

March 12, 2021

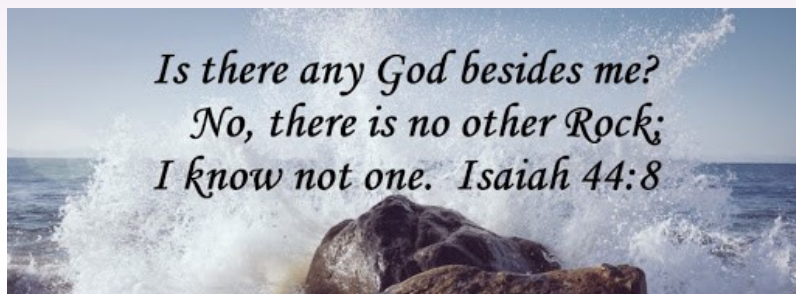
THE CONNECTOR

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: "WHAT IS TRUTH?"

"Did you hear the latest about....?" I will let you fill in the blank: political figure, celebrity, COVID-19 pandemic, etc. "Can you believe that?!" is another question we may often hear others ask, most often with a note of incredulity. As our Lord and Savior was mere hours from His excruciating suffering and death on our behalf, he was asked a similar question by Pontius Pilate. In John 18, Pilate questions Jesus' claim on being a king and Jesus answers him in verse 37: **"You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."** Pilate's reply was, "What is truth?" We live in a world that will encourage us to look no further than ourselves for the meaning of truth, and to "live our truth" by doing, saying, or following whatever our heart desires, regardless of whether it is in accordance with Scripture. What our sinful hearts don't desire is to admit our own self-righteousness and guilt. The actual truth, the eternal truth, is found in Romans 3: 23; "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." That testimony is the truth of our salvation, and the only truth that can save us from our sins. How blessed are we to have a God who loves us that much? That he would become true man in order to save us from sin, death, and the power of the devil so that we might be restored to him forever. As you continue through this season of Lent and we follow our Savior to his cross and glorious resurrection Easter morning, let the truth of what Christ has done for you be what sustains you in all things.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Have you ever been in a room of people where you felt extremely out of place? Maybe your first school activity? First job out of high school? Boot camp? You can pick just about any group situation you wish and I would imagine there is at least ONE person in that group that feels like they don't belong. To that person, the group member that comes up and speaks with them to introduce themselves or put them at ease is an encounter they will always cherish. Aren't we blessed to have a Savior who makes sure we aren't left out or left to feel like we don't belong.? We don't deserve that, but that doesn't change God's grace to us. This Easter season as we celebrate the eternal victory we have in Christ, look for those around you who might need that extra bit of encouragement of an introduction or a kind word in greeting. It may seem insignificant to you, but it could change their lives in a way you can't comprehend.....

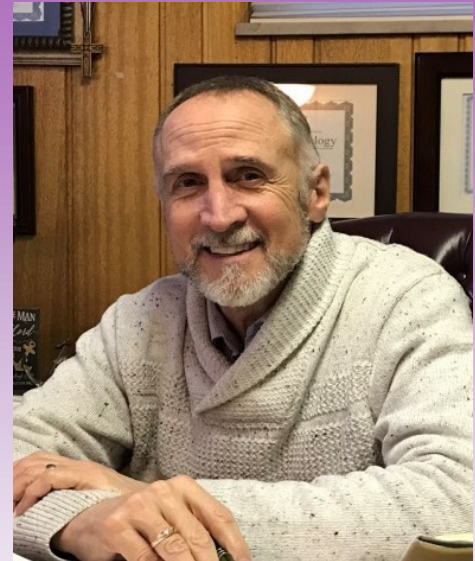
SERVING ANOTHER GROUP OF SERVANTS IN OUR COMMUNITY: OUR TEACHERS

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.

"IT'S A SPRING....MATCH OPPORTUNITY!"

In years past, the months of March and April were spent excitedly preparing for our annual "It's a Spring Thing" fundraiser for Cross Connections. With everything surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, Cross Connections will not be having this event in 2021. Thanks to a very generous donation from Mrs. Debra Rush and her family made in memory of her late husband, William, we have a matching donation opportunity running through the end of April to help fund the operational needs of the ministry. You can donate online by visiting our website, www.crossconnectionsounseling.com, or by mailing your support to our office.