

# California Road Missionary Church

## August 2017 Newsletter

### **Pastor & Wife's Pen, August 2017**

Figuring out how to most effectively express appreciation can be a good and fun challenge when one's life has been touched in an extra special way by someone. We're told that understanding one's love language is especially helpful, when it comes to saying, "I love you!" or "You're important to me!" so that the recipient will truly know how special they are. Then there are those who have that gift of encouragement, those who seem able to attach value to all those they touch.

Unfortunately, we're not able to do a personal love language assessment for each one in our church family and then set about telling you how grateful we are for each of you in just the right way for you to comprehend our appreciation for you. Because of that, we're settling for the traditional written thank you note. For those that don't find as much value in "words of affirmation," we hope that the Lord will help us communicate our appreciation to you in some other way and at just the right time!

More specifically, there have been many times in recent months that we've been overwhelmed with the beauty of God's love flowing in and through you, our church family. It would be rather risky to start listing names, referencing what we're talking about, because we wouldn't want any oversight. With that awareness, we'll trust the Lord to warm and move your hearts, as ours have been, by these faithful acts of love and servanthood!

Enjoy these examples . . .

Our sound/graphics technicians faithfully prepare for our worship services each week and manage a lot of "stuff." In fact, they've been so faithful and so good at what they do, we rarely notice them. If you'd ask them, they'd probably say that their goal is to remain unnoticed, but we must remember that we'd be very handicapped without them.

There are many needs and concerns managed with great care. Thank you for extending honest concern for one another and for doing so with respect and integrity. The cares of life could be overwhelming, but the Lord uses the body of Christ to help lighten the load. That might mean holding a child so parents can rest a bit, or maybe

it's cleaning out cupboards to share unused items with others. The list goes on.

Summer Serve has been loaded with productive blessings! There have been sweet giggles on the playground where our youngest have been cared for (and a few tears) while our trustees have been supported in many ways with designated work time. Others in our midst have been helped by receiving free labor on their garage door repairs, and still others have been the grateful recipients of home maintenance repairs. Besides that, there's enough food in the freezer to feed Wednesday night attenders for several weeks, all made from free supply that the Lord has provided.

There's more! We recently received help from some of our resident technical experts who retrieved countless hours of work from a water-logged computer. Other burdensome loads have been shared when sickness or overwhelming responsibilities impose limitations on ministry availability. Thank you.

Thank you for extending grace, mercy, and tender loving care to one another and to us. The reason our hearts are moved is because it's good and encouraging to be a part of a church family that loves God and loves others . . . even (especially) when nobody's looking. The book of Acts recounts stories of the early church and how they loved one another. The Holy Spirit used that body of believers as a means of drawing others to Himself. It was lifestyle evangelism at work. They did everything for the love of God, and as a result, there was a very natural outcome! People saw the beauty and harmony in these relationships and realized their own need of God's intervention in their lives.

Beloved church family, we realize we have much to learn, and there will be difficulties along the way as we continue this pilgrimage, but we want you to know that we're grateful for each of you and the privilege that is ours in serving Jesus with you. Please be encouraged by this reminder from Paul as he writes his first letter to the Corinthians (10:31), "So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." Let's live accordingly and see how the Lord builds His church.

In His service, Pastor Bud & Cris

## Let's Learn...

**Let's Learn...about Lifestyle Evangelism.** Lifestyle evangelism is a phrase that refers to sharing the gospel, not through preaching and other formal means, but by reflecting God's love through the way you live. God has gifted some people with the ability to preach or teach (and He certainly uses those gifts to advance His kingdom!), but He has called *all* of His followers to live sincere lives that reveal Him to others.

**Application:** We want to be filled with the Holy Spirit and so attuned to His leading that we are obedient with every breath, word, and step. Last month we talked about how it brings God joy when we are faithful in the ordinary things of life. God uses these things—kind words when we interact with strangers, humility when we discuss politics, integrity when we work, grace when we are wronged—to reach the world with His love.

**The Key:** We cannot live in this way by simply working to produce results. Although lifestyle evangelism requires effort, that effort must come from a

living and growing relationship with the Lord Jesus. Let us endeavor to spend more time in the Word, to ponder God's majesty when we see a marvelous sunset or hear a beautiful song, to talk with Him as we wash dishes or mow the lawn. Let's seek to know our Creator and Savior better and let Him produce change in us. May He have His way in our lives!

**An Opportunity:** We will have the opportunity to practice lifestyle evangelism as a church family during our Neighborhood Picnic on Saturday, August 26. While we're intentionally hosting an outreach event, let's be careful not to market Jesus or a seemingly-flawless church. Instead, let's exchange genuine smiles and words with those from CRMC and our community and let God do His work in all of us.



