

# Crossroads Baptist Church Newsletter

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119 480-982-9120

MARCH 2024



**Once again, we will all be blessed through a shared story from a member. I'm sure each of you could think of a time when God moved in your life and it would make for encouraging reading. The following was submitted by David Douglas. And I'm looking forward to hearing from you too. —Pastor Rick**

## **I Was a Christian Missionary to the Peoples Republic of China by David Douglas**

If you're applying for a visa to the Peoples Republic of China, don't put that as your reason for going; it'll end up in the trash. Fortunately, I didn't have to give a reason. I was invited to go to China by Tianjin University, a government institution, to teach English. The University knew I was a Christian. I provided my credentials: a bachelor's degree in English from Whitman College and a master's degree in education from Golden Gate Baptist Seminary.

I arrived at Beijing Airport in August of 2001. I was met by a car with driver and one of the university's professors. During the two-hour drive to Tianjin, the professor asked if I was a "spiritual person." I said yes, I was. He told me that although I could explain religious references in books the students might read, I was not allowed to teach religion. After I moved into my on-campus apartment, the head of the university's Communist Party came to welcome me, and gave me the same warning. It was repeated in the contract I signed.

I found one venue where I could share my faith. The University hosted an "English Night" every Saturday outside the student activities building. People came from all over Tianjin to practice their English. I went every opportunity I had and was often the only foreigner there. I learned to stand with my back against the building, or I was quickly surrounded. Almost every time I went, someone would ask questions about religion. I always began by saying I believed in God and had a personal relationship with Him. Apparently, no one ever complained to the authorities about that.

One evening, two young women came to my apartment, to ask a question about one of their Chinese classes. The question was so trivial I wondered why they bothered, but I did my best to give them an answer. Then one whispered, "Is your apartment bugged?" I wondered that myself when I first moved in. "No, I don't think so," I told them.

"We understand that when a person has problems, they can pray to God for help. Is that true?" one of the girls asked. "Yes, it is." I gave them my personal testimony, how I came to believe in God and accept Jesus as my personal savior. I didn't press them to make a decision at that time, because I felt they needed more background about Christianity.

When the girls left, I immediately emailed a friend in Phoenix and asked if she could find a

*(continued on pg. 2)*

(continued from front page)

DVD of the *Jesus* film. She did and mailed it to me. I got a phone call one day saying I had a package at the FedEx office. I had to go there to pick it up.

I arrived at the office and learned I would have to open the box in front of an officer of the Communist Party; she would inspect the contents. In addition to the DVD, my friend included many religious tracts. The officer glanced at the tracts and put them back in the box. She took the DVD, went into a back room, and was gone almost half an hour. I knew she was watching the movie. "She's not going to let me keep it" kept going through my mind. When she came back, she dropped the DVD in the box and handed it to me. "You may go." I think God was there.

I showed the *Jesus* movie to the two girls, and they did become Christians, as did the mother of one of the girls. I left the DVD in China when I returned to the U.S.

Two other students, who came to the United States to get masters degrees, also accepted Jesus as Savior, thanks to Southern Baptists. One became a Christian through Baptist Campus Ministries, the other through a Southern Baptist church in California that a Chinese-American Christian took her to when the church was studying *Experiencing God*.

The Chinese constitution includes a statement, "There is no God." Yet one can find Him even there. Our God has no boundaries.

**Remember, God loves you and so do I!**

**Pastor Rick**



Where the Mississippi River meets the Gulf: not mixing ever with one another. And people say there isn't a God. If He can tell the ocean where to stop, then He can surely take care of ANYTHING in our lives!



The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.  
—Numbers 6:24-26

# NOTICES & EVENTS



**March 1-31: Annie Armstrong  
“Make Jesus Known” Easter  
Offerings Accepted.**  
Envelopes are at the  
offering tables.

