

# *the* SCRIBE

STORIES OF COMPASSION & HOPE

QUARTERLY | FREE

RECORDING WHAT GOD IS  
DOING IN & THROUGH THE  
PEOPLE OF CROSSROADS

/01 — WINTER 2024

"FOLLOWING HIM TOGETHER"

VISION

'24

Pastor Dan looks at  
the year ahead and  
expects God to do  
great things! Pg. 4

## UNITED BY A VISION

Find out what lies at the core of the CrossRoads  
community; a shared commitment to make an  
impact of eternal significance through loving our  
neighbours, near and far. Pg. 16

Plus many more amazing God stories!

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## IT'S ALL GOOD STUFF!

### WELCOME TO THE SCRIBE!

THIS IS THE INAUGURAL EDITION OF THIS NEW PUBLICATION. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING THE STORIES OF HOW GOD IS WORKING IN OUR COMMUNITY!



**4**

### VISION

PASTOR DAN

**6**

### SUCCESSION

PRAYER GUIDE

**7**

### BASECAMP

MEN'S RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS

**8**

### JAQI

STAFF PROFILE

**10**

### ALPHA

FAITH FUEL

**12**

### NICOLE

A TESTIMONY OF HOPE

**15**

### GIVING

BUDGET UPDATE

**16**

### IMPACT

THE HEART OF CROSSROADS

**18**

### WALLY

STAFF PROFILE

**20**

### MISSIONS

UPDATES

**22**

### THE BIBLE

A LIVING TAPESTRY

**24**

### EASTER

LET'S CELEBRATE!

**25**

### NEW?

WE WANT TO MEET YOU!

**26**

### LOVE

MARRIAGE ISN'T EASY

**27**

### PRAY

START THE DAY OFF RIGHT

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## SEND US YOUR STORY!

WHAT'S GOD DOING IN YOUR LIFE? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! LET US KNOW HOW WE CAN REACH YOU — PLEASE EMAIL US AT: COMMUNICATIONS@CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA OR PHONE: 403-347-6425.

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# BETHANKFUL.



"AND WHATEVER YOU DO,  
IN WORD OR DEED, DO  
EVERYTHING IN THE NAME  
OF THE LORD JESUS, GIVING  
THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER  
THROUGH HIM." COL. 3:17

# VISION

## ANTICIPATING GREATNESS

■  
A CHAT WITH PASTOR  
DAN ON WHAT'S  
AHEAD FOR 2024



**DAN  
COCHRANE**

Senior Pastor



## A YEAR OF TRANSITION, GROWTH, & SPIRIT-LED DECISIONS

Now, here's a biggie for 2024—transition. We're talking about potential changes in a few different areas of our leadership. But hold up, these are great transitions. We want to move in a direction that feels good to us and the Holy Spirit. We need to be in sync and feel God's heartbeat on this. It's about positioning ourselves for growth, not just in numbers but spiritually too.

And so, we've got some serious praying to do. We need God's guidance in this year of transition. We've put together some prayer points for all of us to use. These are like our signposts during this faith journey. We're talking discernment, unity, patience, wisdom, and encouragement—all things we'll need. So, my friends, let's pray purposefully. Let's surrender our preferences and trust that God's got the perfect people to lead us into the future of CrossRoads.

Well, my friends, that's how we see our road-map for the beginning of 2024; a season brimming with attempts of great things and a whole lot of expectancy for God's faithfulness. Now, take these thoughts with you, start praying and let's move forward making 2024 a year etched in our CrossRoads story.

~DAN

# '24

### HEY EVERYONE,

As I sit here, coffee in hand, thinking about what's in store for us in 2024, I can't help but feel excited. I'm anticipating a year where we set out to attempt some pretty great things for God. And you know what? We're not just wishful thinkers; I know that we can also expect great things from Him too. During our recent New Year's Eve event, I shared with you what was on my heart about a few things, and we prayed about them together. Now, I want to grab a highlighter, so to speak, and go over those points again. Let's really grasp them, pray earnestly about them, and roll up our sleeves to put them into action as a unified church family in the upcoming months of the new year.

## PRAYING & SHARING WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

First off, let's keep the prayers flowing for our neighbours and friends. You've heard me say this before, but it's worth repeating. We need to ask God for a fresh passion for the people we've been praying for, that they'd find their way into God's family. Our communities are full of people that need compassion and hope, they need Jesus. And they need a place to belong and feel loved and we're able to provide just that. Remember how this church started growing way back? Exactly, by praying for the people that God has put on our hearts. That's our cue for 2024.

What else can you do? Well, let's step up our game. Invite your friends and neighbours to things where they can

soak up some good truths. Easter is coming up, and we've got "God's Big Story" in the pipeline—a perfect opportunity to invite them to church. Also, don't be afraid to open up your homes. Be bold; ask them for coffee, a meal, or even a football game. Let's make our homes Kingdom hubs again, a place where the gospel is shared, just like they did so often back in the Book of Acts. And share your stories! Let's find ways to do it, whether it's a minute-longer conversation, time over coffee or something you post on social media. Stories encourage others by helping them see that you're an everyday person just like them, trying to figure out how to do life but with Jesus' help.

So, let's pray for our neighbours and friends, invite them into our homes and share our stories with them.

## STIRRING UP UNITY IN THE CHURCH & CITY

Next on my heart is unity—not just here at CrossRoads but between all of the churches in Central Alberta. Sure, COVID definitely threw us some curve-balls, but what if we see it as God reshaping the way we do church? Instead of dwelling on the fractures, let's turn it into making room for more people and more support. Pray for unity within the church community, and when you see someone from another church, be warm, friendly, and supportive or even if you're just driving by another church, pray for their ministry there. Let's respect our diversity; every church has its own unique calling. Ours seems to be reaching beyond our walls and inviting others to do life with us, and that's something to celebrate.



# SUCCESSION PRAYER GUIDE

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**JOIN US IN  
PURPOSEFUL PRAYER  
AS WE EARNESTLY SEEK  
GOD'S GUIDANCE.**

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PRAYER POINTS FOR OUR  
CHURCH BOARD AND THE  
SEARCH COMMITTEES:

■

#### **DISCERNMENT**

Lord, we pray that our search processes become a spiritual exercise in discernment. May the decisions of our leaders be guided by Your counsel rather than their personal desires, seeking Your wisdom at every step.

■

#### **PATIENCE**

Help them, Lord, to trust in Your timing and resist the temptation to hastily settle for any candidates who may not be clearly from You. May patience be their strength as they await Your perfect provision.

■

#### **WISDOM**

Grant our leaders wisdom as they listen to Your voice and the collective heartbeat of our congregation. Help them to clearly discern and understand Your plan for us here at CrossRoads.

