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Summer/Autumn 2021

THE CC NEWSLETTER



BROADCASTING BIBLICAL TRUTH SINCE 1936

CHRISTIANCRUSADERS.ORG

FROM THE DIRECTOR



For some people, summertime is relaxing and slower than "normal life." But for me it's the opposite. This is the busiest and craziest time of the year for me! First, I'm co-owner of a large chain of fireworks stores here in Iowa, which are open 34 days leading up to Independence Day. Thankfully, I'm a lot more hands-off than I was when we first started in 2017, but fireworks still take some of my time and attention. Second, I'm the Director of the Cedar Falls Bible Conference, one of America's longest-enduring annual Bible conferences. This year

we're celebrating our 100th gathering during the first week of August, and this requires a lot of my time in the summer as well.

Given what I've described above, I was not excited to take 4 days in Grapevine, TX to fulfill one of my responsibilities by attending my first ever National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) Convention. The NRB Convention is the largest gathering of Christian radio broadcasters (and now podcasters) in the world, accompanied by a large trade show, many large group sessions, smaller seminars, and lots of networking opportunities. Typically, it is held in March, but due to Covid-related postponements it was held during the last week of June this year. Frankly, we pay a substantial sum of money to belong to this organization and to send me to their annual convention, so I had a "prove it to me" attitude as I headed to Texas in June. I was expecting to find our membership in NRB and attendance at its convention to be not worthwhile.

Boy, was I wrong! By the end of my first day, I had notes of more tips and ideas for our broadcast and podcasts than I knew we could implement before the 2022 convention. Not only that, but I made connections with several people who will make great podcast guests in the future.

As you listen to our broadcasts and podcasts, you may detect some changes inspired by things I picked up at NRB. For example, on the last Sunday of the month, when Tim Boettger (who is replacing the retiring Lee Laaveg) preaches, we will be experimenting with some small format tweaks. The change in preachers gives us a great opportunity to try a few new things out. The broadcast won't be drastically different, but we'll be adding a new on-air voice or two, and we'll be more intentional about promoting our podcasts. As we do this, please extend us some grace, and please take the time to share your thoughts and reactions with us – our contact info is on the last page. Remember: formats change and preachers transition, but the Word of the Lord and the Gospel of Christ stay the same forever! (Also: Don't be too quick to give up on something that God still intends to use to bless and strengthen you...like I almost did with NRB!)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt".

Matt Reisetter, Executive Director

New Radio Preacher: Tim Boettger

It has been a true joy for me to have had the opportunity to serve the Lord in full time ministry now for over 30 years. As a young boy it never even crossed my mind to be a pastor or preacher. However, as I listened to several ministers on the radio and on cassette tapes while working in the fields on our family farm near Harlan, Iowa during my high school years, I should have seen it coming! I was so stirred, inspired, and changed by the preaching of the Bible during those days that I came to a deep



conviction that the Bible was truly the inspired Word of God. I experienced first-hand the Bible's unique power to change a life in a way nothing else could. I hold to that same conviction today after studying and preaching it for the last 30 years. It is a real joy for me now to have the opportunity to help bring God's Word to the world through this unique platform of the radio and internet ministry of Christians Crusaders.

I have the support of a wonderful family in ministry. My wife, Kris, and I live in Cedar Falls, Iowa on an acreage. We raised our two children, Isaac and Adrienne, here in this great community. We are now also mother- and father-in-law to our beautiful daughter-in-law Katie and the proud grandparents of Clayton (18 months) and Kiley (5 weeks). Kris runs a restaurant / Iowa store in a barn on our farm named "Barn Happy." Isaac plays football for the Buffalo Bills in the NFL, and Adrienne works at Waterloo Christian School in Waterloo, Iowa.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Rev. Lee Laaveg for the exemplary speaking service he has provided to this ministry over the past 6+ years. I have enjoyed listening to him and been encouraged in my faith by his teaching. It is truly an honor for me to have been considered and then given the opportunity to fill his seat for this interim period. Having served on the board of directors of this ministry for a number of years it is very easy for me to express real excitement about all that God seems to be doing in and through this ministry! Rev. Steve Kramer's gospel-centered voice has been a steady blessing on the airwaves for over 13 years now, and the expansion of this ministry on the internet and international stage through podcasts is only helping us to get the great news of Jesus out to a larger and larger audience. Thank you again for your prayers and support! Let's keep partnering together in this venture!

