

CAPITAL CONNECTIONS

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JULY 2018

“Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses.” (Joshua 1:3 NRSV)

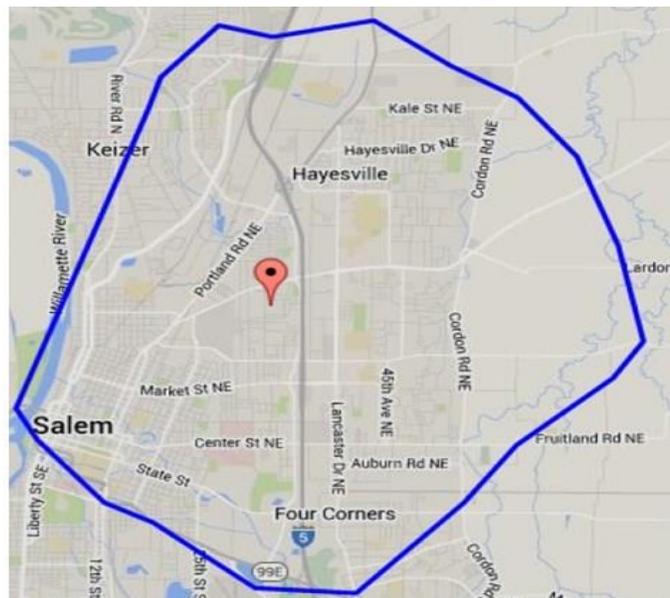
What an interesting promise God made, don't you think? After four hundred years of forced servitude, and forty more years of wandering in the wilderness of Sinai, Israel entered the Promised Land. There'd been a change in administration.

Moses didn't receive the promise of God. He was permitted only to see it from afar. With that vision in his mind, taking his final breath he gave thanks to God. Then Joshua led Israel across the Jordan River; afterward building an altar with twelve stones taken from the middle of the River. That stone altar was Israel's perpetual reminder of God's faithfulness.

God doesn't need his people's strength, only their faith. Paul said as much. "I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:10 NRSV)

They didn't work for it. The Israelites inherited the Promised Land. God was willing for them to receive it. Jesus affirmed God's advocacy for them when he preached to their descendants about fourteen hundred years later. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." (Matt. 5:5 NRSV)

X marks the spot. 3000 Lansing Avenue NE, Salem, OR 97301 is the address. The map places Capital Baptist Church in a kind of geographical center. The area covered by the map is much larger than the church's neighborhood, but it's helpful to understand our place in Salem and our ministry potential with this kind of a picture.



God told Joshua and the Israelites, "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you." (Josh 1:3a NRSV) Do you remember the story?

The walls of Jericho came tumbling down not because the Israelites were stronger than its inhabitants. Jericho was taken because the Israelites obeyed God. Once a day for six days the

Israelites marched around the city. On the seventh day they marched around Jericho seven times, their trumpets blowing. As they took the final steps of that seventh lap they shouted, and the walls came tumbling down. The Israelites simply went on a prayer walk. Then Jericho was taken for God.



YouTube presents several interesting examples of Prayer Walking. One of the more interesting stories is that of Pastor Mark Batterson from Washington, D.C. It's worth a look! Prayer Walking was the strategy Pastor Mark used to minister in a challenging place.

What about Prayer Walking in Salem? How about Prayer Walking in the Lansing Neighborhood, ground zero for Capital Baptist Church? What about Prayer Walking in your own neighborhood, making your home ground zero in a strategic map for your own ministry in the name of Jesus Christ?

I've spoken about my DMin Project for the last three years. I'm happy to tell you that it's

begun. Prayer Walking is one part of the strategy.

You'll be hearing about the Project and the participants throughout the summer months. Please pray for us as we "Use the Golden Rule as an Aid for Evangelism Amid the Cultural Diversity of Oregon's Capitol City. I'm deeply grateful for your prayers.

Blessings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Pastor John



Capital Bible Camp is right around the corner. It begins Monday, July 9 at 9am and ends Friday, July 13 at 12:45pm *for the kids!*

Bible Camp staff will work long hours the week before setting up and decorating. Then they are here from 8am until around 1 or 1:30pm the first 4 days of camp. And on Friday, they are here until 4:30 or even 5pm cleaning and restoring order to the buildings.

CBC@CBC serves the Lansing area and beyond. It is Capital's largest annual investment in evangelism, and it requires everybody to be "in the game" to make it a success.

Here are a few of the ways **you** can help:

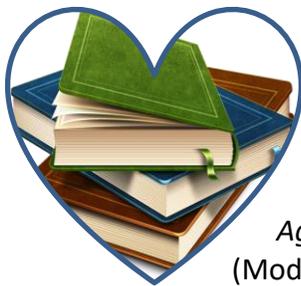
1. Take one or more supply request slips from the foyer closet doors. Unless the item is perishable, please purchase and return it as soon as possible.
2. Sign-up at the Welcome Center to distribute flyers in the Lansing community July 5, 6 and 7. The flyers and maps will be provided. Patrice Johnson is overseeing publicity this year. Speak to her if you have questions.
3. Take a few flyers from the Welcome Center and pass them on to kids you know in *your* neighborhood.
4. Speak to Melissa Hiltz about working during Bible Camp. One or two adult leaders are still needed
5. Come Friday, July 13 to help clean.

