



# Perseverance Press

Crossroads Emmaus

June 2021

## Special points of interest:

- July Gathering, July 16 at 6:30 pm, FUMC El Campo
- CRE Board Meeting will be held July 19 at the JEC Meeting Room, 8925 Hwy 111, Ganado

If you are of the male persuasion, reading this you may think of many different aspects of fatherhood. Sure, your kids may dote on you a little today, but realistically, for many of us, Father's Day is a great time to think about your children and the joy that you have experienced just being their dad. Maybe you had or have a great Dad that you cherish. Maybe you don't. Nonetheless we all share a loving Heavenly Father.

Let's take a moment to think about another father. In Luke 15:11, Jesus begins the story of a father with two sons. We know this story as the Prodigal Son. Jesus however, never referred to this story in that manner. Maybe our Savior wanted us to look a little deeper at the story. Many of us, male and female, can put ourselves in all three of those roles.

Perhaps we don't want to admit it now but spent a little time in youthful misadventure and can align ourselves with the prodigal a bit. And we can definitely, painfully admit to the aggrieved, angered, legalistic role of the other son a few times in our lives.

Let's look at the father of these two men. A man of stature. In his time and culture, the mere idea of running through the fields to greet someone would have been an embarrassment, socially



unconscionable. But this is what he did. He ran to his 'lost' son, crying in happiness and great thanksgiving. God does this with us when we venture away from the Cross occasionally, thinking 'I got this' before we realize we don't and turn back to the only sure answer.

As we know from the balance of the story the older son "called the father out" as it were. This was another cultural 'non-starter' that the father endured in love. He explained that all that belonged to the father was the son's as well. Starting to sound like our 'inheritance' in heaven.

The younger son had undoubtedly

endured a few hardships as he learned many things and longed for home. Our 'Brother' was beaten, accepting stripes for our transgressions. He shed the blood of God and man on the Cross to restore our righteousness, as he embraced the 'cup' given Him, before He got to go home.

As we consider both the joys and responsibilities of Father's Day we should look at this story from all perspectives. As we think about our earthly dimensions as a father to our children, let us also consider our role as children of earthly parents and of our Heavenly Father.

De Colores,

Vernon

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## Seriously... (Part Two)

*“When you open a dark closet does the darkness spill out? No, the light shines in.”*

In the last issue we looked at the idea of the Post-Truth Era and the Cancel Culture and their relationship to God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. So, maybe I am a little dense sometimes, but after writing that piece, I sat and thought about something that much of it hinges on, and that we Christians often lament about.

Sometimes we whine about the fact that other ‘religious deities’ get a free pass. If we talk about Jesus we are considered to be oppressing some group or another,

yet some public schools can teach entire semesters about a false religion and that is simply considered part of the curriculum. Then it DAWNED on me! (*Thank you, Holy Spirit.*) The only reason that our Triune God is the only deity opposed by those politically correct types is because our God is the ONE TRUE GOD! Don’t know if that is subliminal thinking imposed on the anti-Christians by the ‘darkness’, or divine intervention on the part of the one true GOD. We know that light always covers darkness. When you open

a dark closet does the darkness spill out? No, the light shines in. It is our job to pray that ears, eyes and hearts are closed to the heretical teaching and that the light of Jesus is what is cast into the classrooms and corridors of our schools.

The curriculum developers, cancel politicians, screen writers, media types, etc., etc., in the world oppose Jesus because He is the only answer. He is the only way to the Father (John 14:6). No one else is really even in this fight.

## God’s Peace

*When you think of peace, what comes to mind?*

Peace may mean many things, but if the definition isn’t rooted in God’s Word, then the peace we long for is only a shadow of the peace God longs to give us.

Let’s ask for God’s peace to fill our lives and our world by praying these two prayers.

### Experience God’s Peace

Oh God, my life is filled with trials and hardships. Sometimes, I feel overwhelmed and grieved. Nevertheless, I’m grateful that in every

situation You are with me. In You, I can have peace. No matter what I face, today I chose to not let my heart be troubled or afraid. My mind is fixed on You and I trust in You. Fill me with joy and peace so that by the power of Your Holy Spirit, I may abound with hope. Guard my heart and give me the strength to live a life marked by Your peace. Amen.

### Peace for Our World

Dear God, thank You for overcoming the world. Thank You that in all things we are more than conquerors because of You and

Your love for us. Today and every day, help us to “turn away from evil and do good; to seek peace and pursue it.” Make us eager to maintain unity, and slow to become angry.

Let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be pleasing to You. Guide our feet in the way of peace and teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Heal our lands Lord and bless Your people with peace. Amen.



## Board Brief

The Crossroads Emmaus Board met briefly at the Gathering held Friday June 18 and voted to present the bylaw amendments to the Community at the July Gathering for approval. The Gathering will be held July 16. 6:30 pm at FUMC El Campo. If approved by the

community, the Board will ratify the bylaw changes at the next board meeting. For those unable to attend, an absentee ballot will be emailed on July 1st. The ballot must be electronically submitted on or before July 15.

