

REVEALING THE STORY OF JESUS THROUGH MEDIA

CHRISTMAS 2023 EDITION



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DAILY ADVENT REFLECTIONS ON GOD WITH US



Reach Magazine

BY crossroads.

INSPIRING STORIES. IGNITING COMPASSION. INNOVATING TOGETHER.

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Amidst the winter's gentle hush and the twinkle of glistening stars, we embark on a royal journey that embraces the kingdom significance of Christ's birth. This year, Crossroads' advent devotional invites you to go beyond the surface of history. Here, we uncover the profound truth that Christ's birth isn't only an event, but the dawn of an eternal kingdom that surpasses time and space.

As we ready our hearts to celebrate the arrival of the King of kings, we plunge into the heart of King Jesus Himself - His arrival in humility, His life that defied the ordinary, His love that knew no bounds, and His reign that stands ever-victorious. These reflections reveal the essence of His being and His role as the cornerstone of a kingdom that endures.

Each devotional reflection serves as a lantern, illuminating the path towards a deeper comprehension of our part in the spreading of His boundless love, unwavering justice, and boundless compassion. The journey is not just a contemplative one; it is a call to action, urging us to mirror His attributes in our own lives.

Let us embrace our roles as heirs of His eternal kingdom and co-bearers with Christ. As we engage with each reflection, we align ourselves with His divine mission, understanding that His birth was the herald of a kingdom that eternally transcends.

Crossroads' "Let Earth Receive Her King Advent Devotional" rekindles our awe for this season, inviting us to celebrate not just a historical event but the unfolding of a kingdom that transforms us from within.

Merry Christmas!

KEVIN SHEPHERD CEO, Crossroads and YES TV



the Lord is enthroned as

Dec 1

THE PROMISE OF A KING

"For to us a child is born,...He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever..."

Isaiah 9:6-7

Amidst the hustle and bustle of shopping sprees and festive gatherings, a timeless question lingers: What truly lies at the heart of the holiday season? The profound answer lies in the story of Christ Jesus, our revered Prince of Peace.

At the time of Christ's birth, many were disappointed that a small baby was the one that would come to be their Messiah. They wanted a Messiah to be there for them right now. We too are often the same when we bring our troubles and requests to our Lord in prayer. We are disappointed when we don't see an answer immediately. What we don't see is how God masterfully orchestrates plans for us, aligning them flawlessly with His divine purpose, unveiling them at the perfect time.

Jesus, the son of God, was born at exactly the perfect time and place. His purpose wasn't a mere quick fix; He arrived for us, embracing eternity, and gifting us with His boundless, everlasting love.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Almighty, thank you that your love and reign have no end, your plans for us are perfect, now, and forever. Amen.

ARLENE REEMEYER

Partner Relations Representative Crossroads

Dec 2

A KING'S BIRTH

"While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no quest room available for them."

Luke 2:6-7

I love pictures of newborns—cute crocheted hats, suspenders and bow ties, or being swaddled and placed in a little basket—it's all too adorable. But let's be honest here: none of those pictures are from day one! On day one, it's more like misshaped heads, not enough hair, and guck and yuck everywhere. And that's only if the delivery went well.

When Mary gave birth to Jesus, we don't know how the delivery went. All the text says is that, "the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth." That's it. How long was she in labour for? What were her contractions like? And what role did Joseph play in all of it? Since the text doesn't mention a midwife or a doctor, we can assume that he helped deliver both the baby and the placenta. Yes...both!

During this season of Advent, let's not forget that while Jesus was born like every other baby, He wasn't quite like every other baby. He is the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the Wonderful Counselor, and the Prince of Peace. His birth was the birth of our King.

PRAYER: So King Jesus, just like Mary wrapped you up in cloths, would you wrap me in your arms? Thank you that you will always make room for me—even when others don't. So here I am Lord, I come to you.

DANIEL IM

Lead Pastor at Beulah Alliance Church, podcaster, and author of several books, most recently You Are What You Do: And Six Other Lies about Work, Life, and Love.

Dec 3

THE KING'S HUMBLE ENTRY

"See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey,..."

Matthew 21:5

Through centuries of anticipation, the Jewish people were repeatedly informed of a forthcoming ruler who would deliver them and establish a new kingdom. Then the shepherds received news from angels that "a Saviour will be born to you," and indeed, these long-awaited promises were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus, amidst improbable surroundings and circumstances—a departure from their conventional expectations of a regal arrival of a King.

The way that Jesus entered the world describes so well the upside-down Kingdom of God. The teachings of Jesus show us how the opposite is often true; the poor are made rich, and the weak are made strong.

Matthew 21 narrates the final days of Jesus, depicting Him riding a humble donkey through Jerusalem, much like His humble entrance into the world in an overcrowded stable.

His entrance surprises people, just as answers to our prayers may come in unexpected packaging, risking us missing the precious gift. Jesus, our Saviour, was accessible from the beginning. Born in a stable for you and for me, our humble King.

PRAYER: May my eyes be opened to recognize You, Lord, even when Your response defies my expectations, and may Your upside-down Kingdom illuminate my perspective on earth.

MELISSA MCEACHERN

Chief Operating Officer & Chief Content Officer Crossroads

Dec 4

THE KING'S AUTHORITY

"Then Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28: 18-20

This is our mission, the great commission given to every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. When focused, we witness God's signs, wonders, and miracles. Yet, self-focus dims our faith, reducing miracles. Luke 10:19 (AMPC) says, "Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you." As Christ's ambassador, I walk in His authority, strength, and ability. What could I fear?

Every morning, I seek Heavenly Father's mission, experiencing miracles that astonish. At seventy-five, my health is incredibly good for which I daily give thanks.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, as a daughter of King Jesus, I bring heaven on earth just like He did. May you feel the peace of God's grace this Christmas and the new year.

--

BEVERLY HADLAND

Ambassador to the First Peoples Crossroads

DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS

LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

THE KING'S GRACE

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast."

Ephesians 2:8-9

Don't tell our 5-year-old daughter yet, but we got her a princess dress for Christmas. She loves becoming her favourite princess, reigning supreme over her older brother. Her imaginative kingdom runs perfectly, but she realizes we don't live up to her lofty expectations. Likewise, we often set our own standards in our little worlds. This is dangerous as it leads us to judge others who don't measure up.

As Christ's followers, we're called to love and forgive others, but when we don fictitious royal robes, we burden ourselves and set unrealistic expectations for others. We may stumble and sink into despair, striving to work our way back to God. His perfect standard is hard to meet, and we deceive ourselves into thinking we must climb that ladder to Him. Fortunately, Christmas reminds us of God's perfect present beneath the tree: His grace. When we unwrap it, we no longer need the ladder; it reconciles us with Him, no matter our actions. This Christmas, let's open the BIG gift of the King's grace first and share it generously with others.