■

#### **ENCOURAGEMENT**

Surround our Board and Search Committees with Your comforting presence. As the process unfolds and responsibilities weigh heavy, infuse them with encouragement and the assurance of Your guiding hand.

PRAYER POINTS FOR OUR  
CONGREGATION AND  
CHURCH STAFF:

■

#### **READINESS**

Prepare our hearts, O Lord, to receive the new leaders with open minds and trust in Your guidance. May we sense Your leading during this time of transition.

■

#### **UNITY**

Foster unity among us, both in our discernment process and in anticipation of the future. Help us to stand together in agreement on who You have chosen for CrossRoads.

■

#### **PATIENCE**

Grant us patience as we wait and wonder. In our waiting, may our confidence be firmly anchored in Your faithfulness to provide the right people to lead us forward.

■

#### **OPENNESS**

Cultivate a spirit of welcome within our church family. May we embrace our new leaders with open hearts and open arms, ready to embark on this journey together as one united body.

# SEEK

# BUILDING BONDS & DEEPENING FAITH



## BASECAMP 2023 SETS THE BAR FOR MEN'S MINISTRY

■ MEN'S RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS, RIVERS EDGE CAMP

In October, our Community Life Ministry orchestrated an impactful weekend for men known as Basecamp, led by Jordan Cavanaugh, Pastor of Community Life, and Kiel Uchtenhagen, Director of Connecting at CrossRoads. Aptly named, Basecamp aimed to provide a space for men to hit pause on life's demands, foster connections, seek encouragement, and collectively embark on their journey of faith.

Reflecting on the event, Kiel shared his excitement as the weekend unfolded: "We knew there was a need among the guys in our church, but what happened on that opening night was nothing short of a miracle for the beginning of such an event. Every single group was engaged in conversation, and 85 men were sharing openly, turning the cafeteria into a sanctuary. It was a God moment where time stood still, setting the tone for an unforgettable weekend."

Basecamp lived up to its promise, creating an atmosphere of openness and camaraderie. Kiel acknowledged the collaborative effort, stating, "There

was a sense that you could sit down with anyone as if they were an old friend. The flexibility in the schedule allowed guys to connect in their preferred ways – be it sports, cards, board games, or just enjoying a coffee together."

Throughout the weekend, the collective efforts of the leaders and their team of volunteers fostered cross-generational unity, making Basecamp 2023 a resounding success. As Kiel shared, "The Lord's fingerprints were evident as memories were made, community was built, and faith was deepened. It was an incredible weekend, and now we're gearing up for an even more memorable Basecamp 2024."

Kiel expressed gratitude and called for continued support, saying, "We couldn't have asked for a better weekend, and we're ready to take on the challenge of preparing for next year. Your prayers are appreciated as we continue to uplift the Men's Ministry here at CrossRoads Church. Don't miss out – the anticipation for next year is already building!"

# JAQI

## NURTURING JOY & FAITH BEHIND THE SCENES

STAFF HIGHLIGHT



JAQI TIECHROEB

WE HAD A QUICK CHAT WITH **JAQI TIECHROEB**, OUR VIBRANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ASSISTANT HERE AT CROSSROADS AND A CHERISHED MEMBER OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY. JAQI HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN SHAPING THE WARMTH AND JOY THAT DEFINES OUR COMMUNITY. HERE'S A GLIMPSE INTO JAQI'S BUSTLING WORK LIFE AND THE PASSION WITH WHICH SHE SERVES.

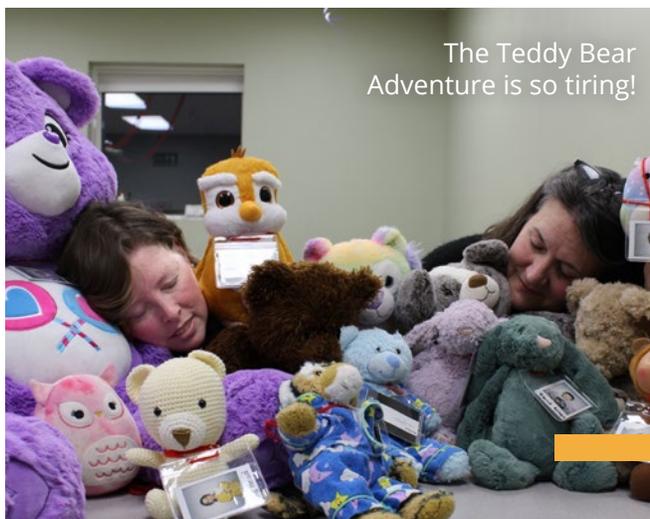
### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF THE CROSSROADS CHURCH TEAM, AND WHAT INITIALLY DREW YOU TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY?

In 2013, we moved to Red Deer and began attending CrossRoads due to its close proximity to our home. Volunteering became a natural way for me to connect with different families, getting to know parents and kids alike. Pastors Brenda and Tammy both saw my potential so they recruited me for an upcoming staff position. I started as the curriculum coordinator, blending my 13 years of teaching experience with my passion for working with kids.

### SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR WEEKLY RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE SKILLS YOU BRING TO THE ROLE.

One of my primary roles involves the preparation of the Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) curriculum for ages six months to pre-kindergarten, adapting the Wonder Ink curriculum for our Sunday program. I edit and customize it, making sure the crafts, activities and lessons are well-suited for all of our kids. I also assist our K-4 Coordinator, with preparation of hundreds of coloring sheets and other materials ensuring it's ready and set up in their rooms each week. And decorating the kids areas is a favorite part of my role, creating a vibrant and inviting environment that enhances the theme of our programs.

The Teddy Bear Adventure is so tiring!





Jaqi & the Tiechroeb family.

Organizing volunteers for the ECM is another key responsibility. From recruiting to sending out emails and coordinating schedules, I facilitate a smooth volunteer experience.

I'm also part of the welcome hospitality team at each service on Sundays. I lead an amazing volunteer team that greets the kids and their parents with a warm welcome and uses technology to ensure the check-in process is safe and smooth. We've introduced hospitality bags for new families, containing program information, a bracelet that says, "I'm a child of God", a cookie, and a crossword puzzle, creating an inviting atmosphere.

And finally, I handle updating our ECM content on the website and Facebook, and also provide support to Pastor Tammy with special events like child dedications.

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT CROSSROADS, AND HOW DOES YOUR ROLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH'S OVERALL MISSION?**

The dynamic nature of each day at CrossRoads keeps me energized. My schedule is flexible allowing me to adapt to the varied needs and timelines of our ministry efforts. I take pleasure

in the diversity in my role and how I'm able to use my creativity in each area that I'm involved with.

