

Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

– **Deuteronomy 6:6-7 (NIV)**

A Legacy of Faith

2 Timothy 1:5 says:

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

The power of a spiritual legacy is truly amazing. My father grew up in the Orthodox Jewish faith and became a Christian later in life. I grew up visiting churches and listening to his strong testimony. My mother was a Sunday School teacher for more than thirty years. She showed me a steady faith by the way she obeyed God. My grandmother was the picture of a godly woman. Even though she had many health problems, she taught Sunday School, read the Bible cover to cover several times a year, and even though she was small, she was a spiritual giant in my life.

They all went home to be with the Lord many years ago, but their legacy of faith still shapes me today. I cannot imagine where I would be without their influence.

I want to encourage you that you can start building your own legacy of faith today. It begins when you fully give your life to Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This means a complete change from the old to the new. People around you will see the difference. Giving your life to Christ is the beginning of a faith legacy that will draw others to Him because they can see what the Holy Spirit is doing in you.

Jesus took your sins on the Cross so you can be free. Claim that freedom and become the person God made you to be.

–Joe Pryor, Crossroads President & CEO

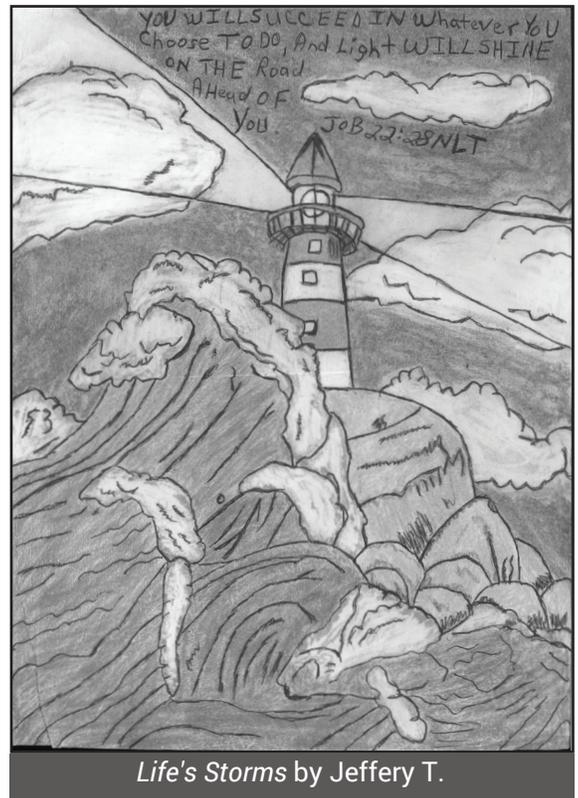
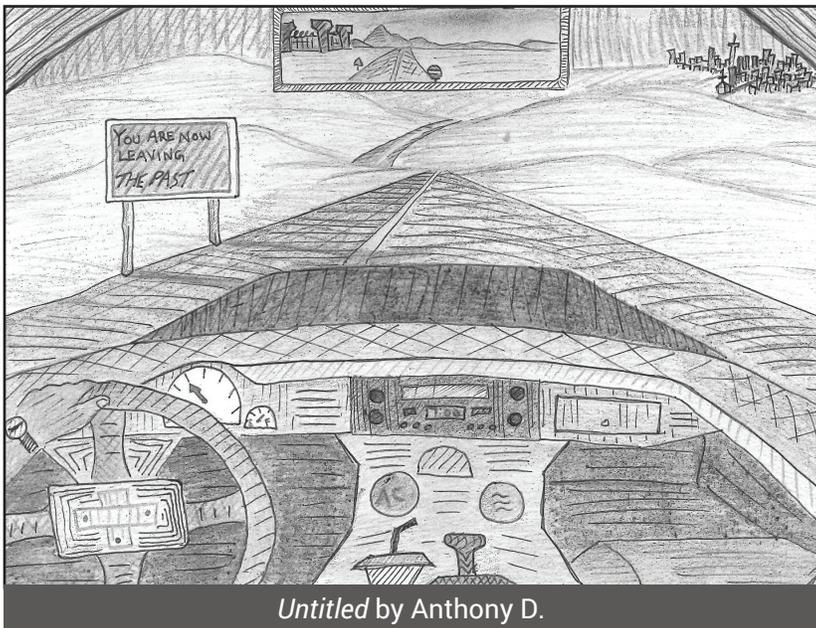
Spread the Word About Crossroads

You can begin your own faith legacy right now. When you give your life to Christ, He makes you new (2 Corinthians 5:17). Others will see the change.

Thank you for being a Crossroads student. Please share with others how they can join Crossroads. When you do, you help spread God's hope where you are. May God bless you as you live out your faith.

The Creative Corner

Artwork and poetry shared by Crossroads students, using their God-given gifts to glorify Him.



***I was Lost* by Sarah**

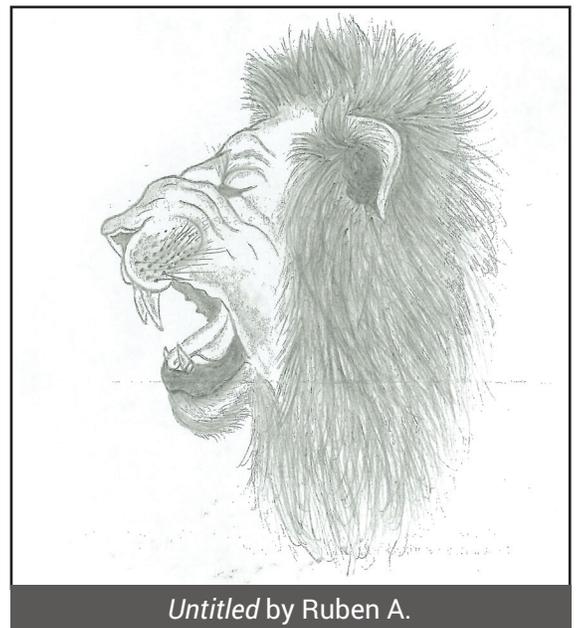
I was lost, so very lost
I couldn't see just how much it cost
I didn't care or love myself
But now I know I need a little help
God truly loves me
Now that I see
And He forgives me
Let me be truly free
Thank you God for accepting me

***God's Word* by Bal T.**

A blinking red light on a high tower;
A high beam beacon on the lighthouse;
A traffic light at railroad crossing:
All have a single purpose—
To give signal in order to avoid accidents!
Likewise, Your Word my God
Illuminates my path,
Leads me through it.