PRAYER: May God's grace bring peace to your life this Christmas and in the new year.

6

MARTIN GARDINER Marketing Producer/Edi

Marketing Producer/Editor Crossroads

Dec 6

THE KING'S LOVE

"This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

1 John 4: 9-11

God's boundless love for us is truly mind-boggling, isn't it? Amidst life's challenges, we sometimes forget His unwavering love and its profound impact on our daily existence. The King's love goes beyond mere words; it's an active force. In His unfathomable love, God sent Jesus to save us, granting eternal life—a love we deeply need.

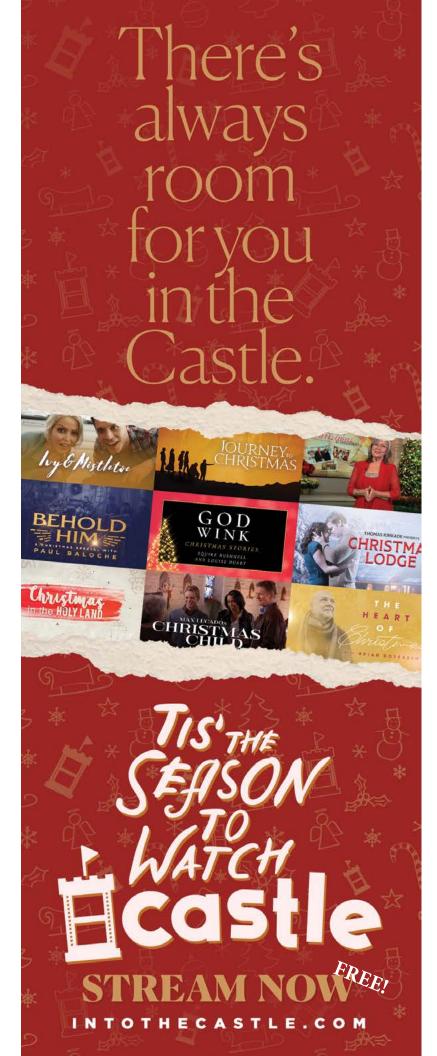
The King's love isn't contingent on our perfection or having it all together. It meets us in our mess, sacrificing all to offer forgiveness, freedom, and a fresh start. It's a love meant to be shared, compelling us to extend the same compassion, forgiveness, and hope to others—a way of life.

As I embrace these truths, I'm overwhelmed by the beauty and power of the King's love—a transformative, intimate experience that goes beyond theology.

PRAYER: Father God, may I open my heart to the King's love, allowing it to shape and empower me to love others selflessly. May your love flow through me, bringing healing and light to a broken world. Amen.

JULIE PICKETT

Production & Guesting Coordinator, See Hear Love, Makeup Artist, Crossroads and YES TV





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DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS



THE KING'S SERVANTHOOD

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45

What a remarkable juxtaposition to the culture we live in today. The Holy Trinity modelled servanthood through the birth and life of Jesus. The will of God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit, birthed Jesus to our world as a servant, not a celebrity. This is a strange notion in our postmodern, me-centred society where most people spend more time, money and effort serving their wants and profile instead of the needs of others. The postmodern trinity is me, myself, and I.

Jesus showed us the joy, beauty and life that springs from servanthood. As the King of all Kings, His birth in Bethlehem reveals that His love knows no boundaries, from the grand cathedrals to the humblest corners of the world. The personal and patient ministry of Jesus showed us that the path to significance is paved with acts of service, not self-promotion. His death and resurrection reveal that His love transcends past, present, and future with boundless and eternal compassion.

Jesus lived for others more than Himself. In serving others without preference, we discover the divine within ourselves, for it is in serving that we become like Jesus. Which is truly the best gift we could ever receive and we could ever give.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me embrace the joy and beauty of servanthood, following in Your footsteps, and sharing Your boundless love with others.

KEVIN SHEPHERD

CEO, Crossroads and YES TV

Dec 8

THE KING'S SACRIFICE

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- John 3:16

John's gospel focuses on Jesus as the Son of God, the one who reveals to us the true character of our Father. According to his gospel, Jesus cannot be framed as a mere moral teacher. He claimed to be the long-expected Messiah; the light of the world; and the rightful king of Israel.

Reflecting on the King's sacrifice this advent will require us to remember the humility of our God in taking on human flesh to meet us where we are. Believers are quite accustomed to associating the cross with Jesus' sacrifice, yet His incarnation was also a sacrifice in and of itself. This humble King lifts humble servants. Those of us who may feel second-best, exhausted or spent this advent season are welcomed into the courts of the King who gives grace and rest.

The difference between this King and all others before and after Him is the way in which He establishes His rule. Throughout history, every king that has risen by force has fallen in due time. While the world pursues power through coercion, Jesus builds His kingdom through love and self-sacrifice. That is something – and more importantly, someone – worth living for. That is a king worth following.

PRAYER: Jesus, we thank you that your kingdom is one in which the king sacrifices for his subjects. Give us, as your people, the strength to follow your example this Christmas season.

GEOFF BUTLER AND CHARITY DARBY-BUTLER

Pastors, Calvary Pentecostal Tabernacle, St. Lunaire-Griquet, Newfoundland and Labrador

Dec 9

THE KING'S RESURRECTION

"But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive."

1 Corinthians 15:20-22

Christmas is a time of great joy, celebration, and connection in our family. We enjoy spending time with family and friends, baking, exchanging gifts, and decorating our tree. We love choosing the perfect tree and hanging the ornaments that mark special events in our lives. There are decorations that our children have made, family heirlooms, and some that we have given to one another on special occasions. One of our favourite ornaments simply reads "Adopted and Loved" and it serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness to our family through the gift of our children who are both adopted and loved.

When we pause and glance at our tree, we can't help but note that all of these ornaments pale in comparison to this precious child who also is our risen King. Those who believe are made alive through His life, death, and resurrection.

PRAYER: Lord, may each ornament remind us that You hung on a tree so that we could have life abundant and free.

JOEL AND (CHASTA) BRADLEYPartner Relations Representative Crossroads

Dec 10

THE KING'S VICTORY

"He has canceled our debts, nailing them to the cross. He disarmed the powers and triumphed over them."

Colossians 2:14-15

Debt is a burden we all understand, like a cycle we can't escape. We accumulate, struggle, and repeat. It's our human nature, always wanting more. But in Christ, there's liberation from a different kind of debt.

