

PROJECT CROSSWALK: OUR PURPOSE - HIS PLAN

Project CrossWalk (PCW) exists for the sole purpose of helping churches share Christ Jesus with those in our community through **works of love and words of truth**. We are working with PCW to help meet your physical need, but also want to share with you some very important spiritual truths in hope that you will grow closer to God through our time together.

We believe that man is more than flesh and bone; that every man and woman has an eternal spirit that can only be given life through a relationship with God. We believe that God designed us to live eternally with Him when our bodies die, and also that He longs to know us intimately in our time here on earth. We believe that He gives us daily spiritual guidance and strength when we trust in Him. But many people don't know how to do that. We want to help you know; partly through our personal experiences, but mainly through what He tells us and promises us in His amazing Word, the Bible. (We have included a few Bible verse references.)

We believe that for you to spend eternity with God and to have a close daily relationship with Him, you have to follow the simple truths presented in His Word. Simple, but not always easy.

First, understand that you can't do this by yourself. No matter how many good things you do in your life, you're just not capable of being perfect. On the other hand, God is perfect. Look at the miracle of creation, from a newborn baby to the endless galaxies of stars. And our holy, perfect God cannot tolerate sin in His presence. "Sin" is anything that displeases God, even as simple as wishing harm on someone else. "We are all sinners, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 in the Bible), and we can't do enough good works to overcome this. When we try to "fly solo", we often end up disappointed and depressed, empty and angry at life. Sadly, much of the world is like that today.

Secondly, you must want your life to change. We believe the Holy Spirit of God works in us to spark that desire to know Him, to turn to Him. When you truly make that turn, your life will certainly change. But it takes opening your heart to Him, and very simply, telling God that you need His help, that you can't do this on your own. Sincerely humble yourself before Him, and lay your destiny at His feet. You are His, and He will do with you whatever He wants anyway. Understand this, and confess your sins to Him. You see, we all deserve to die for our sin. The Bible says that the "wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This is a very important part of beginning (or strengthening) a relationship with God. You must submit yourself to Him, recognizing and believing that He is the Almighty God (1 John 1:9-10).

Thirdly, understand and believe this very important truth: God has paid the price for your sins already; for all of the bad things you've ever done, and will ever do (Romans 5:8, John 3:16). You see, God is actually three persons (we call it the Trinity). He is God the Father, God the Spirit, and God the Son ... all in one. You don't have to understand it, because it's really too much for our human minds to make sense of. But what is most important is that God the Father sent His Son (named Jesus) to earth about 2000 years ago. The whole reason He did this was to live and communicate with mankind, to share the human joys and sorrows, to set an example for us, to teach us how to know Him closely, and to save us from our sins.

This is critical to understand. Jesus led a perfect, sin-free life as a human. Yes, He is God, but He was also 100% man in the flesh. And He never sinned. He had hundreds of followers while on earth that listened, learned and believed. But the sinful anger of mankind rose against Him and He was condemned to death for doing absolutely nothing wrong. It sounds bizarre, but it

was God's plan all along to die for the sins of mankind; to let Himself be nailed to a wooden cross, and die a horrible, painful death with the sins of the world on His shoulders. In essence, Jesus became the sacrifice for our sins, so that anyone who believes in Him, loves Him, has faith in and follows Him would not have to make that same terrible and permanent sacrifice. Our spirits no longer have to suffer punishment for our sins, separation from God ... we are saved by this act of grace by God Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ.

He lay in the grave for almost 3 days, and then came back to life, victorious over death. He was seen by hundreds, if not thousands of people (1 Corinthians 15:3-8). He showed the world that He is God and that He has control over life and death. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).

So this **third step** is to **trust in Jesus** as your savior and your leader, the One who died for you so that you can live forever with Him in true perfect paradise, and so that you can live a more joyful life here on earth (John 10:10). God never promises us a life without pain, but He does promise us a life of inner joy through faith in Him, even in the face of adversity. God loves you, and wants you to come to Him. All you have to do is believe in His Son, love Him and follow Him (Romans 10:9-10). Faith is more than just words; it is action. A true commitment to Him means a change in your heart and your life (James 2:14-17). He wants you to live for Him, and with Him in mind every day. Sound hard? Not really ... when you give your life to Jesus, He helps you all along the way. So just tell Jesus what you believe, ask Him to be the leader of your life, and then have faith. You'll be amazed at the change He can and will make in you.

If you have done this, you can be confident that you are one of His, bought by His sacrifice (death) and secured by His Holy Spirit. Secured means that not only are past sins forgiven, but that the sacrifice that Jesus made for each of us covers our future sins with forgiveness in God's eyes, as well. In fact, His Spirit now lives with yours, and will help you make right decisions when you pray for help. You are now a Christ-follower, also known as a "Christian".

We can promise you that Jesus will never leave you alone. The Bible tells us that when we quit trying to live life by the world's rules and truly turn our lives over to Christ, the heavy burden of sin and guilt and failure is lifted off our shoulders. The way we see and experience life and the people around us completely changes. And we can tell you, that is a wonderful feeling and a fantastic truth!

We also believe that every Christian should find a local church to join with, so you can worship God together, be baptized, learn and grow, and be more effective in your life as a believer. Our advice is to find a church that believes what is stated in this letter, one that fits your worship style and that you feel "at home" in ... and then join it very soon.

We will be praying for you and your decision about seeking God and following Christ Jesus. It is definitely a critical decision that each of us must make in life; a personal, life-changing decision that no one else can make for us. Please let Him love you and lead you. We promise that you will never regret it. Each of us has done the same. It will change your whole perspective and outlook on life.

We want to leave you with a Bible if you don't have one, a telephone number to call anytime, and **the name of a church we recommend**. Give us a call. We would love to answer any questions you might have.

Name of Church: _____

Church Phone Number: _____ Name of Volunteer: _____