However, my deepest love lies in connecting with the kids and their families. Witnessing the way kids express their love for Jesus brings me so much joy! It's a privilege to contribute to a vibrant, loving atmosphere where our volunteers build lasting connections with families, fostering a sense of comfort and confidence. When parents share the impact of our work on their children, it reinforces the significance of bringing Jesus into their homes, making it all the more worthwhile.

# FUN FACTS

## ABOUT JAQI



Jaqi had a horse accident when she was 12 and broke her skull when she fell off the horse. She had to have surgery to get the pieces out of the fluid around her brain.



Jaqi has gone skydiving. She went solo and had a short free-fall. She said it was "soooooo fun!" Jaqi says she might do it again with one of her daughters someday.

# TRANSFORMING LIVES

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**AT THE CORE OF CROSSROADS CHURCH LIES A RESOUNDING VISION:** *"We want to give everyone in Central Alberta an opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and, by following Him together, impact the world with compassion and hope."* **ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH OUR KEY STEPS TO DO THIS?**



**ENGAGE IN  
MINUTE-LONGER  
CONVERSATIONS**



**PRAY FOR THREE  
INDIVIDUALS YET  
TO KNOW JESUS**



**OPEN OUR  
HOMES TO  
OTHERS**

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If you're not already practicing these habits, we'd encourage you to make them a part of your everyday life and join us impacting Central Alberta together. If you have already been creating space in conversations, praying for the lost, and opening your home, but still find traditional "evangelism" challenging, we've got a powerful tool for you - it's called Alpha.

## **WHAT IS ALPHA? A COMMUNAL FAITH JOURNEY!**

Alpha is tailored for those exploring Christian faith, a transformative journey filled with life's profound questions:

- *Is There More To Life Than This?*
- *Who Is Jesus?*
- *How Does God Guide Us?*
- *What About The Church?*

Alpha offers a Christian perspective on relevant topics in a highly relational and invitational format. Attendees will journey with each other as they gather around tables to share a meal, watch insightful videos, and engage in judgment-free conversations. No question is too big or too small. This 11-week program also includes a weekend retreat for extended learning.

## **TURNING INTIMIDATION INTO INVITATION: ALPHA IS THE KEY!**

Alpha has been instrumental in providing a space for people to explore faith, grow as a disciple of Jesus, and bring transformation to their lives. The same transformation you yearn for in your friends, family, or your own life. As you pray for your three people, consider extending a personal invite to join Alpha. And don't forget, it's not just about them signing up, it's about journeying alongside those you care about.

## **SPRING INTO ACTION: ALPHA IN YOUR HOME!**

This spring, we're thrilled to shift Alpha to smaller home groups, fostering a more intimate setting. Witness the Lord's movement in Central Alberta and become a part of it. Who in your life needs an invite?

If you're eager to host Alpha in your home this spring, we provide resources and training for a successful experience. Reach out to Pastor Jordan Cavanaugh at [jordanc@crossroadschurch.ca](mailto:jordanc@crossroadschurch.ca), and let's connect to shape this transformative journey together.

Unleash the power of invitation with Alpha - impact lives, walk alongside friends, and make Central Alberta resonate with compassion and hope!

# ALPHA



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**ALPHA ISN'T JUST  
A COURSE; IT'S A  
PERSONAL INVITATION  
TO A FAITH-FUELED  
JOURNEY!**

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Hi, I'm Dave. I grew up in a Christian home, but as life went on my faith became less of a priority and at the age of 15 I stopped going to church. Through the passing years, I achieved a lot of goals but there was still a void. In 2015, my spiritual journey led me to Cross-Roads Church, where I discovered Alpha—a missing puzzle piece that connected my childhood teachings of the Bible with a personal relationship to Jesus.

My experience was so impactful that I just had to jump in and volunteer. Alpha extends beyond

Christianity 101—it's an amazing program reaching people for Jesus all over the world. Alpha Canada says that 80% of attendees come because their friend invited them and I've seen this in action personally.

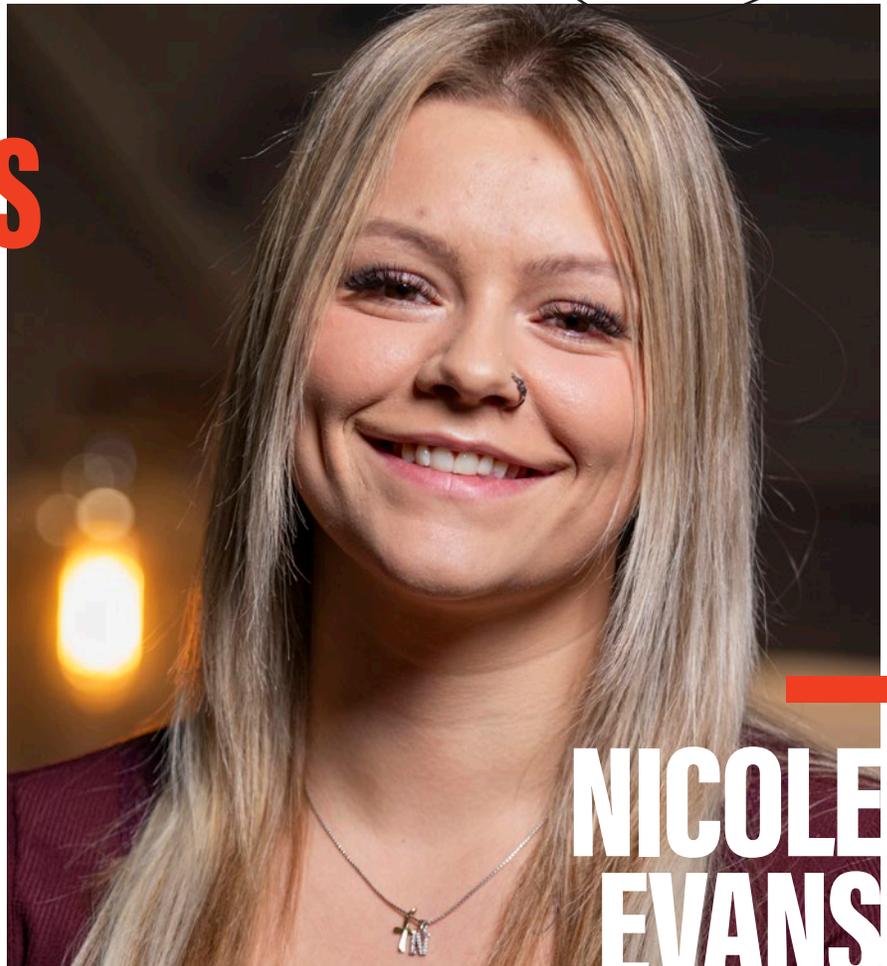
Alpha thrives on relationships and the shared exploration of life's biggest questions. It's your turn to extend a life-changing invite—who will you bring to Alpha? Don't just attend; become a part of someone's profound discovery. Embark on this transformative journey together with Alpha.