On the day Jesus was crucified, our eternal debt was paid. The curtain in the temple tore, revealing direct access to our Father in Heaven. No longer did we need priests for forgiveness; we could go to God directly, repent, and find our sins forgotten.

God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. He gave everything for us individually. They mocked Him, crucified Him, but He rose from the grave, triumphant.

This is our victory, the King's victory. He conquered sin and death for us. So, this Christmas, shift your focus from worldly debts to Christ. He did something no one else would do for you, for each of us.

As we gather this Christmas, share the good news—Christ's triumph over sin and death, our debts nailed to the cross. Hallelujah!

PRAYER: Lord, thank you for the cross and paying our debts. Be with us during this time of stress, for some, take us under your wings and comfort us, Lord.

ANN PRAWL

Controller Crossroads

I will raise up for David a righteous Branch...

.and He will reign as king and act wisely. - Deremiah 23:5



THE KING'S COMING AGAIN

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen."

Revelation 22:20-21

Have you ever noticed how many Christmas carols refer to Jesus' second coming, or to our final state, as they end? For example, "Angels From the Realms of Gloru" ends with:

Saints, before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear; Suddenly the Lord, descending, In His temple shall appear.

Though an Infant now we view Him, He shall fill His Father's throne. Gather all the nations to Him: Every knee shall then bow down.

And "We three Kings of Orient Are" ends with a triumphant shout:

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; Alleluia, alleluia, Earth to the heavens replies.

Even as these carols celebrate the coming of the Babe of Bethlehem, they remind us that one day He will come again, not as a baby but as King of kings and Lord of lords. The story that began in Bethlehem didn't end at Calvary and the empty tomb, nor at Pentecost. So even as we prepare to celebrate Jesus' first coming, let's be sure we're ready for His second coming.

PRAYER: Jesus, as we look back on Your first coming, we look ahead to Your second. Amen.

ELIZABETH DANNA

Prayer Ministry Representative Crossroads



Dec 12

THE KING'S REIGN

"The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: 'The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah, and he will reign for ever and ever."

Revelation 11:15

It doesn't take much for me to get caught up in the world's uncertainty. News headlines are filled with wars, violence, economic instability, and a bleak future for our children.

But I must keep reminding myself to look up, not down. When I look at the world, I get scared and overwhelmed. But when I look up, I realize God is in control and everything down here is temporary.

Revelation reveals the triumph of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amid the trumpets, heavenly voices declare the worldly kingdom now belongs to our Messiah. His reign is eternal. The Holy Spirit brings peace and hope, knowing God reigns supreme today, tomorrow, and forever.

In His reign, the broken find healing, the lost are found, and captives are set free. Love conquers hate, and light overcomes darkness. Let us anticipate the day when everyone will confess Jesus Christ as Lord.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for the assurance that your Son, Jesus Christ, reigns as the eternal King. Help me focus on your sovereignty, not on this world's temporary nature. Amen.

BRIAN HATCHELL

Partner Relations Representative Crossroads



Three Kings Cake

(ROSCON DE REYES)

This Spanish sweet bread commemorates Epiphany, when the three wise men visited baby Jesus in Bethlehem, and resembles a roual crown garnished with the 'jewels' of dried fruit and nuts. A baby figurine is hidden inside the cake to symbolize Jesus hiding from King Herod. Whoever finds the Jesus figurine in his piece gets to be king for the day!



INGREDIENTS

For the dough:

- 41/8 cups bread flour
- 1 tablespoon fast action yeast
- 2 teaspoons salt
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 10 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 2 tablespoons orange blossom water
- 3 large eggs
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- ½ cup milk, warmed to 115°F

For the decoration:

- 4 red glacé cherries
- 4 green glacé cherries
- ¼ cup sliced almonds
- 2 to 4 candied orange slices, cut in half
- · 2 tablespoons pearl sugar, or granulated sugar
- · Plastic or ceramic baby figurine
- Large dried bean

For the Chantilly Cream (Optional):

- 1½ cups heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract

INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1: Pour the flour into a mixing bowl and stir in the salt and yeast on opposite sides of the bowl.

Step 2: Add the sugar, eggs, butter, orange blossom water, and citrus zest and mix until combined.

Step 3: Gradually add the warm milk to form a slightly sticky dough.

Step 4: Knead with the dough hook for 5-7 minutes on low speed, or until the dough passes the windowpane test.

Step 5: Cover the dough and let it rise in a warm place until it's nearly doubled in size, about 2 hours.

Step 6: Punch it down and shape into a ball. Poke a hole in the center and shape it into a wreath, then place it on a parchment-lined cookie sheet.

Step 7: Cover the loaf and let it rise until it's springy to the touch and almost doubled in size, about 1 hour. Brush with beaten egg and decorate with dried fruit, nuts, and sugar.

Step 8: Bake at 400°F for 10 minutes, then bake at 375°F for 10-15 minutes, or until the roscón de reyes has an internal temperature of 190°F. Let it cool completely on a wire rack, about 45-60 minutes.

Step 9: If desired, slice it in half lengthwise and pipe Chantilly cream onto the bottom half in decorative swirls. This is a great time to hide the baby Jesus figurine in the roscón de reues. Just remember to tell your guests, so they don't break a tooth.

Step 10: Place the top of the bread back on, slice, and enjoy!



10 DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS



"I have installed my King on Zion, my





Dec 13

THE KING'S PROVISION

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19

The world's allure is limited; only God offers genuine provision. 1 Peter 4:8 emphasizes how charity covers sin's multitude. My personal journey echoes this, as worldly pursuits left my soul empty. The birth of Jesus, the King of kings, transformed my perception of Christmas. No longer focused on worldly gifts, I anticipate the gift of Christ, epitomizing God's profound love, as proclaimed in John 3:16.

The scripture, a divine love letter, offers solace. Psalms 23:1 reassures that God's presence fulfills every need. Amidst the enemy's destructive agenda (John 10:10), Christ imparts abundant life. Through Him, humanity thrives despite adversity.

Psalms 91:1 likens His protection to a shelter. Adopted into God's family (Ephesians 1:4-5), we relish His love, hope, mercy, and grace. In Christ, darkness yields to His radiant light, healing broken hearts (Psalms 147:3). Proverbs 3:5-6 advocates trusting His guidance.

The advent of Jesus, foretold in the Old Testament, blesses nations with God's love. Amidst trials, His love sustains; in jouful times, it's a cause for gratitude. Christ's salvation transcends and transforms lives. Christmas prompts reflection on God's love and salvation, safeguarding from sin.

