

Acts 14:21 They preached the good news ...and won a large number of disciples. Then **they returned to ... Antioch, :22 strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith.**

Acts 15:36 Paul said,... **“Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord, and see how they were doing... :41 He went through Syria...strengthening the churches...”**

Acts 16:5 So the **churches were strengthened** in the faith and **grew daily in numbers...**

Acts 18:23 ...**Paul traveled** from place to place... **strengthening all the disciples.**

Acts 18:26 (Paul equipped Priscilla and Aquila,...) **they invited Apollos** to their home, **explained to him the way of God more adequately...:27 Apollos was a great help to those who believed,** proving from scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.

HOW IS GOD “STRENGTHENING CHURCHES”?

When you pray for “powerful partnering with local churches”, you pray according to God’s words, like those above. As God answers, He accelerates hunger, increases outreach, equipping, changed lives. Here are examples:



DFS men Pastor Keith, contagious →leaders →seekers

CONTAGIOUS HUMILITY, TEACHABILITY, HONOR;

God is working when Pastor Keith role models **humility and teachability**. The more he receives, the more he can give. He **pursues being equipped**, step by step, so he can give the same to his leaders. His preaching and leadership demonstrate what he learns in the discipleship process. **His heart is contagious**. His leaders are learning to embrace the Great Commission as central for everything.

One guy in our leadership group said, **“Honor between ministry leaders like you and Pastor Keith is rare. Your desire to bless each other is inspiring, and contagious. We want to see this grow in our churches.”** Keith’s heart is **contagious to other pastors** too. He wants God’s work at Crossfire to **encourage other churches** to be part of a movement of outreach and discipleship. This impacted **Pastor Scott**, Hope Lutheran, who asked me to share some of these principles with his leaders 3/30. Powerful time!

DESTINED FOR SECURITY, (DFS) GROUP, Crossfire Church; Wed. nights.

Acts 8:30 **“Do you understand?” “How can I unless someone explains it to me?” Our heavenly Father still asks all of us: “Do you understand, live and explain it”**

Coaches, assistant coaches help give eye to eye communication, so people can ask honest questions, find rock-solid answers, take steps of faith in applying, and learn how to share with others. They help **equip Pastors, Leaders, Teachers**, who then **equip people who want to share with others**. They then reach and equip **people who urgently need to be saved and strengthen their foundations.**

12 men, 8 women, and 7 coaches



DFS women

WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? A new Father... vs. addictions

Aaron said, **“All my Dad taught me was how to leave home and how to use drugs.”**

Two weeks ago he solidified his relationship with His Heavenly Father. Last week he told Paul, **“I prayed the ‘prayer of salvation’ before, several times. But I never really understood what I was praying. Last week I really understood... Now I know I can trust God’s promises. I do not want to call God a liar anymore...”** Paul responded, **“Aaron, can you imagine what an impact this will have on your children... and their children...?”**



Natasha, Aaron

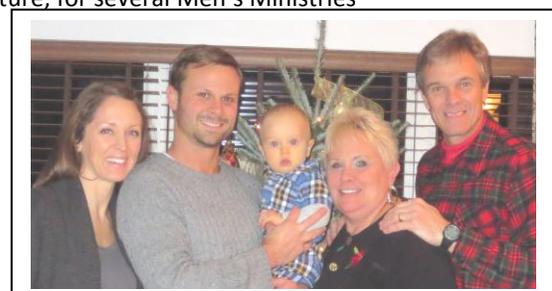
Last week **Natasha’s** eyes filled with tears, **“These promises from God are so clear! If only I had known them six years ago... When my Mom died, I was so hurt and angry. I thought God left me. So I turned to alcohol... I could have shared these promises with Mom before she died, with Dad when he tried to destroy my faith... I want to learn these and share them with our kids and others.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PART IN “STRENGTHENING CHURCHES”, IMPACTING LIVES.

Lives are being saved, marriages restored, families changed, leaders developed who equip and impact others. And Crossfire is just one church. God is **accelerating hunger** in several other churches, leading to **increased impact and changed lives**. Recent prayers to defeat resistance to Great Commission Equipping have led a **recent “spike” in openness and opportunities**. More details later about some of those people and places. For now, Aaron and Natasha, 20 people and 7 coaches, and many others... want to **thank you for your prayer and support which help us “strengthen disciples”**.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- +4/18 Kurt shares **“Rescued”** at W. Leonard CRC + May/June? **Retreat:** Survival/Adventure, for several Men’s Ministries
- + 4/30 **Dan Keating** speaking, E. MI., 5/1-3 Here in GR, “Immersion” in discipleship
- + The Great Commission, **Jesus’ Blueprint** for Making Disciples, **central to all we do...**
- + Generously, broadly, effectively **sharing Good News** with more and more people...
- + **New Christians’ growth**; testimonies, baptisms, connecting, joining churches
- + **Increasing impact through generations**; family and ministry 4th generations
- + **Church leaders energized and equipped**, → **more people evangelized and mobilized**
- + Bella Vista Church, **Pastor Mark**, others, as we seek **God’s best design for discipleship**
- + Crossfire Church, 7 coaches 20+ people in **Destined Mentoring** March –May,
- + **Encouragement, fruit**, for **other churches** with people equipped with Destined
- + That **our family** would **glorify God** through all our generations...



Carrie, Kurt C., Judah