**NEW TO CHRISTIANITY? TRY ALPHA.**

# HOPE

A JOURNEY  
OF FAITH &  
REDEMPTION

## FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT



**NICOLE  
EVANS**

### NICOLE'S STORY

In a recent interview, Denise Snyder, our Pastor of Spiritual Formation, sat down with Nicole Evans, a young woman who embraced her newfound faith and was recently baptized here at CrossRoads Church.

Nicole's journey is one of redemption and transformation, from a tumultuous past marked by addiction and despair to a life now grounded in faith, hope, and purpose in Jesus Christ.

Nicole began her story by sharing that she grew up knowing a bit about God, but it had never taken root in her heart. As she grew older, life took unexpected turns, leading her down a path of experimentation, addiction, and isolation. Despite attending church

groups in her youth, Nicole drifted away from her Christian roots as she moved away from her hometown and encountered a new set of challenges in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

In Chilliwack, Nicole found herself entangled with the wrong crowd, leading to experimentation with drugs and a descent into addiction. Her life became a chaotic spiral of destructive habits, strained relationships, and an overall sense of hopelessness. Despite

the turmoil, Nicole's journey towards redemption began when her car broke down, and she found an unexpected connection at an auto shop.

Amidst the breakdown of her car, Nicole met a kind older man named Mike. Their conversation, initially about cars, quickly transformed into a deeper discussion about life, struggles, and faith. While Nicole initially declined financial help for her vehicle, Mike offered her a New Testament and a card for a Christian camp, extending an invitation for a transformative journey.

Although Nicole initially hesitated, Mike's persistent prayers and encouragement continued. Even after exchanging numbers, Nicole didn't immediately accept the offers for support. However, Mike's unwavering commitment to praying for her daily became a consistent thread in her life, providing a glimmer of hope in the darkness.

Nicole's journey through recovery marked a turning point. She faced the challenges of addiction head-on, attending a Christian-based recovery house where her faith started to take root. Attending church services became a regular practice, and gradually, her family joined her on this spiritual journey.

Nicole's decision to get baptized symbolized a profound transformation in her life. It was a choice made alongside her mother and sister, uniting the family in faith. This public declaration of faith marked a new chapter for Nicole, who expressed a deep sense of readiness and assurance in her commitment to Christ.

Nicole's journey didn't end with recovery and baptism; it extended into her daily life. She pursued education, became a mother, and found purpose in helping high-risk populations through her work in a shelter. Nicole's desire is to emulate the example set by Mike, acting as a beacon of hope and faith to those in need.

As Nicole reflects on her journey, she offers encouragement to those considering baptism or reconnecting with their faith. She emphasizes that the timing will become clear when one is ready. Her advice is rooted in the belief that, regardless of past mistakes or current circumstances, everyone is deserving of God's grace and can take steps toward spiritual growth.

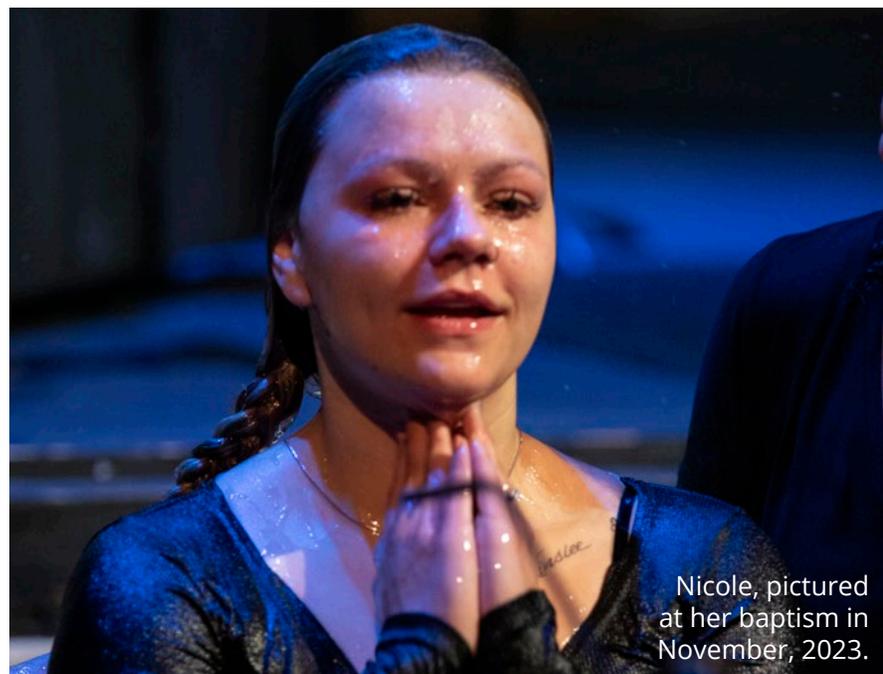
We're so grateful for Nicole's openness and vulnerability in sharing her inspiring story. In a big church like CrossRoads, stories like Nicole's help us connect on a deeper level. Pastor

Denise encourages us to pray for those taking the step of baptism. Nicole's journey, marked by faith, perseverance, and transformation, serves as a reminder that each individual's path is unique, yet all are woven into the tapestry of God's redemptive work in our world.

If you see Nicole around, take a moment to thank her for sharing this incredible testimony.

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ARE YOU CONSIDERING IF YOU SHOULD GET BAPTIZED?  
MORE INFO AVAILABLE AT:  
[CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA/BAPTISM](https://CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA/BAPTISM)



Nicole, pictured at her baptism in November, 2023.

