

cross point CHRONICLE



February 2012

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Pastor Rob's India Journal

Dear church family,

Here is a journal/blog of my thoughts and experiences that I wrote down during recent travels to India. Thank you so much for your prayers and support for my family while I was away. I greatly appreciate it! I have shared the first few days of my experience in this newsletter. The remaining portion of my journal can be found online at www.beckleycrosspoint.org.

India trip night before leaving:

I feel like I'm going into battle. Don't leave anything unsaid between your loved ones.

Somber feelings as I wrote out my last will, for my wife to follow through on if something were to happen.

So many questions running through my mind:

- If today is your last day what would you do? What would you say or do to those you love, how about those you are reaching out to or mentoring?
- Do we really appreciate those in our life?
- What do you want your life to stand for?

I am ready to die. I give my life to you Lord, if it is your will. I pray that my life will bring you much glory! That my life could change lives for the Kingdom!

India trip: Travel

Flight one:

Pastor Rob's India Journal
Continued on page 9



Cross Point Baptizes One in January

Cross Point Church had one baptism in January. Russ Sutton, a member of the Cross Point Youth Ministry was baptized on

New Year's Day. Russ recently accepted Christ into his heart and life during State Youth Convention in November.

Below: Pastor Vondie Cook baptizes Russ Sutton on New Year's Day.



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Pastor's Pen

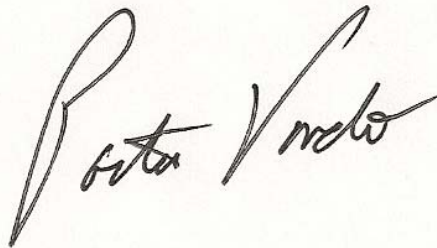
Hi! Happy February!! For me February means we are getting closer to spring (my favorite time of the year) and winter will soon be waning. For others it means love is in the air. If you don't believe me, just watch the Student Ministry at Cross Point for validation.

Regardless of what you think of when you think of February, this is a great time for believers in Jesus Christ to fall in love with our heavenly Father anew. The Christmas season is long past and Easter is a few months away however, during this time we can take an honest assessment of our walk with God.

In assessing your walk, ask yourself if you are making time for God in your daily and weekly calendar? Are you allowing yourself

to love the things that God loves? Some of the things God loves are the lost, the sick, the hurting, the church, etc. Are you watching for ways to be His hands and feet in our world? These three questions, if answered honestly can give you good insight into your current walk with God. The insight you receive can then point you in the direction you should go. And the journey will be exciting!

Happy February,



Youth Team Competitions Begin February 29

Youth Team Competition starting February 29th on Wednesday nights! This will be a 5 week competition that includes team competitions and free giveaways. The theme for the lesson series is Super Heroes. There will also be a weekend retreat as part of the team competitions. Come and bring a friend, starts February 29th, at 6:00p.m. at Cross Point gym. Come and Bring a friend! Hope to see you there.



Attention Cross Point Volunteers

Cross Point Church will be holding a “We Love Our Volunteers” banquet on February 12, for workers and volunteers and their families. The banquet will take place in the gym following the 10:45 a.m. worship service. This is for all volunteers in the life of Cross Point (Christian Education, Youth, welcome center, sound booth, visual booth, office helpers, nursery, teachers, ushers, hos-

pitality, decorating, greeter teams, and all other volunteers and workers). You do not want to miss this banquet that is being held in your honor. No RSVP is required, simply show up at the banquet with your family.



Inclement Weather Policy

As we enter the winter months, it is important to remind everyone of the inclement weather policy. Below are the particulars of the policy. We hope this will help you to know what to do when the weather is bad.

Wednesday Evening :

If there is no school in Raleigh County or if school is dismissed early on a Wednesday due to bad weather, we will not have church service that evening.

Sunday Services:

The Elder Board will make the decision whether or not to have church when the weather is bad.

The church will utilize the church notification system, web site, and media outlets to inform members if church is cancelled on Sunday. Be sure to visit the church web site to find out if church has been cancelled: www.beckleycrosspoint.org.

We hope this will help you know about our church services in the event of bad weather. We understand that church attendance is important, but we also do not want to risk the lives of our brothers and sisters when the weather is threatening.



Newcomer's Gathering - February 18

On February 18, 2012 at 6:30 PM, destination to be announced at a later time, there will be a New Families gathering. This is an event specifically designed for folks who are new to Cross Point. At the event you will have the opportunity to meet Pastor Vondie and Teresa, the church staff, Elder Board, and various ministry leaders. Please watch your worship folder for information as we get closer to February 18.

