

December 23, 2021

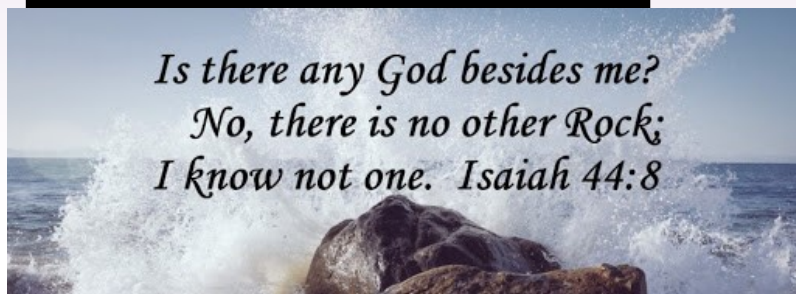
THE CONNECTOR

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: "WONDER"

"...and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." These words from Luke 2 the angels sang in praise in front of the shepherds that first Christmas Eve summarize the true meaning of Christmas. The promised Savior is born. God has kept his promise and the perfect relationship between Him and men once enjoyed in Eden thousands of years ago will one day be restored. Even though we have provided absolutely no reason for God to do so, His eternal pursuit of us leaves with a gratitude and wonder we can't really express in words. It is that wonderment you had the first time you saw fireworks when you were a kid. What can we do to not lose that spark of wonder in our hearts, and not let it slip away as a new year begins and our lives return to the daily routine? The simple answer is nothing. Our sinful nature runs so contrary to the peace of Christmas the only thing that gives us hope comes from the Holy Spirit, and its dwelling in our hearts and minds. As much as we become so immersed in the whole "feeling" of Christmas with family, food, and gifts we are quick to return to the routine of pursuing interests outside of our love relationship with God. How different would 2022 be for you if you pursued habits that fed your faith and that "Christmas peace" we have now, as opposed to letting the chance pass and chasing after the approval of others or material items? These types of change take time and are usually done best in small steps. However, the point remains that in order for us to keep that Christmas peace, are we doing all we can to "Love the Lord you God with all you heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12: 30)?

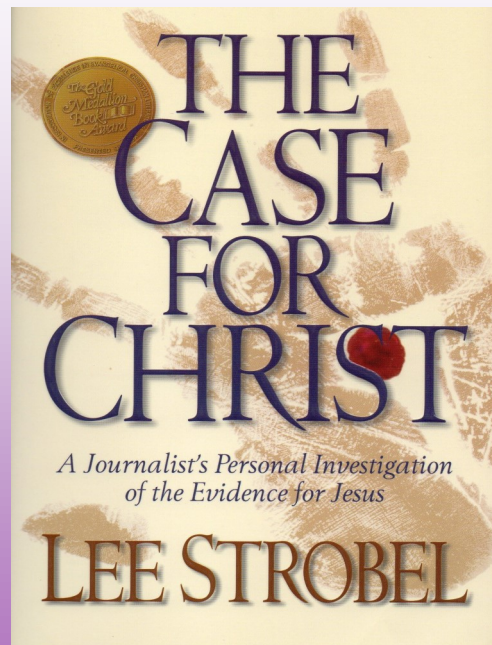


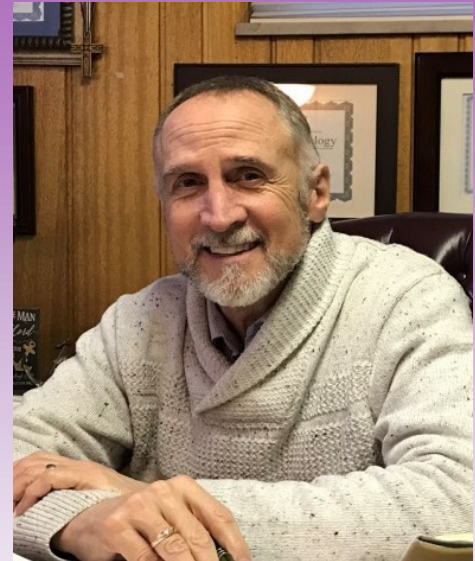
DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!! As we are just a few days away from celebrating the coming of the promised Messiah in the manger all those years ago in distant Bethlehem, I pray this finds you all safe, well, and healthy. As you are aware, COVID cases are sharply on the rise again in Allen County, as well as across the state and our nation. Data has shown a history of cases increasing in this fashion after major holiday celebrations like 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. To that end, the leadership here at Cross Connections is encouraging all clients to prayerfully consider conducting sessions during the week of December 27 and January 3 online. We honor and respect client needs, so if in person is a must then that is perfectly acceptable. We do ask that you continue to follow the established protocols we have in place of wearing a mask, observing social distancing, and being aware of washing your hands frequently.

"IT'S A SPRING THING" FUNDRAISER IS BACK!!

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 26 for the return of Cross Connections' annual "It's a Spring Thing" fundraiser! Having taken the last few years off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's celebration will be even sweeter as we mark the 10th anniversary of this event with a very special guest. This year's keynote speaker will be atheist-turned-Christian Lee Strobel, the former award-winning legal editor of The Chicago Tribune, and New York Times bestselling author of more than forty books and curricula that have sold fourteen million copies. This year's event will also have a Kentucky Derby theme, so get those hats ready and visit the Events page at www.crossconnectionsounseling.com to learn more on purchasing tickets, event sponsorship opportunities, and ways you can support His Biblical counseling ministry at Cross Connections! You can also contact Matt Konow at 260-373-0213, ext. 103 or via email mattkonow@crossconnectionsounseling.com.





A special thank you to Dr. Jim Dohrmann!!

The staff and Board at Cross Connections want to wish a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Jim Dohrmann, who is retiring from his work at Cross Connections this month, for all the work he has done both as a Biblical counselor and most recently as our Development Director. Jim came to Cross Connections in April 2018 after a highly successful career in pharmaceutical sales at Eli Lilly and providing his Biblical counseling expertise to his home church at Holy Cross.

After helping many clients with the truth of Christ, Jim decided to pursue the recently created Development Director position that was created at the beginning of 2019. Over the course of the past three years, Jim has helped Cross Connections navigate the changing fundraising landscape created by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Lord has greatly blessed his work. It can truly be shared the ministry wouldn't be where it is today without Jim's tireless efforts.

Jim is an encourager. He has that warm personality that draws people in and makes them feel comfortable from the start. His heart to help others and share the love of Christ is evident in everything he says and does. Handling Scripture with reverence and resolve, Jim has touched many lives in a relatively short amount of time.

"I feel like I can speak for the entire family here at Cross Connections when I say Jim has made us all better having worked alongside him," said Executive Director Matt Konow, "Jim's love for Christ and passion for Biblical counseling has made a lasting impact here at Cross Connections. We wish Jim and his wife, Jill, all our love and best wishes as they begin this next chapter in life."

By the numbers thus far in 2021

Total number of counseling hours provided: 3,105

School counseling hours: 323

Individual counseling hours: 2,534

Groups: 5

Marriage counseling hours: 318

Family Counseling hours: 71