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**AN INSPIRING STORY OF HOW A STRANGER'S UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO PRAYING FOR NICOLE DAILY BECAME A CONSISTENT THREAD IN HER LIFE, PROVIDING A GLIMMER OF HOPE IN THE DARKNESS.**

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# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



**WED | JAN 24 | 7:00PM**

[crossroadschurch.ca/congregationalmtg](http://crossroadschurch.ca/congregationalmtg)



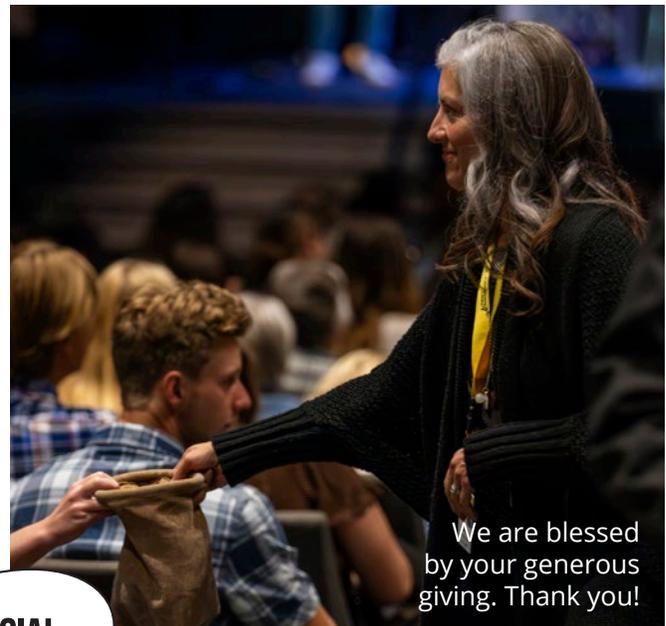
# BAPTISM

STEP OUT IN OBEDIENCE

Sunday, March 24

[crossroadschurch.ca/baptism](http://crossroadschurch.ca/baptism)

**THANK YOU, ONCE AGAIN, FOR YOUR STEADFAST SUPPORT. TOGETHER, WE ARE WITNESSING GOD'S MOVEMENT, AND YOUR GIVING PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN THE ONGOING NARRATIVE OF TRANSFORMATION AND REDEMPTION.**



We are blessed by your generous giving. Thank you!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

WE EXTEND OUR HEARTFELT GRATITUDE FOR YOUR UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING THE INCREDIBLE WORK OF THE LORD HERE IN CENTRAL ALBERTA AND AROUND THE WORLD.

Your generous contributions are not just numbers on a financial report; they are a testament to the transformative impact we make together as we extend the love of Christ in various ways.

As we delve into the financial snapshot of August to November, we see the numbers, but behind each figure lies a story of hope, compassion, and impact. Our fiscal year, beginning in August, presents both challenges and opportunities as our budget has expanded to accommodate the growing needs of our ministry.

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### GENERAL FUND AUG. - NOV. 2023

**BUDGET: \$1,355,857**  
**ACTUAL: \$1,117,299**  
**PREV. YEAR: \$1,092,510**

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Now, let's take a closer look at some of the incredible ways your giving is making a difference:

#### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Each Sunday, approximately 250-300 young hearts gather in the children's

area to learn about God and experience the love of Jesus through those that serve in that area. Your funds support activities for infants through grade 6, ensuring our youngest members are nurtured and equipped with a strong foundation for their faith.

#### ALPHA MINISTRY

Tuesday evenings come alive with the spirit of exploration and growth as Alpha unfolds. This transformative experience provides a space for individuals seeking Christ, offering answers to questions, impactful teachings, and a shared meal each week. There are so many God stories that come out of this ministry as we hear how the Lord is changing lives. Your giving directly contributes to the success of Alpha, covering essential elements such as meals, supplies, and retreats.

This is just a glimpse into the profound impact your contributions have on our community. Stories of God's work are woven into the fabric of every ministry, and your generosity is the thread that binds them together.

For a more detailed breakdown of our budget for the year ahead, we invite you to explore the finance page on our church website, where the 2023-2024 budget is available. We encourage you to continue seeking the Lord's guidance on how He would lead you in your giving journey.

# GIVING

# IMPACT

**CHANGING LIVES,  
COMMUNITIES,  
& BEYOND**

WE WANT TO  
GIVE EVERYONE IN  
CENTRAL ALBERTA  
AN OPPORTUNITY TO  
HAVE A PERSONAL  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
JESUS CHRIST AND  
BY FOLLOWING HIM  
TOGETHER, IMPACT  
THE WORLD WITH  
COMPASSION  
AND HOPE.

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**OUR SHARED  
VISION BECOMES A  
VIBRANT TAPESTRY  
OF LOVE, PURPOSE,  
AND ETERNAL  
SIGNIFICANCE.**

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At CrossRoads Church, we're not just a congregation, we're a family united by a vision that transcends the walls of our Sanctuary and spills into the very fabric of our everyday lives. It's not about a Sunday routine; it's a commitment to impact—personally, locally, and globally—because here, our shared vision becomes a vibrant tapestry of love, purpose, and eternal significance.

■  
CROSSROADS  
VISION IS A CALL  
TO IMPACT



### **A SHARED JOURNEY OF IMPACT**

Our journey begins with a vision that unites us—a vision that extends a personal invitation to everyone in Central Alberta to foster a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ, and together, become agents of compassion and hope in our communities and beyond. This vision isn't just a statement, it's a call to action; a commitment to live out the transformative power of faith in our homes, workplaces, and the world at large.

### **OUR GUIDING LIGHT IN DAILY LIVING**

As we strive to know Jesus personally, daily prayer and immersing ourselves in God's Word become our guiding lights. This isn't just a checklist, it's a shared commitment to daily practices that set us on a path for success in our spiritual walk. Picture homes where prayer is the norm, workplaces are influenced by Godly wisdom, and communities are touched by the love of Jesus. Our shared dedication to these practices creates a fabric of unity, weaving throughout our everyday lives.

### **REDEFINING LOVE**

Love, for us, isn't a mere sentiment, it's an actionable commitment. Humble confession, relying on the Holy Spirit, and actively serving and encouraging one another become the pillars of our shared love story. It's about creating homes filled with the warmth of genuine care, workplaces characterized by encouragement, and a community where love is a transformative force. This commitment to love is not just a concept, it's a daily practice that begins with knowing Jesus and emulating His example—an acknowledgment of our shared humanity.

### **PRIORITIZING OTHERS**

The call to prioritize the last, the lost, the least, the little, and the nearly dead starts locally, impacting our immediate surroundings and continues outwardly creating a ripple effect that reaches far beyond. As we share our stories, fervently pray, and generously contribute our time and resources, our commitment to impacting the world becomes evident—a commitment marked by humility, gentleness, patience, and, above all, love. Our shared values extend beyond our local community, reaching corners of the world in need of compassion.

### **SHAPING OUR WEEK WITH PURPOSE**

Rest and delight in the Lord are not confined to Sundays alone, they shape our entire week. Sunday worship becomes a powerful kickoff, setting the tone for days filled with purpose. Carrying this posture of rest and worship throughout the week, our workplaces, homes, and communities become spaces where the impact of our shared commitment to Jesus is tangible—a commitment that resonates, shaping an atmosphere of understanding, compassion, and connectedness.