Appreciating the King's rule, I express gratitude for His unconditional love that healed my heart.

PRAYER: May all embrace salvation and share its message. In Jesus's name, Amen.

GEORGE COTE

Chief of Cote First Nation Treaty 4 Territory in Saskatchewan

Dec 14

THE KING'S GUIDANCE

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Proverbs 3:5-6

Life is full of twists and turns, but humility straightens those paths, making an easy way before us. My family has been challenged with this humble trust and submission in action, particularly as we journey with our daughter who courageously battles leukemia. Through this season, we've been obliged to new depths of humility as we place our faith in the source of all hope and strength, our Heavenly Father.

God's instructions for straight paths are under the umbrella of humility.

Be humble enough to trust the Lord with all your heart - trust is key, and it isn't always easy, especially when faced with challenges like illness. Yet, how much do we trust the God who set all things into motion? Trusting with all your heart is learning to REST in God's hands.

Be humble enough to lean not on your own understanding - we form conclusions and impressions in various ways. But true wisdom comes from humbly seeking Your Word and letting it shape our thoughts.

Lastly, be humble enough to submit to the Lord in all uour waus - nothing is hidden from Him, so be in His presence. Whatever mistakes you've made, strive to do better next time.

PRAYER: Father, help us to be humble enough to trust, listen, and submit to You in all our ways, especially when we need your strength for the path ahead. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

BRANDON PERKINS

Full-Stack Developer Crossroads

Dec 15

THE KING'S PROTECTION

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:1-2

Have you ever been caught in a snowstorm, feeling unsafe, with no place to go? Finding shelter instantly brings a rush of safety. Stuck in the snow, I experienced this feeling on a winter night with no fuel or cell reception. My doubtful, pounding heart prayed, "God, protect me and bring me home safely." God sent an angel driver my way!

The Bible says, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest"; meaning those who remain in God's hiding place will find comfort and protection. God extends His protective embrace over His children; He commands heavenly hosts to watch over us. God lifts us up during life-challenging seasons. providing safety, comfort, strength, guidance, and encouragement. The King's shield encompasses our physical and emotional well-being. In doubt and fear, our refuge is knowing God responds to our cries when we dwell in the King's presence, trusting His unfailing love.

Receiving Jesus means we are never alone. He grants us His protection, comfort, and peace. As we celebrate King Jesus' birth, let's stay in His shelter, trusting God provides all we need.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for your unwavering love and protection that shelters. quides, and strengthens us. We receive you as our King, Amen.

GRACE SABA

Director of Development Crossroads



Dec 16

THE KING'S SOVEREIGNTY

"The LORD has established his throne in heaven. and his kingdom rules over all."

Psalm 103:19

As I look into my three-year-old daughter's innocent eyes, it's natural to feel a mix of hope and concern for her future. How do we, as parents, quide our children through the complexities of a world undergoing rapid transformation? The answer lies in embracing the unshakable sovereignty of our King.

Psalm 103 paints a vivid picture of a King whose reign is not confined to earthly boundaries but extends beyond the realm of our existence. It reminds us that regardless of the challenges we face or the storms that threaten to overwhelm us, there is an unshakable throne in the heavens from which our sovereign King governs all things.

Embracing the truth of God's sovereignty brings profound peace. It invites us to surrender our fears, anxieties, and uncertainties, knowing that the King who rules over all is also intimately acquainted with our needs and cares for us.

When our worries cast shadows on the horizon, we can lead by example. By acknowledging God's sovereignty, we teach our children that while we should care for our planet and engage thoughtfully in the world's affairs, we need not carry the weight of the world's problems alone.

PRAYER: Jesus, help us remember that as the King's sovereignty blankets the earth, Your love blankets our lives.

AMY LAFORET

Director of Marketing and Communications Crossroads



14 LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

Mustmas

WORD SEARCH

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• ROBE

• MAGI

• SCEPTRE

• KINGDOM

• AUGUSTNESS

• LOYALTY

• MAJESTY

• DYNASTY • ROYAL PRIESTHOOD



- SPLENDOUR
- GLORY
- MAGNIFICENCE
- NOBILITY
- SON OF DAVID



- WORSHIP
- MESSIAH
- SAVIOUR
- LORDLINESS

Dec 17

THE KING'S WISDOM

"... [Christ], in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Colossians 2:3

We are not the kind of family that waits to wrap all of our gifts on Christmas Eve. We are the sort that wraps our gifts as soon as we buy them, immediately tucking them under the tree in our living room. In a way, these wrapped-up gifts become as treasures to us, hidden in plain sight. This is one of my favourite ways to implement the reality of Advent in our home-with a tangible sense of longing, of forced waiting. Come Christmas morning, these treasure-gifts, the ones we have always intended to give our children, are there - ready and waiting to be opened.

That's the thing about treasures: they are meant to be discovered. Meant to be unearthed. unburied, and marveled over.

The apostle Paul tells us that in Christ is "hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

But notice that these treasures are not hidden from us, but hidden for us. In Christ. There is an invitation here to unearth and discover these treasures which are found only in Jesus.

We live in a world that offers us various forms of "wisdom." We are inundated with messages aimed at helping us do better, be better, and live smarter, "wiser" lives. But we must remember where our help comes from. Paul boils it down to this: in Christ alone is true wisdom and knowledge. In Christ alone we find the wisdom to live out this day, in this cultural moment, at this particular time in history.

PRAYER: Father, thank you that in Christ I find all the wisdom and knowledge I need for this day and for this life. Amen.

ELITA FRIESEN

Pastor, The Way Church, Vancouver BC Guest Bible Teacher, See Hear Love

Dec 18

THE KING'S PEACE

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

John 14:27

Jesus was born into a world in desperate need of peace. He alone can provide and maintain peace for mankind. The King's peace is not conditional, but a commitment—a covenant between God and believers.

His comforting voice gently reminds us that we are His children. He deals with matters of the heart without side effects, smoothing life's chaos as our Prince of Peace.

World peace is temporary without the Saviour. Conditions can disrupt this world's peace at any moment. However, the King's peace is constant and available to believers, it brings confidence, joy, health, and radiant smiles. This covenantkeeping King fulfils His promises.

As we celebrate Christmas, let us embrace the King's peace, knowing that we are under the care of the Almightu.

PRAYER: Lord, grant us Your peace today.

JACQUELINE CRAWFORD

Prayer Centre Administrator Crossroads





THE KING'S JOY

"I have told you this so that My joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete."

John 15:11

Let's reflect upon this joy. It isn't momentary. It's the abiding joy of Jesus - The King's Joy.

