

# CrossTalk

“Rely on your own strength of body and soul. Take for your star self-reliance, faith, honesty and industry. Don't take too much advice — keep at the helm and steer your own ship, and remember that the great art of commanding is to take a fair share of the work. Fire above the mark you intend to hit. Energy, invincible determination with the right motive, are the levers that move the world.”

~Noah Porter

## A Monthly Newsletter

July 2009

Consistently throughout scripture God's people are called to 'go.' To 'go forward,' 'go up,' 'go out,' 'go to.' Constant movement is the image painted in the stories and lives of the people we read about in the bible. At the beginning of May we challenged ourselves to read through the entire bible in 90 days. If you joined us in this journey I hope this image of movement has become more clear. One of the reasons why I believe we are called to 'go' is to keep us from settling down in the moment and getting comfortable with things as they are. I believe George Ball words are wise: "nostalgia is a seductive liar." Looking back 'the good old days,' can keep us from 'going to' the place where God is leading. While we never want to forget how God has led us in the past, our expectation in the present is for God to move us forward. As we enjoy this summer of vacations and travel and time spent with loved ones, my hope is for each of us to be renewed with a sense of God's calling and mission of where he wants our community to 'go' next. ~ Michael Knecht

## Good Samaritans in Blue Jeans

Sculptor Alan Collins' bronze statuary group near the Loma Linda University School of Dentistry is a favorite site for visitors to the LLU campus. It depicts one of Jesus' best-loved parables, The Good Samaritan. You know the story: a man traveling on the Jericho road is ambushed, beaten, robbed and left for dead. Along comes a priest and then a Levite, and both ignore the plight of the victim, hurrying to, Jerusalem, ironically, to do "God's work" at the temple. Then in a clever twist Jesus surprises his audience who expects the typical Priest-Levite-Israelite sequence with the introduction of a Samaritan outsider instead. This man reaches across the cultural, socioeconomic, and religious divides, rolls up his sleeves, helps the poor man, and provides for his health care as well as room and board.

As with all of Jesus' parables, this one has multiple layers of meaning and multiple applications to daily life. However, one inescapable point is that organized religion should not, indeed cannot, take the place of individual compassion and involvement in the lives of others. Perhaps organized religion in its most negative form can actually impede the progress of doing God's work, as shown by the priest and Levite hurrying on to do their temple duties while ignoring the obvious need in front of them. They could not "defile" themselves by touching the victim and thus become unfit to discharge their holy duties. Ironically, modern research on volunteerism

seems to substantiate this pattern in those associated with church organizations. The studies show that when confronted with a dire human need church-going people are less inclined to actually roll up their sleeves, get down, and help. Instead, they rely on their contributions to a church-related agency or department to address the need. "Outsiders" tend to more readily respond to the need. It's called The Good Samaritan Syndrome.

CrossWalk must never succumb to this syndrome. As we learn to love well, the mindset and altruism of the Good Samaritan must be our mindset. Jesus' parable illustrates three distinct mindsets which are as evident today as in His time: The thieves' mindset was "What you have is mine. I'll take it!" The attitude of the priest and the Levite was "What I have is mine. I'll keep it." The Samaritan's mindset was "What I have is ours. I'll share it." This is Jesus' approach and it should be ours both as a CrossWalk family and as individuals. Blue Jean Sabbaths at CrossWalk are opportunities for us to demonstrate that doctrine need not be a hindrance to doing God's work, that we can be a force for good in our local and global communities. Service to our fellow human beings comes not in spite of, but because of our beliefs. Furthermore, as individuals we can roll up our sleeves and do personally what CrossWalk endeavors to do collectively. We can all be Good Samaritans in blue jeans.

- contributed by Horace Alexander / Chair of the 2009 Leadership Team

## Leadership Team 2009



Top row, left to right: Ector Mojica, Danny Fontoura, Ray Verde, Darla Johnson, Horace Alexander  
Bottom row, left to right: Naveen Samuel, Kim Sorensen, Krista Vigna, Jana Boyd, Desiree Santos-Kho

## Calendar Highlights

### Social Activities

**18 July** Beach Vespers 3:00 pm

### Praise & Worship Services

**31 July** Friday Nite Praise 7:30 pm

### Leadership Meetings

**Staff Meeting:** Every Tuesday 9:15 am

**Leadership Meeting:**  
22 July 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.

### Wade's Farewell Party



Our farewell Sabbath with Wade was a sad one. It truly is hard to understand why Wade was with us for such a short period of time. Nonetheless, he encouraged and inspired so many in his short time with CrossWalk. On Sabbath, June 27, after second service members were served delicious food from Cuca's. The big room is where memories and thanks were shared. After gathering everyone together and finding Wade, the farewell began.

