world participate in the tradition of Lent. This forty day period represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness. Many Christians look to this time as an opportunity for prayer, reflection, repentance, and acts of generosity. The Lenten season ends with the celebration of Easter and the Risen Jesus. Since our Christian brothers and sisters from other "tribes" around the world are currently practicing Lent, we wanted to capture the spirit of this practice with our own forty days of prayer and reconnection to God along with them.

Our dream is that every person in our community of faith would join us in this journey during this forty day period. Starting March 2, we are encouraging everyone to join us for "40". Over the next forty days we will intentionally take a few quiet moments each day to be with God. CrossWalk will offer daily reading and guided prayer for each of the forty days. You will be able to access these materials through our website, via email, or each

week at our Sabbath services. The main thing we'll be doing is practicing what some call "Centering Prayer."

This way of praying will enable you to take at least a few minutes of your day to simply be in God's loving embrace, free from the noise and tension of the world around you. You will discover how to deal with the hardest part of silent prayer: the many thoughts that arise from within. This form of praying will go deeper than any words can express and beyond thought and imagination. It offers a way to enter the heart of God.

The words from Psalm 46 may be familiar: "Be still and know that I am God!" Many other places in scripture offer a similar invitation to silence and a quiet consent to God's indwelling presence. Each of the forty days readings will highlight a biblical passage that calls you to prayerful reflection and reflective living. The daily readings, which come from many parts of scripture, will take you deeper in your journey with God.

If you feel the Spirit of the True Companion calling you to a closer walk, I encourage you to join us for "40". It is our hope and prayer that these forty days will transform our church and inspire us in our life God. We'll give you more details about "40" next week at our Sabbath services. You will also be able to access all of this information next week or visit www.crosswalkvillage.com.

- contributed by Jeff Gang

Women's Retreat

In today's world of high fashion, designer clothes and ladies competing against one another on reality shows, it seems like women are being bombarded by images telling them who they should be and how they should act. Sometimes we forget that what is portrayed by television, magazines, and even in music, is not the reality. Women are more than just lipstick, flashy clothes and pretty legs. Women are people who are eager to find who they are, what their purpose is, and how they can make a difference in the world. Cosmopolitan, Vogue, and other such media may not provide meaningful answers to life's questions. Sure, there may be some great make-up tips and maybe even advice about how to deal with a difficult relationship, but there is a great chance that the authors of this advice did not seek out the guidance of God.

In addition to the media, we may be identifying ourselves by our family, past experiences or our feelings at the present time. Many other women are experiencing this as well. In contrast, who does God say that we are?

What does He desire for our lives? If you desire the guidance of God in your life and to be surrounded by other women who are seeking this as well, join us on Sabbath, March 28, 2009 for a day where we will be exploring the perspective of the greatest author and designer known...God!

CrossWalk will be having its first ever Women's Retreat at the Carriage House in Redlands, also known as Prospect Park. We encourage every woman at CrossWalk to purchase tickets and join us for this day of encouragement and wisdom. We will meet from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Tickets are \$25 per person and \$20 for students (with ID). Final registration must be completed by Tuesday, March 24. We will be having a continental breakfast, craft, speaker, catered lunch and the opportunity for fun and connection with other women and spiritual rejuvenation. You can find registration forms in the church foyer on Sabbaths or call the church office at 909-796-3000 ext. 103.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

Calendar Highlights

Social Activities

7 March	Blue Jean Sabbath	1:00 pm
20 March	Watoto Chirdrens Choir	7:00 pm
21 March	i2i Meeting	1:30 pm
22 March	i2i Meeting	10:00 am
28 March	Women's Retreat	9:00 am

Praise & Worship Services

27 March	Friday Nite Praise	7:30 pm
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Leadership Meetings

Staff Meeting:	Every Tuesday	9:15 am
Vine Teachers Meeting:		7:00 pm
4 March		
Leadership Meeting:		
25 March		7:00 pm

Saturday Worship is held at 9:00 am and 11:30 am. ← The Vine classes start at 10:20 am and go to 11:20 am.

