

# River of Love

1050 SW 15th St.  
Oak Grove, MO 64075  
crosscreekbaptist.com

**CROSS CREEK BAPTIST MISSION**

**December 1, 2024**

*Moving Mountains!*

**VOLUME 25, ISSUE 12**



## **I CAN SEE CLEARLY NOW!**

The Pastor appreciation gift came at a good time. The glasses I wear now are more than 10 years old. I wore a pair of glasses for several years and eventually had to replace them. Then the Sam's Club changed Optometrist and she never got my prescription correct. For another year I looked through blurry lens. Then last spring, I damaged the lens when a brush fire got too hot and I got too close. I retired them and got out the old dogs that gave me better vision anyway.

Thanks to my church, who loves and appreciates me, I took the financial gift they gave and traveled to Omaha, Nebraska to have my eyes looked at by someone who is really special in the field. She examined me through the latest technology and in the end, she let me see how my vision will be when my new lens arrives. I can see clearly now! I should have them by Thanksgiving when she brings them to Kansas City where her Father-in-law, Steve Reed lives. I'm blessed to have this connection. And, she gave me the pastor/friend of the family discount. Thank you, Cross Creek, for your generosity. We never take your gifts for granted.

December, 2024, another year to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. It's very important at this place in history that we make sure the children know why we celebrate Jesus. It's good, parents, to read the Christmas story from the Book of Luke to your kids every year. I know there are many who'd like for us to be silent about

**RAY GURNEY, PASTOR**

### **In this newsletter:**

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I CAN SEE  
CLEARLY NOW!

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LADIES DAY  
OUT

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CROSS CREEK  
CHRISTMAS  
DINNER

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TESTIMONY  
SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 29

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PRAY THE  
PROMISE, NOT  
THE PROBLEM

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MEN'S  
BREAKFAST

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DECEMBER  
MENU

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Jesus, but He is the reason that we celebrate this Joyful holiday.

This year we've celebrated fifth Sundays at Cross Creek by adding extra songs and having personal testimonies from church members. December has a 5th Sunday and, on that day, we will have some testimonies. If you'd like to share a word on the 29th, come talk to me and I will schedule you, time permitting.

in January we'll start a new Wednesday evening Bible Study. Through the month of December, I will bring some lessons from Henry Blackaby's Experiencing God Bible Study. I hope it will be encouraging to all of us.

*Pastor Ray*



### LADIES DAY OUT

Ladies, saddle up your horse... we're headed to the Hereford House with some of the city's finest grill masters. In addition to their generous cuts of steak and guest favorites like their steak soup, prime rib, and carrot cake, Hereford House also serves an impressive selection of seafood. Meet us at church for our Christmas Ladies Day Out, December 10 at 10:45 AM.

*Vickie*



### CROSS CREEK CHRISTMAS DINNER

**December 15** after our Sunday morning service we'll enjoy our **Cross Creek Christmas dinner**. Please come and bring your favorite casserole, salad, veggie dish, or dessert, as well as a friend! Ham, meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, and drinks will be provided.

### TESTIMONY SUNDAY

We have a five Sundays in the month of December which means we'll have a testimony Sunday on December 29th. We hope you can attend to hear some more Cross Creekers share what God has been doing in their life!

**For those who wish to make contributions electronically, scan this QR code or go to [crosscreekbaptist.com](http://crosscreekbaptist.com) and follow the steps!**



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## Pray The Promise, Not The Problem

With life comes problems. We all face them and when we do, they often drive us to our knees crying out to God for an answer. What we say when we are on our knees can be the difference between answered and unanswered prayers.

You know the old saying, “you can’t see the forest for the trees”? The same principle applies to praying the problem instead of the promise: it is impossible to catch sight of the answer unless you take your eyes off the problem.

Allowing negative thoughts to consume you makes it harder to see the answer. One minute you think all is well and the next you’ve convinced yourself of the worst possible outcome. Focusing on what the problem looks like in the natural plays right into the enemy’s hands. He wants you to feel defeated. He wants you to give up. He certainly doesn’t want you to look beyond the natural to the supernatural. He doesn’t want you thinking like God.

God tells us that His thoughts and His ways are not like ours; they are much higher (Isaiah 55:8-9).

To know the will of God in our life, we must know the Word of God. We blame God for unanswered prayer when in reality the problem is that we don’t know His Word: we don’t know what God has already said and done about our problem, so we pray the problem instead of the promise and then wonder why our prayers go unanswered.

Know God’s Word. Know His promises contained in His Word. **When you pray His promises, you are praying the answer not the problem.** All God’s promises are YES in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). His promises have already been fulfilled. His work is complete!



If He said it, believe it, and then receive it. Fix the answer deep into your heart by talking to God about what He promised to do. And then thank Him for doing it. When you do this, your faith will rise, and your prayers will be effective.

God, thank you for fighting for me, that I only need to be still. Exodus 14:14

God, thank you for renewing my strength. Isaiah 40:31

God, thank you for giving me wisdom. James 1:5

God, thank you that you are with me. I won’t be afraid. Isaiah 41:10

God, thank you for meeting all my needs. Philippians 4:19

**When you pray the problem, the problem is all you will see. So why not start with the promise instead of the problem?** Immerse yourself in God’s Word so His thoughts and ways will grow in your life. Allow His Word to transform you into the image of Jesus so when you face a problem, you can focus on the ANSWER and not the problem. Pray the answer not the problem!

*Chrissy Kirkman*

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## CROSS CREEK BAPTIST

THE CHURCH ON A MISSION

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### We are holy because He says so.

2 Timothy 1:9 says, "He has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time." (NIV)

#### Lord's Supper:

December 22

#### No Wednesday Service:

December 25 and January 1, 2025

#### MEN'S BREAKFAST, Saturday, December 21

at 8 AM at Golden Corral in Independence. Please invite your neighbor or a friend to join us. It's a good time to fellowship with other men in our community.



\$6.00 per person (ages 7 - adult)  
\$3.00 per person (ages 6 & under)

### DECEMBER MENU

**Dec. 4,** Chili & Hot Dogs, corn bread, chips, cheese & crackers, salad & dessert

**Dec. 11,** Turkey Pot Pie, cottage cheese, sweet potatoes, salad & dessert.

**Dec. 18,** Beef Stew, biscuits, cheese and crackers, fruit & dessert