To start it off, there was a little video comprised of pictures of both J-walk and Boardwalk classes and ending with pictures of the teachers of both classes along with a couple of the volunteers. At the end of the video was a short video of Wade snowboarding and an attempt at a little jump.

With the video over, Pastor Mike had an open mic of sorts, allowing anyone to come up and tell Pastor Wade how he changed or encouraged him or her. For some holding back tears was not easy. When everyone was done sharing, Wade said a little something himself. Pastor Mike then began the gift giving. From the J-walk and Boardwalk classes he was given a photo collage in a frame that was signed by both classes and some volunteers. From the Intersect Vine, from which many had been recruited as volunteers for the youth ministry, he was given a mug from Starbucks that the class signed. And from the church he was given an electronic book reader and an amazon gift card with which he can purchase stories for the reader.

Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." As hard as it may be to adjust, it's important to understand that God already knew His plan for Wade at CrossWalk and that Wade is needed elsewhere. May his impact be just as great or greater at his new church, and may he change more lives there.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

Contributors to CrossTalk: Christianne Duarte, Jamie Perchez, Michael Knecht, Horace Alexander

### Community Events



#### Redlands Bowl Summer Music Festival

Admission: Free  
Now through August 21  
All shows begin at 8:15 p.m.

#### San Bernardino Museum

- July 5 - Courtyard Concert by Buffalo Blues Band
- The Art of Ramon Contreras  
Now through October 25
- Gadgets & Gizmos: Inventing The Modern World  
Now through November 1

Admission into museum: Adults \$6, Kids 5-12 \$4, under 5 free

#### 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Redlands

- A picnic at Sylvan Park begins at 10 a.m.
- The parade begins at 3:30 p.m. at Franklin Elementary and winds around Sylvan Park
- Fireworks at the University of Redlands - Ceremony begins at 7 p.m. and fireworks begin at 9 p.m.
- Admission: \$10 at the gate, kids under 3 free

#### Jars of Clay Concert

Jars of Clay with Phil Wickham will be performing at The Packing House in Redlands on July 24.

#### LifeHouse Theater

Now through August 2  
Zorro will be playing. For more information call 909-335-3037.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

### Getting to Know You



#### Name and Occupation:

Alice Lim, Pharmacist.

#### Three words that best describe you:

I don't like describing myself; however, if I had to, I would say-hates limelight, can be nervous as a Chihuahua, and has compassion towards others.

#### How long have you attended CrossWalk?

Physically, since the beginning. I was tired and burnt out working for a small church because I was trying to do things on my own strength and not God's. Consequently, I came to CrossWalk to be a wall flower and not be noticed. But with the mission of CrossWalk being "learning to love well," I could not quiet God from talking to me. His voice just got louder and louder and I had to get involved. I started attending Crosswalk mentally, emotionally, and physically at least two years ago.

#### How are you an active member at CrossWalk?

I work with J-Walk (Junior High kids). I help teach Sabbath school lessons. I am also there to support other teachers and especially kids. All of the kids attending J-Walk are very special.

#### With Wade leaving, what are your hopes for members of this church in helping with the success of the youth ministry?

As Pastor Wade said, have vision as to where we want our mission to go, see a larger picture of the youth ministry than our little corner, support each other, and step up to the plate. At least I think he said these things in uncertain terms.

- contributed by Jamie Perchez

### Volunteers Needed



#### Beach Vespers

It's summer time again and we are getting ready to start up our annual beach vespers. We are looking for volunteers to help with loading up the gear and holding our spot at the beach. This is a great chance to get involved in our community and spend a whole day at the beach swimming, playing volleyball or just relaxing. If you are interested in helping, please contact Christianne, 909-796-3000 or [christianne@crosswalkvillage.com](mailto:christianne@crosswalkvillage.com).

#### Got Skills?

CrossWalk could use a few good volunteers. If you have painting, plumbing, carpentry or electrical experience and know-how, please contact Phil Mathew at 909-963-2497 or email him at [phil@crosswalkvillage.com](mailto:phil@crosswalkvillage.com).

#### CrossTalk Newsletter

If you are interested in writing for CrossTalk (our bi-monthly newsletter) or have article ideas, please contact Christianne at 909-796-3000 ext.103 or [christianne@crosswalkvillage.com](mailto:christianne@crosswalkvillage.com).