MEMORIAL GIFTS

MEMORIALS GIVEN

A

Leslie Abrams
Madelyn Abrams
Arlan Andersen
Richard/Joann Juhl
Greg Andersen
Richard/Joann Juhl
Jim Anderson
Eileen Anderson

B

Francis Barrick
Lola Barrick
Ellen Blandau
Patricia Hansen
Eugene Bright
Marjorie Behrens
Gloria Dayton
William Hanson
Betty Oltmann
Harold/Kathleen
Schuhmacher
Cheryl Skibsted
William/Susan Smoldt
Marlys Wray
Ed Burley
Merle/Joyce Larkin

C

Mary Ann Creeden Portis
Myron/Marcia Green
Arlene Hintch

D

Harriet Debolt
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Rev. Kay Dillon
Don Pliester

E

Honor of Rev. Bob Ericson
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Bill/Jolene McCurdy

F

Lorraine Fox
Margaret Satre

G

Vera Giertz
Arlen/Marilyn Parrish

H

Berdena Haepfner
Bill/Jolene McCurdy
Connie Hansen
Richard/Joann Juhl
Al Happel
Bill/Jolene McCurdy
Gary Harris
Thomas/Vicki Moe
Barbara Marie Heitland
Roger Bergman
Dr. Marilyn Hines
John/Laurie Larsen
Lyle/Gloria Holmstrom
Deborah Holmstrom

J

Mike Juhl
Richard/Joann Juhl
Duane Mueller
Ronnie Juhl
Merle/Joyce Larkin

K

Claudia Kaestner
Richard/Joann Juhl
Honor of Rev. Brian King
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Bill/Jolene McCurdy
Honor of Rev. Steve Kramer
Eugene/Dorothy Bright
Ella Krueger
Gerald/Rebecca Suchan
Jean Kuhrt
Darrell/Adeline Gutz

L

Rev. Homer Larsen
Steven Parker
Louise Theberge
Luverne Krambeer
Oswald & Carol Goettler
LeAllen Nevermann

M

Don/Joan Medici
Walter Chapman
Henry "Hank" Mehman
Robert/Karen Janssen
Merle/Joyce Larkin
Donald Melchert
Deborah Holmstrom
Paul Melchert
Deborah Holmstrom
Velma/A.H. "Bert" Melchert
Deborah Holmstrom
Dick Melick
Dean/Glenda Alshouse
Roger Bergman
Dan/Nancy Dreyer
Richard/Linnea Graen
Merle/Joyce Larkin
John/Laurie Larsen
Bill/Jolene McCurdy
William/Donna Mincks
Thomas/Vicki Moe
James Peterson
Robert Potratz
Margaret Satre
John Sheperd
Jon/Maxine Welcher
Mark/Sydney Wikner
Mary Mommer
Richard/Joann Juhl
N
Kim (Moe) Nelson
Jim/Judy Fogdall
Marvin/Sandra Heller
Mervyn/Larue Hilpipre
Bill/Janet Kahler
Mary Lou Knight
Merle/Joyce Larkin
John/Laurie Larsen
Don/Nadine Lilleskov
Thomas/Vicki Moe
Zorah Pender
Anonymous
Ed Nielsen
Allan/Sharon Halverson
Roger/Susanne Menken

Received 5/1/21 – 8/1/21

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Mildred Nielsen

Dennis/Diana Bergeson
Stan Engel
Mavis Jensen
Luella Larsen
Nancy/John Strauser
Deb/Ted Whitesell

O

Fred Obmann
Lynette Aschinger
Florence Oelmann
Maggie Christensen
Jerry Ortman
Dave/Barb Else

