



Cross Pointe News

April 2011

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Counting the Cost—Risk vs. Reward

Pastor Vince Smith

Luke 14:28-30 (NASB95)

²⁸ "For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ "Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who observe it begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'

It is hard to believe that five years have passed since Cross Pointe asked my family and I to come here as your pastor. It seems like yesterday that we left Texas and our extended family 1200 miles behind to make our home here. We are so grateful to God for bringing us here and for allowing us to serve Him here by serving you. The reason we came is because God called.

Many reasons existed not to come here: some personal, like family separation, leaving friends, and loving warm weather and big lakes; others were rational, like coming to a church with \$1.15 million debt and a hurting, divided congregation, and leaving the stability of a known ministry for the uncertainty of an unknown place and people. It was very easy to make an argument against coming here.

Why consider the negative aspects? This type of thinking is the necessary calculating the cost of making a change (Luke 14:28). Another necessary part of counting the cost, however, is to determine the value of what you will have if you finish building it! What was I buying into here five years ago?

As my family and I prayed about coming here we rationally saw great opportunity. The church has a great physical location. It has a new facility. Sioux Falls is a growing city with great values. Truthfully, these things existed in a lot of other places, too. The real reason we came to be a part of Cross Pointe was the spiritual opportunity! The great spiritual opportunity here was, and still is, the opportunity to witness God do something that only God can do—finish building this church into His church.

My personal mission statement for the past fifteen years has been to know God and to make Him known (paraphrase of John 17:25-26). As I prayed about this place, I felt in my guts the opportunity to witness God finish what He had begun here more than twenty-five years ago. In fact God promises he can finish it: *And so I am sure that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it on until it is finished on the Day of Christ Jesus* Philippians 1:6 (GNT.)

The opportunity to see God make Himself known through the work at Cross Pointe and to be invited to be a part of His work is why my family and I came. We have seen God do some amazing things here in the last five years. The church's very survival is a testament to God's sovereign activity. The addition of two more ethnic congregations inside our congregation is another, as is the more than 130 baptisms in the last five years and the real, life-changing spiritual growth that so many people report experiencing. All of these results required investment.

How much are you willing to invest to see the God of heaven and earth do what only the God of heaven and earth can do? How much are you willing to risk to see the reward of the God of heaven and earth do what only the God of heaven and earth can do?

Jesus said a person must count the cost of what they want to obtain and make sure they have enough to obtain it, otherwise the person looks real foolish. What is the cost of having a relationship with Jesus Christ? Here is what Jesus said:

²⁶ "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, and **even his own life**—he cannot be My disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not bear **his own cross** and come after Me cannot be My disciple... "So then, none of you can be My disciple who does not **give up all his own possessions.**" *Luke 14:26-27, 33 (HCSB, emphases mine)*

The required investment to be with Jesus is your whole life. The reward for the investment is an eternal relationship with Jesus himself! That reward is worth the risk!

Five years later, Cross Pointe is still seeing God move in mighty ways. Financial times are tough, but God's business is still the best investment possible. Your pastors here at Cross Pointe are investing by picking up extra employment without cutting back their time for the church. They are willingly making this investment because they have faith that God is doing things that only he can do here.

Here is the big ask for all of Cross Pointe's members: will you risk what you have for the reward of what God offers? What you have is time, money and talents. Will you give more of each to Jesus here at Cross Pointe?

Noticias de Iglesia Bautista Cross Pointe en Español

By Daniel Murillo

Durante el mes de Febrero y Marzo celebramos dos cosas que fueron de mucha bendición para nuestra Iglesia; tuvimos la serie de estudios de **Romanos 12** y la **Campaña de Avivamiento** con el Pastor Cruz Murillo.

La serie de estudios de Romanos 12 fue excelente por que aprendimos el verdadero camino a la Espiritualidad verdadera y para muchos hermanos fue muy bueno; bueno en sus vidas y crecimiento espiritual (hay que ponerlo en práctica) Algo por lo cual podemos dar gracias a Dios es que ahora tenemos tres grupos pequeños en la Iglesia donde se reúnen los hermanos para estudiar la biblia y crecer espiritualmente y tener compañerismo y comunión y también invitar a personas para que reciban a Cristo como el Señor y Salvador de sus vidas..... ¡Gloria a Dios por ello!

Oremos y apoyemos con nuestra asistencia e invitando a personas a estos estudios en hogares:

- Casa del hno. Erasmo y Mónica García
- Casa de hno. Adán y Odilia Gómez
- Casa de hno. Fernando Rivera

La segunda cosa que quiero compartir con ustedes es que en el mes de Marzo tuvimos nuestra campaña de primavera y fue de mucha bendición; el Pastor Cruz de Tijuana BC. México estuvo con nosotros y nos predico temas concernientes a la familia. Tuvimos muy buenas asistencias esas noches y a raíz de esos dos familias están asistiendo a nuestra Iglesia fielmente (oremos y trabajemos para conservar el fruto de esta campaña)

¡Animo iglesia, Yo puedo ver la mano poderosa de Dios en nosotros, Dios nos quiere bendecir y quiere hacer algo muy grande con nosotros pero todo comienza con usted, con cada uno de nosotros primero y luego con toda la iglesia des pues. Si usted se consagra y rinde su vida a Dios, Dios bendecirá y usara su vida y eso será de impacto a los que le rodean a usted!