## Partners in Prayer

Most local schools begin the 2017-2018 school year in the next few weeks. Please pray for the staff and students as they start a new year. Specifically, we ask that you pray for those from our CRMC family who will be ministering to students. Please pray for wisdom, strength, patience, and especially that God works through them to show His love to the students. Please pray for protection for students and open hearts that are eager to receive the Lord. Here are the people from our CRMC family who work in the schools:

- **Gwen Byler** (North Africa)
- **Julie Crane** (Elkhart's Educational Service Center)
- **Katya Dolgykh** (Concord Schools)
- **Everett Forrester** (Clay Intermediate School)
- **Sarah Forrester** (Darden Primary School)
- **Erika Green** (Cleveland Elementary School)
- **Kelli Grosse** (Bethel College)
- **Michelle Hale** (Constantine Schools)
- **Mike Kendall** (Bethel College)
- **Beth Kroa** (Bethel College)
- **Vicky Malooley** (Marion High School)
- **Cam Matteson** (Bethel College)
- **Laura Matteson** (Mary Beck Elementary School)
- **Stephen Matteson** (Ball State University)
- **Sue Matteson** (Bethel College)
- **Tim Matteson** (Bethel College)
- **Caleb Miller** (Trinity Lutheran School)
- **Kelly Myers** (Mary Feeser Elementary & Elkhart Memorial High Schools)
- **Caleb Neel** (Bethel College)
- **Micki Neel** (Mary Daly Elementary School)
- **Paul Neel** (Bethel College)
- **Pam Reddell** (Mary Beck Elementary School)
- **Kara Walterhouse** (North Side Middle School)
- Parents who are homeschooling

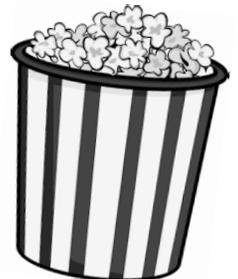
Please also pray for college students like **Bethany Neel** and **Sam Waterman**, who are studying education.

## Youth Events

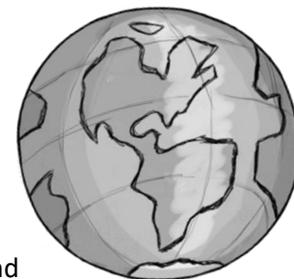
There are several special youth events planned in the coming weeks:

- **Pool Party:** The youth are invited to Dan and Laura Matteson's house on **Saturday, August 5** from 10 am - 7 pm for swimming, food, and games. Please bring your swimsuit, towel, and a dish to share (if you are able).
- **World Missionary Press Night:** Everyone is welcome to join the youth as they volunteer at World Missionary Press on **Friday, August 11**. Please let Aaron know if you plan to attend.
- **Finding God in Movies:** You are invited to join the youth for their monthly Finding God in Movies event. Join them in the Youth Room on **Sunday, August 20** at 5:30 pm. Enjoy popcorn, movie, and great conversation!
- **Youth & Parents Meeting:** All youth and their parents are encouraged to attend an informational meeting on **Sunday, August 27** from 6-7 pm.

Feel free to ask Aaron Grosse if you have any questions or would like more information. Additionally, there are a lot of resources at the youth table in the office foyer.



## Intercultural Update



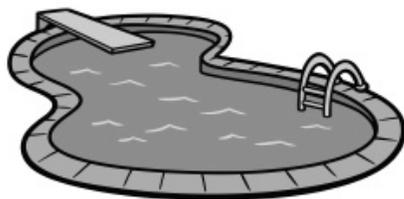
**Jan Metzger:** Jan, who is serving in France, will be present with us on **Sunday, August 6**. She will be sharing during the Sunday school hour (9 am), a greeting during the worship service, Junior Church time with the children, and lunch with the young adults. We're looking forward to encouraging and being encouraged by Jan during our time together.

**Mexico Mission Trip:** We are continuing to plan a short-term mission trip to Mexico over **spring break 2018** (early April). Our CRMC team will partner with the ministry i6eight and Kevin and Lisa Bollenbacher to help build a home for a family. Here are some updates on the trip:

- Everyone is welcome to attend! There will be tasks for any ages and skill sets, so don't feel like you need to be a certain age or have construction experience to come. All you need to have is a love for Jesus and His people!
- We are not yet able to determine a cost for the trip, since airfare for that week has not yet posted. However, we still expect the total cost per person for the trip to be \$400-\$500.
- There will be lifestyle evangelism training at Pastor Bud and Cris' house on **Sunday, September 10** for anyone who is interested in attending the trip.