David/Marcie Gaertner
Ivedean Herter
Jason/Angi Herter
Jeff/Barbara Herter
Mike/Erika Horstmann

R

Merlin Rabe
Debra Parker
Corey Rabe
Dean Rueber
Don Pliester

S

Dave/Norine Sandvold
Mary Ann Sandvold
Diane Selleck Tarr
Dorothy Selleck

T

Robert Tesdall
Steve/Loretta Wierson
Richard Turner
Sharon Turner

W

Bud/Marilyn Wierson
Steve/Loretta Wierson

Check out our lineup of great interviews on The CC Podcast: Conversations

Ron Gruber - Then: Gangster, Murderer, Prisoner; Now:
Disciple-Maker for Christ

Ike & Tim Boettger - The Lord's Hand in a Pro Football
Player's Journey

Kristina McBurney and Kim Albertsen - Trusting God with
Singleness and Unmet Expectations

Dr. Rich Frankhauser - A Medical and a Christian
Perspective on the Coronavirus

Pastor Phil Hopper - Arise and Awaken: How to Think About
and Respond to the Coronavirus "Divine Interruption"

Gregg Hinzelman, Author of "*What Are You Trusting
God For?*"

Nathaniel Parrish, Organist and Worship Director (12 organ
pieces included!)

S. H. Van Hove - Retired Funeral Director for Christ

Mark McConnell - Author of "*The Prime of My Days: Lessons
in the Prime of Life from the Book of Job*"

Michael W. Smith - Globally-known Christian Singer and
Songwriter

Check out ChristianCrusaders.org, the CC
smartphone App, or your preferred podcast plat-
form to listen! More details on page 8.

MEMORIAL GIFTS are a great way to honor a loved one, while also supporting the mission of Christian Crusaders in proclaiming Jesus Christ as redeemer of the world through our weekly radio broadcast and our multiple podcasts.

We regularly receive donations in memory of people who have recently or not-so-recently passed away. We are pleased to list their names in our newsletters as a way of honoring them. To make a memorial gift, whether by mail or online, simply indicate the name of the person being memorialized and it will show up here in the next newsletter that comes out after the gift was received.

For information on how to set up an ESTATE GIFT or a LEGACY DONATION in the most tax advantageous way for you, contact our office and we can put you in touch with an expert at no cost to you.

Former Directors on 85 years of CC



Karen Mills, CC Executive Director from 1998-2004

During my time as executive director I spent about one day each week out on the road visiting listeners. I remember spending a half hour with a listener who lived in a small home on a lake shore. He was the full-time caregiver for a wife with advanced dementia. She sat quietly during our entire visit caressing a doll on her lap and watching the lake out the huge picture window. The elderly gentleman pointed to a chair in the corner by a radio. A worn Bible rested on a shelf nearby. "This is where I go to church each Sunday. Your ministry feeds me," he declared. I remember thinking that we were serving our purpose to listeners like him. May God continue to bless Christian Crusaders so that we can feed many listeners and internet users with the gospel message.

Janet Mennen, CC Executive Director from 2004-2013

For 85 years, God has blessed Christian Crusaders to be a blessing to listeners around the world! Having the opportunity to work within this ministry alongside devoted Christian staff and board members, I was blessed, too. So many memories . . . but there's one that highlights this ministry's purpose up close!



What began as a casual visit in our office with a young woman and Pastor Larsen became much more than that. During the conversation, it was evident the woman was searching for something missing in her life. Homer began to talk about Jesus and His unconditional love. As he shared the Gospel message, what a joy it was to see it touch her heart!

We will never know the impact that hearing God's Word on Christian Crusaders -both on air and online - has had on all who tune in, but we do know this ministry has been faithful in following Jesus' command to "Go and Tell!" May it always be blessed to be a blessing!



Julie Nordstrom, CC Executive Director from 2013-2019

When I began my tenure as Executive Director and was learning some of the office's practices, I would regularly ask the staff why we did a task in a particular manner. One of the staff would laugh and say, with a knowing look, "Because we've always done it that way!" That wasn't the answer I wanted to hear!