### **LIVING THE VISION**

CrossRoads Church's vision isn't just a call to attend; it's a call to impact. It's an invitation to be a part of a family that seeks to know Jesus personally, to love with intentionality, to prioritize others, and to worship God each and every day. As we embrace this vision, our homes, workplaces, and communities are no longer just spaces we occupy; they are canvases where intentional acts of kindness, compassion, and love paint a picture of a living faith. Take a moment to ponder how you can embody these principles, turning them into meaningful actions that leave a lasting impact in the world around you.

# WALLY

STAFF  
HIGHLIGHT

## TECHNICAL ARTS MINISTRY



### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN A PART OF THE CROSSROADS CHURCH TEAM, AND WHAT INITIALLY DREW YOU TO SERVE IN THIS CAPACITY?

I've dedicated almost 17 years to CrossRoads. Originally, my wife Tammy and I were living in Calgary where I was working as a professional in the audio and video production industry. However, circumstances changed when my father-in-law passed away, leading us to move to Red Deer to support my mother-in-law. Because the nature of my profession demanded constant trips away from home, my wife and I decided that it would be best for me to work locally and I found a great opportunity at CrossRoads that aligned with my skill set. And with a background in ministry, having received a Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Prairie Bible Institute and working as Outdoor Directors in various Christian camps, the move aligned with our passion for working in ministry.

### SHARE A BIT ABOUT YOUR WEEKLY RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE SKILLS YOU BRING TO THE ROLE.

As the Technical Director, I oversee all of the AV equipment throughout the church, and help guide the

church's direction in this area. Whether selecting sound systems, like L-Acoustics for our sanctuary, or handling behind-the-scenes tasks like lighting and stage setup, my role encompasses a wide range of responsibilities. Collaborating with the service planning team, I strive to provide seamless technical execution for Sunday services and events. Other than the regular tasks I always have to be ready for any unexpected circumstances. Though I don't handle everything on my own, I'm privileged to lead a group of volunteers and my part-time assistant, Eric, who all contribute to the overall success of our department.

### WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT WORKING AT CROSSROADS AND HOW DOES YOUR ROLE CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH'S OVERALL MISSION?

I've never been a nine-to-five desk person; I thrive in constant motion. The flexibility in my hours and the dynamic nature of the role keep me engaged. And working with the tools of my trade allows me to have a significant impact. Whether resolving issues late into the evening or preparing for Sunday, I do my best to ensure everything runs smoothly.

WE CAUGHT UP FOR A FEW MINUTES WITH **WALLY HILDEBRANDT**, THE TECHNICAL DIRECTOR HERE ON STAFF AND A DEDICATED MEMBER OF THE CROSSROADS FAMILY. WALLY HAS BEEN AN INTEGRAL PART OF OUR COMMUNITY, CONTRIBUTING TIRELESSLY TO THE VISION OF CROSSROADS CHURCH. HERE'S A PEEK INTO WALLY'S JOURNEY AND HIS PASSION FOR SERVICE.

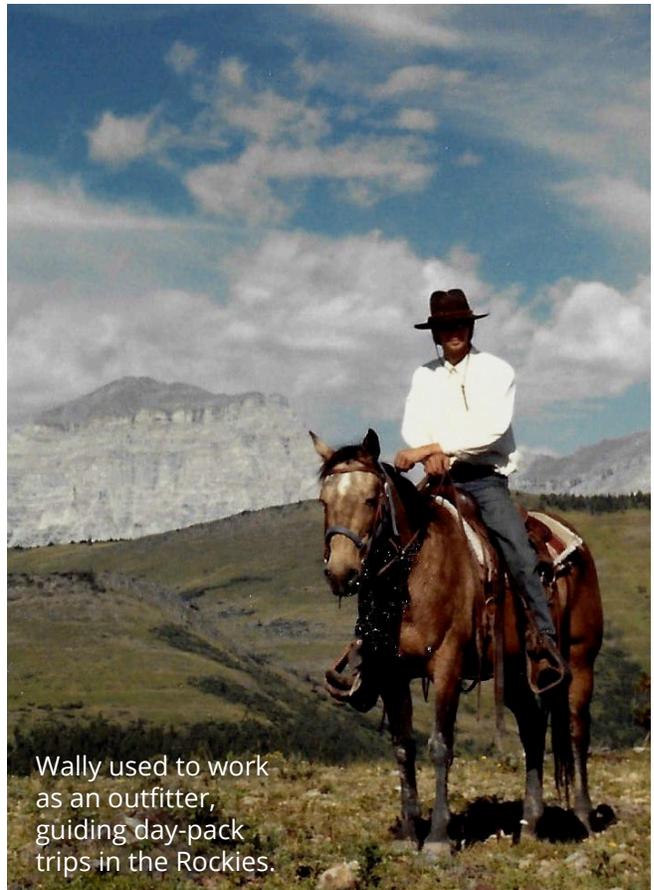
# SHOWCASING GOD'S WORK

My role remains somewhat anonymous, but as a service role it's essential in supporting our church's mission. Weekly planning and fixing last minute technical glitches ensures that we're always ready for Sunday services. Whether it's enhancing the Sunday experience, supporting group meetings, or reaching a global audience online, our goal is to put a magnifying glass on God's work here in and through the CrossRoads community.

## TELL US A FEW FUN FACTS ABOUT YOURSELF.

My son, Tyler, and his wife Camille, are currently serving as missionaries in Thailand with SEND International. After Christmas we're headed there to see them and our grandkids. I can't wait!

Before diving into the technical world, I was an outfitter for multi-day pack trips on horses into the mountains. I love the outdoors and always take annual backpacking adventures with my sons, from Iceland to the West Coast Trail. And whenever I'm looking up at a steep hill, I can't help but think, "This is why God created horses!"



Wally used to work as an outfitter, guiding day-pack trips in the Rockies.

## /MISSIONS



## SAVINGS GROUPS PROVIDING HOPE & CHANGING LIVES

MEET ERNESTINE, A WIFE AND MOTHER OF ONE, WHO HAS CALLED RWANDA'S MUSANZE DISTRICT HER HOME SINCE BIRTH.

## MEET DENYSE, A YOUNG MOTHER IN RWANDA



RWANDA

# OUTREACH

Life was hard and Denyse earned a meager living selling fish, but she desired a better future for her family.

When a World Relief volunteer began to mobilize people in Denyse's village, equipping them to save the money they earned and provide loans to one another, Denyse decided to join.

She initially saved \$35 and was able to buy a pig to provide food and an additional source of income for her family. She began attending church and found a new community of friends. Today her life has completely changed. Denyse can care for her young son, is expanding her fish selling business and plans on building her own home!

"I am no longer a laughingstock in my village but a role model to many young girls, especially teen mothers," said Denyse. "I am forever grateful to God because through World Relief, I am alive and can witness about God's grace upon my life."

