

# *Crossroads Church*

*a ministry of the Christian Reformed Church*

*3815 S. Dutch Mill Road Madison, WI 53718-6805 (608) 222-1159 Fax (608) 222-2755*

*E-mail: [crossroads@crossroadscrc.org](mailto:crossroads@crossroadscrc.org) Website: [www.crossroadscrc.org](http://www.crossroadscrc.org)*

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

Ever have days in which it seems Satan is not only winning but it seems to be a blow-out? Do you ever read the newspaper or listen to the radio and wonder who really is in control? I have. I suspect Job thought that a time or two – especially after the loss of all his business ventures followed by the death of all his children.

On what is seen it is not hard to make a case that evil seems to be winning, and God and His kingdom are having a tough time of things.

However, what is often not seen or not known changes everything! Let me tell you a story. Many of you may have heard part of this story – it has been in newspapers around the country. Last Sunday some of you heard the whole story. All of us need to hear the whole story so that we can live in confidence and because our prayers matter.

On November 17, 2018 missionary John Chau was killed by North Sentinelese tribesmen armed with bows and arrows. His body, to the best of my knowledge, remains buried on the beach because Indian officials are not allowed to go on the island.

North Sentinel Island is part of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago of India. The people living on the island are one of the most, if not the most, isolated tribes in the world. They are almost entirely untouched by modern civilization, and it is illegal for a foreigner to set foot on the island.

Twenty-six-year-old John Chau had been preparing for years to go to live among the North Sentinelese people and bring them the message of God's love in Jesus. John was not a stranger to missions, nor to difficult living conditions.

On his first visit he was shot at and fled after an arrow pierced his Bible. He fled to the fishing boat that had brought him to the island. John decided that what God had done for him was worth his life if necessary, and he decided to return on November 17<sup>th</sup>. That day he did not survive getting off the beach.

Many in the world news organizations have characterized John's death a tragic waste. Even some Christian organizations have publicly wondered what could be gained by such seemingly brazen action. To many this would seem a case of Satan winning.

But there is more to the story – and few have heard the whole story.

Unbeknown to John or most others in the Christian world another mission organization, *Every Home for Christ* had recently targeted the people of North Sentinel Island for evangelism within the next decade. To this end

they had begun praying for the North Sentinelese people. Those in prayer measured, by gracious numbers, perhaps in the thousands. What has been happening after John's martyrdom on November 17<sup>th</sup> is a geometric growth in numbers of those praying for North Sentinelese people. Rather than simply a few thousand, today millions of Christians have joined *Every Home for Christ* in calling on God to open doors. What was a small murmuring has now become "what sounded like the roar of a great multitude". More prayers have been offered than can be counted – all on behalf of those who have rejected the initial offering. I have little doubt that within the next decade the North Sentinelese people will be counted as those who have bent the knee to Jesus and confessed with great joy that Jesus is Lord.

On the very day Satan was jumping with joy for victory God was sealing his fate once again as the floodgates of the prayers of His people rose before Him!

If you are having one of those days where everything feels like a defeat, and you wonder if life will ever be sane again remember there is always more to the story than we can see. And most often the part of the story we cannot readily see is the best part! It makes sense of everything, and it is the part that brings tears of joy to your heart.

Today pray for the grace to trust God. Today pray for the North Sentinelese people.

## Sunday Service

Please join us for Worship at 9:30 a.m. This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time of the year in which we anticipate/wait for Jesus coming into our world and our life in such a way that everything is made new! Our Scripture Reading is Luke 3.1-6 – part of the John the Baptist story. John is a strange character – not one we often want to seriously include in our celebrations during the holidays. In fact, I doubt you can find any "John the Baptist" figurines to give as gifts this year. So why do we even talk about him? We will find out on Sunday. I look forward to seeing you! **Make worship a priority this week – someone is depending on you to share this worship time with them!**

*Offering for the Month of December: Luke House - The Luke House Community Meal Program is staffed by nearly 40 faith communities from around the city. Each one takes responsibility for one meal a month – preparing the food, serving the food, and sharing the meal. On the second Thursday of every month Crossroads Church members prepare a delicious ham dinner for over 100 guests. The Luke House meal is a great way to work together for a good cause. If you would like to know more about Luke House or helping out on a Thursday Evening please talk with Pastor Doug.*

## This Week

**Please note the messages in the following flyers.**