



CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

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“We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints...” (2 Cor. 8:1-4 NRSV)

Overwhelmed. It’s a word that describes different kinds of circumstances. It describes the feelings Elaine and I shared while sitting together in our Living Room after church on December 17th, opening your Christmas cards and gifts to us.

Overwhelmed. That’s how we felt. We were overwhelmed by your love and generosity. We were overwhelmed by so many warm wishes, expressions of appreciation, and affirmation of our mutual ministry here at Capital Baptist Church. “Thank you” doesn’t come near saying how grateful we are to be here, serving God together with you.

We have many aspirations for the New Year and beyond. We’ve said, and we believe, “The best days of Capital Baptist Church have yet to come.” Praise the Lord!

“Overwhelmed” also describes challenging circumstances. For instance, we can be overwhelmed by the chaos that surrounds us. We can be overwhelmed by the needs of people we meet in ministry. We can be overwhelmed by the lostness of the world. We could make a long, long list of overwhelming things. Were it not for the grace of God and his work in the hearts of his people, we’d be overwhelmed and wearied beyond our ability to cope. “But God...”

Hurricane Harvey Activity		Hurricane Irma Activity	
Professions of Faith	437	Professions of Faith	80
Gospel Conversations	2,340	Gospel Conversations	594
Chainsaw	1,554	Chainsaw	683
Total Meals	2,180,126	Total Meals	562,375
Volunteer Days	55,468	Volunteer Days	14,908
Shower	39,206	Shower	6,807
Laundry	24,993	Laundry	2,813
Shockwave	5,046	Shockwave	98
Recovery	9,771	Recovery	2,415
Children Cared For	943		

That two-word phrase appears dozens of times in both Old and New Testaments. It’s a formula for faith in “overwhelming” circumstances. That two-word phrase is the basis for our hope, our perseverance and our victory. It’s a phrase used by Paul, the apostle, encouraging his readers to press on tirelessly in service to God’s Kingdom.

“But God...” means the appearance of the miraculous in the mundane. Did you know that despite the overwhelming circumstances faced by Americans in 2017, we’ve had the privilege of participating

positively through the agencies of our Convention? Just a few short months ago we hosted Disaster Relief Training here at Capital Baptist Church. It's no longer a matter of "if," but "when" disaster strikes.

Whether it's an extended season of devastating hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean or a multitude of wildfires in California, Disaster Relief workers are deployed along with Fire Fighters and First Responders of all kinds. We can, and do, participate with them. It's just like the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, encouraging their response to the overwhelming need of the saints in Jerusalem.

Relief Efforts		<i>Data from November 7, 2017, NAMB Disaster Relief Situation Report</i>	
Hurricane Maria Puerto Rico		Hurricane Maria Virgin Islands	
Professions of Faith	21	Professions of Faith	2
Gospel Conversations	55	Gospel Conversations	32
Ministry Contacts	549	Ministry Contacts	977
Chainsaw	21	Chainsaw	67
Total Meals	16,376	Total Meals	9,454
Volunteer Days	874	Volunteer Days	747
Mold Remediation	0	Mold Remediation	31
Repair Jobs	34	Repair Jobs	91
Assessments	29	Assessments	49
Water Purification	1,020	Water Purification	0

On this side of eternity, there's never an end to need. Facing "overwhelming" need, God's people are called to respond, giving what they can to relieve suffering. Overwhelming suffering also produces an "overwhelming" response to the Gospel. Here are some indicators from the last year's Disaster Relief effort throughout the United States and beyond. We're grateful to God for the opportunity to participate in the relief effort.

What will 2018 hold? It's safe to say that it will hold many blessings, and some burdens as well. Remember, we're not alone in the struggle. Don't forget to reach out when you can, lending the same kind of help you'd like to receive.

Happy New Year, Pastor John

Associate Pastor Search Committee Report

On November 16, 2016, at a special-called business meeting, based on a recommendation from the Ministry Research Team, Capital voted to form an Associate Pastor Search Committee. The Nominating Committee presented Search Committee nominees at the January business meeting, and the newly formed Associate Pastor Search Committee first met on January 29, 2017. During weekly meetings in February and March we outlined a process and created the necessary documents.

At the April business meeting in cooperation with the Personnel Committee, a job description for the Associate Pastor of Young Adults and Young Families was presented and approved. With these pieces in place, the job posting went "live" the next day. The first application was received a few days later.