"Before I became a part of the Savings For Life (SFL) program, I lacked financial skills and social connections and relied solely on my husband for everything," recalls Ernestine. The lives of both took a turn, however, when a church volunteer visited their home and introduced them to their church's SFL group. As part of his presentation, the volunteer stressed the importance of saving money, accessing loans, and understanding finances from a biblical perspective. Intrigued by these new concepts and encouraged by her husband, Ernestine agreed to join on as one of the program's early participants.

The following week, Ernestine sat in on her first SFL meeting. Right away, she began to feel a deep affection for the group, which called itself "Urukundo" (love) - a reference to group's primary objective of expressing greater love to one another and the wider Musanze community through their activities. Expecting to get straight to financial matters, she was surprised to find that the group began and ended their meetings with prayer and the sharing of God's word. Through this small act of faith by her neighbors, Ernestine began to see her money not as her own, but as a gift from God that she needed to responsibly steward.

"During our group's first savings cycle, I launched a small business with just thirty thousand Rwandan francs (about \$25 USD), where I sold basic household items. By the second cycle, I had managed to increase my capital, investing ninety thousand Rwandan francs (about \$75 USD) from my savings and profits," Ernestine shared.

After a year in the group, Ernestine attended a graduation ceremony, where she received a sum of ninety thousand Rwandan francs from the principal and interest she'd accumulated through savings and investments. With additional funds from her thriving business, she and her husband were able to make a down-payment on a home and expand her enterprise, which she values at about five hundred thousand Rwandan francs today.

Since her graduation from Urukundo Savings Group, Ernestine has become a staunch advocate

(...cont'd next page)

for financial empowerment, especially among women like her. As she moves forward with her business, she plans to stay active in her church and has even become a "mobile money agent," providing digital investment, savings, and credit opportunities for neighbors for whom in-person groups like Urukundo are inaccessible. Reflecting on this exciting momentum and newfound sense of purpose, Ernestine exclaims, "I praise God for transforming my challenging life into one filled with joy and meaningful connections with others!"



# JOYFUL

**CELEBRATING THE  
IMPACT OF YOUR  
COMPASSION, AND  
GOD'S GOODNESS!  
TOTAL OFFERING IS  
\$464,740**

**GLOBAL PARTNERS:**  
Supporting needs in Haiti,  
Rwanda, and Uganda.

**LOCAL PARTNERS:**  
Supporting Hope Mission,  
Central AB Youth Unlimited,  
and The Outreach Centre.

As we reflect on the recent Compassion initiative, we are overjoyed by your incredible response to the call to pray and give. Your sacrificial generosity has been nothing short of inspiring!

Together, we raised an astounding **\$464,740!** This sum, a testament to God's faithfulness and your commitment, will be distributed to our local and global Compassion partners. These funds will continue to make a lasting impact, furthering God's work and kingdom both in our community and around the world.

Your giving has already begun to change lives and communities, and we celebrate this collective achievement. The journey doesn't end here; we look forward with anticipation to the incredible stories that will unfold as a result of your faithfulness.

As we continue this important work, let's remain steadfast in prayer for our partners and for wise stewardship of these funds.

The Compassion booklet, designed as a regular prayer guide, will help us keep our partners at the forefront of our minds.

Thank you for being a vital part of this transformative initiative. Your commitment is making a significant difference, and we are excited about the continued impact we can achieve together.

CROSSROADS CHURCH COMPASSION



Find more about Compassion including the "Choosing to See" Prayer Guide at: [crossroadschurch.ca/compassion](http://crossroadschurch.ca/compassion)

**TO GOD BE THE GLORY!**

# THE BIBLE



# A LIVING TAPESTRY & YOUR UNWRITTEN CHAPTER

As one delves into the sacred pages of the Bible, a profound realization emerges—an epiphany that transcends the boundaries of time and beckons readers into a grand narrative that surpasses the sum of its parts. Consider for a moment the Bible not as a collection of isolated stories but as a living tapestry, where each thread, each verse, contributes to a seamless and timeless masterpiece.

Have you ever approached the Bible as a cohesive narrative, an intricate tale woven by the divine Author from before time began? It's not just a record of events; it's a living, breathing story that spans the ages, inviting readers to find their place within its pages.

Picture your life as an unwritten chapter within this grand narrative. The Bible is more than a distant history; it's a mirror reflecting the human experience. As you read, do you recognize the echoes of your own joys, struggles, and triumphs reverberating through the lives of the characters within? Their stories, though set in ancient times, bear a striking resemblance to the universal human condition.

This living tapestry is not confined to dusty scrolls of the past. It extends an invitation, urging you to read and consume the Word in a way that transcends a mere checklist of chapters. Consider the Bible as a road-map for your journey, a guide-book offering wisdom, solace, and inspiration for the myriad moments you encounter in your everyday life.

The beauty of this narrative lies not just in its historical significance but in its enduring relevance. Every word, every verse, is a thread that weaves into the fabric of your story, connecting your experiences to a larger, purposeful design. It's

an invitation to see your life as an integral part of God's unfolding plan.

As you engage with the scriptures, let them become more than ink on paper. Allow them to be a source of illumination, guiding you through the complexities of existence. This living tapestry speaks not only of the past but also of the future—an invitation to embrace a story that extends beyond the confines of time.

So, as you hold the Bible in your hands, recognize it as more than a book. It's an invitation into a grand

narrative, a call to see your life as an essential chapter within the timeless story God is telling. Let this realization be a catalyst for a transformative journey, where the words on the page become a mirror reflecting the intricacies of your own narrative.

Embrace the living tapestry, and as you turn each page, consider how your story aligns with God's Story. For in this exploration, you may discover not only the wisdom and guidance you seek but a profound connection to a narrative that transcends the limits of eternity.

## God's Story

### AN EVENING OF WORSHIP & WORD

EASTER SUNDAY IS THE HIGH POINT OF THE CHRISTIAN YEAR - IT IS WHEN WE CELEBRATE OUR SALVATION BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH THE VICTORIOUS DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS.

There is no other point in the Christian calendar that deserves as much reflection, recognition and celebration as Easter. Because of this, at CrossRoads we want to take some time during Holy week (the week before Easter Sunday) to properly prepare our hearts.

Last year we introduced *God's Story: An Evening of Worship & Word*, an event designed to walk through the biblical story together in a beautiful way as we invited people to "come and see what God has done, His awesome deeds for mankind" (Psalm 66:5)!

And we're so excited to be doing it again. You will experience the biblical story of the true account of God's marvelous acts of creation, promise, mission, victory, restoration and renewed creation. We will see that we are personally invited into this narrative as God welcomes us back to Himself through Jesus. As we see this story unfold, we will worship together as we marvel at God's great love for us!