Cross Point Teen Wins National Award

Cross Point teen Hannah Painter recently won a special position with the Church of God national office. Hannah was chosen from hundreds of teenage girls from all over the country to be a Christian Women Connection (CWC) teen ambassador. The CWC is the national women's ministry for the Church of God. They provide women's ministry resources to the Church of God and beyond to serve Christ through serving women and equipping them for ministry. Cross Point Church has a local chapter of the CWC. If you would like more information about the CWC or would like to get involved, contact Diane Persinger at (304) 575-3006.



Men's Softball Team Forming

Cross Point is looking at forming a men's softball team to compete with other churches in the area. This is a great way for our men to fellowship together and get to know some of our brothers we may not get to spend a lot of time with. This is also a great opportunity for the newer guys at Cross Point to get involved. We will have a signup sheet in the lobby for those interested, and would love for everyone to sign up for a great time of fellowship and fun.



Glow Sermon Series

In conjunction with the Church of God in North America we will be engaged in a study of spiritual transformation starting February 19. The Glow Series finds its roots in the event where Moses was on the mountaintop with God and when he came down the shekinah glory of God illuminated him. When we are engaged with our heavenly Father, we should “glow” within and without.

During this series there will be specific times of prayer and fasting. Starting in March there will be a prayer calendar leading us as we focus on Transforming Hearts – Transforming Lives on a daily basis.

New Bible Study Component Coming to Cross Point in February

Are you ready for the next growth step for you as well as our church here at Cross Point? On the nights we meet for Cross Point Prayer Force, beginning in February, we plan to start a Bible study which will follow Prayer Force. This Bible study will be lead by Russell Shaw.

God's Word is so very exciting and sharing with others in bible study is a great way to really get the most from your study time. Our goal is to take 20 to 30 minutes, after Prayer Force, to explore God's Word. The first study will start at the beginning in Genesis. Genesis is one of the most exciting books of the Bible. It starts with creation, covers many exciting events that we will bring to life as we study how people lived during those days.

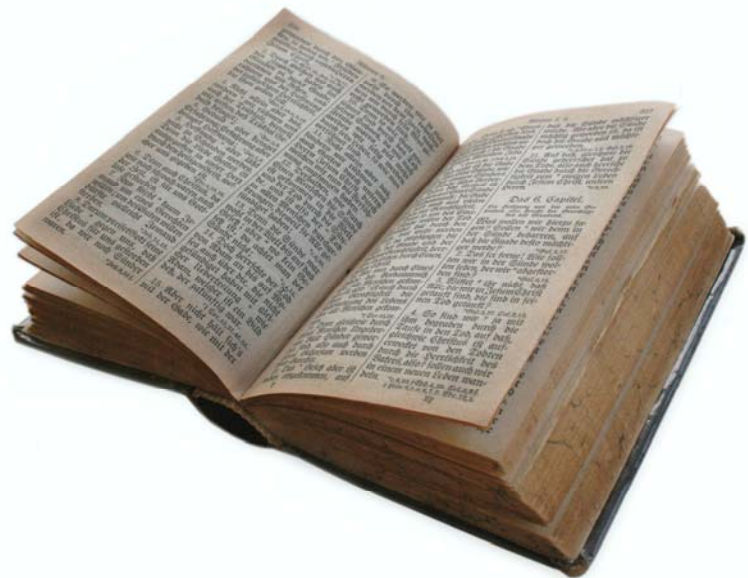
We will tackle some questions like: Who did Cain marry? What was the purpose of the tower of Babel? Why was Joseph chosen over all his other brothers when he was way down on the list from the first-born? Why did Joseph eat alone when in Egypt, especially when he was second to Pharaoh? These are just a few of the questions we will answer while going through Genesis.

We will also be using a Bible study method that is very easy to learn. This Bible study method is called the Chapter Summary Method. So between study times together we will each take some time to ask and answer some questions related to this method. This is one of the easiest methods of Bible study, and it does not require any more than your Bible to get the most from this study.

Another aspect is when we come together as a group we will discuss what God has revealed to us during our time of study. Prayer and Bible study are two of the ways that God opens his word and will to us. A third way He reveals himself to us is through others during fellowship.

So come join us as we journey back in time and not only study God's Word, but also learn the reasons God revealed himself to the people of that time the way He did. This process will also open doors not only here in Genesis but also to many of the other books of the Bible as we learn about the ancient culture of the middle east. This will give us greater insight as to how and why people reacted the way they did in different circumstances.

