



Love, Connect and Serve on the Journey with Christ

sundays at 8:15, 9:45, 11:15 am

january 19, 2020

crossroadsefc.com

Welcome

WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE! Thanks for joining us today! We don't want to miss the opportunity of connecting with you. So, whether you are visiting for the first time or are a regular attendee please take a moment to fill out the *Connection Card* in the seat pocket in front of you. Please return it to the seat pocket or leave it on your seat.

If you would like to give toward the ministries of Crossroads Church, please place your gift in one of the Tithes and Offerings Boxes located at each Worship Center exit. Online giving is also available on our website at www.crossroadsefc.com

Looking for more information? If you'd like to learn more about something you heard during Crossroads announcements regarding upcoming events or the ministries at Crossroads, please visit our Welcome Center Kiosk located in the Connection Area or visit our website at www.crossroadsefc.com.

We wanted you to know that...

- Assisted hearing devices are available during our services at the Welcome Kiosk.
- Once a worship service has begun, we ask that all entering and exiting the Worship Center use the east or west doors (not the center, please).
- Misplaced something? If so, please check the Welcome Kiosk for lost & found items.

In order to make our services available online as well as in other locations, and for marketing purposes, photography and video recordings may take place while you're here at Crossroads. Your presence signifies your consent for Crossroads Church to use your image. Thank you for your cooperation.

global outreach

Virtually since its founding, many members of Crossroads Church have prayed that someday our vision of "disciples making disciples" would reach fruition on a global basis by having one of our members proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to those around the World who do not have access to God's presence in their lives. Those petitions have been answered and the Global Outreach Team is overjoyed that our own **Jessica Lemler** has accepted an appointment with Pioneers International. Today we make that announcement official and start Jessica on a two year journey as her "sending church", in preparation for going to Japan and confirming God's direction for her. Crossroad's responsibility is great. As a congregation, it is up to each of us to gladden and offer encouragement to her in this venture. Even more important is that Jessica will covet your prayers for her as she goes through the various steps necessary to answer her calling. Please check out the insert in today's bulletin which will give you a little more information and how you can support Jessica....spiritually, prayerfully and financially.

announcements

- **Please pray for the 22 young ladies (3rd - 6th grade) who are participating in Kalón.** Pray for them as they walk through this experience of studying God's Word together and how to live confidently for God.
- **Connecting On The Journey (COJ) Target Group Class** - Want to learn more about Crossroads? Who we are? What we believe and why? The history of Crossroads? How you can get connected at Crossroads? Are you considering formal membership at Crossroads? Answers to these questions and more can be found by participating in our Connecting on the Journey Target Group class! Find out more about the class and register via the COJ card found in your seat pocket.
- Have the cloudy days and cold nights of winter given you a bad case of cabin fever? If so, then join Crossroaders age 50+ at the **Ps 92 Winter Game Fellowship** scheduled for Saturday, February 15th, starting at 4:00 pm. in the Connection Area. Attendees are asked to bring a snack and beverage to share. Group games will kick off our gathering along with table games, a devotional message and time for sharing and prayer. Questions? Contact Dave or Kim Powell at (574)216-6367.
- **Don't forget to be in prayer for our 48 Dive students who are returning later today from the SpringHill Winter Camp.** Pray for a deepening of friendships, a greater sense of community and that their love and commitment to Jesus may be life-changing and ever increasing!
- **Pick up your tickets for the Family Movie Night** - This fun, all-church event will be on Friday, February 7th, at 6:30 pm in the Worship Center. The movie this year will be "Overcomer" which is the new Kendrick Brothers release. This will be a free event but you'll need a ticket to get in since seating is limited. Pick up your movie tickets at the Welcome Kiosk this morning! Learn more about this movie by going to our website at crossroadsefc.org and clicking on the movie link!
- **The Art of Marriage is coming!** The Art of Marriage is a two-day event designed to strengthen any marriage. The dates are February 28th & 29th. Times are Friday, 6:30 - 9:00 pm and Saturday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Make plans now! Here are some responses from past attendees: "It really opened my eyes on what marriage is about and the role I need to be in our marriage." "We benefited from the entire time. We feel our marriage is rededicated to God. We want Him to be glorified." *Learn more about this event by visiting our website at crossroadsefc.com and clicking on the Art of Marriage logo!
- **Challenge 2020** is Dive Student Ministry's summer trip! Challenge blends the best parts of a mission trip, conference, and summer camp into one unforgettable week! Stop by the Dive bulletin board, go to crossroadsefc.com/youth, or email Pastor Rich at rgamble@crossroads-efc.org for more info. Registration for Challenge 2020 ends February 16th.

sermon notes

connect with us...