A si es que animo hermanos el trabajo es mucho y los obreros pocos involucrémonos en el trabajo de la obra de Dios, sigamos adelante, recuerden lo que la Biblia dice: *“No nos cansemos pues de hacer el bien; porque a su tiempo segaremos, si no desmayamos”* **Gálatas 6:9**

Atte.

Pastor Daniel Murillo

Worship News

By Ben Cochran

It has been a busy couple months here at Cross Pointe. The revival services were a great time of refreshing and challenge for our body. Brother Geoff did a great job teaching and challenging us as a church to get out of our comfort zones and live for Jesus. Also, I just want to say how great it was seeing the Youth Praise Band do such a great job leading music for a couple nights of services during revival. It was great seeing their hearts of worship come out! Please, if you haven't already, tell them how great a job they did.

As we head into the Easter season my prayer for our church is that we experience overwhelming joy and excitement in the realization that our Lord has risen from the grave, victorious over sin and death forever!! My prayer is that you come to know the Jesus of the Bible; the strong, mighty, redeeming Son of Man who came to give us life and life more abundantly! Let it permeate your soul, let it spring forth from your heart like streams of living water! People need to see this Jesus in you and I, and when they do it will change them.

Now that the preaching is over, there are a couple announcements for everyone. First of all, if you haven't heard already, Annie and I are expecting our first blessing. We are very excited about this new phase of our lives, and the challenges and rewards it will bring! Also, if you have not heard, this year we are planning on having a choir sing for the Easter Service. This will be a great time of singing praises to our risen Lord and King! Whether you are Pavorotti or Bob Dylan, please join us! If you are interested in taking part in this please talk to Ben or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Finally, if you are interested in singing, playing an instrument, or running sound/doing slides please don't hesitate to talk to Ben. We would love to have you on the team!

In Him,
Ben Cochran
ben@crosspointesf.com

Youth News

By Ben Cochran

Well, hello again friends! It is that time once again, newsletter time. It's been a busy couple months for the Youth of Cross Pointe Baptist Church. We just recently wrapped up our study of Romans 12. It was a great time of challenge and motivation for the students, and we saw some spiritual lights come on in the lives of some of our students. Please continue to pray for our students! Pray that God will continue the work He has started in many of their hearts, and that He will light the fire of passion for Jesus and His word in their hearts in the coming months.

Recently, we went and played some laser tag at Galaxy Gaming here in Sioux Falls. It was a great time of controlled violence! Thank you to all the parents who lent us your kids for the evening!

This year we are planning on doing our 30 Hour Famine later; this year's date will be May 13-14. If you are unfamiliar with the Famine, it is a nationwide event geared towards students, in which they fast, pray, and serve for 30 hours (By choice!!!). They will be raising money to help support World Vision's work to feed, clothe, and educate families throughout the world. Just some statistics for you:

- 1 in 6 people in the world will go to bed hungry tonight.
- Hunger kills nearly 8,000 children under 5- or one child every 10 seconds.
- Nearly 642 million hungry people live in Asia and the Pacific alone.
- There are nearly 1 billion people going hungry everyday in the world.
- It only costs \$360 a year to feed, clothe, and educate a child for an entire year through World Vision!!

The students have their envelopes, please consider giving what the Lord places on your heart to give.

Finally, please pray for our students as we head into the end of another school year. There are many hurts, fears, struggles, and temptations that come against our middle and high school students, pray that God meets them in a special way and makes His love for them real and tangible. Pray that He calls leaders out that will change the world for His glory! Please pray for Annie, Chris, Sherwin, and I as we love and minister to these students, and pray for wisdom on how we can reach them in a life-changing way.

Thank You and God Bless,

Ben Cochran
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Children's Ministry

By Stephanie Nordgren

As the school year starts to wind down teachers, leaders, and kids start to get anxious to get outside to join the warm weather. Ask any teacher who spends eight hours in a classroom with kids and they will tell you that the kids have shorter attention spans and higher energy. What would this look like if Christians had this same anticipation for the coming of Christ? Would you sit and shake your leg as you sit at work? Would your pulse rise as you think about the day when the trumpets will sound? Would you tell everyone around you about how great a relationship with God is? As parents, how do you share this joy with your child(ren)?

There are several opportunities to share this with the children of Cross Pointe this summer! One of the big things is VBS. VBS will be July 18-22 this summer. We will be visiting Nazareth where Jesus was a kid and look at how people lived in the time of Jesus. We will explore daily life, study God's Word, reach out into the community, and have a lot of fun. Are you interested in helping? Let me know. I have a place for everyone who would like to be involved. Because VBS is coming up quick we have a wish list we would like to share. If you can help with any of these needs, please contact me in the office or drop them off.

