



The mission statement of **Crossroads Church of Pittsburgh** reveals that the congregation “seeks to cross cultures and barriers to lead the un-churched of Pittsburgh and the world to become on mission followers of Jesus Christ.” The church was planted in the South Hills of Pittsburgh with the stated purpose of engaging in multicultural ministry.

Crossroads has a very unique mission. The church has members and regular attenders from The Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Sudan, Togo, Zambia, Afghanistan, and the U.S. Outreach ministry is also directed to families from Nigeria, Vietnam, China, Honduras, Ukraine, Russia, Serbia, Bosnia, Germany, Turkey, Kenya, and Iraq. This includes numerous individuals who are Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist.

At the outset, it was very clear to the core group that there were a large number of ethnic families that many churches were not paying attention to. Leadership has come to discover that this is true not only in Pittsburgh, but throughout the U.S. Statistics indicate that less than 5% of all Christian churches in the United States are considered multicultural. The broad definition for research purposes was that one ethnic group did not comprise more than 60% of the congregation.

A more detailed definition is given by Michael Mata of the School of Theology at Claremont. He states, “[A Multicultural church understands that the manifestation of] significant presence is that there is to the observer notable diversity in the congregation. There exists a qualitative aspect to the notion of a multiethnic congregation. The percentage breakdown of ethnic groups within the congregation may reveal a dominant group, but the sense is that overall the congregation is diverse; it cannot be merely labeled as a white/Anglo, Hispanic or Asian church . . . The environment of a ‘truly’ multicultural congregation affirms the diversity of the congregation. For example, room décor, signage, bulletin boards, etc. would reveal a diverse congregation even if you don’t see the people.” Ron Lupton adds, “I do not consider a predominantly single ethnic congregation that has a few assorted others as members a multiethnic church.”

Pastor Craig Montroy believes that churches across America must deal with the reality that the United States has well over 35 million more people of color in 2000 than it did in 1980. This is more people than lived in the U.S. during the Civil War period of the 1860’s. Missions professor David Hesselgrave states that :religious, cultural, social, ethnic, and other barriers must be crossed if the great commission is to be obeyed. He further contends that even though the church in America talks about wanting to reach every person with the message of Christ, it has not gone nearly far enough to make this a reality.



**Worship gathering at Crossroads**

The members of Crossroads firmly believe that the ministry of Christ was intentionally multicultural, and that He prescribed this to be the permanent nature of the church. It is unfortunate, but what was true in the 1960’s remains true to this day. . . Eleven o’clock on Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America. The congregation has discussed and recognizes that attempts have been made at racial reconciliation. They point to racial reconciliation seminars, books, workshops, videos, speeches , and formal apologies. “It seems that there has been plenty of talking, however the church has moved away from the hard work.” Crossroads has a passion to be engaged in the “hard work.”

Divided by Faith: Evangelical Religion and the Problem of Race in America documents how the organization of American religion leads to racially separate congregations. Crossroads church leaders acknowledge that the problem has deep roots, but certainly believe the situation is not hopeless. The church gives purposeful ongoing attention to this issue. Professor Michael Emerson frames the problem well. He states, “The issues are far too complex to be addressed by a homogenous subculture that tends toward high-energy, but simplistic and one-dimensional solutions to complex social problems.” He goes on to say that, “with a few exceptions, evangelicals lack serious thinking in this issue. Rather than integrate their faith with knowledge of race relations, inequality, and American society, they generally allow their cultural constructions to shape one-dimensional assessments and solutions to multidimensional problems.



Dr. Montroy will be the first to admit that Crossroads does not have all the answers. There is however a definite process of growth in the area of multicultural mission and focus. Montroy states, “The church is totally convinced that Jesus set before us a multicultural church ministry model. Over and over the Bible affirms this assertion. Emerson succinctly discusses the biblical antecedents for multiracial congregations in his 2003 work United by Faith: The Multiracial Congregation as an answer to the Problem of Race.

**Pastor Craig preaching at a new church in Kenya**

A detailed study should include the following: The inclusive message of Jesus’ birth and death narratives; the inclusive nature of the message of Jesus and the early church; Luke 24:47; Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; The diverse mix of people in Galilee where Jesus grew up; The “table fellowship” of Jesus’ ministry; Jesus’ description of a “House of Prayer for all Nations” (Mk. 11:17); The diversity of the Jerusalem church; Congregations in Palestine and the region beyond; The Antioch Congregation and the Antioch model; and the struggle of the first century church to maintain unity.

Crossroads Church of Pittsburgh is deeply immersed in meeting the needs of diverse groups of people. In every ministry effort, there is an underlying foundation of Spiritual guidance. Their ministry approach is one that is intentionally holistic. The type of ministry includes but is certainly not limited to assistance with medical appointments, school advocacy for children, E.S.L., tutoring, financial assistance, liaison with resettling agencies, shopping assistance, tax and bill paying assistance, counseling, and general family support.



**Liberian Family at Crossroads**



**2005 Mission Team in Kenya**

Crossroads is also very committed to international missions. They have a passion for sharing the message that all Southern Baptist churches can be involved in International Mission projects. Twelve members have made a total of five trips to the African Continent. Their most recent journey was a trip to Kenya in November. The church has previously worked in a refugee area near the Sudan border in Northwestern Kenya. During the November trip they started a partnership among the Massai people group in the Southwestern part of the country. The “on mission” team observed God at work in a tremendous way. They give all credit to Him. In summary, the team witnessed the salvation of 1,412 Adults, youth, and children. Nine Hundred Sixty-Five youth made commitments to True Love Waits. The team was able to support the building of a new church. The team, with Crossroads assistance, also supported the graduation and final semester of studies at the Ka-kuma Bible School. In addition, extensive discipleship materials were provided for on-going training and financial support was given to seven Kenyan pastors. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



**Worship at the Paramount Retirement Center**

Crossroads currently meets at the Paramount Retirement Center. Space is limited, especially for the children’s groups. The church is also in need of space to conduct weekday ministries. Please pray that the resources will become available for the church to secure a building more conducive to it’s stated mission .

Crossroads is very involved in International missions. We want to communicate the message that all Southern Baptist Churches, regardless of size, can be “on mission” to the ends of the earth. Please pray that we will be able to communicate effectively.



**Massai new church construction**

We have been blessed by mission teams who have come to work alongside Crossroads in Pittsburgh. In 2005 we had teams from South Carolina, North Carolina, and PowerPlant. Please pray for ongoing partnerships.



**Crossroads Summer Block Party**

A large number of people that attend Crossroads do not have cars. Members are committed to transporting them to church every Sunday. Please pray that we might obtain the resources and develop the creativity to move fairly large groups of people.



**Crossroads Summer Sports Camp**