Over the next 2 months, the Search Committee received 11 applications. Kenny Lydick was selected as the best candidate from among that group of applicants, and was invited to visit Capital the first week of July. During his visit Capital voted to offer him the position, but he ultimately turned it down.

Yes, we were discouraged, but we learned some valuable lessons. And as we prayed, God revealed in several ways that it had been the correct outcome for Capital. So we began work again at the end of July by first refining interview questions and tweaking the process based on the lessons we had learned.

As of December 1, the Associate Pastor Search Committee has:

- Met more than 40 times
- Received 36 inquires about the position
- Reviewed 29 application/resume packets
- Made preliminary contact with 18 individuals
- Had 12 initial interviews and 7 second interviews

When we began a year ago, we had high hopes that we would be done by now, but God has not yet revealed the person He wants for Capital. We will continue to be faithful until that happens, but right now we are tired and have decided to take a much-needed hiatus during December and January.

Thank you to Search Committee members Jeff Feth, Bryan Haws, Melissa Hiltz, Harvey Johnson, Elaine Lipton, Sara Ricketts, Jo Stell and Melody Tavares. Thank you for your hard work, your dedication and the hours you have devoted to this task.

To Capital, let me say that we can't tell you when we will have a candidate to present, only that we are keenly aware that God is in control of the process, and will lead us to that person in due time. Please continue to pray for the Committee members, and the search process.

--Linda Warberg, Associate Pastor Search Committee Chair

Capital is at a transportation crossroads...

The church bus is 21 years old, the van is 28; both are something of an eyesore, both have issues typical of vehicles that old.

Presented with these facts in September, Council asked that no more money be spent on either, but since the red van continues to be used several times a week, some repairs had to be made to meet basic safety requirements, and the annual \$89 bus tags had to be renewed.

Members have made it clear to the Committee that they want Capital to continue to offer transportation, but doing so long term will mean replacing at least one vehicle. The van is used much more frequently, but doesn't have a lift. A vehicle large enough to have a lift, is hard for many seniors to get in to; being difficult to park and maneuver means fewer individuals can/are willing to drive it, and it is impractical for Pastor John to use during the week as he does the van.

Please pray about the decision that will need to be made soon. The Committee would be happy to have your input.

--Lonnie Fowler, Transportation Chair

Library Media News

In the closing days of this year as you are finishing up projects, would you please check for books and DVD's you may have checked out and return them to the church Library. If you have not finished with

them, by all means, keep them--- but otherwise they will be happy to be checked back in for others to be able to use.

Over the past few months, there have been many additions to CBC Library. These are a few -- not room for all.

367.2	Majors	<i>Daring to Hope</i>	Sequel to <i>Kisses for Katie</i> ; life in Uganda w/ 15 children
796.3	Williams	<i>Tenacious</i>	God uses terminal diagnosis to turn family & team into champions
921	Montgomery	<i>The Faith of Condoleezza Rice</i>	Excellent for all
921	O'Conner	<i>The Long Awakening</i>	47 days in a coma after birth of a 5 th child
974.8	Amis	<i>The Second Plane: 9/11</i>	Terror and hijacking; UAL
F	Austin	<i>Where We Belong</i>	1800;s Chicago sister go to Sinai Desert to Serve God
F	Blackstock	<i>If I'm Found</i>	Sequel to <i>If I Run</i> , mystery/suspense
F	Coble	<i>Beneath Copper Falls</i>	East Coast mystery, old house remade
F	Cobble	<i>Twilight at Blueberry Barrens</i>	Set in Maine; intrigue & hope
F	Hunt	<i>Risen</i>	Historical reconstruction of the resurrection
F	Kingsbury	<i>In This Moment</i>	The Baxter Family/religious liberty
F	Stewart	<i>Stars in the Grass</i>	Death of a Pastor's child; grief, anger, relationships

DVD's: *Anne of Avalon*; *Every Christmas has a Story*; *John Denver's Christmas Gift*; *Love Finds You in Sugar Creek*; *Love's Christmas Journey*; *Miracles from Heaven*; , *Naked Truth*; *Risen*; *Shack, The*

AUDIO CD Books: *Anne of Green Gables (condensed)*; *Christmas Spirit, The*; *Hawaiian Quilt, The*; *Wild, Wacky Totally True Bible Stories*; several new Your Story Hour CD's, Patriots & heroes of the U.S.



Notes about Our Moms...