Wish List

- toothpicks
- egg cartons (50)
- baby food jars (100) preferably the smaller ones with lids
- Hotel soaps (100) the smaller the better
- knee high nylons (100)
- Old White Sheets
- Thin twine for necklaces

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Finance News

By Jerry Kruger

Happy Easter! Thanks and praise to all brothers and sisters who participated in our recent input session on the 2011 financial projections. The leadership team will be discussing your input along with ongoing trends at this month's meeting. Your input was important to insure that our future plans will reflect church wide support in achieving God's goals. In the near future a mission fair will be conducted by the individual teams to provide other opportunities for your service and participation.

May the Lord bless you this Easter season!

-Brother Jerry

Compassion Team News

By Richard Burgard

As the Cross Pointe r-12 campaign draws to a close, we praise God for answered prayers and changed lives resulting from this intensive study.

Requests for assistance from the Benevolent Fund continue to be received. In 2010 the total funds received from the Benevolent offerings was \$2303.00. \$2277.00 was given out during that same year paying for such basic needs of life as food, gasoline, and rental assistance. The next Benevolent offering will be taken following the morning service on May 29, 2011.

Missions News

By Jon Merchant

Every week we look at the front wall of the sanctuary and see Cross Pointe's mission statement. "Pointing people to new life in Jesus" is what we're all about, and it should be the point behind everything we do as a church. That mission goes far beyond what happens inside our walls. Christ never invited anyone to the synagogue - He went out to where the lost lived and touched their lives, and He has called us to go and do likewise. This may make some people feel threatened, like we are "scattering the church", but in reality what we see as the traditional church is "the church gathered" - A place to come and be re-energized, to celebrate the victories, to receive the training and support we need to do what God has called us to, a place of fellowship, a place of safety, a "home". The things we do outside of the building in service, in small groups, with our lost friends and neighbors... that is where ministry really happens. That is the church in action.

Between the missions training (Bible fellowship, small groups, Awana, etc.) and the missions sending (visiting summer teams, block parties, back yard Bible clubs, local outreach, support for North American and International missionaries, etc.), the Missions Team always seems to have something going on, and people sometimes wonder why we are doing this or that activity. Although we may occasionally go off

chasing rabbit trails, we try very hard to tie all of what we do back to the mission of the church. Sometimes with the flurry of activities flying around us it's easy to lose sight of how the activities are related to the mission.

All of the activities in the mission training are aimed at making our members stronger disciples of Jesus so we can obey his command to go to our "Jerusalem" and beyond reaching the lost for Him. We need to be ready to give an answer when the world asks us who this Jesus is. Right now we have needs for people to step up and serve in the nursery, toddler room, and throughout the children's ministries. This summer we will be needing people who are willing to lead small groups on parenting, financial health, and self-esteem.

In the area of missions sending we are currently in the middle of our Annie Armstrong offering to support North American missions in reaching the lost here, in Canada, and Mexico. This will run through Easter. Along with that, we are already in high gear on planning for the summer. We currently have four teams coming this summer, one each from Virginia, Illinois, Louisiana, and Missouri (in that order). I sometimes hear people ask why we do this, and the question always amazes me – We have about 150 people coming from all over the country, donating literally thousands of hour of their time and thousands of dollars of their money to support our vision. This is work we couldn't support with our current members and money that wouldn't be coming without the teams. The fact that God provides this support year after year is both amazing and humbling. The challenge we have as a church is how can we support these teams while they are here and continue the work they have begun once they are gone. There are so many opportunities for our members to come alongside of these teams and work shoulder to shoulder with these wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ. More detailed information on the activities and needs will be coming in the next month or so, but activities will include prayer walking, material distribution, block parties, back yard Bible clubs, construction and clean-up projects, seminars, on-going Bible studies, and lots of follow up as we reach out to serve, seek, and save the lost in our own back yard.

Fellowship Team

By Todd and Tamara Even

Spring is such a wonderful time of year as the grass turns green, trees start to bud, flowers begin to grow and the birds start chirping. All of this given to us by our glorious Father, Jesus Christ. What a perfect time to look at what your purpose is and where you feel you are being called to help within the church, serving Him and growing your faith and relationships with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Below is a list of upcoming events that are great opportunities for anyone to serve. The Freedom Fund lunches will be potlucks with all money going towards the building fund. We need volunteers to be in charge of setting up the potluck that Sunday morning and making sure everything is ready to go at the end of the service. There is also a need for people to help clean up after each meal.



Upcoming events:

April 24th – Annie Missions Easter Breakfast

June 12th – Freedom fund lunch

July 10th – Freedom fund lunch

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need.

Romans 12:9-13

Todd and Tamara Even

Other News and Updates

Upcoming Events...

April 28-29	Pulse 2011
May 13-14	30- Hour Famine
June 12	Freedom Fund
June 14	Lifeline Screening
June 18	Mexican Consulate at Cross Pointe
June 18-24	London Bridge
June 25-July 1	Peoria
July 6-8	Youth Camp
July 8-15	Louisiana
July 10	Freedom Fund
July 18-22	VBS- Hometown Nazareth
July 23-30	Poplar Bluff

Helpful Links....

www.crosspointesf.com

www.findithere.com

www.finditheresouthdakota.com

www.dakotabaptist.com

www.sasb.org

www.namb.net