Jesus reminds us to keep His commandments as He has kept His Father's (John 15:10). Our joy becomes full when we serve others in obedience to His love. The King's Joy emanates from us when we embody His love, compassion, and generosity to those in need.

This Christmas season can be a time of expressing this joy by embodying Jesus' commandment to love one another as He loved us. This is the essence of His teachings, the essence of His joy.

Consider Leket Israel, the National Foodbank, a charity providing for those in need. We embody this joy by living in God's love and commandments, giving without expecting anything in return. What a beautiful illustration of The King's Joy!

As we celebrate Jesus' birth, let's aim to keep His Commandments in our hearts and actions. Let's express our love to our family, our neighbours, and to the needy. Every act of love and kindness we demonstrate is a reflection of His love and a conduit of The King's Joy.

PRAYER: As we give, we receive. As we love, we abide in His love. And our joy will be full - the joy of Christmas, the joy of Jesus, the King's Joy.

RAYMOND AND ROSALIND MACDONALD Leket Israel

*Crossroads Cares supports Leket Israel with meals for families and the elderly

Dec 20

THE KING'S RESTORATION

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

2 Corinthians 5:17

The news of Christ's birth, while celebrated today by billions of Christians around the world, did not sit well with King Herod I - The Great. The news of Christ's birth threatened the political and social system of the day and Satan is a master of political and social systems aimed to keep people bound. The threat was so real and so urgent that according to Matthew 2:16, Herod gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under.

Recognizing Jesus Christ as Messiah gives us the ability to operate outside the system. Our fidelity to the old creation, old thinking, and old habits fade away. Instead, we follow the call of Christ to choose love, faith, joy, peace, forgiveness, and hope. The Gospel anchors us to hope and when we feel we are drifting into hopelessness, hope pulls us back towards Christ.

The hope of Christ's birth brings with it a restoration of God's Kingdom in our lives and declares the hope of salvation for the world. This Christmas is an opportunity for us to celebrate the restoration of God's Kingdom in our lives and we also celebrate that God has given us the ministry of reconciliation, making us God's ambassador, compelled by God's love to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank you for allowing your Kingdom to be restored in our lives. We love you.

SHAWN KNIGHTS

Lead Pastor, The Christian Centre Lawyer, Knights Law Professional Corporation Crossroads Member of the Board

Dec 21

THE KING'S COMMUNITY

"God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful. Three simple, yet powerful words that bring the steady assurance that God keeps His promises and can always be relied upon. The apostle Paul begins the first chapter of 1 Corinthians with this reminder of God's faithfulness in equipping and strengthening His people to accomplish the good work He has called them to do. It is this faithful God who has called us into fellowship with Jesus and into the community of His kingdom.

In the King's community, we can find great comfort in the promise that we are never alone. We not only have unfailing, never-ending fellowship with the King Himself, but we also find fellowship with all those called into that very same community.

If you feel alone, Crossroads' 24/7 Prayer Line is here for you, call 1-866-273-4444.

As we draw near to celebrating the birth of Christ, may we find peace, joy, and strength this season in knowing that we are called to fellowship and that we are kept in sweet community because of the Newborn King.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness that calls us into fellowship with Jesus and into community with one another.

HELEN RAVELO

Partner Care Representative Crossroads

Dec 22

THE KING'S COMPASSION

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Matthew 9:36

Who has God surrounded you with? Take a moment to think about the people around you. Who do you see?

God strategically places the burdened, the weary, and the lost around us. Just like sheep without a shepherd, they wander aimlessly, searching for meaning. In the face of their struggles, Jesus shows boundless compassion. He calls you to do the same.

In Matthew 9:36, glimpse the King's heart as He looks upon the multitudes with empathy. He understands their pain and confusion. Instead of turning away, Jesus is moved to action.

When you encounter someone burdened by life's challenges, resist the temptation to judge or ignore them. Approach with an open heart, listening attentively. Be a reflection of Christ's love, shining brightly in a world that needs compassion.

The King's compassion knows no bounds. It reaches the broken, the marginalized, and the forgotten. Be vessels of this divine compassion, reflecting the love of our King to all.

PRAYER: Jesus, fill our hearts with compassion to bring hope to those in need.

NICOLE MARTINEZ

Digital Producer, 100 Huntley Street Crossroads

8 LET EARTH RECEIVE HER KING

THE KING'S FORGIVENESS

"In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Ephesians 1:7

I count myself lucky to live where I live; I'm surrounded by incredible beauty and natural ruggedness. In just a few minutes, I can stand next to incredible river systems such as the Exploits or Gander River. The Gander River is large; it starts at Partridgeberry Hill, flows into the Atlantic Ocean, and is 177 km long! It's a spectacular place enjoyed by many Newfoundlanders. There are seasons where this river has been high and some seasons where it's been low, but no matter the conditions, the river just keeps flowing!

As the season of Advent approaches, Christians worldwide prepare their hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the forgiveness that has been made available to all who would believe. God's forgiveness is like the river I described. It never stops flowing!

Often times we look at our sins, and we think to ourselves, "Surely my sin has somehow stopped the flow of his forgiveness." Nothing could be further from the truth because we are redeemed through the blood of Jesus!

PRAYER: I pray that this Advent season will be a time for you to receive freedom from the neverending river of the King's forgiveness.

MIKE FREAKE

Lead Pastor of Evangel Community Church Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador

Dec 24

THE KING'S GLORY

"The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp."

Revelation 21:23

On this Christmas Eve, as the world adorns with lights, decorations, and joyous anticipation, we remember the 'Light' that entered our world on that silent night in Bethlehem. A 'Light' dispelling fear and darkness, born as a baby in a manger.

I recall a young six-year-old, praying for snow with Uncle Grant from the south. To my amazement, God answered. That night, as I went to bed afraid of the dark, beams of light shone through

my drapes, the moonlight sparkling on the snow. Thankful for the light, I slept peacefully until Christmas Day.

> This childhood memory revealed my Heavenly Father's light that dispels fear. His 'Light' in me brings hope for eternity!

As we reflect on the 'Light' entering our world through Jesus Christ's birth, may we illuminate His presence, conquering sin and granting eternal life to all who believe.

PRAYER: Jesus, may we reflect our Heavenly Father's Glory and be a guiding Light to a world in need.

CINDY MELNICHUK

Partner Relations Representative Crossroads, Western Canada



20 DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONS

THE KING'S WORSHIP

"In a loud voice they were saying: 'Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!'"