Please contact anyone on the Ministry Board (Pastor Bud, Cris, Aaron Grosse, Sue Matteson, Paul Neel, or Hannah Matteson) if you're potentially interested in going on the trip.

## CRMC Pool Party



Originally, a group of people had planned to go to a high ropes course on **Sunday, August 13**. Since not many people expressed

interest, we've decided to adjust our plans. Instead... Everyone is invited to Everett and Sarah Forrester's home after church for lunch and swimming. Please bring a dish to share, as well as your swimwear. We also have the option to go to Rum Village (minutes away from the Forrester's house) to enjoy their trails, Frisbee golf, and other activities. We look forward to the time spent together!

## Bethel Students

During Bethel's new students move-in day (**Saturday, August 19**), we plan to provide students with toiletry items that they might have forgotten, as well as invite them to attend Cal Road if they're looking for a church family. We need your help in the following ways:

- **Collecting supplies:** We're looking to collect as many as 200 of common items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap/body wash, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, combs/brushes, hand soap, laundry detergent, and dryer sheets. Please deliver supplies by **Wednesday, August 16** to the church office or label them and leave them under the church mailboxes. (Note: Please do not put these items in the DC, as we want to keep these supplies separate.)
- **Manning the CRMC table:** We need volunteers to man the table in 2-hour shifts during move-in (10 am - 4 pm on August



19). We need people who are able to stand throughout the shift and would enjoy connecting with students. You will be indoors, and food will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be available soon at the Welcome Center and through Sign-Up Genius.

See Sue Matteson if you have any questions. Thank you for helping us with this simple method of outreach to the college students in our midst. And a big thank you to those of you who have already donated items!

## Euchre

There is no Euchre in August, but it will resume in September. The next Euchre Night is scheduled for **Friday, September 8** at 7 pm at Dennis and Penny Schmucker's house. *Please note that this is the second Friday of the month, due to Labor Day weekend taking place the week prior.* After September, Euchre will regularly take place on the first Friday of each month.



## Neighborhood Picnic

Our annual Neighborhood Picnic is coming up on **Saturday, August 26** from 11 am - 3 pm. Will we have lots of great food, a carwash, ice cream machine, bounce house, slip-and-slide, and more! We need your help in the following ways:

- **Bring food:** Meat and drinks will be provided by the church, but we ask that each CRMC household bring a dish to share, based on the first letter of your last name:
  - A-H:** Side dish
  - I-R:** Dessert
  - S-Z:** Fruit or vegetable



- **Volunteer:** We will need people to man the different stations at the picnic (kitchen, carwash, bounce house, slip-and-slide, clean-up, etc.). We will have a sign-up for these tasks ready in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye out on future bulletins!
- **Invite:** Invite your friends and neighbors to attend! We will have some invitations with the date, time, and other information available at the Welcome Center in a few weeks. We encourage you to take as many as you would like to give to family, friends, and neighbors.
- **Pray:** Most importantly, we ask that you pray that we follow the Lord's leading in our preparation, that we reflect Him well to all who attend, and that those who come are clearly able to see Jesus through us.

We're excited for this opportunity to reflect the love of Jesus to and build relationships with the people in our community.

### Singles

August's Singles gathering will take place on **Friday, August 11** at 5:30 pm. Come enjoy the time of food and fellowship!

### Website

We encourage you to continue to watch our church website ([californiaroad.org](http://californiaroad.org)) for up-to-date information. It has lots of tools that we hope you'll find helpful, including:

- Worship and ministry schedules
- Church library inventory
- Newsletter and events calendar
- Church directory and birthdays and anniversaries list
- Couponing forum to share local deals

The password to access the directory and birthdays/anniversaries list was made available in the May newsletter, but if you need it again, you can ask Katya, Cris, or Hannah.

### Pickleball

The final dates for summer Pickleball are **Thursdays, August 3 and 10**. Pickleball will take place in the west parking lot at 6:30 pm until dark. Pickleball is a paddle sport that is similar to badminton. All equipment will be provided, and all skill levels are welcome. If there is rain or high winds at 6 pm, Pickleball will automatically be cancelled. Please see Dan or Renee Bridges if you have any questions.