Volunteers Needed



Video Operators

Each week our worship service is broadcasted live to over 80 countries, and each month hundreds of people download sermons from our website. To make this happen on a weekly/monthly basis we need help in the video ministry. If you would like to volunteer in this ministry, send an email (including contact info) to: video@crosswalkvillage.com.

Video Editing

We are in need of volunteers who can help edit our weekly sermon videos, podcasts, and worship videos. If you would like to volunteer or learn how to edit, send an email (including contact info) to: video@crosswalkvillage.com.

Graphic Designers

If you have the talent of graphic design, your help is needed at CrossWalk. From images and designs for the website to our print materials, we need your creativity to help us communicate more effectively. To volunteer in this ministry, send an email (including contact information) to: info@crosswalkvillage.com

New Blue Jean Sabbath Ideas

If you have a project or an idea that you would like to lead out in for an upcoming Blue Jean Sabbath, please contact Cheryl Lake at: cheryl@crosswalkvillage.com or 909.796.3000 ext. 108.

Vine Teachers

We're always in need of Vine Teachers for our Elementary classes (First Steps thru Kids Connection). You can make a huge difference in the lives of our children here at CrossWalk, plus help our dedicated teachers & leaders who keep the Vine going each week. (You don't have to be a parent to help out!). For more information, contact Pastor Jeff at jeff@crosswalkvillage.com or 909.796.3000 x. 101.

- contributed by Christianne Duarte

Contributors to CrossTalk: Christianne Duarte, Jamie Perchez, Michael Knecht, Jeff Gang

Getting To Know You



What is your name and occupation?

My name is Michelle Johnson and I'm a Radiation therapist at Loma Linda's Proton Center.

What are your hobbies?

Photography, painting, traveling/sight- seeing, and dancing.

What is one word that describes you?

Driven

How long have you been a part of crosswalk?

Since 2002, when it was at Azure Hills Church.

What do you like about CrossWalk?

That the focus is more on how much we love and help our neighbors and not judging them.

Is there anything you think could make CrossWalk better?

We need more social activities, which Crosswalk is currently working on improving.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

Community Events



Friday, March 6 @ 7:30 pm

Concert: Kutless at Sunrise Church in Rialto. Kutless is a Christian Hard Rock/Alternative Rock Band formed in 2000. Tickets are \$15. For more information call (909) 875-5566 ext. 423.

Thursday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm

Concert: Leeland at Cross Point Church in Chino. All proceeds will go to BEAUTIFUL::AFRICA, which is a non-profit initiative to support Beautiful Gate, a care and training center for vulnerable children and families in Lesotho, Africa. Ticket cost is \$12 pre-sale & \$15 at the door. For more information call (909) 606-9833.

Friday, March 20 @ 7:00 pm

Concert: Newsboys at The Packinghouse in Redlands. Tickets are \$25 - Floor or \$20 - Balcony (4+ tickets are \$15 each. Call for discount.) For more information call (909) 793-8744.

Thursday, March 26 @ 7:00 pm

Concert: Mercy Me with Jeremy Camp at Citizens Business Bank Arena in Ontario. Tickets are \$10 at the door. Parking is \$10.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

Intersect Vine Class



With so many things going on in the lives of those attending college, it's easy to forget about one's walk with God. Intersect, the new Vine class, centers around the spiritual growth of those in this group. If you're looking for peers who are seeking God as well, or are interested in meeting new people, stop by the new Intersect Vine Class. This class was created for the average college-age person. Can you think of a better way to communicate with others like you than over coffee and coffee cakes in an environment that is relaxed while having conversation that is spiritually enlightening? You will find us at the far north end of the North Building. We meet every Sabbath morning during the regular Vine time, 10:20 am.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

(Cont.-Volunteers Needed)

Space for God

I am looking for five or six people who are interested in being trained to lead "Space for God" groups. These will be 9 week, small, spiritual formation groups focusing on learning to make space for God in our lives. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jeff Gang at jeff@crosswalkvillage.com or call 909.796.3000 x. 101. I can answer questions or we can set up an interview.

CrossTalk Writers

If you are interested in writing for CrossTalk or want to help with newsletter ideas, please contact Christianne Duarte at christianne@crosswalkvillage.com or 909-796-3000 x.103.