Revelation 5:12-13

Two thousand years ago, in Bethlehem, an ordinary scene concealed an extraordinary purpose. Shepherds and wise men recognized the divine presence, knowing this child was the promised Messiah, the Saviour. With reverence and joy, they worshiped the baby, offering gifts fit for a King.

If I were there that night, what gift would I present to Jesus? The significance of that moment transcends time, a reminder of the profound love and redemption offered by the baby who became our coming King, worthy of all honour and praise.

This Christmas, let's reflect on this remarkable event that changed the world.

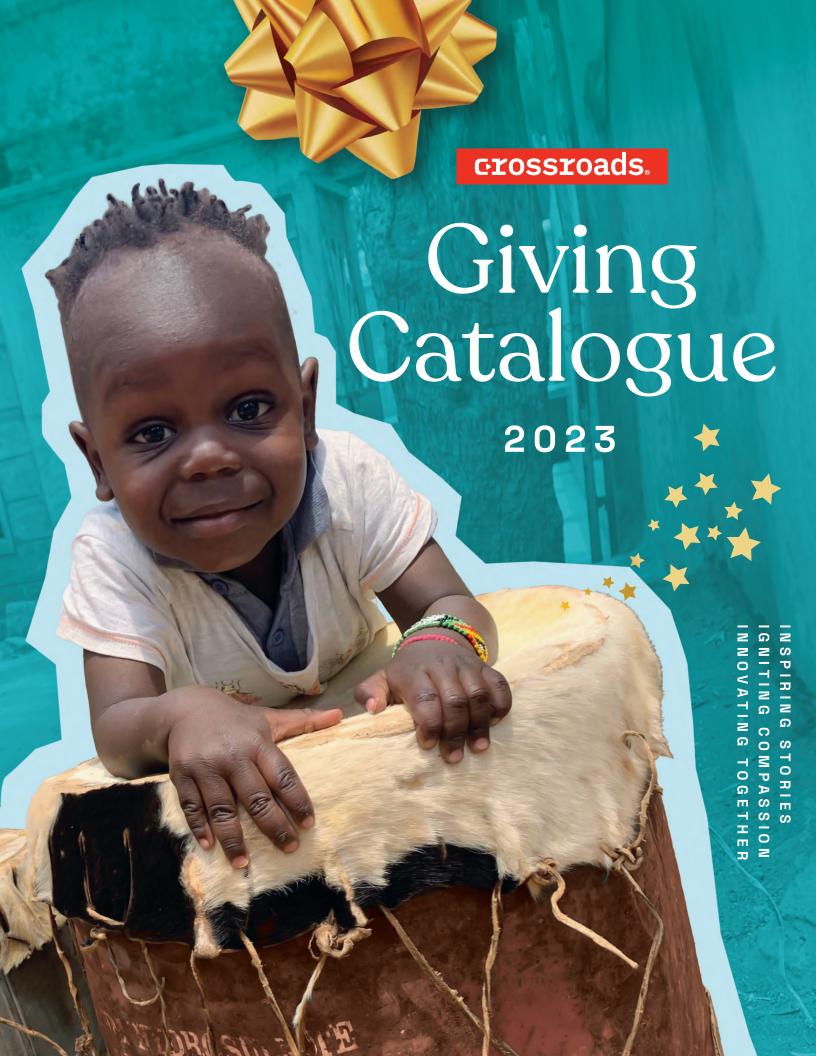
May the twinkling lights, festive decorations, and joyful carols all point to a deeper truth – the hope, peace, and joy that Jesus brings to our hearts, inspiring our worship and adoration.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for the wonderful gift of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

JORDAN BERTA

Prayer Ministry Representative Crossroads





crossroads.

Monthly Membership:

GROWING GOD'S KINGDOM TOGETHER





TO PROGRAMS



Join us in our purpose to reveal the transforming story of Jesus through inspiring and innovative media, to anyone, anywhere, anytime. Crossroads, Canada's leader in faith and values media content, has been inspiring and impacting lives for over 60 years through its flagship television program, 100 Huntley Street, other programs and initiatives. We invite you to become a part of our community by becoming a monthly member of Crossroads.

HERE'S WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN US:

Inspiration: Our content is designed to uplift and inspire. Whether it's through 100 Huntley Street, our digital platforms, or our live events, we're committed to delivering content that nourishes your soul and strengthens your faith.

Impact: Crossroads is more than just a media organization. Crossroads Cares is a respected not-for-profit aid agency responding to natural disasters worldwide, raising funds, and partnering with non-government organizations for emergency relief and long-term rebuilding strategies. By becoming a member, you're supporting our mission to make a tangible impact for the vulnerable in need.

Community: When you become a Crossroads member, you're joining a community of like-minded individuals who share your passion for faith, values, and positive change. Together, we can grow spiritually, support one another, and make a difference in the world.





Enjoy a Range of Membership Benefits!



Access to Exclusive Content:

Get early access to our newest content, including special interviews, devotionals, and behind-the-scenes looks at our programs.



Personalized Support:

Our team of Partner Care Representatives provide exceptional member service and personalized prayer care, in addition to our 24/7 prayer lines.



Invitations to Special Events:

Join us for exclusive memberonly events, including studio and guests visits, virtual gatherings, webinars, and more.



Monthly Newsletter:

Stay up-to-date with the latest news, stories of impact, and upcoming events through our exclusive member newsletter and Reach magazine.



Monthly Membership is Easy:

Choose Your Membership Level: Select the membership level, \$30, \$50, 100, or any amount that suits you best. We encourage you to prayerfully make this decision.

Sign Up Online: Visit our website and complete the simple online registration process by choosing "Monthly" giving. Or, using your online banking, add "Crossroads Christian Communications Inc" as a payee (just like you would for a bill), and schedule as a monthly payment.

Make a Difference: Your monthly contribution is not only a testament to our shared vision of spreading the gospel. Your consistent support helps us continue our mission of sharing the transforming story of Jesus and making a positive impact on lives around the world. It's a tangible demonstration of your commitment to our shared vision.

CHOOSE "MONTHLY" GIVING AT:

Crossroads.ca/gift



scan to give!

OR CALL 1-800-265-3100 TO SPEAK WITH A PARTNER CARE REPRESENTATIVE

through the Canada Revenue Agency Charity Returns.





In this fiscal year, Crossroads anticipates raising \$15 million in total revenue for its media evangelism, prayer line, and relief and development work, of which approximately 3.9% will be used for necessary fundraising, awareness, and administration. In cases where donations exceed what is needed or projects needs are met or otherwise conclude, Crossroads will redirect funds to similar activities that reveal the transforming story of Jesus.