From Bryan Haws

Mom gave up two professional careers, one as a musician and the second as an elementary ed teacher, to be a stay at home mom; that is, in fact, how she put Dad through seminary: teaching piano and voice, and singing for the Dallas Opera Company.

The second time she had an opportunity to work full-time when I was in middle school, but she had already committed to homeschooling me because I was behind in math and reading.

From Diane Fowler

The older I get, the more I appreciate my mother, so it's hard to narrow it down to one or even two things, but...

One thing she *did*: we had lived in the Northwest long enough by my junior year in high school to realize that snow here was rare.

One night about 11 p.m., Mom woke my sisters and me, and told us to get dressed in warm clothes. It had started snowing heavily earlier in the evening. Not sure what was going on, we got dressed and followed her outside, where she immediately fell into the snow and made a snow angel.

After a lot of laughter, more snow angels, a very small snowman and hot chocolate, we went back to bed with her lasting example of how to find joy in the small blessings of life.

One thing she *said*, over and over, usually as she dropped me off somewhere or when I was older, as I left the house with friends--was "remember who you are", which reminded me that my choices had ripples and reflected on my Savior and my parents.

From Mel Perry

First of all, I must say that my mother was the best cook ever. I had the privilege to sit at her dining table and participate in consuming what she cooked.

In December 1969, my mother came home from shopping one day and said to me, "How would you like to buy yourself your own Christmas gift, a guitar?"

"A guitar?" I said. "Yes, I would." I went with her to the Fred Meyer's in South Salem where she showed me the guitar she had seen while shopping. It was a cross between a beginner and a standard guitar, had no brand name — an acoustic guitar for \$12.95.

I am pleased and proud that my mother had a large contribution to my salvation. On the Sunday morning I was saved, we watched an Oral Roberts program. When it came time for the sermon portion to begin, my mother leaned over toward me and said, "Listen to the preacher. Listen to what the preacher says."

In December 1972, when we were here at Capital Baptist, we were just getting to the time when Pastor Chester Smith would start his sermon. Again my mother leaned toward me and said, "Listen to the preacher. Listen to what the preacher says."

When he gave the benediction, I gave my life to Jesus Christ and accepted His death on the cross for my sins, and I was born again. (Praise the Lord!) Pastor Chester Smith baptized me and my sister Alice shortly thereafter.

My mother was full of love for God, her family and everyone who knew her. A prime example for sure.

From Virginia Barker

Something I'm very grateful for about my mother: even though she never professed to be a Christian and didn't attend church, she had a very strong conviction that all of her children should attend church from a young age, and I quote "to be exposed to church and make their own decision about church."

From Earl Kersey

My mom was a sweet lady who loved serving her family.

Mom grew up in the oil fields of Oklahoma. She came to faith in Jesus as a teenager and her faith was very deep.

She was devastated when my little brother Gary drowned in a ditch when he was 10, but her faith in God kept her steadfast. She loved her family, her five sisters and her brother. Nothing was better than when the sisters and the brother were together with their families.

She was a prayer warrior who prayed for me every day of my life. I believe she prayed especially hard while I was in the Navy in WWII. When I was on leave and had partied Saturday night, she begged me to go to church with her. I refused, but finally relented and went with her. It was at that service that the Lord got a hold of me, and I came back to Him.

When my dad died, Mom knew she had to somehow take care of herself, so she worked in people's homes as a housekeeper. And she was good at that. After she re-married George, who worked for Greyhound, things were much better for her. When Ellen and I visited, especially at Christmas, she was a super grandma. Our kids knew she loved and cared for them.

From Patrice Johnson:

Though my mother is still physically here, I grieve every day as she fades away from me. Christmas was the first day she questioned my presence in her room. It nearly broke my heart. Fortunately, for me, I have many wonderful memories.

My mom was an extremely hard worker; her work ethic ran over into my life. She also made it clear to my dad when they were dating that any children born would be attending church with her. I saw Mom read her Bible and because of her faithfulness, both my sister and I were raised at the Fundamental Baptist Church in San Leandro, California where I accepted Christ when I was eight at an evangelistic service.

When my dad suddenly became disabled, I watched my mom's compassion as she cared for him while continuing to work full-time; getting off work at 5:00, going straight to the hospital until 8:30, and not getting home until 9:00, only to repeat it all the next day.

Mom no longer remembers all these things--but I do, so I remind her of them. It was from my mom I learned that Jesus is more than enough, and I cherish these last years I get to spend with her.