

notes

Lined area for notes

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PROSE

No More Shame: A Story of Healed Wounds

I was a heroin addict in my 20s. I shot up as many times as I could a day. They left terrible track marks up and down my arms and hands. When I finally got clean, I was left with a lot of scars.

These scars all but faded over the years. But I have one very ugly, very obvious scar that remains on my right wrist. One day I was talking to God about it. I asked Him, "Lord, you have removed all of the other scars from me. This one stares me in the face every day. Others can see it clearly. I know you can remove it. Would you please remove it for me? I'm ashamed of it."

Very clearly and very gently, I heard God say to me, "Look at that scar. Do you remember the conditions that caused it? Do you remember the pain?"

"Yes, I do," I replied.

Then He said to me, "Touch it. Does it hurt? Do you feel pain now?"

"No," I said.

"That scar is there to remind you of how I healed you. Scars are a sign of healing, evidence of where I took your wounds and stitched them up. Everyone that you encounter has scars, Joyce. Many of those scars are on the inside but everyone has them. But scars don't hurt. Open wounds do. I stitched your open wounds up, inside and out."

As I continued to look at it and receive that as truth from God, he spoke again. "Don't you ever be ashamed to show and tell people of how I healed you. That scar isn't about you. It is about what I did for you and is to be used to share my hope and glory."

I've never been ashamed of that scar again.

Submit your writing to TheProgram@crossroads.net.

FNL

friday night live

CELEBRATING 8.8.08

Celebrate eight and the Olympics with the CSM trio, who will be playing songs from eight genres of music, from rock to the Olympics theme song, all with the Olympics opening ceremonies as a backdrop (so you won't miss a thing).

Friday, 8.8.08, 8pm FREE



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HILLS

we die on

WE ARE COMMITTED TO:

authenticity

We believe we can't be what God has called us to be if we play games with each other. Whether it's what happens on stage, within our smaller communities, serving teams or in our homes, we need to be able to share our faults and weaknesses and not fake it. That's **authenticity**, just being real.

(From Philippians 3:17 in the Bible)

The Seven Hills We Die On are applications of biblical truth expressed through the unique personality of Crossroads. Check out the Info Center to read the rest of 'em.

08 02-03

The Program

Check it and see: my Olympic fever is at 103.





current message series

When Jesus prayed a final prayer for his followers, the main thing he asked was that God would make them "one." During our summer series we're inviting in some of our favorite teachers and asking them what they see God doing in the world today in an effort to learn from them and become one.

today

Kevin Myers, pastor of 12Stone in Atlanta GA, will be joining us to talk about what it means to tune into God's Spirit.

FIRST

time here? OR SECOND, OR THIRD, OR TENTH...

Relax.

It's OK to laugh at church. We don't take ourselves too seriously, but we take what we do VERY seriously. As a result, we like to make fun of ourselves, and sometimes, the Bengals. We believe that God has a sense of humor and that you should, too. But if you don't think it's funny, feel free to fill out a comment card, and later we'll have a good laugh at what you wrote. (Kidding! See? We did it again.)

crossroads

in the KNOW

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND CROSSROADS ☒

COMPUTERS FOR MAMELODI

Help your friends in Mamelodi without ever leaving Cincinnati. In exchange for volunteering at Cincinnati Computer Cooperative (C3), they will donate nearly free equipment for the computer lab at Bophelong School in Mamelodi. Volunteer opportunities are Saturdays, August 9, and August 30, from 9am-12pm. A minimum of one hour of serving is requested. To sign up or to learn more, contact Tim at tim@bankes.net or visit www.cincinnati.computercooperative.org.

INSTRUMENTS NEEDED

Help equip budding musicians in Mamelodi with instruments and training. We need everything from speakers and amps to drums, keyboards, guitars, trumpets and woodwinds. Drop off your instruments at the Annex on Sunday, August 10, from 10am-12pm or at the front office, 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday through August 13. For more info, e-mail Andrea at avonallmen@crossroads.net.

