

CAPITAL CONNECTIONS



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“When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city (Thessalonica) authorities, shouting, “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also...” (Acts 17:6 NRSV)

Stories of God’s great work of redemption are inspiring. Each of us has a personal testimony about the life-changing impact of the gospel.

For those born into strong, Christian families, it’s a testimony of blessing and grace. Familiarity, connection and commitment to faith and church prevents disastrous outcomes for everyone fortunate enough to experience the love and nurture of a Christian family.

We’re also encouraged to hear the stories of recycled lives, interrupted by God before it’s too late. The gospel is powerful enough to upend a person set on a collision course with disaster. Bad choices and complete disregard for the healthy boundaries of “right and wrong” make life ugly. God’s grace is great enough, however, to reach even those who’ve wandered far from the safety of Christian living.

There were both kinds of people in Thessalonica. There were faithful observants of the Law of Moses; “pre-Christian” Jews who’d experienced the blessings of faithfulness to that Law.

They were spared the disasters of the sinful lifestyle choices of their Gentile neighbors. But something new was happening, impacting community after community and transforming Jews and Gentiles both.

Some of those observant Jews in Thessalonica were going to miss it by resisting Paul’s proclamation of the Messiah. Their complaint to the authorities? “These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also...” (Acts 17:6 NRSV) Their ministry of proclamation was transforming the world.

Today, it takes more than mere proclamation of the Gospel to transform culture. As powerful as the Gospel is, there’s an ever-growing need to validate preaching by doing. Because many of us have separated Christian action from the Christian message, American Evangelicals are being co-opted by non-religious, even anti-religious messengers, proclaiming their message of “kindness.”



What Is World Changers?

The Mission of World Changers

Equipping students to confidently share the gospel is our primary goal. It’s imperative that students leave your ministry as lifelong gospel sharers, and we want to do everything we can to help you provide them with the training and experience needed.

This is accomplished through providing focused, meaningful missions experiences in strategic cities of all sizes.

Many who have no faith whatsoever have taken one of our most important core values, kindness. Their stripping it of any religious significance. In many cases, they’ve managed to side-line the Church; making us appear outdated, unsympathetic and un-responsive to people. It’s time to reconnect “doing” with “preaching.”

That's why we're preparing for nearly 200 Youth from around the country to come for a week in July. Together we'll "show" the City of Salem the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And, as we "show" that message during the thousands of hours of community action and service projects, we'll have hundreds of opportunities to "tell" Salem residents about God's love and grace, and the miracle of redemption through Jesus Christ.

World Changers in Salem, Oregon will be one of the most significant ministries we've ever done. It's slated for July 22 through 27. We're partnering with Comunidad Cristiana Renuevo, Living Water Fellowship of Salem, the Northwest Baptist Convention and two of our largest denominational entities; LifeWay Christian Resources and the North American Mission Board.

The last time we attempted anything along these lines was in July 2006 with Jericho in the Valley. Do you remember that?

It was huge. We were assisted by helpers from across the Northwest. We targeted five different regions of our City. We canvassed neighborhoods, shared the FAITH presentation, held block parties and Neighborhood Bible Clubs. It was a tremendous experience. A lot of time and energy were invested in the endeavor and, by the time it was completed, we were completely worn out.

For World Changers, we'll receive the assistance of Youth and Leaders from around the Northwest and across the U.S. Joining together, we'll demonstrate the love of God, and we'll proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. That's project-based evangelism.

Pastor Thomas and I will be primarily responsible for planning fifteen to twenty projects. They'll be designed to keep teams of ten to fifteen people busy serving and speaking for six and a half hours a day. We need your prayers.

We've already begun, and the project list is growing. Perhaps you have a project idea. It must be easily accomplished and helpful. It could become a "platform" for sharing God's love and the message of Christ. If so, let us know.

2019 is shaping up to be a high impact ministry year. Thank God for that. Remember, we can't "turn the world upside down" by ourselves. God doesn't expect us to minister in our own strength. We have no strength of our own. Apart from Christ, we have nothing good to offer.

The key to effective ministry is the same as it ever was. "When they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken..." (Acts 4:31a NRSV) Keep praying. Keep praising.

Serving together with you, right here, right now, Pastor John

Hey Capital! I don't know what you think, but to me 2019 has started off with a Big Bang! Already in the few short weeks of the year we have done a number of things that will help equip us to share Jesus with those who do not yet know Him!

Thank you to the 33 Capital Ministry Leaders who attended our Ministry Safety Training on January 12th. Moving forward it is our goal to ensure we do everything to prepare a safe environment for those who are not yet here.

On January 16th Capital members commissioned a new church website, to be launched later this Spring. I am particularly excited about the website as it is truly our Church's Doorstep and will help create opportunities for us to meet new people and start to build relationships with them.

In the Fall we started our Prayer Cruises, the last of the school year coming soon on February 14th. The prayers of Capital are being answered as this semester we are sponsoring a Bible Study at Chemeketa Community College and are working hard to start one soon at Corban University.

To God be the Glory- Great things are Coming!

