



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

“No Cross, No Crown”

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Simon and his partners had decided to call it a night. They had given it their best for several hours but had come up empty. By the time Jesus joined them, they were already washing their nets in preparation for the next night on the lake.

Sometimes, it's not a matter of how hard we work. If the fish just aren't biting, the only thing to do is get some rest and get ready to do it again the next day.

When Jesus came, he told Simon to put out from the shore so that he could speak to the crowd that had gathered, and Simon, as tired as he was, obliged. After speaking to the crowd, Jesus told Simon to go out deeper onto the lake and let down the nets. Simon told him that they'd tried and failed at that all night, but he did it anyway. The result was a catch so large that it filled two boats to the point of sinking.



When we've given all that we have, we're sometimes tempted to give up. The Bible is full of stories of people who were on the verge of surrender, from Moses and David to the prophets Elijah and Jeremiah. Each case ended with an encounter with God that turned the situation around.

How do you respond when the fish aren't biting? For you, maybe it's a ministry that seems to be stuck in neutral, or maybe it's years of sharing the Gospel with one friend or family member who, for all your investment, is no closer to the Kingdom. I've seen two types of response to situations like these: doubling down – working harder, praying longer and investing more resources – or giving up and walking away, in order to move on to the next challenge. May I suggest a third option? Just step back for a minute. Get alone with Jesus and put some distance between the two of you and the crowd on the shore. Give Jesus the opportunity to speak, and give him your full attention when he does. Don't let the lack of fish distract you. Jesus knows when it's time to let your nets down again. When he gives the word, do it – and prepare to be amazed!

I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. (Psalm 27:13, 14)

Thanks for Praying!





We *do* appreciate your faithfulness. Please add your voices with ours as we pray for:

- our summer ministries, including Alpha and our outreach programs to children and youth,
- God to send laborers and leaders with a love for our neighbors and our neighborhood, and
- multiplication!

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 will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

We really do love hearing from you! Every message and phone call helps us keep going!

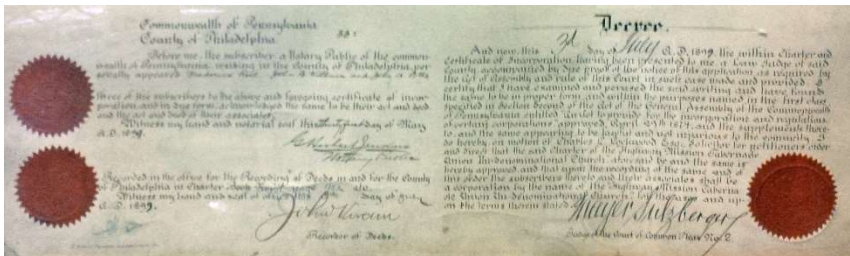
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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did you know?

Mayer Sulzberger immigrated to the United States in 1849. In 1876, he began practicing law in Philadelphia, where was elected presiding judge of the Second Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas in 1895. On July 3rd, 1899, he signed the charter incorporating Highway Mission Tabernacle Union Un-Denominational Church.



In honor of the 125th anniversary of our charter, the printed version of this newsletter has been stamped with our corporate seal.

Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name. Malachi 3:16



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