



**“No Cross,  
No Crown”**

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# The Cross and Crown

a publication of Highway Mission Tabernacle and Resurrection Life Church, Philadelphia, PA

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Ezekiel found himself transported to a valley of dry bones.

This was not a recent killing field. These were bones of men who had been dead for a long time. All the flesh and sinew was gone from their bones, and the bones themselves had dried.

Imagine the look of wonder and surprise on Ezekiel’s face as he saw bone joining with bone, and then muscle, sinew and flesh appearing. Ezekiel was no stranger to the sight of God’s miracles, but he had certainly never seen anything like the reconstruction of this vast army.

And yet, they were still dead.

As unimaginable as this miracle was, it would have been nothing more than a parlor trick if it had ended there. However, God doesn’t do miracles just as a show of power or for the sake of novelty. Miracles are God’s power with a purpose.

God began this miracle with the question, “Can these bones live?” – a question that was answered only when Ezekiel, at God’s command, prophesied to the wind, and the breath of God entered the bodies.

In 2005, Highway’s pastor and deacons accepted the challenge of reviving a historic church at 17<sup>th</sup> and Tioga Streets, in North Philadelphia’s Nicetown neighborhood. Long in disrepair, the building had abandoned and looted, and it lay desolate – but it had, in the parlance of the building restoration trade, good bones!



I remember the Saturday morning when the restoration kicked off in earnest. Representatives from throughout the vast PennDel district came to work, as did teams of students from our A/G colleges, interns and other volunteers. Their efforts, and the efforts of many other teams that came and pitched in over the three-year restoration period, were invaluable. However, there were many more Saturdays when the work was carried out only by our pastor, alone in the building and faithful to the call that he had accepted. I have to wonder whether he ever looked around him and asked God the same question that God had asked Ezekiel, “Can these bones live?”

This Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, marks the fifteenth anniversary of the opening of Resurrection Life Church. Had it just been restored as a showpiece or museum, it would not have been worth the trouble, but I am happy to report that ministry goes out from that building at least six (and often seven) days a week, because the Spirit of God breathed – and still breathes – upon us there.

Pastor Otto often speaks of the power of the hymn, so, in that vein, I leave you with these words from the hymn, "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship":

*All is vain unless the Spirit of the Holy One comes down  
Brethren pray and holy manna will be showered all around*

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

*(Romans 8:11)*

## Thanks for Praying!

God's Spirit is with us *here* because you're praying with us *there!*  
Thank you! Please continue to intercede with us for

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- our fall ministries and upcoming all-church retreat,
- God to call laborers, including new interns, and
- financial provision for the ministries and missionaries we support.







**This is whom you're praying for when you pray  
for Resurrection Life Church!**

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join you in praying about, please let us know.

Thanks so much to those who have kept in touch! It's so encouraging to hear from you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

The Cross and Crown is now available on-line! If you missed any issues, simply head over to ResLife.AG/crossandcrown, and find them there. Not on-line? No problem! Just reach out to us and we can send you any back issues.

**"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that, through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide, we might have hope." (Romans 15:4)**



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<https://HighwayTabernacle.org> ♦ <https://ResLife.AG> ♦ Sunday services at Noon: <https://ResLife.stream>