**March 3: Directory Photos  
Being Taken After Church**

**March 6, 6pm: GriefShare 1st  
Meeting**

**March 16, 12 pm: Social  
Saturday**  
Make a prayer journal

**March 29: Good Friday/  
Office Closed**

**Committee Meetings:**  
Mar 12, 12:30 pm: Property  
Mar, 24, 12:15 pm: Missions

**Mar 31: Easter Sunday**



## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**OUR CHURCH NOW  
HAS A PHONE APP  
WITH AN ONLINE GIV-  
ING OPTION.**

**Both the app and the website  
have the new online giving  
option.**

When giving online, there is a fee  
(a percentage) charged as well.  
You can choose to pay the fee or  
not. If you do, the church receives  
your full gift and the fee you paid  
is deemed tax deductible for you.

If you choose not to pay the fee,  
the fee is taken out of your gift amount prior to  
deposit to the church's bank account.

You will find the Crossroads Baptist Church app  
in the Google Play Store and in the Apple App  
Store for both Android and iPhone.

**\*\*Search for Crossroads Baptist Church AZ**

Then download the app to your phone.\*\*

*Look for the blue square with a white 'C' in the  
middle.*

*(This picture below is from the Apple Store)*

**For assistance, please feel free to call the  
office for assistance.**



The **Ladies' Bible Study & Life Group**  
are held on Tuesdays at 10:00am &  
11:15am respectively. We are begin-  
ning a study of 2 Corinthians. See Judy  
M or Beth S. for information. Come to  
all or whenever you can make it

**IMPORTANT CHANGE NOTICE**  
(In case you haven't change it yet.)

**NEW CHURCH EMAIL ADDRESS!**  
Please note the church's new email address.

**Info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com**



February Average  
Monthly Attendance

Sunday Worship:.....101  
 Sunday School:..... 48  
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study:..... 20  
**Ladies' Bible Study/Life Group:.....5/5**

Ministries/Other Events  
Actual Attendance

**Ladies' Breakfast Attendance:..... 7**  
 Barry Ward Concert:..... 96  
 Social Saturday:..... 7



If you would like to have, or know of a church member who would like, a

**visit &/or the Lord's Supper taken** to them, contact the office, Lynne Basch, or one of the deacons.



**\*\*If you or someone you know needs prayer immediately, contact our Prayer Chain Chair, April Inman.**

**\*\*To add to our weekly prayer list, please get the info to the office by noon on Wednesday for the 3pm prayer meeting.**

**The church freezer has homemade casseroles and our pantry is open!**

Do you or someone you know need help with a meal or two? Maybe someone that is ill and a visit with a meal and/or some groceries would make a difference and show them God's love? You can minister to them in the name of Jesus through your church. Come by the office or call to set up a time to pick up. If you are unable, we can help find someone to deliver for you.

**GET INVOLVED**

- **Sunday Fellowship** - coffee & donuts 9 am.
- **Bible Study** at 9:30 am.
- **Worship Service** at 10:45 am.
- **Ladies' Bible Study and Life Group** at 10am & 11:15am respectively.
- **Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study** at 3:00 pm.
- **Ladies' Breakfast—Monthly:** third Friday at 8:30 am.
- **Game Day—Monthly:** Third Tuesday at 1 pm (seasonal)
- **Volunteering Your Time:** The church needs your gifts and talents. See a need? Want to help somehow?  
 Contact the office or the appropriate committee chairperson.

## "WHAT WAS THE GREATEST LESSON EVER LEARNED?"

A church in Atlanta was honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of this speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly, with great effort and a sliding gait to the podium.

Without a note or written paper of any kind he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak....

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through all my trials. The one thing that I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me...

The only thing that would comfort was this verse....

"Jesus loves me this I know,  
For the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong,  
We are weak but He is strong.....  
Yes, Jesus loves me....  
The Bible tells me so."

The old pastor stated, "I always noticed that it was the adults who chose the children's hymn 'Jesus Loves Me' (for the children, of course) during a hymn sing, and it was the adults who sang the loudest because I could see they knew it the best."