Crossroads is audited annually by Grant Thornton, and financial results are available publicly

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

Impact of your Gift





"Purdy* was thrilled about our 100 Huntley Street programming in Newfoundland and expressed her desire to attend a live in-studio show. She's a big fan of Crossroads!"

Lara Watson, Executive Producer & Host 100 Huntley Street

"I just wanted to let you know that I loved the Philippians Bible Study. I hope you will consider doing another Bible Study in the near future."

Crystal*, See Hear Love newsletter subscriber



Andi* struggled with drug addiction in her twenties, and during those tough times, 100 Huntley Street provided her with solace and inspiration through its life-changing stories of Jesus. Today, Andi leads a prayer group that prays for Crossroads, a testament to the transformative impact the show had on her life.

We always enjoy having quests in our studio! Keep an eye on Crossroads' newsletter for updates including the opportunity to attend The Chosen Season 4 event at Crossroads' studio this January.

See Hear Love is producing

more Bible studies to enrich our growing collection on Crossroads' free streaming platform, Castle at intothecastle.com. Plus, as See Hear Love continues to broadcast on YES TV, the program has recently expanded to CHEK, Miracle, and CITL networks!

God's transformative love is always within reach! We're here to provide prayer and care for any needs you or your loved ones may have. Anytime, anywhere, we're here for you. Reach out to Crossroads 24/7 Prayer Line at 1-866-273-4444.





DID YOU

KNOW?

YES TV livestreaming is now available in Canada, which means you can stream all your favorite Crossroads programs on yestv.com or through the YES TV app.

MEISHA!

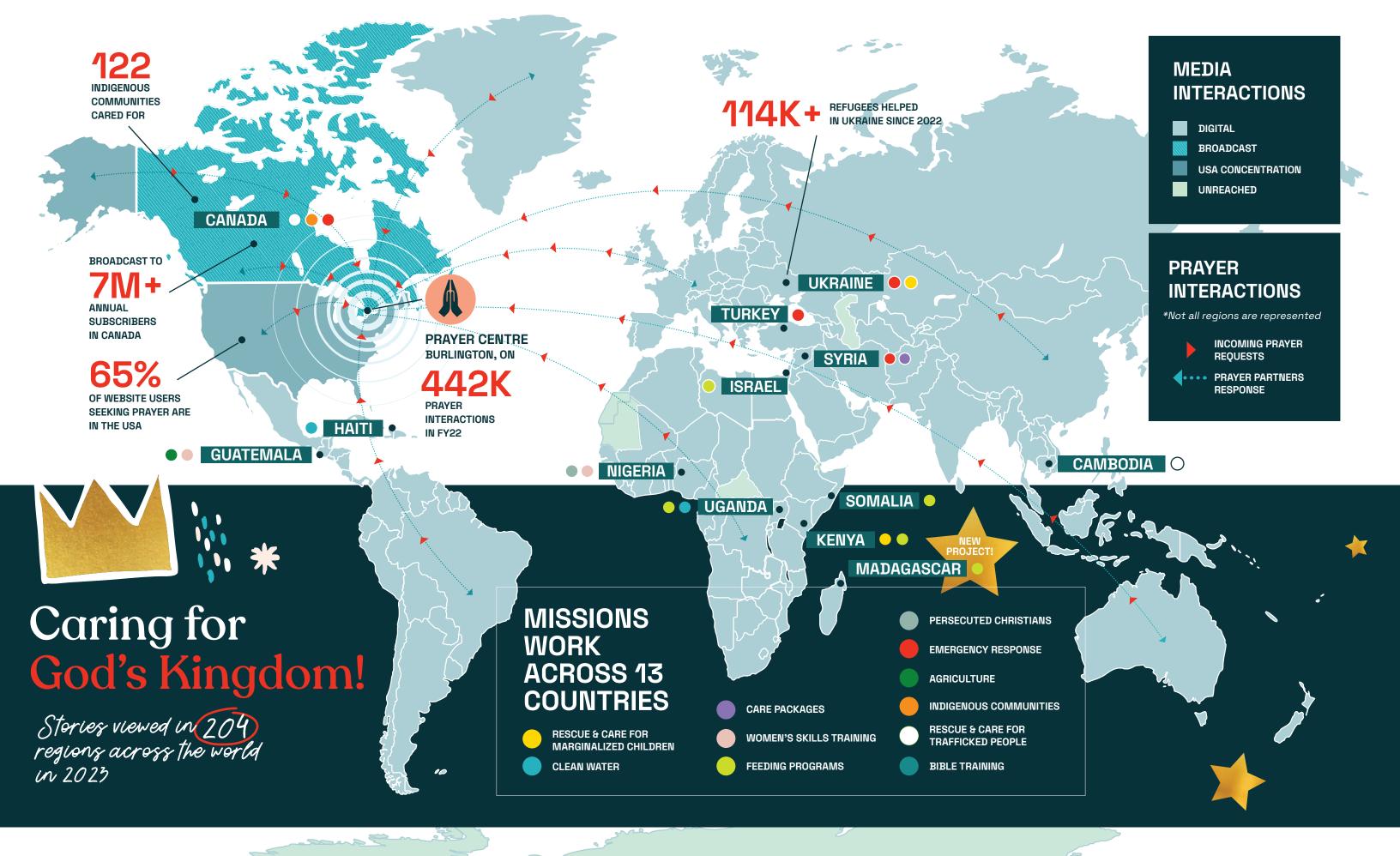
HEY MEISHA! Is now available on YouVerion's Bible App through the Kids' Bible Experience

deeks

Crossroads' trusted insurance partner, offering exclusive benefits to Crossroads members.

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Help more people discover Jesus!

MEDIA PROGRAMS

HELP REACH \$40

600 PEOPLE:

HELP REACH \$250

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SPONSOR 10 FAMILIES ON CASTLE FOR A YEAR: \$10

SPONSOR 100 FAMILIES ON CASTLE FOR A YEAR: \$100



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SHARE THE HOPE OF JESUS THROUGH INSPIRING STORIES

Crossroads achieved 66.5 million gospel interactions last year, reaching people of all ages in almost every corner of the globe with the transforming story of Jesus. One way this is achieved is through Crossroads media programs. The resources needed are substantial, including costs for airtime, production, and operating expenses. Annually, we need to raise \$10 million to continue reaching people with the message of Jesus through media.

Due to Castle's remarkable growth over the past year, providing a family with a subscription now offers 90% greater impact on each dollar invested!

100 Huntley Street

Help deliver the inspiring story of Jesus through informative and transformative content from Canada's 'home for hope!" With over 500K YouTube followers, we're growing in global impact.