**Trainer Needed!**  
Crossroads Emmaus is still in need of someone to step forward and provide community training under the guidance of the Upper Room. Please give this prayerful consideration. This is an required role, and important to the continued function of the community.

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## Ignoring Logic

We Christians are, or should be, in the business of ignoring logic. Even in parables in the Bible when God told someone to do something logical, it was ordained by Him. When a ruler or property owner told an underling to do something or invest something, it was often under “color of law” in the Old Testament.

We have since been covered in God’s Grace provided to us through our Lord Jesus. A full belief and reliance on grace depends on our forgoing logic and letting the love shine on us from the Cross.

A new friend of mine is a medic that provides care for the workforce in a gold mine in Nunavut, which is located above the Arctic Circle. When he is lucky, he spends his time in a clinic, as opposed to the subterranean world of the mine. The men and women that work in that mine do not get to “break off a chunk” for a rainy day. Management takes a dim view of that.

The ultimate management entity for a Christian provides a much

better benefit...Grace. And we can have all of it we want!

‘The time of our life’ is sometimes the ‘times’ of our life. God sometimes puts ideas, circumstances, or obstacles in front of us to develop our understanding of, and reliance on, that grace.

I met my Canadian friend when he needed help maintaining an advanced credential while stuck bouncing back and forth between his home two hours outside of Toronto on a rural organic farm and the icy sub-zero climate in Nunavut, which is 7 to 8 hours away by small plane.

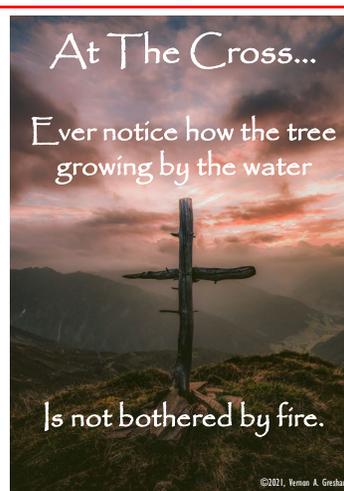
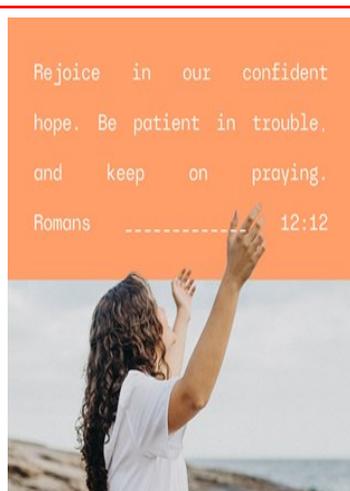
After he contacted me, I pondered the numerous hurdles that had to be faced to maintain a video link for a cumulative total of about 16 hours in an area with sketchy internet possibilities.

Maybe I secretly thought the challenge would be a little fun! If you ever want to know if God has a sense of humor...tell him your plans. Interestingly, after we managed to piece together the timing, locations, and bandwidth to ensure that I could deliver him the

training he needed, we had freak thunderstorms here. All of the video and computer gear that we use to stream educational content around the world is thoroughly surge protected and most of it is on uninterrupted power supplies. Did not matter...I got knocked off four times, until I postponed preventing permanent damage to the gear. In the end it took over a week, but we got it done.

I think another reason that I agreed was that there are only a few hundred of us worldwide that have this particular ‘board certification’ and based on his certification number realized it was only four away from my own. It seemed like the Holy Spirit was telling me to help a guy that was sitting in the middle of nowhere needing something that I could provide. Make the effort.

I think about the fact that no matter what, where, how, or how alone we are... God is there for us. If you can be an instrument of God’s Grace for anyone, prayerfully do it.



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## Bylaws Amendment Process

As you may be aware the CRE Board has been preparing to seek 501(c)(3) Non-Profit status from the IRS. One of the standard requirements of all entities seeking this status is a set of bylaws that include a dissolution clause, in the event that the organization ever dissolves. The CRE Board advanced the fact that if the organization was going to add the dissolution clause, other minor changes should be made as well.

The current bylaws require the changes to be presented to the board 30 days prior to any

action taken, then approved by the Board of Directors, then presented to the Community for a majority vote and then back to the Board for a ratification of that vote. The Board approved the bylaw changes at the Gathering on June 18. The Community will vote on the changes at the July 16 Gathering to be held at FUMC El Campo.

A fifteen day absentee voting period, required by the bylaws will begin at midnight on July 1st, and end on July 15 at midnight. If you will be unable to attend the Gathering that will be held on July 16, you may submit your

ballot during the absentee period.

The CRE Bylaws will be attached with the ballot for ease in reviewing same. The bylaws changes are denoted in red.

Please follow the instructions on the ballot. A sample ballot is shown below. Please do not use the sample ballot below as it is not a working ballot. Please use the ballot that you received in a separate email. The topic line is "CRE Amendment Ballot". Please submit only one ballot per email address unless two persons share one email address.



**Crossroads Emmaus**  
Bylaws Amendment Ballot

Name (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

This must be submitted by July 1, 2021

Yes, I am in favor of the Bylaws Amendments

No, I am not in favor of the Bylaws Amendments

**Submit**