



Perseverance Press

Crossroads Emmaus

May 2023

Special points of interest:

- Board Meeting– June 13, 7:00 p.m. JEC Bldg., 8925 TX-111, Ganado
- June Gathering- June 15th Victoria FUMC, 6:30 p.m.

Board Meeting - May 9th

The meeting was called to order by Community Lay Director Mike Alderson at 7:02 p.m. Community Spiritual Director Paul Beard opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes were approved from the previous meeting. Financials were presented by Treasurer Retha Hahn. As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Crossroads Emmaus is required to file Form 990-N with the IRS for calendar year 2022. This was done. Kirby Kacer filed our Texas Franchise Tax Report for 2022. The CRE Treasurer was then able to apply for an exemption of the Texas Franchise Tax. CRE is currently awaiting a reply from the Texas State Comptroller regarding the exemption.

The Community Lay Director reported on site visitations for sites under consideration for the upcoming Women's Walk.

Assistant Community Lay Director John Behrens presented the Gatherings Report. 40 Members attended the John Wesley Gathering, with 20 members attending at



the Lolita Methodist Church. A Gathering was held this last Thursday at Palacios Methodist. The June Gathering is scheduled for Thursday, June 15th at First United Methodist in Victoria.

In the website report webmaster Bill Rakowitz reported a domain hosting change for the CRE website has been successfully accomplished.

Bill also reports that Ministry Manager is functional and will allow individual Fourth Day Reunion groups to self-update.

Bill also reported that only one more member needs to complete the Covenant Agreement with Upper Room.

The development of an email and address list, derived from the

master team and pilgrim list is ongoing. The goal of this project is to create an effective list to assist in the development of Walks and to create a wider distribution for the newsletter.

Treasurer Retha Hahn expressed the need for an annual audit. ACLD John Behrens suggested that the audit team be made up of three community members. Names will be discussed for discussion at the next board meeting.

The CRE Board unanimously approved a motion to schedule Women's Walk #89 for November 30th through December 3rd. The Walk will be held at Cathedral Oaks. The Team Selection Committee will immediately begin preparations for this Walk.

CLD Mike Alderson appointed Janet Tudor to the CRE Board, pursuant to the CRE Bylaws.

The next board meeting will be held June 13, 2023. Rev. Paul Beard closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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Exciting Walk News!



Exciting news! The Crossroads Emmaus Community Board of Directors is working with Cathedral Oaks Retreat Center to host Women’s Walk to Emmaus #89-2023. The tentative date for the walk is November 30th through December 3rd, 2023.

Immediate attention is being given to selecting a Lay Director, a Spiritual Director, and a walk team. Our last walk was in 2019. Con-

sequently, it will be crucial to update service sheets for those interested in serving. The Team Selection Committee cannot assume that a community member has the same God-inspire calling as they did three or four years ago...be it inside, outside or music team. This walk will also require a cooking team.

Do you remember “Christ is counting on you”? The CR Board

and the Team Selection Committee ask that each of you prayerfully consider how you can help make this walk a success. Please remind yourself how your walk impacted your life to seek ways to be God’s hands and feet. Then think about how wonderful it is to see how a walk can impact someone else!

Team Service Sheets are available at [Documents – Crossroads Emmaus Community \(cremmaus.org\)](https://www.cremmaus.org).

Not Alone

Americans, Christian and otherwise, are constantly bombarded by an unending stream of ‘experts’ offering us their opinion and trying to tell us how to live our lives. Thankfully there is a trustworthy guide for those who are new creations in Christ. The Holy Spirit of God speaks to us through the book that He authored. This book will never lead you in the wrong direction, down the wrong path.

The New Testament says He is

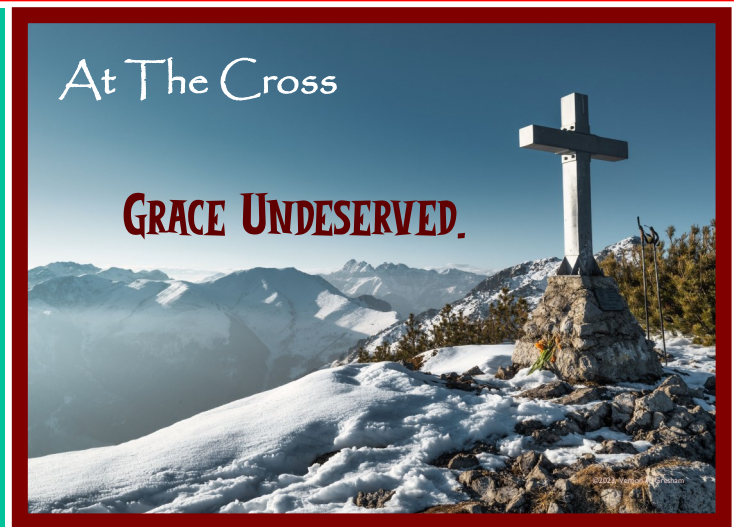
our comforter. The Greek word that translates to comforter, also translates as warrior. Jesus did not leave us to fight our battles alone. For this reason, as believers, we should never believe or say that we are alone. Jesus promised us that He would send us the Holy Spirit to dwell in us and be with us for each day’s battles.

As the Hebrews fled Egypt, the cloud and fire of the Holy Spirit protected them. In addition to

their protector, the cloud was indicative of God’s presence and provision on their long journey. In the same way, the Holy Spirit indicates the presence of God and His provision for our journey through life. The Holy Spirit faithfully guides us, empowering us to live as children of God.

The Holy Spirit is also a sign of God’s provision. He prepares us to receive our inheritance, the abundance that God promises us in eternity.

