

Crossroads Church

a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church

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Christians passionately dedicated to impacting our world with God's love, one person at a time.

Everyone wants life to count. We all desire to make a difference in another's life. When the time comes and we draw our last breath we wish for it to be said of us, "She was always the bright spot in life." "He was constantly trying to make life a little better for someone."

The struggle we experience in these desires and dreams is so much is out of our control. We act kindly, but it may be received poorly or misinterpreted as interference or control. The help we offer or can give may be rejected, or worse, spurned because of past history.

I often listen to Public Radio when driving. Late mornings I frequently catch part of the Garden Show hosted by Larry Meiller. I recall a program where many callers were asking questions about seed germination – or in this case, the lack of their seeds germinating. In the short time I was able to listen, Larry's guest was stumped more often than not. Her lack of answers to the problems posed had little to do with her knowledge, and more to do with things she had little control over – seed quality, soil type, pests, etc.

As I shut my car off (and thus the radio) I could not help but think how similar this is to life – especially the life we want to matter.

We plant seeds of kindness, gentleness or service desiring them to germinate and grow into something positive and wonderful. Yet, in most cases, those of us who plant the seeds seldom see the true results. Some of these seeds may even die and never grow to usable fruit.

This can feel like failure or cause discouragement unless we realize that, to a great degree, our lack of seeing results has more to do with most things being out of our control. For the seeds of kindness, gentleness or service to germinate others are needed. Others are required to water, to encourage that which may have sprouted. Still others will, perhaps years from now, enjoy a wonderful harvest. Yet, seldom do we see the results.

The Apostle Paul uses this imagery in 1Corinthians 3.6 writing, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Which reminded me of the importance of recognizing all that is out of my control when I go to planting, and the priority of releasing control through prayer. Prayer offers the seeds I plant (whatever positive and encouraging actions or efforts they may be) to God and entrusts the germination, the growth and the harvest to Him.

Do you find yourself discouraged at times because what you do doesn't seem to make much of a difference? As you seek to do good are you first soaking these potential acts in prayer, asking that God prepare the soil, cause warmth and nourishment to create germination, and send others to encourage growth and harvest at the appropriate time?

What I found interesting on this Garden Show was the times Larry's guest offered a suggestion, it was often a simple and "obvious" solution.

I recognized that I often forget the simple and yet most important part of being a gardener for God – prayer.

If you are discouraged, feeling that you don't seem to be making the difference you really desire, talk to God about it. Ask Him to prepare the way before you. And then keep gardening! I promise you, someone, somewhere is harvesting good crops of which you are not even aware!

Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. We continue our stroll through the Psalms as we look at Psalm 6. I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

Our Offering: Luke Society - The Luke Society provides resources and support for international Christian health visionaries passionate about ministering to needs in their own cultures. Our ministry empowers nationals to share the saving grace of the Gospel through preaching, teaching and healing.

Coming Up

Pray for Synod 2018 - Please continue to pray for the delegates, staff, and deliberations at Synod 2018. From Thursday, June 7—Thursday, June 14, approximately 600 delegates and staff of the CRC (Christian Reformed Church) and the RCA (Reformed Church of America) will be gathered at Calvin College to partner for global impact for the Glory of God. For more information and to sign on to pray, go to crcna.org/synod/prayer.

Classis Wisconsin's delegates to Synod 2018 are as follows: Pastors Craig Van Hill and Keith Buist; Elder Randy Hendrikse; Deacon Charles Adams.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC MISSION TRIP

Please continue to remember the team traveling to the Dominican Republic on the 19th. Our team includes the following from Crossroads Church: Pastor Ryan, Kaden & Reese, Bonnie, Heather, Eli, Reed, Sam, Linda, Roel, Tia and Tiara, Pastor Doug & Vicki. They will be joined by 11 others from High Point church. Please pray for safety in travel, for health physically, emotionally and spiritually, for team unity, and for the Holy Spirit to work mightily in the team and in the *El Almirante* community.

Get Added to the List

If someone forwarded you this e-mail, and you are not currently on our church's "e-mail list" but would like to be included in future mailings please send a return e-mail requesting this.

Have a wonderful Weekend! Enjoy the gifts God has given you. Honor Him in all you do, and I look forward to seeing you Sunday!!

May Jesus' love be your strength.

Pastor Doug