



**"No Cross,
No Crown"**

The Cross and Crown

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To me, fishing means putting bait on a hook, casting it out into the water and luring a fish onto the line. I think this is what a lot of Christians have in mind when they think of Jesus' declaration to his future disciples – that he would send them out to fish for people. So many churches' approach to evangelism is finding something that will attract the lost, tossing it in front of them and reeling them in. This, though, was not the way that those future disciples fished. For them, fishing wasn't a sport or a leisure activity; it was their livelihood. Their technique was throwing out a large net and snatching loads of fish from the water.

Jesus met Peter after Peter and his partners had fished all through the night without



catching anything. At Jesus' command, they put out into deep water and threw out their nets again – this time catching so many fish that their two boats almost sank!

By giving them this miraculous catch of fish, Jesus was also giving them (and us!) the secret to fishing for people. Success doesn't come from having the right bait or

the best equipment, but, rather, from obeying God through faith and throwing the nets out when and where he directs. He might direct you to invite that neighbor whom you've known for 30 years to church on Sunday. He might direct you to talk to the stranger waiting in front of you at the checkout line. His direction might not seem to make sense, but, if you trust and obey, you'll catch many fish.

There are many, many fish in our North Philadelphia neighborhood, but the fishing here is hard. Resurrection Life Church perseveres for one simple reason: It's where God directed us to cast our nets. We won't give up – and we're counting on our prayer partners not to give up – until our nets reach the breaking point!

"Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

(Luke 5:5,6)

Thanks for Praying!

Never think that your prayers aren't making a difference! God hears you and is answering in mighty ways! Please continue to pray with us for

- our Sunday morning Connection Circles (small group discipleship classes for all ages),
- our fall ministries,
- God to add to our number those who are being saved, and
- financial provision for our ministries and for the missionaries we support.







We love our RLC family!

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 blue whale, the largest living animal, has a tongue that can weigh up to 6 tons (comparable to the weight of an adult African elephant) and can be up to 18 feet long. It's flexible enough to stretch to five times the length of the whale's body.

“How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, vast and spacious, teeming with creatures beyond number—living things both large and small.” (Psalm 104:24,25)



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