‘The Greek word that translates to comforter, also translates as warrior.’





Prophets of God began foretelling the coming of the Christ over many generations through thousands of years. Over 300 prophecies would be fulfilled during Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. About twenty of those prophecies were fulfilled within 24 hours of Christ's crucifixion. Throughout that first Holy Week 32 prophecies were fulfilled. These fulfilled prophecies proved that Jesus was who he said he is.

For those who question our Christian faith as a blind faith these prophecies reveal that it is instead a faith based on real evidence, objective in nature.

The 32 Prophecies of Holy Week

The Messiah would enter Jerusalem to shouts of celebration (Zech. 9:9a)
The Messiah would enter Jerusalem humbly on a donkey (Zech. 9:9b)
The Messiah would be consumed with zeal for the house of God (Psalm 69:9)
The Messiah would be betrayed by his friends (Psalm 41:9)
The Messiah would be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13)
The Messiah would be arrested, sentenced, and led off to die (Isa. 53:8)
The Messiah would be killed, and his disciples scattered (Zech. 13:7b)
The Messiah would be rejected (Psalm 118:22-24)
The Messiah would be conspired against (Psalm 31:13)
The Messiah would be led out as a willing sacrifice (Isa. 53:7)
The Messiah would be despised (Isa 53:3)
The Messiah would be mocked and spit on (Isa. 50:6)
The Messiah would be lifted up on a cross (Num. 21:8)
The Messiah would be numbered with many transgressors (Isa. 53:12)
The Messiah would be pierced (Zech. 12:10)
The Messiah would be pierced at the hands and feet (Psalm 22:16)
The Messiah would be mocked regarding being rescued (Psalm 22:7-8)

The Messiah would not open his mouth even though he was being oppressed (Isa 53:7)
The Messiah would be forsaken by God (Psalm 22:2)
The Messiah would suffer in our place, bearing our sins (Isa. 53:4-6, 11)
The Messiah would bear God's curse for us, hanging on a tree (Duet. 21:23)
The Messiah's blood would atone for our sins (Lev.17:11)
The Messiah would be fed vinegar and gall (Psalm 69:21)
The Messiah's legs would not be broken on the cross (Ex. 12:46; Num. 9:12; Psalm 34:20)
The Messiah would say, "Into your hands I commit my spirit" (Psalm 31:5)
The Messiah's clothing would be gambled for and divided up (Psalm 22:18)
The Messiah would be buried in a rich man's tomb (Isa. 53:9)
The Messiah would be cut off from the land of the living (Isa 53:8b)
The Messiah's crucifixion would cause a new covenant (Isa. 53:10-12)
The Messiah would defeat death (Isa. 25:8a)
The Messiah would be raised from the dead, never to die again (Ps 16:9-11)
The Messiah would defeat Satan (Gen. 3:15)

X-a-What?

No, that's not pig Latin for Whataburger.

While daily reading of the word of God often leads us to Spirit led study. (You know, you have read a given scripture 499 times, but on the 500th, the Holy Spirit cracks a smile and suddenly your face, brain, and heart light up!)

I am pretty sure I have always had a Bible. When I was born there was talk of a twin, but apparently it was just Genesis to Maps. Many of you got a little white one provided by a grandparent that KNEW you would be needing it, even though your biggest concern at that point in life was eating and having your diaper changed. Don't hold your breath, that is also how it ends for many. Back to the beginning....

Imagine Charlton Heston standing on a great rock outcropping, wind blowing in his face as he holds a wooden staff up and in a loud booming voice says, "In the beginning, there was Sunday school." Many of us started out learning versés illustrated with little felt cut-outs on a flannel board under the watchful eye of your first Sunday school teacher. Ok, so I am old, you might have had the magnets on a white board experience, or really cool picture books, or video clips. Either way it was a few years before you could read well enough to use a Bible.

About the time that kids realize their parents are not idiots, really have their best interest at heart, and might be one of their best friends, they are maybe shifting gears in a desire to know more about the Word as well. Even if you were an adult when you first found Christianity, everyone goes through changes in their Christian maturity.

I think broadening one's study of the Word helps to bridge those periods. I personally get enjoyment and better understanding of the text by looking at a given incident in the Word from an exegetical perspective. Exegesis refers to the critical explanation or interpretation of a text. In many cases this often involves an understanding of cultural elements that were present when a conversation occurred or more exactly, a given scripture was recorded.

Many times, knowing the cultural backstory has helped me to more easily unpack a given scripture. Sometimes I feel like I just discovered a mystery, then realize the Holy Spirit is probably looking over my shoulder grinning because I briefly thought I was the one that figured it out.

Ah, now we reach the real reason for this diatribe. I have occasionally penned pieces for this newsletter that include exegetical information based on the pertinent culture during the period being discussed. Occasionally I inject a little "what if" using norms that existed in the time of Jesus. Sometimes those pieces have been to challenge us to think about things from a perspective that lets us relate more. Other times the piece serves to further illustrate incidents that the Holy Bible directly refers to in scripture in a concise manner, wherein a little cultural understanding helps us to understand better. An example here would be the Christmas piece on how much Mary and Joseph really went through that was beyond expectation, *even in their culture.* Another example featured the age-old discussion of who the 'other' person was on the road to Emmaus. I have had positive responses to these articles. I have discussed this with and have the blessing of CRE community Spiritual advisers.

So, I make you this promise. We will have a few more of these 'pennings' that include scripture from the unerring Word of God, with a bit of supposition based on accurate cultural background. The context of the scripture will NEVER be changed, and I will tell you in writing when any supposition is present. The historical cultural information is extracted from numerous widely accepted academic sources.

De Colores,

Vernon