"Here for you now is a senior version of Jesus Loves Me":

JESUS LOVES ME  
Jesus loves me, this I know,  
Though my hair is white as snow  
Though my sight is growing dim,  
Still He bids me trust in Him.

(CHORUS)  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME.. YES, JESUS LOVES ME..  
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,  
With my hand in His I'll go  
On through life, let come what may,  
He'll be there to lead the way.

(verse 2)  
When the nights are dark and long,  
In my heart He puts a song..  
Telling me in words so clear,  
"Have no fear, for I am near."

(Verse 3)  
When my work on earth is done,  
And life's victories have been won.  
He will take me home above,  
Then I'll understand His love.

(CHORUS)  
I love Jesus, does He know?  
Have I ever told Him so?  
Jesus loves to hear me say,  
That I love Him every day.



## HAVE YOU EVER considered the chaos surrounding the calm of the first Communion?

The religious and political leaders were plotting to kill Jesus, and one of His closest friends joined their forces. Knowing what was to come, Jesus sought to prepare the disciples for His death while readying Himself for the most significant sacrifice the world would ever witness.

Jesus faced external conflict and internal turmoil in the moments leading up to the cross. And yet, He reclined at the table with His disciples. He paused.

When we follow Jesus's example of Communion today, we have the opportunity to focus on the crux of the matter—Christ's body broken for us, Christ's blood poured out for us. Our external challenges and internal conflicts can wait. It's at Communion that we meditate on Peace incarnate. We follow Jesus's instructions to remember His sacrifice, and we share this significant sacrament as the Church.



This is your gentle reminder that one time in the Bible Elijah was like "God, I'm so mad! I want to die!" so God said "Here's some food. Why don't you have a nap?" So Elijah slept, ate, & decided things weren't so bad. Never underestimate the spiritual power of a nap & a snack.

12:20



What an amazing discovery! Scientists have discovered that ants, after collecting the grains and seeds that they need for winter break those seeds down into halves before storing in their nests because breaking them in half keeps them from germinating even through rain and the most perfect germinating conditions. But scientists were stunned when they discovered that coriander seeds stored in the ant nest were broken down into 4 pieces instead of 2 pieces. After lab research, scientists discovered that a coriander seed will still germinate after being divided into two, but it won't germinate after it's divided into four parts. So how do these tiny tiny creatures know all this? Humans know very little, there's a lot to learn from other creatures.

**Psalm 73:25-26**  
"Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."



# It's a Miracle! God Heals This Pastor as He Preaches on Healing

By Megan Briggs

From: <https://churchleaders.com/daily-buzz/286270-miracle-watch-god-heal-pastor-preaches-healing.html>

August 31, 2016

This story of **Duane Miller's** healing is, well, almost too miraculous to believe. Incredibly, though, it was caught on an audio recording.

As Pastor Matt Fry of C3 Church in North Carolina explains in the following video, Miller was a pastor in Texas who got sick with something like the flu. This particular flu was so severe that it attacked Miller's vocal cords and left him without much of a voice. Miller was so desperate to recover his voice, he consulted over 200 doctors, including 63 specialists. All to no avail.

A year after losing his voice, Miller had to step down from his position at his church and went through great difficulty as he tried to find a different job he could do without the use of his voice. Miller and his family eventually ended up as members of a large church in Houston.

One Sunday, a **Bible study teacher** wasn't able to teach due to sickness, and knowing Miller's background, the church asked him to teach the class. Miller was hesitant at first, but eventually agreed and was outfitted with a special microphone that would be able to pick up whatever sound he was able to produce.

It just so happened that the lesson queued up for that week was on **Psalms 103**—which speaks of the fact that God heals our sin, but doesn't always heal our physical bodies.

At about [4:30] in the following video, you'll hear the voice Miller had grown accustomed to speaking with for three painful years—strained and barely audible. Yet as he is speaking of the Lord's goodness and explaining that God still performs miracles in our day and age, something incredible happens. All of a sudden his voice loosens and he is able to speak clearly.