***Yeshua* by Daniel**

Everyday I see his Glory
In everything I see his love
For every person I see his blessing
And everyone has his Grace
For with his blood, he has made us righteous
For with his blood, he has made us holy
For with his blood, he has made us pure
For his is our father's love.
Navigating me through
Pitfalls and snares.
Amen



SHARE YOUR ARTWORK

Crossroads students are invited to submit artwork and poetry to Crossroads for display and publication. You can submit artwork or poetry by mailing it to the Crossroads office at the address below. Include your name, ID number, address, the title of your work, and an artist's statement (optional). Entries must be original, and no copyrighted images or works will be published.

Crossroads | PO Box 900 | Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900

The Fountain Writers

Notes of encouragement written by members of the Crossroads community to uplift and inspire you on your journey of faith.

Creating Our Legacy

Greetings!

Martin Luther King Jr., Winston Churchill, Steve Jobs, Albert Einstein, and Rosa Parks all made a difference in their lifetime and even after they were gone. They left a legacy. A legacy is “the lasting impact a person leaves behind through their actions, achievements, and values.” Leaving a good legacy is very powerful. Proverbs 10:7 tells us, “The memory of the righteous is a blessing” (ESV). When we live out our faith, people will remember us—and remember us with love.

As followers of Christ, we do not have to wait to leave a legacy. We build it every day. The Bible shows us how to do this. Titus 2:7 says, “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity” (ESV). When we live by God’s Word, we build a legacy that truly matters.

Sincerely,
A Fountain of Legacy

Twice Mine

My dear sisters and brothers,

A little boy bought a kit to make a sailboat. He wanted to make it just right. He smoothed the parts, glued them together, painted it, and added a sail. He called it “Adam.” He was pleased and said, “It’s very good.”

At the lake, he tied a string to it and pushed it out. Beautiful. The wind moved the boat, and it went out farther. When the boy tried to pull it back, the string broke. He watched his sailboat go out until he couldn’t see it anymore. It was lost.

He cried about it as he rode his bicycle home. His little sailboat was lost forever.

He never forgot his sailboat. It meant so much to him. One day he saw his sailboat in the window of a secondhand store. He asked for his boat back. The owner said, “It is my boat now. You have to buy it back.”

The boy planned to buy it back. He worked and saved, and finally he had enough. His boat was faded and scratched. The sail was torn. But he paid the price to buy it back. He put it in his bedroom. He loved that boat. That night he looked at his boat and said, “Now you belong to me twice. First, I made you. Then, I bought you.”

“First, I made you. Then, I bought you.” My sisters and brothers, that’s the story of the Bible. It’s our story.

When God created the world, He said, “That’s good.” When He created us, He said, “Now it is very good.” He showed us how to live for Him. But by living the way we wanted to instead of how God wanted us to live, we slowly drifted away. Sometimes we can feel so lost. All the loneliness, meanness, fighting, disrespect, fear, and pain—all the bad stuff in our lives—started when we quit obeying God.

It wasn’t the boy who drifted away. His boat did. The boy never quit loving his boat. He paid a lot to buy it back. The God who created us paid a great price to buy us back. The Bible says God did not buy us back with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, who had always been faithful to Him. (1 Peter 1:18-19)

Do you see yourself in the story? First God made you. And then He wants to buy you back. If you have already told God you are sorry for your sin and asked Him to forgive you through Jesus, then you know what it is like to live the forgiven life. If you have not yet prayed like that, why not do it now?

My dear friends, God never created junk or losers or numbers or second-rate citizens or criminals. First, God made you like Himself. Then, God bought you back to Himself.

God is smiling about you and saying, "Twice mine."

- Brother Ren, a Crossroads volunteer and devotional author

Verses to Read and Remember

Here are five Bible verses to help you focus on what it means to build a legacy of faith. Try memorizing one each week. Think about it and pray over it every day.

1. Proverbs 13:22	"A good person leaves an inheritance for their children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous." (NIV)
2. Deuteronomy 6:6-7	"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." (NIV)
3. Proverbs 22:6	"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." (NIV)
4. Joshua 24:15	"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (NIV)
5. Psalm 112:1-2	"Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in his commands. Their children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed." (NIV)

From the Operations Department

Here are a few reminders about your lessons and mail:

- **Send back all pages of your lesson.** This helps us process it faster and send your next lesson sooner.
- **Moving or going home?** If you're transferring to a new facility or getting released and want to keep doing lessons, let us know. If you're going home, wait until you get there to send us your new address.
- **Some lessons are sent to a mail service.** For students at certain facilities, we must send lessons to a mail service instead of directly to the facility. In some cases, new lessons will go to your facility while reviewed lessons will go to the mail service. Please know that we understand the value of receiving a physical copy of the lesson in a timely manner. However, at times this process is the only way for you to receive the mentor's letter along with the lesson.

Thank you for your dedication to growing in God's Word. If you enjoy doing Crossroads lessons, please tell a friend in your facility about us.

