

- A. This is the final message on the five areas of where members of CrossRoad are challenged to grow as a follower of Jesus Christ.
- B. Prayers, Presence, Giving, Service, and Witness.
- C. We have been looking at the Church that was birthed in Jerusalem shortly after the resurrection of Jesus.
- D. *(Acts 2:38-47 NRSV) Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. {39} For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him." {40} And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." {41} So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. {42} They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. {43} Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. {44} All who believed were together and had all things in common; {45} they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. {46} Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, {47} praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved*
- E. As the church grew, the Holy Spirit of Jesus was using these followers of Jesus to Witness to their Community.
- F. *(Acts 4:31-37 NASB) And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak the word of God with boldness. {32} And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own; but all things were common property to them. {33} And with great power the apostles were giving WITNESS to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all. {34} For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales, {35} and lay them at the apostles' feet; and they would be distributed to each, as any had need. {36} And Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means, Son of Encouragement), {37} and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.*

## II. We are called to Witness

- A. *(Mat 24:14 NASB) "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a WITNESS to all the nations, and then the end shall come.*
- B. *Acts 1: {8} But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my WITNESSES in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*
- C. Saul of Tarsus was a religious Jewish leader who initially persecuted the church. He had a dramatic encounter with the resurrected Jesus.
- D. *(Acts 22:6-16 NKJV) "Now it happened, as I journeyed and came near Damascus at about noon, suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. {7} "And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' {8} "So I answered, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said to me, 'I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.' {9} "And those who were with me indeed saw the light and were afraid, but they did not hear the voice of Him who spoke to me. {10} "So I said, 'What shall I do, Lord?' And the Lord said to me, 'Arise and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all things which are appointed for you to do.' {11} "And since I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of those who were with me, I came into Damascus. {12} "Then a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there, {13} "came to me; and he stood and said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight.' And at that same hour I looked up at him. {14} "Then he said, 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth. {15} 'For you will be His WITNESS to all men of what you have*

*seen and heard. {16} 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'*

E. (Acts 26:14-18 NKJV) *"And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' {15} "So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. {16} 'But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. {17} 'I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, {18} 'to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.'*

### III. The Plural of Witness is The Church.

A. Acts 1: {8} *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my WITNESSES in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."*

B. (Acts 5:29-32 NKJV) *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. {30} "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. {31} "Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. {32} "And we are His WITNESSES to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."*

C. (Heb 12:1-2 NKJV) *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of WITNESSES, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, {2} looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

D. One person may have an effective Witness, but I think that Jesus' mission is fulfilled when it is done in community.

E. When we join together as a great cloud of Witnesses.

### IV. Witness points the Church Outward.

A. The day of the Inward focused church is quickly dying, and there is a revival going on in the hearts of people that are recognizing the need to be Outward focused.

B. Partly, many of the Boomers and those who were Yuppies and had just a casual relationship with the church have found that there was more to life than upward mobility.

C. The children of many Boomers have suffered from the brokenness of their families and have been forced to find meaning and hope outside of traditional family values.

D. Out of that brokenness people are living more outward focused lives naturally.

E. If the Church is going to stay relevant not only to the culture, but relevant to Her mission, it must get back to its Outward Focus.

### V. Witness is Word and Works

A. Since the inception of CrossRoad, we have tried to end the discussion about whether a person witnesses through Words or Works.

B. Is it Words or Works? The answer is YES.

C. Events like Superheroes are a part of our witness.

D. Mikey Thagard: What an awesome experience that was. Well done to all involved for a lot of hard work. I have stopped at the same convenience store for 20 plus years after work whether I worked days, nights, or evenings for liquid refreshment. Use to be beer, the past 10 years (thank you God & CRC) it's been coffee. Well even though I am bashful I know everyone employed there. There is a young woman who has been there two plus years in the late afternoon. I have seen her at the CRC Fall Festivals the last two years and I

was giving her a flyer on Super Hero's and I asked how she knew about the fall festivals anyhow. She said her daughter attends Windy Hill and they sent a flyer home from school. Ole bashful Mikey was on a roll then and I started telling her that I was going to do volunteer reading there when I retired and that CRC had started a food pantry at Windy Hill. She said she knew all about the food pantry because her husband was laid off and it was really tough trying feed them and two children on her salary. She just went on about how wonderful CRC was and all they do for the entire school family. I was swelling up like a bull frog and ready to hold services at the register but they were busy. Well yesterday she jumped me when I walked in after work about Super Hero's and how much she and her daughter enjoyed it. She also took her friend who just discovered Christ and was completely amazed. She stated that she didn't know that you could learn religion and have fun and not be shamed or browbeat about her past life. She also said her friend couldn't believe how nice everyone was to her when they walked into CRC. She said she never felt so relaxed and comfortable. She actually said that she didn't know that people that knew Jesus could be friendly and not look down on her.

E.It takes Words and Works to Witness to people.

F.Every Sunday I prepare a message to help people come to faith or to grow in their faith.

G.Those words could never be heard if it weren't for people committed to Work.

H.Events like Superheroes provide opportunities for us to invite family and friends who may never have heard the message of Jesus, or have been burned or disappointed by the humans that God has entrusted to Witness.

I.Because we decided not to take up an offering at the event and offer it free to those who you would invite, we are receiving offerings to help underwrite it. As you exit today there are boxes where you can place your offering.

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## VI. **The Power of a Witness!**

A.I was eating lunch with a group of my pastor friends and one of them mentioned a Youtube video of Pen Jillete, of the Comedy/Magician/Entertainment team of Penn and Teller.

B.*Video*

C.What a powerful question: How much do you have to hate someone to not tell them about someone that has saved your life?

D.How much do you have to hate someone not to demonstrate the love of Jesus to them.

E.If you saw someone about to step in front of a truck, wouldn't you do all in your power to save them?

F.Do you get it! Even an atheist, a person known for being antagonistic towards believers at least appreciates a genuine, authentic, Witness!

## VII. Haiti Witness

A.Letter from Pastor Lundy.

B.May the Grace and the Peace of God be with all of you! I am taking this opportunity to write you and to wish you Happy New Year of 2009! May the Lord give you health, love, longevity, charity and wisdom and success in everything.

My dear brothers and sisters I want to take this advantage to let tell you how much I love you in the name of the Lord. You have shown us the love you have for us by leaving your country to travel many miles to come here and visit us in Haiti. You think about us often, you have helped us accomplish a lot of work; you have made plans for us, and the most important thing you keep us in your prayers. Here in Tiburon we are obliged to love and appreciate you. We pray for you everyday because you are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

I would like to say thank you for all you have done for our church through the years. Thank you for all the support you sent after our community was struggling because of the four hurricanes last year. I want you to know that was a great blessing for all the district churches. Thank you for how you always care about us

and have enthusiasm to help us. If there were a bigger word than thank you I would prefer to use it just to express my gratitude to you.

We would like to inform you that the Sanctuary project is going very well even though we still have more to do. I know your prayer is a great help to us. We are looking forward to having a good time with you in May if God's willing.

The spiritual activities of the Church have been going very well for the past two years. We have had 100 people accept Jesus as their Savior. We had five conferences and seven members' convention for the district.

Please pray for our church that we will continue to grow in numbers and we promise you that we will always keep you in prayer and ask God to fill you with his blessing.

May God bless you and protect you!

C.Prayer for team

VIII. Invitation