Crossroads Church
1650 N. Oak Dr.
Plymouth, IN 46563

P 574-935-3833

F 574-935-4584

crossroadsefc.com



connection card

- 1st time guest 2nd time guest Visiting family/friends Regular Attendee/Member

Name(s) _____

Email _____

Home Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Date _____

Cell (His/Her) _____ I heard about Crossroads

Phone _____ through _____

- Please update my information

Serve Opportunity: The Worship Team is currently looking to add some new and fun people to fill any of these spots on the team: musicians, singers, sound tech, computer tech, and light tech. If you have an interest in serving in any of these roles, please indicate on this card with your name, updated email and phone number as well as the role you're interested in.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Role: _____

**If you are visiting for the first time or are a regular attendee please take a moment to fill out this card.*

Today my next step is to:

- Receive Christ as my personal Lord & Savior (Rom 3:23; 5:8; 6:23; 10:9 10; Eph. 2:8-10) In response to today's message, I plan to: _____

Please send info or contact me about:

- Becoming a follower of Jesus Christ Being counselled through Crossroads
- How to get connected with people at Crossroads Crossroads Connecting Online (cco)
- Baptism - Going public with my faith Being added as a Prayer Warrior
- Become a member of Crossroads Serving opportunities at Crossroads

Comments, Prayer Requests:

Please place completed card in seat pocket. Thank you.

All prayer requests are shared with our prayer warrior group. Confidential for Pastoral Staff and Elders only

FROM THE CREATORS OF WAR ROOM

WHAT DO YOU ALLOW TO DEFINE YOU?

ALEX KENDRICK PRISCILLA SHIRER AND INTRODUCING ARYN WRIGHT-THOMPSON

OVERCOMER

Showing at Crossroads on Friday, February 7th, at 6:30 pm
 Doors open at 6:00 pm
 Tickets are free and available at the Welcome Center Kiosk!

*there is no childcare provided at this event / FREE popcorn & water



at Crossroads

On Friday, February 7th, at 6:30 pm we'll be showing the movie, *Overcomer*. It's a free event but ticketed, since seating is limited!

You can pick up your tickets at the Welcome Center Kiosk. *Please make sure to bring your ticket to enter and to be entered in to a drawing that night! We'll have free popcorn and water for everyone!

Read the review from Focus on the Family's *Plugged In* website via the QR Code or by going to www.pluggedin.com



save the date



FAMILYLIFE
PRESENTS

the art of marriage[®]

a six-session video event

When: February 28-29, 2020

Where: Crossroads Church - 1650 N Oak Drive

Time: Friday 6:30-9pm Saturday 9am-4pm

For more info: www.crossroadsefc.com



Want to learn more about Crossroads? Who we are? What we believe and why? The history of Crossroads? How you can get connected at Crossroads? Are you considering formal membership at Crossroads? Answers to these questions and more can be found by participating in our Connecting on the Journey Tar-

This is THE best way to get to know more about Crossroads Church and how you and your family can get plugged in with the Crossroads ministries

- COJ classes begin on February 2nd and end March 1st
- Classes meet 2nd Service (9:45 am) on Sunday in Room 105/107
- RSVP by completing the bottom portion of this card and placing it in one of the Tithe & Offering Boxes
- Sign-up ends January 26th
- There is no cost to participate in this class

- SIGN UP TODAY -

Instructions: If you'd like to sign up for *Connecting on the Journey* class, please:
 1) complete this form and 2) place it in one of the Tithe & Offering boxes

Participant Name(s): _____



Who should participate in the Connecting on Journey Target Group Class? Connecting on the Journey (COJ) classes are geared for anyone attending Crossroads that would like to learn more about who we are, what we believe and so much more!