Miller's shock is audible and so is the crowd's. You can hear nervous laughter in the audience as the room starts to realize what is happening before their very eyes. Miller resumes talking—hesitantly at first. "I don't understand this right now...I'm a bit overwhelmed at the moment...I'm not quite sure what to say or do." More gasps and curious laughter from the crowd. "Sounds funny to say: I'm at a loss for words!"

As he realizes what is happening, though, Miller breaks out with a "**Thank you Lord.**" You can hear him choke up (with emotion this time) as he does the only thing he can think to do: Read the Scripture with his newly recovered voice.

Honestly, you have to hear it for yourself to grasp the full significance. It's nothing short of hearing God perform a miracle in real time.

\*\*Source: YouTube screen grab via C3 Church NC

*Psalm 103:1-6      "Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. <sup>2</sup> Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—<sup>3</sup> who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, <sup>5</sup> who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. <sup>6</sup> The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.*

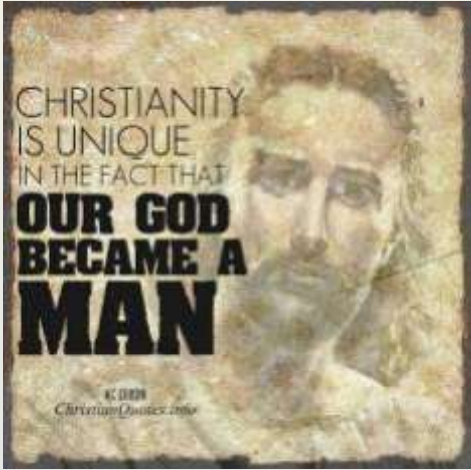
**SPECIAL NOTE:** Here's the YouTube link to the video where he gives his testimony and the audio recording of his healing. [https://youtu.be/S8hkJl\\_TNII?si=JlqOCiNO4S0LZIFN](https://youtu.be/S8hkJl_TNII?si=JlqOCiNO4S0LZIFN)

MANY PEOPLE REJECT JESUS  
BECAUSE OF BAD EXPERIENCES  
WITH RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

BUT, HERE'S THE THING... JESUS  
HAD BAD EXPERIENCES WITH  
RELIGIOUS PEOPLE, TOO.

IN FACT, THEY KILLED HIM.  
PEOPLE WILL LET YOU DOWN.

JESUS WON'T. ✝

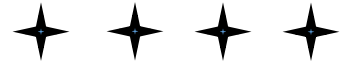




## A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP

I don't remember where I found the piece below. But I feel it is worthy of reading. My take is that the writer is expressing the SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP women have with God in all the busy-ness of our lives. (Not that men can't have this relationship too.) But many women struggle with how to have time for Jesus, how to get everything done and still have time to go get a "mountaintop" experience .with their Lord. This 'letter' is an encouragement. A reminder. A loving note to help us remember, or realize for the first time, that we don't have to struggle to find time to get ourselves 'presentable' and then go looking for Jesus. He is with us. Wherever we are. This helped remind me that He's not "out there" somewhere. He's here. With me. By me. Alongside. Among. Beside. Close.

What a beautiful Lord he is! —Beth Silvers



Have you ever noticed how in the Scriptures men are always going up into the mountains to commune with the Lord?

Yet in the Scriptures we hardly ever hear of women going to the mountains. But we know why — right?

Because the women were too busy keeping life going; they couldn't abandon babies, meals, homes, fires, gardens, and a thousand responsibilities to make the climb into the mountains!

I was talking to a friend the other day, saying that as modern woman I feel like I'm never "free" enough from my responsibilities, never in a quiet enough space I want with God.

Her response floored me, "That is why God comes to women. Men have to climb the mountain to meet God, but God comes to women wherever they are."

I have been pondering on her words for weeks and have searched my Scriptures to see that what she said is true. God does indeed come to women where they are, when they are doing their ordinary, everyday work.

He meets them at the wells where they draw water for their families, in their homes, in their kitchens, in their gardens.

