



**"No Cross,  
No Crown"**

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# The Cross and Crown

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Recently, as I shoveled the sidewalk in front of the church, I thought back to a story my father-in-law tells about a volunteer's set of keys that had gotten buried under a mound of snow when a team was shoveled the parking lot at Vailsburg Assembly of God. After the team prayed, the keys floated to the top of a snow pile, much like the axhead from Elisha's story. It was an amazing miracle – and, if you haven't heard the story, you should reach out to Pastor Otto, because it's definitely worth hearing.



As I contemplated the story, though, I was arrested by this thought: It was a secondhand miracle.

The generation that walked across the Red Sea with a wall of water on either side of them was dead and buried in the desert by the time their children reached the outskirts of the Promised Land. Some of those children may have remembered the miracle, but to those who had been born in the wilderness during the forty years of wandering, the Red Sea crossing was a secondhand miracle; merely a story passed down by their fathers. Before this new generation went off to battle the Canaanites, God rolled back the waters of the Jordan River, giving them a miraculous crossing of their own.

I have seen my share of miracles in the many churches that I've been part of over the years, but, as I shoveled the sidewalk this past week, I realized that these were of little value to the current congregation of Resurrection Life Church, where God has called Candace and me to minister. Our church needs firsthand miracles.

The problem with praying for miracles is that it means praying for crises! If all of the problems we face are things that we can work out on our own, we don't really need miracles. We must not shy away from crises the way that the Israelites who died in the desert did, choosing to run away from the battle rather than to trust God and experience the miraculous.

Resurrection Life has seen its share of struggles in its fifteen-year history, and God has been faithful! However, the fact that God is moving me to pray for miracles leads me to believe that there are bigger battles ahead. I don't know what those battles are, but I can make you this promise: We'll keep on fighting as long as you keep on praying!

*My only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—  
the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace. (Acts 20:24)*

# Thanks for Praying!

We really can't over-emphasize how much we depend on your prayers! Never think that you're not making a difference. We're able to persevere because of your perseverance! Please continue to pray for:

- God's direction and provision as we move ahead,
- finding a new insurance company (before March!),
- several who are mourning family members lost this year, and,
- miracles!







Highway's charter, dated July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1899, and William Penn's prayer for Philadelphia hang in the church's foyer.

## We're praying with you!

If you're on our mailing list\*, you're on our prayer list! If there's anything specific that we can join with you in praying about, please let us know.

Thanks so much to those who keep in touch! It's so encouraging to hear from you!

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\* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or drop us a note, and we'll remove you. (We'll still keep you on our prayer list!)

If you'd rather receive this letter via e-mail, please let us know!

## Did you know?

Victor Manieson, Spring Garden Academy's music director, is composing an original work inspired by Highway's commitment to the Great Commission, in its current expression at Spring Garden Academy and Resurrection Life Church. Watch your mail for details!

I will praise you, Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples.

(Psalm 57:9)



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