What does #5 mean? Let me explain.

After Bible Camp, all 3 buildings need vacuuming, much of the décor must come down, the kitchen cleaned, the floor in the Fellowship Hall swept and mopped, and the classrooms and sanctuary must be returned to their usual configuration.

Those who have worked all week at Bible Camp are tired... and their children are tired. Why not come to the church about 1:30 the afternoon of July 13 to help restore order—*AND* help get our hardworking Bible Camp Staff headed home just a little bit earlier!

All your efforts to help us make CBC@CBC happen are very much appreciated.



Media Library News

The beautiful weather has arrived but I'm sure we will have some cool rainy days this summer. On those days, if you wish, the following DVD's are new to our library and available to view:

Agent Abby (underground Christianity in China); *Disconnect Reconnect* (Modern Family); *From the Heart with Jase & Missy Robertson*; *Jimmy* (a special young man); *The Holy Land* (Rick Steves); *Indescribable* (based on the hymn *The Love of God*); *Loving God with all Your Mind* (Elizabeth George); *Red Big Fire Truck* (story of faith, love, and hope); *Redemption of the Heart* (a season for every purpose—could be for a study group); *Unconditional* (true story following death of a husband); *Unidentified* (Texas town and a UFO).

For listening, these audio CD's are available: *Faith of Condoleezza Rice*; *Fatal Judgment* (Irene Hannon); *PRAYING God's Word* (Beth Moore); and Adv. In Odyssey, *Get in the Show!* (Focus on the Family).

And of course, there are still books! Have a great summer!

--Bonnie Brough



On the Road to Capernaum

There are two versions to this story: Earl's and mine. Mine is more interesting, so that is the one I will share.

In 1995, Earl and I traveled to Israel. Because Earl had been there earlier with a small group from the Baptist World Alliance, he figured he could be the guide for our trip. (Possible error #1)

All went well, until the day we took a bus from our hotel in Tiberius to the Mount of the Beatitudes. To be where Jesus's words of the Beatitudes were given was an awesome experience. From there, the plan was to go to nearby Capernaum.

Earl's words: "We took our tour bus from here to Capernaum. It is very close. I can get us there."

We did ask a couple of tour bus drivers if we could hop aboard to Capernaum, but they turned us down. We then asked a fellow we bought water from how we might get to Capernaum. He pointed to a nearby gate and said, "See those people there, just going through that gate. They are probably walking to Capernaum. Just follow them."

So, water bottles in hand (it was very hot!), we headed for Capernaum.

Turned out "those people" had stopped under a tree to have a Bible study, but Earl led the way, determined that he could get us to Capernaum. I sang along the way, envisioning Jesus walking even where we were walking: "We're marching to Capernaum, marching to Capernaum..."

But Capernaum was not in sight, and we were in a massive grove of orange trees on our left, nothing but barbed wire fencing on our right and a road far away on the other side of the fence.

I was imagining our home town's newspaper headline: "Local couple found dead in Galilean wilderness," but Earl was fearless.

"I think we should pray," I said. So Earl prayed, "Lord, help us to find our way out of this wilderness."

Finally, he said, "We have to go over the fence." (Please realize that we do not now, nor did we then, "do" fences, especially barbed wire. But we had no choice.)

Earl held the barbed wire open for me to cross over, and I did, falling on the other side and bruising the skin on my legs. I then held the wire for him, but, sadly, it snapped against his leg, leaving a massive bruise for some time.

But...we had made it. We would be safe. We could see the road off to the right. But...what was that? Another fence. This one was made of vertical bars, so there was no way we could crawl over the fence, (Like that was a possibility even when we were much younger than now!) And a huge padlock was fixed firmly to the gate.

We could see a couple of men standing outside a restaurant across the street, and I yelled at them: "Help! Help!"

Their reply: "No key! No key!"

What to do? We walked on down the fence a way and discovered our salvation: a hole in the fence! We crawled through and made our way into the restaurant.

"Water!" we requested. And "watermelon! Ice cold watermelon!"

Wondering how we were going to get back to our hotel, let alone to Capernaum, we noticed a group of Americans with a guide. We explained the situation to the guide, who said, "We're going to Capernaum. You are welcome to come with us; then we will take you to your hotel."

Joy! What joy! And the group that saved us? Their caps and T-shirts said BYU.

P.S. Sometime later we shared this story with our son's Messianic rabbi, who knew the area well. "There was a grove of orange trees on your left?" he asked.

"Yes," we said.

"And a barbed wire fence on your right and the road well past that?"

"Yes," we answered again.

"You are more fortunate than you realize," he said. "That area had landmines."

And the hole in the fence? Earl's belief: "Just as God opened the sea for the children of Israel to cross over, He put that hole in the fence for us."