



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

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There's a banner on the fence outside the church that advertises, “Breakfast with Jesus,” which is what we call our Sunday school. On a recent Sunday morning, we were joined by some gentlemen who had seen the sign but apparently stopped reading at the word “Breakfast.” Once they confirmed that we were, indeed, providing breakfast, they joined us. None of them hung around for the Sunday school portion. One went home and brought his children back for breakfast. Another asked whether he could take some food home for his family.

We're a small congregation, and we can't afford to provide breakfast for all of our neighbors every week, so I, in a moment of great faith, punted the question to Candace. “Do we have enough for them to take some home?” I asked, deliberately framing the question in a way would make it easy for her to say no.

I'm truly grateful that God united me with a wife who makes up for what I lack in compassion and in faith. Without hesitation, she eagerly replied, “Sure!” and, the next thing I knew, I was fetching plastic bags and helping our new friend pack some food for his family.

The gentlemen asked when our worship service started, and they seemed very interested. I have to admit that I wasn't surprised that none of them came back for it. And that's okay.

Let's be clear: Our neighbors' greatest need is salvation, but that doesn't mean that we ignore their other needs. We don't show kindness merely as a means to an end. While we certainly hoped that breakfast would have been a lead-in for us to tell them about Jesus, we're just glad that we were send them off with a little bit of breakfast that morning.

Jesus acknowledged that there were people who followed him only because of the loaves and fish. He fed them anyway, because he loved them. If our kindness comes begrudgingly or with expectations, can we really say that we're walking in his love?

If we are “out of our mind,” as some say, it is for God . . . For Christ's love compels us!

(II Corinthians 5:13,14)

Thanks for Praying!

Before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will hear.” (Isaiah 65:4)

Last week’s newsletter was printed and ready to post an hour or so before we received a proposal from an insurance company. This past Tuesday, our business manager sealed the deal. God answers prayer!

On the heels of that answer to prayer, we have another urgent need: Two members of our church/school family need to find housing very soon. Please pray with us!







During the week, our sanctuary is transformed into classrooms!

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 with you in praying for, please let us know.

We’d just like to hear from you in general! Give us a call or drop a note to let us know you’re seeing this. We would find that so encouraging!

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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, or sign up at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

In Great Britain, Tic Tac Toe is known as Noughts and Crosses.

Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. (Genesis 2:19)



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