

For Immediate Release

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Victory's Crossing Announces Grand Opening

Gainesville, VA. (August 22, 2003) – With promotional postcards that proclaim: “Terrible preaching. Awful music. Horrible kids programs. Cold, cold coffee... You’ll find none of that here.”, it’s clear that Victory’s Crossing, which celebrates its Grand Opening on Sunday, September 14, is not your everyday church. That’s precisely what founders Arlie Whitlow and his wife Wendy have in mind.

“One of our primary goals is to be creative in our ministry, and, without watering it down, present the Gospel in a new way that will appeal to our culture today,” explained Whitlow. “The bottom line is we want to be able to relate to people – people who have had church experiences and those who have never set foot inside a place of worship.”

Young families, who the church sees as its main audience, won’t have much trouble relating to the Whitlows. Both in their early thirties, they have two young daughters and bring a youthful perspective to the church setting. According to Whitlow, Victory’s Crossing is all about reaching out to people and encouraging them to “cross over to a life of victory through Jesus Christ,” as their mission statement declares, and providing them with a place where they can get connected with their peers and develop meaningful relationships. “It won’t be uncommon for us to clear the chairs out of the gymnasium where we hold our service and play some basketball, eat some food, and just hang out with each other on a Sunday morning after service,” said Whitlow.

Another aspect of the church that attests to its youthful attitude is its music. Whitlow, who has a strong musical background that includes a degree in music, has not only served as the Director of Music for several churches and one university, but also has written and recorded two Contemporary Christian CDs. “I believe most people my age are more interested in music they’d hear on Top 40 stations rather than organ music,” said Whitlow. That said, Victory’s Crossing will feature vibrant, contemporary music that focuses on God and unique arrangements of traditional hymns.

In spite of his modern approach, however, Whitlow is no stranger to more traditional church principles. In addition to a Master's degree in Practical Theology from Regent's University, Whitlow comes from a family that is deeply seeded in ministry work. Both his paternal and maternal grandfathers were pastors, his father continues to pastor a church in Sterling, Virginia, and his great-grandmother was a traveling evangelist during a time when it was almost unheard of for women to preach. Whitlow hopes to combine his history with new ideas to make Victory's Crossing a church that will not only develop fully devoted followers of Christ, but also serve as a genuine source of care and support for those who attend. "Our heart's desire is that God would use us to raise up a great church that will touch the community in a life-changing way."

Victory's Crossing's will hold its grand opening service at Nokesville Elementary School on Sunday, September 14, at 10:00 am. Nokesville Elementary is located at xxx.

For more information, visit the Victory's Crossing website at www.victoryscrossing.com, e-mail Pastor Arlie at arlie@victoryscrossing.com, or call 703.330-0377.