Considering formal membership at Crossroads? We strongly encourage anyone considering formal membership at Crossroads to participate in this class before applying. Why? This class will best prepare you to understand our ministry and how you can best 'Love, Connect and Serve' at Crossroads!

What are the topics covered during the 5 week class? There are 5 topics covered. They are: 1) Welcome to Crossroads, 2) What We Believe, 3) Serving at Crossroads, 4) Meet the Staff, and 5) Connecting in Community.

How is this Target Group Class connected with the Newcomer's Luncheon? Even though this is a stand alone Target Group class, we strongly encourage those who attend our Newcomer's Luncheon to take the class. Those who have taken the class have commented that it is the BEST way to learn about Crossroads and truly understand the vision and mission of the church.

How do I sign up? What does it cost? Simply fill out the form on the back of this sheet and slip it in one of the Tithe & Offering boxes in the Worship Center. The class is free!

Jessica Lemler

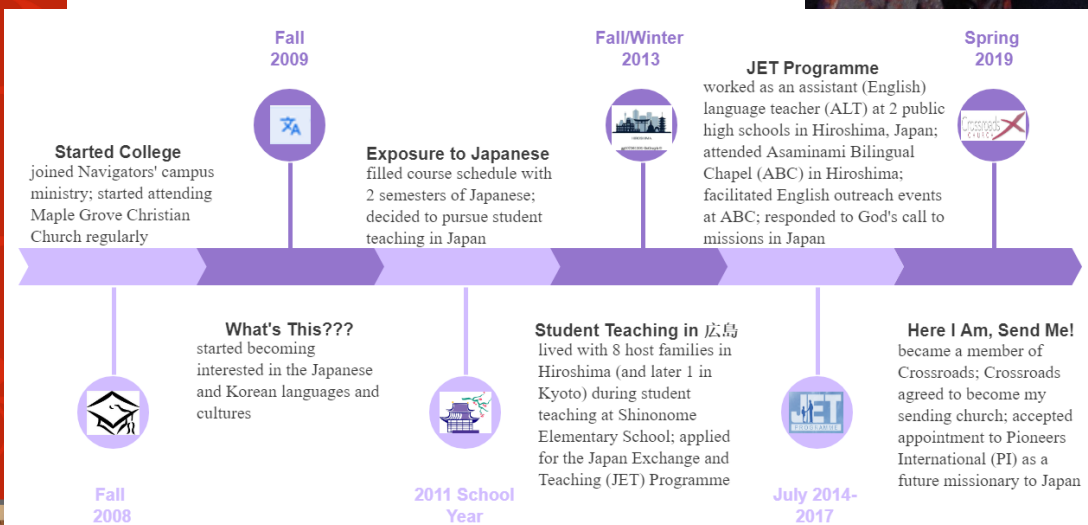
Pioneers (PI) Appointee to Japan

Sending Church: Crossroads



Greetings, Crossroads Family!

I'm excited to be able to introduce myself to you today. If you have any questions I don't address, please don't hesitate to contact me via my contact info listed below or face-to-face anytime you see me around Crossroads!



Asaminami Bilingual Chapel, Hiroshima, Japan, including students visiting from Grand Canyon University, spring 2017



Since I came home, my family has been able to host several of the young people I befriended in Hiroshima.



I hope to join the Japan Launch Team in Fukuoka, Japan, in October 2021. I'll spend two years with this team, studying (Japanese language and culture; character and spiritual formation; team life; and ministry skills in the context of Japan) and confirming God's direction for which church-planting team to join. At this point, I believe my ministry will likely focus on student and English ministry and I'll probably be returning to Hiroshima to join the team I've labored alongside before; but I'm holding these plans loosely and depending on the Spirit's leading.