PURSUIT ON BREAK

The open Community Group for 20 somethings will not meet during the month of August. Join us again on Thursday, September 4 at 7pm in CSM.

JOIN TEAMWORKS

Walk beside someone as they get back on their feet with a new job. This job mentoring initiative is part of CityLink Now. The next training session is August 19. For more info, contact Shelley Tarshis at teamworks@crossroads.net.

CSM ON SUMMER BREAK

God is doing some crazy stuff in CSM these days. To prepare for some changes coming in September, CSM Jr. and Sr. High will be on summer break the weeks of August 10, 17, 24 and 31. Teens are welcome to attend services with their parents (or sit by themselves if they don't want to be seen with you). CSM will return on September 7.

PRAYER

Available after each service in your Auditorium seat. Fireside prayer every Saturday from 9-10am in the Atrium by the fireplace until August 30. Tuesday morning prayer at 7am in the CSM room. Visit our website and click on "prayer requests" or e-mail requests to prayerrequest@crossroads.net. All requests are held in strict confidence.

For more info on things happening around Crossroads, visit www.crossroads.net.



your kids will LOVE this

All kids from birth through sixth grade are invited to Kids' Club, a fun learning environment designed just for them. Kids' Club is free, totally secure and offered during all services. Any blue-shirted, name-tagged volunteer will be happy to answer questions and point you and your kids in the right direction. And don't worry—we'll let you know if your child needs you at any point during the service.

If you've got questions about Kids' Club or you'd like to spend time hanging out with some great kids, contact Kim Botto at kbotto@crossroads.net or 513.731.7400 x520.

meet

DAVID

David Ashley serves in CSM, and says the students there have been rocking his life, teaching him more than he's teaching them.

What made you choose CSM?

When I was a spastic kid, there was someone who believed in me and it made all the difference. I want to return the favor and build into someone else.

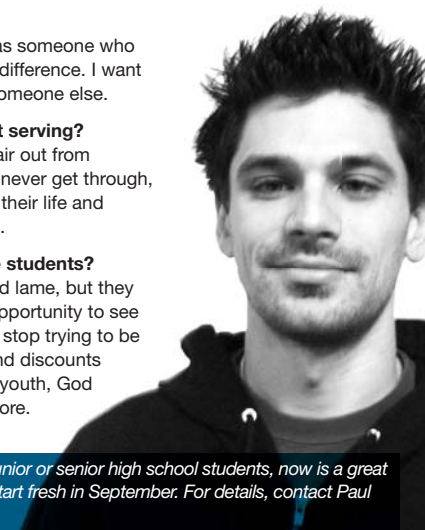
What is your favorite thing about serving?

Just when you want to pull your hair out from working with teens, thinking you'll never get through, one pulls you aside and pours out their life and thanks you for the encouragement.

What do you like most about the students?

Sincerity. They know you're old and lame, but they pull you in anyways and offer an opportunity to see the world the way they do. When I stop trying to be the adult who knows everything and discounts what teens know because of their youth, God shows up and teaches me even more. He teaches through teens.

If you're interested in serving with junior or senior high school students, now is a great time, as CSM breaks in August to start fresh in September. For details, contact Paul Owens at powens@crossroads.net.



TO DO:

BLOOD DRIVE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 1-7PM
FRIDAY, AUGUST 22, 8AM-9PM
MEETING ROOM C

We like to open up our building to bless the community. Later this month, the Hoxworth Blood Center will be holding a blood drive for the area in Meeting Room C. You're invited to come and donate—and tell your friends. Each blood donation can save up to three lives. To schedule an appointment or to verify you're able to give, visit www.hoxworth.org/crossroads.

REACHOUT CARE PACKAGE DRIVE

MUMBAI

Send love to girls who have been rescued from forced prostitution in Mumbai.

Pick up a flyer at the Info Center for more details. **Deadline to return care packages is August 10.**

