

February 28, 2021

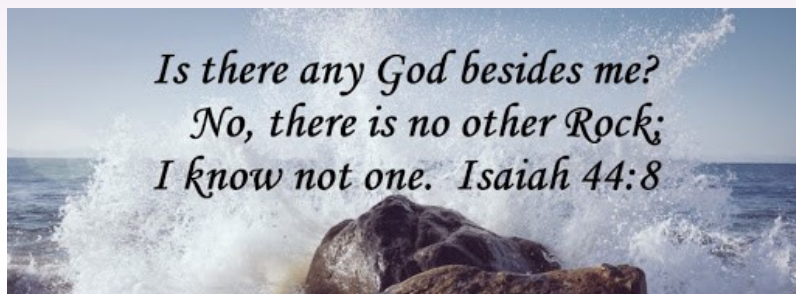
THE CONNECTOR

Monthly Newsletter of Cross Connections, Inc.



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OUR MISSION

The mission of Cross Connections is to provide affordable Biblical counseling and to train lay counselors (called Covenant Partners) in providing Biblical guidance to others. We accomplish this working through the pastors and representatives of our over 120 ministry partners. We are committed to using God's Word as authority in the counseling setting; being ever mindful our clinical skills and abilities are nothing compared to our Savior's

FILLING STATION

I have found through the years there are generally two types of people when it comes to how often they put gas in their cars: there are those who rarely let the fuel gauge get below 1/4 tank and might start getting a little anxious if it does, and there are those who will wait until the LOW FUEL light starts blinking at them incessantly and will still be convinced they can squeeze a few more miles until they fill the tank. How often are we the latter example in how we allow our careers, social life, children's activities, etc. push us to the point where our tank is empty and we are left panting for relief and rest? Do we make time to rest in God's grace and talk with him? Do we notice the difference it makes when we actually do? Over the course of the next month, I have a challenge if that is you. During this season of Lent, when we observe the price of sin and celebrate the sacrifice made in our stead take yourselves to the filling station as often as you can. Make spending time in God's Word and talking with him a focus of each day. Let His Gospel message of hope, healing, and peace fill your tank so that your hearts and minds aren't functioning on fumes. God's continued blessings to you on our Lenten Journey.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

And just like that it is Lent. 2021 is off to an incredibly fast start here at Cross Connections with new clients, ministry partners, and programming. Still the same Gospel that brings us all hope, and that is a welcome relief for us all! As we continue to journey through the pandemic and such an extraordinary time in the history of our country, take heart in the fact that His tomb is still empty on Easter morning. The emptiness of His tomb gives us the final victory over the trials and temptations of this world and also the eternal victory over sin, death, and the power of the enemy. Cling fiercely to that, and don't let go.

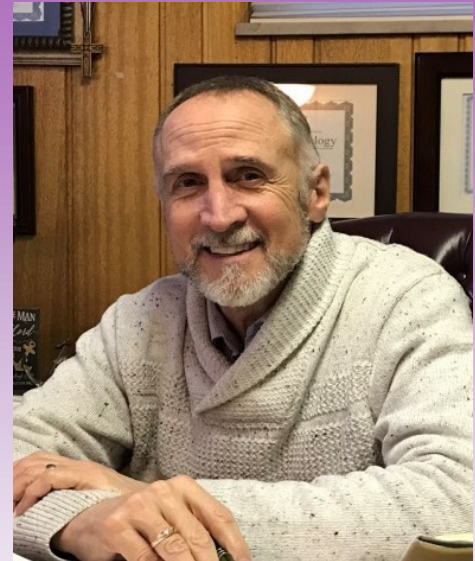
Big News for the SOS Fund

As many of you are aware, in 2014 Cross Connections created the SOS Fund (Serve our Servants). This restricted fund provides free Biblical counseling to all active duty military, police, fire, and EMT personnel and their immediate families. We created this fund as a way to recognize and honor the service and sacrifice these individuals and their families make to protect our freedoms and public safety.

When the COVID-19 shutdown began in March 2020 and the number of infected people in our community spiked dramatically upward, we saw firsthand another demographic of people in our midst who were sacrificing selflessly to protect the rest of us: our healthcare workers. The administrative leadership and Board of Directors made the decision at that time to add these individuals and their families to the list of eligible people to use this fund. The response has been overwhelming, resulting in a 50% increase in the number of individuals and families who have taken advantage of this opportunity and laid their burdens at the foot of the Cross for Christ to carry.

There is another group of servants in our community that are weary under the strain the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on them: our teachers. This past 12 months have been unlike anything they have ever experienced in their careers and they have responded so admirably to the challenge. Yet, the strain is taking its toll on them and their families. It is our pleasure at Cross Connections to announce that effective March 1, 2021 all teachers and their immediate family members are now eligible to use the SOS funds to receive free Biblical counseling at Cross Connections.

We are making this announcement at a time where the funds available are dwindling rapidly, and we need your support! To make a donation to the SOS Fund, please mail to our address: 4618 East State Blvd, Suite 300. Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 and mark ATTN: SOS Fund.



Supporting Hope by Dr. Jim Dohrmann, Development Director

Currently, Cross Connections has launched the **Foundational Rock/Foot of the Cross campaign**. This means of fundraising incorporates giving, receiving, commemorating, and glorifying. For a specified gift amount, supporters receive a child painted rock that bears the initials of an individual that has come to Cross Connections and has found victory in their storm. This keepsake tells of God's provision in a life who sought his guidance while celebrating that victory. For another specified gift amount, a donor receives a wooden cross with a client's initials engraved at its base commemorating the decision made to lay their burdens at the foot of the cross.

On June 11th, 2021 Cross Connections goes outdoors to host its **12th annual golf outing** at Brookwood Golf Course. This event brings supporters out into the bright sunshine after a long Indiana winter and offers food, fellowship, exciting prizes, and lunch. Those interested in playing as individuals or a foursome of friends, go to www.crossconnectionsounseling.com for upcoming details.

Among the ways to support Biblical counseling at Cross Connections, one new way is through **Planned Giving**. This means of support is a wonderful way to incorporate legacy giving while aiding the cause of affordable Biblical counseling for many years to come. Brochure content is being developed to help those interested in understanding how their gift continues to do the work of God that was aligned with their heart.

These avenues of giving help to support our operational fund also known as the **Isaiah 9:6 Fund** which stated in scripture, "For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." There is but one name and purpose that Cross Connections exists for; the one source of truth, Jesus Christ. It is through this Wonderful Counselor that all truth flows. The ministry is his and we are privileged to be a part of it. We are very grateful to him for our supporters, our staff, and for the children he entrusts us to help every day.

BY THE NUMBERS IN 2020....

Total Counseling Hours: 2,631

Total Clients Served: 746

New Ministry Partners: 14

New Board members: 5

Individual Counseling Hours: 1,486

Marital Counseling Hours: 252

Family Counseling Hours: 129

School Counseling Hours: 450