So are you up for the challenge. One of the most important things we can do is search Gods' word for truth. Come and be a part as we share and learn together.



The Carpenter's Corner
February 3 @ 9:00 a.m.

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www.beckleycrosspoint.org

FEBRUARY 2012



Ping Pong Tournament - February 19

The Youth are having a fundraiser to help them go to International Youth Convention (IYC) this summer. IYC is an event where our youth get to experience God in a new way while being around those their age from all over the country; 5,000 kids worshipping God and hearing some of the best speakers around. It is a great opportunity for them to grow in their walk with God and really step out on faith in new ways.

The tournament will be held in the gym at Cross Point Church at 1:00 p.m. February 19. There will also be a SOUP TO GO fundraiser so you will be able to have lunch at the church before getting into your Ping Pong playing clothes.

There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those interested in participating in the tournament. The tournament will have an entry fee of \$5.00, with an original first place trophy designed by the youth. You don't want to miss out on this exciting time of ping pong action!



SOUP TO GO

February 19
following 10:45 a.m.
worship service



- . Chili
- . Chicken Tortilla
- . Tomato

Cost: Donation

The youth ministry is trying to raise \$1400 per person for International Youth Convention that will be in Denver CO this July. We have 20 going this summer. Please give generously! Soups will be in containers (with fix en's) in the lobby following the second worship service. Come by and pick up your soups on February 19th.



Lost and Found

Have you lost an item? We have received a number of items that have been found around the church. There are coats, clothing, hats, glasses, jewelry, and more. If you have lost an item, call Justin in the church office at (304) 252-6684. We just might have your item. Items not claimed by June 1 will be donated.

**Be sure to visit
us online at:
beckleycrosspoint.org**

Food for the Soul Submitted by Helen Moye

The Carpenter's Corner serves up free food and fellowship three days a week in downtown Beckley. Located at 104 Prince Street in the bottom level of the First Christian Church, The Carpenter's Corner is a Christian feeding ministry. Hot, freshly cooked meals – featuring an entrée, side dishes, dessert and drink – are offered to anyone who comes through the door – from the old to the young. The need for such a service is great in our area, as evidenced by the 80-100 meals served between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on an average day. The Carpenter's Corner is the only feeding ministry in Beckley cooking and serving on a regular basis.

Volunteers from sixteen churches, including Cross Point Church, and the community support this ministry by giving their time or contributing financially. The Carpenter's Corner is funded through donations, grants, and occasional fundraisers. It was determined there was a need for this ministry in the downtown area when Jacob's Ladder, a soup kitchen previously located on Heber Street, was closed. Volunteers from Jacob's Ladder worked to find a new location and secured the Annex to First Christian Church, previously the home of a day care center. A local businessman, who is a member of one of the participating churches, donated kitchen appliances from a recently closed elementary school. After obtaining certification from the health Department and Beckley Fire Department, The Car-

penter's Corner prepared and served the first meal on August 22, 2005. Cross Point Church was there to help with the first meal served.

As important as the feeding of the stomach is the feeding of the soul. Every attempt is made to establish rapport with clients. A genuine feeling of care and concern is expressed. Volunteers try to live by the credo, "Serving Christ by Serving others."

The Carpenter's Corner welcomes new volunteers. For more information you can visit The Carpenter's Corner online at www.thecarpenterscorner.org. If you are interested in joining the ministry team from Cross Point Church, contact Helen Moye at (304) 253-1746.



**Be sure to check out our web site:
www.beckleycrosspoint.org**



In Concert

DAVID WELLS

Chocolate Jazz

February 12 @ 8:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.



Picture at left: Pastor Rob (in blue striped shirt) and other national youth team members in India during recent mission trip.



Pastor Rob's India Journal

Continued from front cover

Way too early in the morning. Hebrews 13:6

So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Excited to fly into NYC; my first time to NYC.

Statue of Liberty was cool to see from sky, as was the city!

Lots of cultures...the Jews stand out with there yamicas, (very bold, very proud)

Flight two:
Feeling like a sardine.

Praying and working on my messages, wondering how much, if any, are the differences in the struggles of those in India compared to ours?

Lord give me the words to say. Lord, give me the ideas. Lord, pour out your Spirit like the accounts found in the book of Acts.

Help me to have faith like a child!

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you, I give you My peace, not as the world gives do I give to you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

Excited to meet up with my brothers in Christ here in Chicago!

Flight three:
14 and a half hour flight.

An hour into flight and I'm ready to be out. Only 13 more hours to go. Setting in back of plane, we smell the food being cooked but we are the last to be served. Last ones to get served a meal means no options - Indian vegetarian meal consisting of rice and beans.

