

August 13, 2021

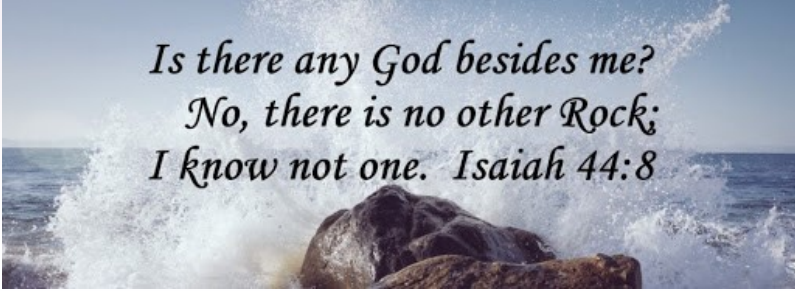
THE CONNECTOR

Monthly Newsletter of Cross Connections, Inc.



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*Is there any God besides me?
No, there is no other Rock;
I know not one. Isaiah 44:8*

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: "PERSISTENCE"

These past few days have seen some intense thunderstorm activity sandwiched around extreme heat advisories in Northeast Indiana. Sudden torrential rains with sporadic high wind gusts, record-breaking heat index, oppressive humidity make accomplishing anything outdoors rather difficult. My grandfather used to tell me when I was a boy, "Hold on, these old knees tell me a storm is coming." Looking back, I am confident he had information I wasn't privy to at that age (like the weather forecast or the newspaper) yet he was correct more often than not. We are going to face trials in this life, aren't we? It isn't a question of if, rather when, these "storms" come about in our lives and how we reply to them. Jesus knew the trials the disciples would face after his earthly ministry was complete when he told them in John 16:33; "I have told you these things that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." And He has. We have assurance of eternal life with God and the rest of the saints once the storms of this world have ceased for us, because of Christ's dying the death we deserve and rising again victoriously three days later! Now, the trick for us sinful beings is having the persistence to focus on that Gospel truth when the storms rage around us and the sun bakes our flesh to a crisp with no shade in sight. We don't do this on our own. Faith that comes from the Holy Spirit working in our hearts gives us that persistence. Let these words from Hebrews 10:23 encourage you; "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess; for He who promised is faithful."



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

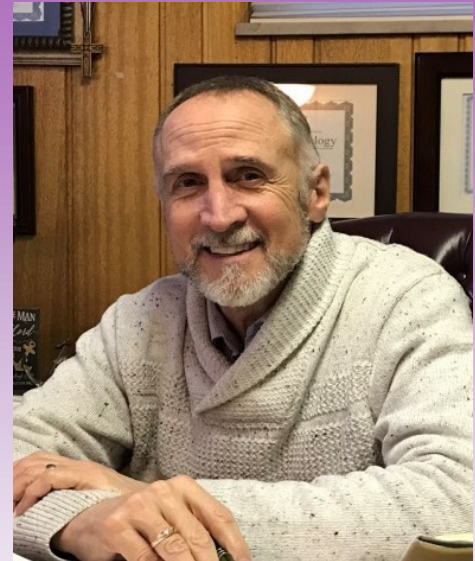
I pray this finds you all safe, well, and healthy! God continues to bless His ministry at Cross Connections with new staff, new interns, and the opportunity to daily share His Gospel with the clients He leads to our care. What an amazing God we serve!

As COVID cases are rising sharply again across the country and Allen County is once again at Orange level on the state website COVID map, we are once again requiring masks for all people entering our facility as well as taking temperatures, social distancing, and hand sanitation. We hope that Allen County returns to yellow again very soon so these precautions aren't needed. Should you feel safer utilizing our online counseling services, simply let your counselor know or call our Office Manager, Jen Robb, at 260-373-0213, ext. 101 with any questions. Thanks again for your cooperation and understanding in this matter.

TABULA RASA CREATIVE PROCESSING GROUP

On July 29, 2021, Cross Connections, Inc. hosted the Tabula Rasa Art Show at The Garden located in the North Anthony Corridor. It was a magical night for the artists who participated. Over the summer months, Patrick Chesebrough, a licensed clinical addictions counselor facilitated creative processing classes on Monday afternoons. These classes provided an opportunity for teens between the ages of 13 and 17 to come and discover how to use art to process emotions and the world around us. There were a total of 14 participants in the June and the July classes. The arts create a language that allows teens to express emotions that they may not under normal circumstances have the vocabulary to express. A number of the participants, who started the class very timid and introverted, evolved over the course of the summer into highly expressive (and talkative) students. During the summer session we had a number of local artists present as part of the program to talk about their own journey with art and how they use art in their own lives. Christy Arbogast, Sarah Chesebrough, and Paul Demaree all came and talked with the students at different times to inspire their creativity.

The art show was also an opportunity for Donna Wray to talk to the students about Emily Wray, her daughter. Emily passed away from a drug overdose and her family started the fund to help teens that are struggling or may be at risk. The Tabula Rasa art classes were a perfect opportunity to reach a delicate demographic before they are faced with those tough decisions. A special thank you to the Emily Wray foundation for their financial support of this program. Chesebrough was extremely grateful for how the classes and art show unfolded. "During the June session we explored painting mediums and during the July sessions we examined the principles of printmaking through block cutting, screen printing, and other basic printmaking techniques. Incorporated into the session were activities geared towards priming the teens minds to focus on the difficult issues and emotions that may not typically be in the normal realm of teen conversation. We discussed everything from peer pressure and bullying to body dysmorphia. Although it was difficult to broach these topics, the environment created a safe space to approach them without the pressure that may normally be associated with a therapy session", he said. Chesebrough was also impressed by the growth of the student's emotional health, but also artistic opportunities, "The pieces they created were amazing and one of the participants was even offered her own stand alone art show later this year. I witnessed the students gain confidence, joy, and fellowship in a time that these traits are badly needed. Coming out of COVID I have seen a number of teen clients that have been deeply affected by the pandemic. This was an opportunity for the students to process the experience and turn it into beautifully expressive works of art."



Supporting Hope by Dr. Jim Dohrmann, Development Director

Greetings In Christ! As we continue through 2021, the impact you have made for our clients is seen and felt by all of us here at the ministry. We are striving toward our goal of \$250,000 for the **Isaiah 9: 6 annual fund** that is the mainstay of our fundraising efforts and plays a big part in our annual operational budget. Please continue to prayerfully consider supporting this fund with a one-time or recurring gift. The past months have seen a decrease in monthly giving and your support is greatly needed! One of the ways you can support us is at our Fall event, “Blessings, Gratitude, and All That Jazz” being held on Saturday, September 18 at Country Heritage Winery, located at 185 County Road 68 in Laotto. Sampling from a selection of 10 of their delicious wines and enjoying heavy hors d’ouevres, we will enjoy the musical talents of The West Central Jazz Quartet. Individual tickets can be purchased through the Events page of our website, www.crossconnectionsounseling.com and there are sponsorship opportunities available for businesses wishing to support the ministry. The event is limited to 150 guests, so you won’t want to wait to get your tickets. Please be advised that event details may change quickly due to the recent increase in COVID-19 numbers. We will notify all ticket holders and sponsors immediately should any changes take place.

Thanks to all of your for your faithful prayers and support for His Biblical counseling ministry at Cross Connections! You are making a difference in the lives of clients now and also in their life to come in Christ!

By the numbers thus far in 2021

Total number of counseling hours provided: 1,937

School counseling hours: 183

Individual counseling hours: 1,509

Groups: 5

Marriage counseling hours: 189

Family Counseling hours: 59