-Thomas McCarty III
Associate Pastor

YOUTH REPORT

Disciple Now Weekend is a month away and we are so EXCITED for what is to come. This weekend will be full of worship, service, fun, and most importantly Jesus! Our theme for this weekend of worship is So What? We are going to be talking about why we follow Jesus and how that impacts our lives as students! We can't wait for our youth and their friends to come and see what being a disciple is all about!

The goal is for at least 25 youth to come and we want YOU to be involved. Ask Thomas for ways to serve! We are going to be opening up the Friday night and Saturday night services to the congregation so that you can join us in worship.

In the past few months, our youth group has been changing and growing for the better! As we came into the New Year, we wanted to have a specific theme for the year of 2019. We ended up picking "God's Great Redemption Story." This just means that we are going to be starting from Genesis 1 and going through the Bible, all the way to Revelation. We are going to be talking about God's perfect plan from the start of creation to the end. It is time for our students to claim a faith of their own and to live out God's Word all the days of their lives!

Partner with us by praying for our youth and for the future students that will be attending Capital! We are so ready to grow, both in numbers and spiritual maturity as we learn about our part in God's Great Redemption Story!

-McKenzie McCarty, Youth Leader



The Library has had a back log of materials for some time. Listed here are some of the audio books and DVDs that have now been added to the collection for your use.

AUDIO BOOKS: Dinner with a perfect stranger (Jesus); Reformation Heroes; For Married Men Only; For Married Women Only; All about fear; Man of God; (C.S.) Lewis on the Christian Life; Covenant Child; and Threads of Suspicion.

DVDs: The Identical; Acts to Revelation; Walking the Bible; Disconnect. Reconnect; Same Kind of Different as Me. **AND FOR CHILDREN:** In the Beginning; 3-2-1 Penguins Family Adventure; Fuel for the Finish (cars); Learn and See (wildlife); My Friend Tigger and Pooh Bedtime; Children's heroes of the Bible; Alvin and the Chipmunks; Curious George Swings into Spring.

There are also a number of new books for adults, young adults, and children. Come see. Suggestions are always welcome.

Kathy, Patrice and Bonnie have been working weekly to make a dent in materials and it is beginning to come together. Thanks for your continued use during this time. Again, thanks to all those who have donated books this past year. We welcomed our newest visitor last Sunday—and hope soon will be a patron—Miss Chloe.

Library Staff



1) Promise Keepers was a powerful men's Christian group that was established in the early 90s, and Earl was very involved. Christian men gathered in various places to share man's place in the family and to encourage Christian men.

We were living in Southern California, where I was teaching at Camarillo High School, and Earl was involved in several Promise Keeper gatherings, including one in Atlanta in 1996, where 40,000 pastors and church leaders gathered in February.

Upon his return from one event, Earl arrived home very late on Saturday night, and I was sound asleep. As he walked in the door, he called out, "Where is my sweetheart?"

My reply: "Earl, why are you yelling? When I come home late, I don't wake *you* up."

He apologized. I went back to sleep.

The next morning, just before we went to church, he gave me a card, saying how much he loved and appreciated me. "So sweet," I thought.

At that night's evening service, some of the men shared their experiences with Promise Keepers, which was encouraging. But when one man spoke, I was knocked down a peg.

Here is his testimony: "I had such a great time at Promise Keepers," he said. "When I arrived home late last night, my wife was waiting up. She had cake and coffee for me, and I gave her the card I had made for her. We were all encouraged to honor our wives when we got home, and I was able to tell her all about my experience."

"Oh, my!" I thought to myself. "I am such a bad wife!" I didn't wait up. I didn't have cake and coffee. In fact, I had yelled at him, when all he wanted to do was give me the card and tell me he loved me. Lesson learned.

2) My husband is a patient, thoughtful man, and I learned much about those qualities as he revealed those traits in different ways. He also has learned over the years "how to listen" to his wife.

a) He was pastoring a church in Ventura, California, just before we moved to Australia. A new church had started up in town, and they were growing fast. One of their keys to growth was using a colorful bus to pick up children and youth in their area and offering bicycles as prizes, leading them to have very large children's and young people's groups.

Some of our members were disturbed about this, complaining about the pastor's tactics and discouraging others, as comparisons led to jealousy.

But Earl was quick to settle the situation when he said, "That man (the pastor) is not our enemy. He is our brother. If he is doing something to grow his church and we're not, whose fault is that? Not his!"

b) After some business meetings, which were held monthly in the churches we pastored, I would complain on the way home: "Mrs. Jones just kept questioning the colors for the nursery. Why do we have to listen to her? Why can't she just go along with the majority?"

Earl's response was thoughtful, insightful and kind: "Mrs. Jones lives alone and has no one to talk to all day. Here she can speak up, and others will listen. This is the place where she can feel important."

c) In the 60s, I worked as a substitute teacher for kindergarten through ninth grade for eight years while I finished my degree.

On occasion (very seldom ;-), I would come home and complain about what some child had done. Earl would listen; then he would offer advice.

Somewhere along the way, he learned that this was the wrong tactic. Somewhere along the way, he learned "how" to listen.

Now when I complain, he listens, he nods, he looks sorrowful, and I'm happy. These days, he occasionally does say, "You can quit, you know," but, other than that, he doesn't offer advice. He just listens!