



THE CROSS *and* CROWN

"No Cross, No Crown"

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In our Sunday series on Hebrews 11's Hall of Faith, we considered the fact that "all these were still living by faith when they died." Theirs was more than a faith for the present;— it was a forward-looking faith that saw generations yet to come — from their observation deck on the shoulders of generations who had come before.

At Resurrection Life Church, we find ourselves positioned between a glorious and storied past, which we can see in the photographs and documents recently catalogued in our archives, and a future with even greater potential, which we can see through eyes of faith. With the pressure of our predecessors on one side and the promise of our successors on the other, it can feel a bit precarious here in the middle. We want to be faithful stewards of legacy of prayer, toil and talent that has been invested in this ministry over the years, and we strive to leave a solid foundation for future generations to build on — yet, so often, we feel like Gideon: We're the smallest and the least. Why would God call us to this task?

God's answer to us is the same as his answer to Gideon and his tiny army. He called us so that, when the victory comes, our testimony will be that it was God's hand, not our cleverness, our financial resources or our hard work, that accomplished his will in North Philadelphia.



And we know we are not doing this by ourselves! We can't tell you how encouraged and enabled we are by knowing that you are praying with us. Not only that but, Hebrews assures us that we also have a great crowd of witnesses surrounding us! Looking out with eyes of faith on Sunday afternoons, I see them sitting there: Howard Roberson, "Aunt Betty" McDowell, Wesley Steelberg, Margaret Shirer, Frederick Reel, and countless others. Some Sundays, I can even see Gideon himself out there, cheering us on with upraised hands!

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. (II Corinthians 5:7)

Thanks for Praying!

You're an integral part of our story, past, present and future! Please continue to agree with us for:

- our upcoming outreach events, including our partnership and anniversary weekend,
- more God's his Spirit, wisdom and direction,
- the next generation of leaders and team members,
- provision for the many challenges around us and ahead of us.

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 for, please let us know. (We will only publish your requests in this newsletter with your permission.)

Our 130th anniversary celebration is less than a week away! Please contact us if you'd like to attend, and if you have memories to share with us about Highway!

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* **Important:** If you'd rather not be on our mailing list, we won't be offended! Just call or write us, 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, or subscribe to it at crossandcrown.online/subscribe !

Did You Know?

For much of our nation's history, most of the people reading this newsletter would not have been able to vote. Only white males who owned land were given that privilege. In 1868, all people who were born or naturalized were granted citizenship by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Black men were given the right to vote by the 15th Amendment, in 1870, and women received the right in 1920, under the 19th Amendment.



Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper. (Jeremiah 29:7)



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