100Huntley.com



See Hear Love

Provide a place where every woman can know they are seen, heard, and deeply loved by God.

SeeHearLove.com



Hey Meisha!

Support Biblical teaching and praise parties for kids using comedy, sketches, original worship music, and animation.

HeyMeisha.com



My Single Story **Podcast**

Nurture a space where single women of God can empower and inspire one another.



A Better Us

Strengthen couples through Biblebased insights, honest and fun discussions, and practical tools.



Digital Renaissance

Empower our future by funding the modernization of our digital infrastructure. shaping the desting of media ministry and the sharing of transformative stories with a global audience.



Castle

Deliver the invaluable qift of exceptional Christian media to families, complete with access to a digital pastor. With an influx of approximately 400,000 new subscribers this year, the demand has never been more pressing!

IntoTheCastle.com



Kids' Content

Offer families the gift of outstanding Christian kids' content. The hunger for wholesome children's content is growing, help expand our kids' content library.

IntoTheCastle.com



Bible Teaching & Resources

Assist individuals in their spiritual growth through an array of Bible resources, including video teaching series, digital materials, and much more.

IntoTheCastle.com





Join in God's transforming work through Crossroads' Prayer Centre!

PROVIDE A
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(NEW TESTAMENT BIBLE
AND LITERATURE) \$20 TO A NEW BELIEVER IN JESUS:

SPONSOR 10 PRAYER \$45

SPONSOR 55 PRAYER \$250 INTERACTIONS:

SPONSOR 200 PRAYER \$900 INTERACTIONS:

SUPPORT \$50



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Give the gift of care

NURTURE FAITH THROUGH SPIRITUAL CARE

Crossroads' 24/7 Prayer Centre provides 1,300 prayer interactions daily by phone, email, mail, or instant chat. Caring Prayer Partners listen to people in their moments of need and pray with them for God's help. The cost to provide one prayer interaction is **\$4.47**. For just a few dollars, Crossroads can provide spiritual care for people when they need God most! We're so grateful that **966** people dedicated their lives to Jesus last year through the prayer line!







Give the gift of tangible

CARE FOR THE KINGDOM THROUGH HUMANITARIAN AID

Crossroads Cares provides the necessities of life for people living in difficult and often extreme circumstances. We do this through partners who care for their "neighbours" and share the message of Jesus—one of love and compassion. Last year, because of your generosity, we ministered to over 84,792 people, and provided over one million dollars in humanitarian aid! All in the name of Jesus.

With your continued generosity, we can make an even greater impact this year with active projects in 13 countries. Let's reach out, touch lives, and spread the love of Jesus to those in need. Your support can change lives and make a world of difference!



Be a Crossroads Christmas missionary and help provide:

CLEAN WATER FOR A SCHOOL LUNCH IN UGANDA

EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE IN MADAGASCAR

MEALS FOR A FAMILY OR ELDERLY PERSON IN ISRAEL

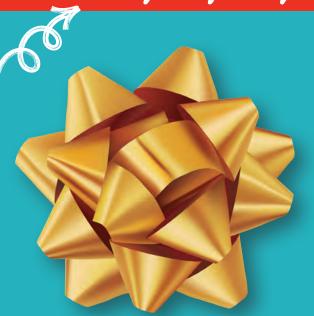
SAFE HOME FOR TRAFFICKED/ADDICTED WOMEN IN CAMBODIA \$100 OR CANADA

SKILLS TRAINING FOR WIDOWS IN NIGERIA \$50

CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGE FOR AN INDIGENOUS FAMILY THROUGH FIRST PEOPLES VOICES

SUPPORT A LIFE-CHANGING PROJECT WITH A GIFT OF

Any Amount!





We are so grateful for your support of Crossroads and our purpose to reveal the transforming story of Jesus through inspiring and innovative media to anyone, anywhere, anytime!

As an expression of thanks, choose a gift to inspire your faith or share with a friend!





*You are welcome to request more than one 'thank you' gift. However, your total gift amount must be equal to or greater than the total minimum gift amounts of the 'thank you' items selected.



The Gifts of Christmas: 25 Joy-Filled Devotions For Advent By Sheila Walsh (**FMV: \$25) Min gift amt: \$40



Ornament (**FMV: \$10) Min gift amt: \$30



Bring on the Merry Ornament Book By Candace Cameron Bure (**FMV: \$27) Min gift amt: \$45



It is Well -Ceramic and Cork Coasters (**FMV: \$21) Min aift amt: \$35



Canvas Keuchain "Blessed" (**FMV: \$14) Min gift amt: \$30



Homestead to Table Cookbook (**FMV: \$35) Min qift amt: \$55



Daily Strength for Women Perpetual Calendar: **365 Devotions** (**FMV: \$25) Min gift amt: \$40

**As per government requirements, the Fair Market Value (FMV) of the "thank you gift" is deducted from your annual tax receipt.



Daily Strength for Men Perpetual Calendar: 365 Devotions (**FMV: \$25) Min gift amt: \$40



Hope Muq (**FMV: \$22) Min gift amt: \$35

Give the gift of Christian Egacu

ENSURE THE NEXT GENERATION WILL KNOW THE LOVE OF JESUS FOR YEARS TO COME!

Crossroads partners with Advisors with Purpose to offer free and confidential estate plans for its donors and supporters. Planned giving specialists can help individuals and families think through decisions regarding their estate, create a personalized plan, and ensure that their will reflects their life, faith, and values.

WEBINARS PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

>:< ADVISORS Purpose

January 23, 2024, 3pm ET / 1pm MT **Estate Planning for Retirees:** What You Need to Know

Presented by Lorne Jackson

February 4th, 2024, 8pm ET / 6pm MT Navigating a debt-ridden World

Presented by Jan Kupecz

February 27, 2024, 8pm ET / 6pm MT **Estate Planning: Preparing for Unexpected Challenges and Disruptions** in Your Family

Presented by Mary Lynn Huizinga

March 26, 2024, 7pm ET / 5pm MT

Estate Planning With a Kingdom Mindset: How to Leave a Legacy that **Reflects Your Faith and Values** Presented by Lorne Jackson

April 23, 2024, 8pm / 6pm MT

Aligning Your Financial Goals With Your Spiritual Goals Presented by Ray Borg

May 21, 2024, 8pm / 6pm MT

What Women Need to Know Presented by Jan Kupecz

June 12, 2024, 8pm / 6pm MT

Planning Well for Your Business Presented by Chantel Gibbs

June 24, 2024, 8pm / 6pm MT

Will Planning for New Canadians Presented by Bold Kere