Finally arrive in Delhi. Smog covers the town. The air is so dirty, I began to smell it once our plane landed. You could see smog inside the airport. 17 million people in this one town. Mom and pop selling stands litter the streets. We meet up with several of the local leaders. They share that the air quality has improved over the last ten years. Delhi is a spiritually dark city: 50% Hindu, 30% Muslim, 15% Buddhist.

Hindu believe in a million different gods and goddesses. There are many shrines all over the country for these gods. Each business from store front to taxi has a shrine figurine in it.

We have anointing and prayer time getting ready for service tomorrow.

Day 1 in country

Slept 6 and half hours. Driving yesterday was very scary. Road lanes are just guidelines, it is nothing for two lane road to be 3 or 4 cars wide squeezed together. Glad that my nose is a little stuffy, helps tone down

odors.

Woke up to Muslim morning call to prayer. Room doesn't have heat, unseasonably cold, like 50 degrees. I packed my bags for 70 degrees, no long sleeves.

Lord thank you for your grace and for your mercies. Protect us as we travel.

Went to house church. It was great, very humbling, welcoming and overwhelming. It was on third floor, near rooftop, over homes. Had to wind through narrow halls and stairs to get to service. Everyone sat on floor, men on one side/women on other. Room was maybe 15 by 20 feet with 90 people at this house church service. They had us sit on plastic chairs on stage, honored us by giving us flower necklaces and having us share. After service church goers wanted to shake our hands and also have us pray for them and their needs. We tried our best, most of us did not have an interpreter. The younger generation has a working knowledge of English. The pastor honored us by having us come up to his home after service. We passed it as we were heading back to street level. His home was 3 rooms on second floor. 3 immediate families, one room per family: 5 to 6 people per room about the size of my old office at 2809 Robert C Byrd. They shared a patio, that was there kitchen, which also was part of rooftop. Pastor was poor by western terms, but share all they had: fresh oranges and apples, chi tea, coffee cookie and possible fruitcake? It was very good. Pastor shared video highlights of Christmas drama that they recorded on computer. Also shared about his calling into ministry and some burdens: family.

Then we went to India gate: a large archway, guarded by 3-5 armed color guards. This is a memorial to remember those who had died in different India wars. Also went to old Delhi, drive by large street market. Probably 10,000 people on street selling everything. Catholic nuns prepare us dinner at compound where we are staying: chicken (on bone), rice, cabbage mix of some sort and vegetable spice of some sort that went on rice. Very spicy, and they even toned it down for us, still really hot. Hot water for drink.

Read more of my journal and see more pictures online at: www.beckleycrosspoint.org.



A Valentine's Day to Remember

Contributed by Rosella Trail

When you look at your life, the greatest happiness are family happiness's.

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14. People think about love and friendship on this day. Sometimes people try to stand in the way of love, but love cannot be beaten!

Not long ago, my wife and I shared our 10th Valentine's Day together, a day when I typically reflect on how lucky I am to have found the perfect soul mate. A day to express gratitude to the fates for bringing me a love usually reserved only for movies and Air Supply songs. A day every year that I do whatever is necessary to show her how much I truly care.

Though normally a well-planned and romantic day for us, this year's version marked a dramatic change. At first glance, there could be only one word for it - failure.

Unlike prior years, there was no romantic dinner or picnic lunch. Flowers would not be delivered on the big day. There were no chocolates or candies. No small jewelry store boxes were placed on the dresser. There was no necklace, no bracelet, no ring. No limousines, no movie tickets, and no concerts were arranged. There was no homemade CD of "our" songs. There was no romantic poems hidden under her cereal bowl, professing my undying love.

There was nothing. Well, almost nothing.

There was a road trip - though not the kind of road trip we would have voluntarily embarked upon. The trip was not to the beach, the mountains, or any such getaway. No, this road trip was to the office of a UCLA doctor - a pediatric specialist. We needed answers, and we needed them quickly.

Only a week had passed since the first ripple began to rock our calm and quiet lives. A passing observation during our 18 month old son's routine checkup led to a blood test. An odd collection of contradictory data led to a more extensive blood test, then another, the results of which merely led to more questions. A brain MRI was immediately scheduled.

Doctors and nurses did their best to maintain a calm demeanor, but the hastiness and urgency of their actions belied their efforts to convince us these tests were merely precautionary. All the while, our little boy remained blissfully unaware that his parents were scared out of their minds.