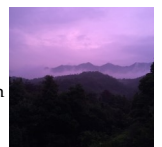


Launch ローンチ

For more information about Pioneers:
<https://pioneers.org/corevalues/>
<http://www.pioneersjapan.org>

P.O. Box 412
 201 N. Jefferson St.
 Silver Lake, IN 46982

Cell: (574) 377-2196
 Email: jessicalemler@gmail.com



A Spiritual Snapshot of Japan

Total population: 126,800,000

My college friend and I near the famous "floating" torii (Shinto gate) on Miyajima in Hiroshima Prefecture, July 2016



69.8% Buddhist & 70.4% Shinto (people will often belong to both)
Yet (according to pewresearch.org):

- 72% claimed not to have any personal religious faith (2013 Japanese National Character Survey)
- 68.6% do not follow any religion (2015 Japanese General Social Survey).

1.5% Christian & decreasing (-0.4% annual growth rate)

- 0.4% Protestant
- 0.5% Evangelical

(2017 statistics from <https://www.statista.com/statistics/237609/religions-in-japan/>)

Shinto: "The Way of God(s)"

Shinto is a native Japanese religion without a founder or fixed dogmas and with no official sacred scriptures, yet it is closely connected to Japanese values and patterns of thought and behavior; *Shinto* influence can be observed in social interactions and personal motivations. (<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Shinto>)

Buddhism

Buddhists don't follow a god but rather a path of morality, meditation, and wisdom that they believe leads to enlightenment, or a state of inner peace and wisdom. Buddhists follow The Four Noble Truths and believe in karma (a law of cause and effect) and reincarnation (the continuous cycle of rebirth). (<https://www.history.com/topics/religion/buddhism>)

In Japan, religion is generally viewed as a private affair and isn't discussed much; rituals for birth, marriage, death, and festivals throughout the year ("*matsuri*") are generally the most visible manifestations of Japanese religious practice.

Some prayer points for Japan:

Suicide

"Japan has one of the world's highest suicide rates, and suicide is the leading cause of death for people under 30. ... There was a suicide in Japan every 15 minutes, with close to 33,000 reported in 2009." (<http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/japan-population/>)

Shut-ins: *Hikikomori*

"There are an estimated 1 million people in Japan who don't leave their rooms; they are called *hikikomori*. They are enabled by parents who financially support them and who do not seek help because their child's condition is seen as shameful. Japanese society can be very heavy at times with a 'one size fits all' mentality and a lack of grace and second (or third) chances. Many *hikikomori* were either bullied, did not fit in, or had a failure that they felt they couldn't recover from." (Written by my friend Darcy Staddon, whose family does ministry with *hikikomori* at Big Morning Farm in Hiroshima, Japan. https://world.wng.org/2017/10/shut_in_and_shut_out)

Obstacles to the Gospel

"There are no restrictions on evangelism or preaching about the gospel in Japan. Nevertheless, Japan remains largely unresponsive to Christian teaching. About 70% of all churches have an average attendance of less than 30, though membership is double this figure. Many people work on Sundays and do not attend church every week." Another difficulty facing Christianity in Japan is that some Japanese attempt to simply combine "Christian concepts with Japanese traditional beliefs." (https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Christianity_in_Japan#cite_ref-0)

Missionary Burnout (including among Japanese Christians)

"Christian missionaries find Japan a tough nut to crack. They always have, ever since the first of them, St. Francis Xavier, landed in Kyushu in 1549. His first impression, based on an initially friendly reception, was, 'In my opinion no people superior to the Japanese will be found among the unbelievers.' Two years later, he left disheartened, calling Japanese Buddhism 'an invention of the devil.'" (<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2014/12/20/national/history/christian-missionaries-find-japan-tough-nut-crack/#.XXQ1sShKg2x>)

Some other resources on religion in Japan:

<http://www.operationworld.org/country/japa/owtext.html>

<https://joshuaproject.net/countries/JA>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/11/Religion20171117.pdf>

<https://www.nippon.com/en/features/h00200/christianity-in-japan.html>

<https://www.nippon.com/en/features/h00226/believe-it-or-not!->



"ABC gang takes *Toukasan*": a group from my church went to a *matsuri* together to eat Japanese street food, summer 2017