He comes to them as they sit beside sickbeds, as they give birth, care for the elderly, and perform necessary mourning and burial rites.

Even at the empty tomb, Mary was the first to witness Christ's resurrection, She was there because she was doing the womanly chore of properly preparing Christ's body for burial.

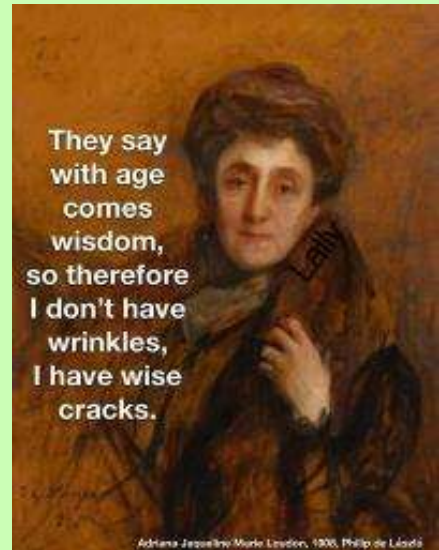
In these seemingly mundane and ordinary tasks, these women of the Scriptures found themselves face to face with divinity.

So if — like me — you ever start to bemoan the fact that you don't have as much time to spend in the mountains with God as you would like. Remember, God comes to women. He knows where we are and the burdens we carry. He sees us, and if we open our eyes and our hearts, we will see Him, even in the most ordinary places and in the most ordinary things.

He lives. And he's using a time such as this to speak to women around the world.

Original □: Heather F.

How you look leaving a situation the Holy Spirit clearly told you not to get involved in



**Can February March? No but April May.**

# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>Start or continue your daily Bible reading plan today! The read-through-the-Bible-in-a-year plan is in the January newsletter.</i></p>	<p>The month of March we will be collecting offerings for the <b>Annie Armstrong "Make Jesus Known" Easter Offering</b>. Please give as the Lord leads you.</p>		<p>3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study</p>		<p>1</p>	<p>2 9am-Decoration Comm-Decorating</p>
<p>3 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group</p>	<p>6 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study  6:00 pm-Grief Share 1st Mtg</p>	<p>7 6pm-Choir Practice</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time Begins in Other States (Spring Forward)</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group  12:30 pm Property Comm Meeting</p>	<p>13 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p>14 6pm-Choir Practice</p>	<p>15 8:30 am-Ladies' Breakfast @ iHop</p>	<p>16 12 Noon-Social Saturday-Make a Prayer Journal</p>
<p>17 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p> <p>St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group</p>	<p>20 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p>21 6pm-Choir Practice</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship After Church-Missions Comm Meeting</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 10 am-Ladies' Bible Study  11:15 am-Ladies' Life Group</p>	<p>27 3:00 pm-Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study</p>	<p>28 6pm-Choir Practice</p>	<p>29 GOOD FRIDAY  HOLIDAY-Office Closed  Ntl Vietnam War Veterans Day</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31 9 am-Fellowship 9:30 am-Bible Study 10:45 am-Worship</p> <p>EASTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you." Psalm 56:3 (NKJV)</i></p>					<p><i>Catch up or get ahead in your Bible reading plan.</i></p>

# † Crossroads † Baptist Church Great Commission Church

2001 S. Starr Road, Apache Junction, AZ 85119

Church Office: 480-982-9120

Hours: M-F 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Email: [info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com](mailto:info@CrossroadsBaptistAZ.com)

Website: <https://www.crossroadsbaptistaz.com/>

Pastor: Rick Basch

## Deacons

Wes Ehlers, Hector Palma, Mike Tacker, Robert Wisner



**MATTHEW 28:18-20**  
WIN SOULS. MAKE DISCIPLES.

Valley Rim Southern Baptist Association

<https://www.valleyrimbsba.org/>

AZ Southern Baptist Convention

<https://azsbc.org/>

Southern Baptist Convention

<http://www.sbc.net/>