We made many changes during my time, including transitioning through the retirement of Rev. Homer Larsen, probably the most well-known preacher in Christian Crusaders' history. But as we reflect on 85 years of Christian Crusaders' ministry, I am reminded of Hebrews 13:8:

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Through all the preachers and staff, through all the changes in music, in how the Word is delivered, and throughout all the different listeners over 85 years, Jesus Christ is the same. The Gospel is the same! And what a blessing that is! I pray Christian Crusaders will continue to be able to preach this same Good News for many more years into the future!

ON THE RADIO!

PHOENIX, AZ

KXXT/AM 1010 8:30am

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

KCBC/AM 770 8:00am

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

KMRY/FM 93.1/AM 1450 8:00am

WMT/AM 600 7:30am/9:00pm

DAVENPORT, IA

WOC/AM 1420 8:00am

DES MOINES, IA

WHO/AM 1040 7:05am

FORT DODGE, IA

KWMT/AM 540 8:30am

MASON CITY, IA

KGLO/AM 1300 8:00am

WATERLOO, IA

KXEL/AM 1540 10:30am

KNWS/AM 1090 3:00pm

WAVERLY, IA

KWAY/AM 1470/FM 96.3 7:30am

PORTLAND, ME

WGAN/AM 560 5:30am

WYNZ/AM 1490 7:30am

DULUTH, MN

KDAL/AM 610 7:00am

MINNEAPOLIS, MN

KKMS/AM 980 7:30am

WINONA, MN

KHWK/AM 1380 7:30am

BELGRADE, MT

KCMM/FM 99.1 8:30am

O'NEILL, NE

KBRX/AM 1350 10:30am

YANKTON, SD

WNAX/AM 570 9:00am

McALLEN, TX

KURV/AM 710 8:00am

MILWAUKEE, WI

WTMJ/AM 620 6:00am

WOKY/AM 920 7:30am

AMERICAS, N. AFRICA, EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST

13,760 MHz Shortwave

16:30 UTC/GMT

SATELLITE

ROKU/TUNEIN

WPRG/AFR 10:00am CST

KITALE, KENYA

IMANI/FM 88.8 7:10pm

LISTENER LETTERS

I used to listen to WTMJ in Milwaukee, but now I listen on the app or online. I love Pastor Kramer's sermons! Judy, Wisconsin

Really enjoyed today's message. God bless you! Ronnie, Bahamas

Here in Cuba, we pray to Jesus the Christ to save us. The conditions are really bad and just to find food is so hard. Please pray for us. Jose from Pinar del Rio, Cuba

Your Bible overview podcast is a blessing! You should package and sell it by the book (Genesis, Exodus, etc) or by the section (major prophets, minor prophets, etc). They are really that good! Todd, The CC Podcast: Daily Dose Devotions listener

Thank you for your weekly radio program. I don't have a computer or have access to the internet so I especially appreciate listening to your Sunday Service.

Kathy from Nebraska

I wish I could hug Rev. Kramer! His sermons are a blessing in my life! Helen from Belgrade, Montana

I especially appreciate when you use older hymns on your broadcasts and look them up in my hymnal afterwards to remind me of their meaningful words. Joanne from Minneapolis

3 PODCASTS!



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OR VISIT:

ChristianCrusaders.org/the-cc-podcast

THE CC NEWSLETTER



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Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Redeemer of the World!

Are you getting all of our great content?



Daily devotional podcast where our staff cover topics like coping with Covid from a Christian perspective. We're currently doing a Bible overview and are about to start the Gospels!



In-depth interviews with Christians who have interesting, inspiring, and relevant stories to tell. We already have a nationally-known singer, an NFL player, and a former gangster, among others!



Our weekly radio program, now in its 85th year! Each week we publish a service with a Gospel-centered message, along with music and scripture. Rev. Steve Kramer and Tim Boettger are our current radio preachers.

Getting into Podcasts is easy – 3 simple ways to get them:

On a computer or smartphone:
Visit ChristianCrusaders.org
The CC Broadcast and the CC Podcasts are prominently featured. Click either one and listen in your browser!

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