Because of the conflicting nature of initial test results, the doctor opted an extensive and comprehensive investigation. During the course of the day, we found ourselves shuttling to radiologists, phlebotomists, and other specialists. Most of the day hovered in a narrow realm between surrealism and automatism. Through all the evaluations, we made every attempt to make the afternoon as normal and calm as possible for the little one.

Valentine's Day cards were exchanged in the carpool lane of the 405 Freeway. The picnic lunch was replaced by a drive-thru window in the shadow of the hospital. Small, token gifts were swapped in the radiologist's waiting room.

Amazing how quickly your reality can change, and how dramatically your priorities shift in such a brief period of time. There were no "I hope she likes my "gift" concerns. Instead, thoughts were restricted to "I hope my baby is okay."

On Valentine's Days of the past, I would be thankful for on-time flower deliveries or timely dinner reservations. This year, I was grateful for funny nurses that made my son laugh, laboratories that were willing to push back lunch breaks, and a boss willing to let a worried Daddy off work only a few weeks into his new job.

I was thankful for phlebotomists who miraculously managed to

find the small vein on the arm of a screaming baby, on their very first attempt. I was thankful for doctors who believe in attacking a problem head on, refusing to accept a "wait and see" position. I was thankful for professionals who made us feel as though my son were the most important patient on their daily schedule.

After a chaotic and tense afternoon, we were all finally able to return home. As the sun began to set on an excruciatingly long day, at about the time most couples were settling in at their romantic dinners, my wife and I lay sprawled on the sofa doing our best to put the day in perspective. Clearly this would be a Valentine's Day that we would never forget as long as we live. There was relief that the day was over, and apprehension at not knowing what lay ahead.

There was also an unexpected moment of clarity. It occurred to me that the "commercial" aspects of the holiday are inherently meaningless. The flowers, candies, and other gifts that have become the norm every February 14 are not the reason for this holiday; they are merely symbols of it.

In the end, maybe Valentine's Day should be about spending a day with the people you love most in the world. It should be about doing everything in your power to calm a crying baby. It should be about a husband and wife recommitting themselves to the "home" team, and knowing neither one of us could survive without the other. It should be about re-evaluating your priorities, and making certain you are never too busy to be with your family.

And if Valentine's Day really is about all of these things, perhaps the day was not a failure after all. Maybe, just maybe, it was my most successful Valentine's Day yet.

When I look back on that day and how God brought us together, I marvel at His timing and the way He arranged it all. And then we fell in love...what a mystery indeed! Out of all the people in the world, you are the one He chose for me. I love His choice; I love you!

Taken from the book entitled, "*Chicken Soup for the soul, Count Your Blessings*", this article was written by Rob L. Berry

One other love note I would like to share with you is that Harry S. Truman first met his future bride, Bess, in Sunday School when he was six and she was just five. "She had golden curls and beautiful blue eyes," he remembered fondly. Although they graduated from high school together in 1901, the paths of their lives led in different directions until nine years later when they became reacquainted. "I though she was the most beautiful and the sweetest person on early," he later shared of their reunion.

From that point on, Harry began courting Bess, in part through written letters. Even after they married nine years later, the two continued their correspondence through 53 years of marriage, including their years in the White House. Although most of Bess's letters have been lost to history, more than 1300 of Harry's missives have survived in the Truman Library collections.



Cross Point to Host Indoor Camp Meeting

Cross Point Church will host an indoor camp meeting March 2-4. The weekend will feature a special time for pastors on Friday March 2, a time of fellowship, teaching, equipping, and worship on Saturday March 3, and a unity service on Sunday March 4. Pastor Mitchell Burch and his ministry team from Towne Boulevard Church of God

in Middletown, OH, will be the featured speaker and teachers for the camp meeting. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this time of fellowship, equipping, and worship! Watch for more information coming soon!

March Newsletter Deadline - February 21

Don't Throw Away Those Cans!

The youth ministry has been collecting aluminum cans to be recycled to raise money to support youth activities. You can drop off your aluminum cans at the church during office hours (Monday—Thursday 9AM-3PM). Please check in with the church office before leaving your cans. Help support our youth and save our environment! Thank you for your support!



January Numbers (Jan. 1-29)

Average AM Attendance: 254

Tithes:	\$ 29,122.38
Building Fund:	\$ 4,900.00
Children:	\$ 218.17
Youth	\$ 200.00
Faith Promise:	\$ 654.06
Total Giving:	\$ 35,094.61





Cross Point Church

WORSHIP · LOVE · SERVE **of God**

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Beckley, WV 25801
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events, and important information

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