### Thank You

"Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the opportunity to share recently at your church. It was a good visit. Thank you for the honorarium gift you mailed us. We appreciate it very much. We appreciate your faithful support!  
Bruce & Dawn Cluckie"

### Summer Serve

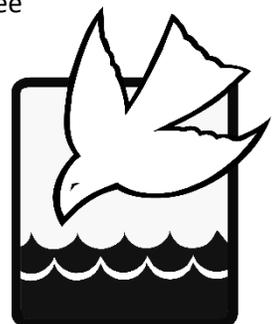
We invite you to join us for the final weeks of Summer Serve on **Wednesdays, August 2, 9, 16, and 23**. Dinner is served at 5:30 pm. Most tasks begin around 6:15-6:30 pm and finish by 8 pm. There are tasks for every age and ability! It helps us know how to plan if you sign up in advance, either at the Welcome Center or online through the weekly Sign-Up Genius sheet. (If we have your email, we'll set you a link to the online sign-up sheet.) We also ask for your prayers that God would be



glorified, relationships would be built, and that people would be shown God's love. Let Cris or Hannah know if you're willing to pray for specific requests and send cards of encouragement. Thank you for all the ways you have shown God's love to others this summer through the giving of your time and talents at Summer Serve!

### Baptism

If you're interested in being baptized or in getting more information about it, please talk to Pastor Bud.





## Discipleship Groups

We invite you to engage in the various discipleship opportunities available at Cal Road. Here are the classes being offered currently:

### Sunday Discipleship...

#### Infants:

- The nursery is open during Sunday school and the worship service for babies from birth through age 1. While a rotation of nursery staff works in the nursery, Ann Werner is the contact person, should you have any questions.

#### Preschool:

- Rachel Miller teaches our preschooler Sunday school class (ages 2-4) in Room 111. Through the use of flannel graph, active music, and dressing up and acting out stories, our young ones have the opportunity to absorb God's Word in a number of engaging ways.
- Preschoolers are invited to their own class (in Room 111) during the second part of the worship service hear the gospel at their level. Our young ones are encouraged to join the adults for the beginning of the worship service to discover the beauty of worship as a church family. Before the sermon, they will be escorted to their class where a weekly rotation of teachers will lead them in a child-friendly class that mirrors the rhythm of worship that the adults follow in the sanctuary.

#### Children:

- Children (grades K-6) join together for Sunday school, led by Cris Walterhouse and Caleb Miller in Room 107. Their lessons are based on that Sunday's three lectionary readings that are not covered by Pastor Bud's sermon, in order to provide children with solid foundation taken from the entire Bible.
- Children (grades K-4) are invited to Jr. Church in Room 107 during the second part of the worship services. Children are encouraged to join adults during the beginning of our worship service to partake in worship as a family. They will then be dismissed before the sermon for an age-appropriate study of Scripture (generally the same passage that Pastor Bud preaches on, so that families can discuss the common Scripture that they heard each week). A rotation of teaches lead this class, but Cris is the contact person.

#### Youth:

- Middle and high school students meet in the Youth Room during Sunday school, led by Aaron Grosse. They are currently studying a variety of topics, but they will continue their series on the Attributes of God once school starts. Details on each week's study can be found in the youth insert in each week's bulletin.

#### Adults:

- Cobey Bartlett is leading a study on the minor prophets in the Library.
- The young adults are continuing their study of 1 Samuel. They will study Genesis next. They meet in Room 110, led by Tim Matteson.
- Paul Neel's class is currently studying the book of Joshua. Paul's class meets in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- "The Faithful Finishers," led by Chuck Millslagle, are continuing their study of Kings and Chronicles, using the Wesley Bible Curriculum. They meet in Room 108.

### Wednesday Discipleship...

(7-8 pm)

Beginning on **Wednesday, August 30**, midweek classes will resume in place of Summer Serve. Supper will be served at 5:30 pm, and classes will take place from 7-8 pm.

#### Children:

- Preschoolers through elementary students meet together in Room 111 for a class that discovers "The Miracles of Jesus" through a variety of ways. The class provides a beautiful "intergenerational" time of learning, with the older ones developing their gifts as they guide the younger ones. Cris Walterhouse leads this class.

#### Youth:

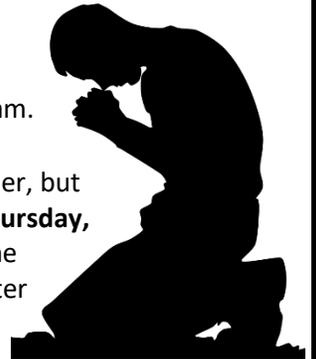
- Aaron Grosse will lead the youth through a four-part series entitled "Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." They will meet in the Youth Room.

#### Adults:

- Pastor Bud is leading the men through a study on the Old Testament.
- The Ladies, led by Kathe Stowe, are beginning Beth Moore's study, *The Patriarchs*. They meet in the library.

### Thursday Discipleship...

- Men's Prayer meets at 8 am.
- Ladies' Bible Study is not meeting during the summer, but they will start again on **Thursday, September 7** at 10 am. The group is led by Sheila Custer and Mary Ginther.



## JOY Group

JOY Group will meet next on **Wednesday, August 16** at noon for food and a time of fellowship.