This is also a perfect opportunity to invite the people in your life who don't know God's story or who need to be reminded of what He has done for us. It will be a wonderful chance to share the message of God's salvation with them.

MARCH 26

# EASTER

**/HOLY WEEK**

EASTER IS A SPECIAL TIME OF CELEBRATION!

**SUNDAY, MARCH 24**

PALM SUNDAY / BAPTISMS

**TUESDAY, MARCH 26**

GOD'S STORY

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**

PASSOVER SEDER DINNER

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

EASTER SUNDAY

The events framed by Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and His resurrection are some of the most dramatic and theologically important of the entire scriptural narrative. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter) and ends with Easter Sunday, the period during which we mark Jesus' trial, death, and resurrection.

We encourage you to spend time during Holy Week discovering the hope we have in Jesus because of what He did for us on the cross!

#### **HOLY WEEK EVENTS**

These events are always a highlight on the calendar! Watch website for details.

**CELEBRATE  
OUR  
SAVIOUR**



On Easter morn, we celebrate our Savior;  
Whatever people seek in Him, they find.  
In history, there has never been another  
So holy, sacrificial, good and kind.

His resurrection makes us all immortal;  
In heaven, we'll be together with our King.  
Eternally we'll share in all His blessings;  
Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is everything!

*By Joanna Fuchs*

# NEWS!

**WELCOME,  
WE WANT  
TO MEET  
YOU!**



**WE'RE SO  
GLAD YOU'RE  
HERE!**

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**EVERYONE IS ALWAYS  
WELCOME AT  
CROSSROADS!  
SUNDAY SERVICES  
START AT 9AM, 11AM,  
& 6PM.**

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■ **CONNECT WITH US!**  
Text “welcome” to  
1-833-313-1305 and  
someone will respond  
as soon as possible to  
chat. We look forward to  
meeting you!

**IF YOU'RE NEW AT CROSSROADS,  
WELCOME! WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE  
YOU WITH US.**

We would love to connect with you to meet you and find out if there is anything we can help with. Maybe you have questions about CrossRoads, or questions about faith in Jesus, or how to get more connected in the CrossRoads community.

On Sundays, there is always a smiling face to greet you at The HUB, located in the church Foyer. Please stop by and let us know you're new—we have something for you! If you prefer, we have a simple online form that can also help get our conversation going; you can introduce yourself and ask any specific questions you may have. Hit the “Connect With Us” button at: [crossroadschurch.ca/welcome](https://crossroadschurch.ca/welcome).

A great way to check out what happens at CrossRoads is to try it online first; the 9am & 11am services are available via Livestream at: [online.crossroadschurch.ca](https://online.crossroadschurch.ca)

For a quick introduction of who we are, check out the short video at: [crossroadschurch.ca/welcome](https://crossroadschurch.ca/welcome)



# LOVE

MATT.  
19:4-6

THE MARRIAGE COURSE  
RUNS FEB. 7 - MAR. 20.  
CROSSROADSCHURCH.CA/  
REGISTER



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## BUILDING A SOLID MARRIAGE: IT'S NOT EASY, BUT TOTALLY WORTH IT!

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### WEEKLY TOPICS INCLUDE:

- STRENGTHENING CONNECTION
- THE ART OF COMMUNICATION
- RESOLVING CONFLICT
- THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS
- THE IMPACT OF FAMILY
- GOOD SEX
- LOVE IN ACTION

At its core, marriage is a collaborative journey crafted by the divine designer—God. It's not just a legal arrangement; it's a lifelong commitment where a man and a woman promise to be each other's loyal partner. But, let's be honest, keeping the flame alive requires some effort.

God's manual for marriage, found in the Bible, isn't about the fancy stuff; it's about practical love and respect. Husbands are tasked with loving their wives as if they're the sole focus in the world, while wives are urged to champion their husbands as crucial companions in their journey. It's a daily commitment to each other's happiness and growth.

Life, however, has a way of throwing curve-balls, and distractions are everywhere—crazy work schedules, parenting challenges, and the stress of it all can take a heavy toll on your relationship. These things can easily overshadow the foundation of your

marriage. But the real test is how you both navigate through it, hand in hand, with God's help.

That's where The Marriage Course comes in—a practical and powerful series of seven sessions designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. This course is not about theories; it's about tangible tools based on biblical principles, equipping couples to strengthen their connection, communicate effectively, and navigate through the challenges of life.

This course isn't just about information; it's about transformation. It's a journey where couples, with God at the center, learn to navigate the complexities of married life with wisdom and grace. So, if you're up for the challenge of building a marriage that lasts, consider joining The Marriage Course. It's not just a class; it's an investment in a godly, resilient marriage that stands the test of time.



## /GOD LISTENS

# PRAY

### GOOD MORNING, LORD!

Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be.

Today I want to start the day with you on my mind and in my heart. As I dress, let me wear the armour you've provided daily: the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, the belt of truth, the shoes of peace, and the sword of the spirit—with prayer on my tongue: praise for you and petitions for those around me and those I meet.

Feed me today with your daily bread. As the Bread of Life, your food, like manna, will sustain me throughout

any trials and hunger. Help me to set my thoughts on things above and to speak only what will help and encourage others. Keep me from putting my foot in my mouth, and help me guard the affections of my heart today, Lord. Make whatever work I do be marked with excellence rather than perfectionism, as I seek not to make a name, but to make a difference. Help me to treat each person I encounter as you would, with respect and love, forgiving others and asking for forgiveness myself when needed.

As I start this day, help me remember that I belong to you, and my desire is to act accordingly. Keep my feet from stumbling and my mind from wandering into distractions that could steal precious time and energy from the most important things you have designed for me. I'm proud to be your child, Lord. And I'm so grateful that you died for me—rising again on your

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## HERE'S A GREAT PRAYER TO HELP START YOUR DAY OFF RIGHT!

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own new morning—so that every day could be filled with the wonder of your love, the freedom of your Spirit, and the joy of knowing you.

I know earthly life is short and fleeting, Lord. But I want to live today as if it were the first or the last day of my life, giving thanks for every good and perfect gift you choose to give. Today, and every day, I want to live my life for you, Jesus. In your precious name, Amen.

*By Rebecca Barlow Jordan  
(Contributor to Crosswalk.com)*

If my people,  
who are  
called by  
my name,  
will humble  
themselves  
and

**PRAY & SEEK MY FACE & TURN FROM THEIR WICKED WAYS,**

then I will hear from heaven,  
and I will forgive their sin and  
will heal their land. 2 Chron. 7:14



[crossroadschurch.ca](http://crossroadschurch.ca)