

CONNECTING POINT

Magazine

Where God's Answers Meet Man's Questions

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE WE DOING?

The Growing and Evolving Mission of *Connecting Point Communications*

How a ministry originally founded to address the challenges to the Biblical worldview in America has found an international missionary expression in the nations of the world

HEALING

The Backdoor to Evangelism

From the earliest days of Dr. Randy's ministry, the message of healing has played a central role. Recently, this message has come to the forefront again as a means to reaching souls for Christ

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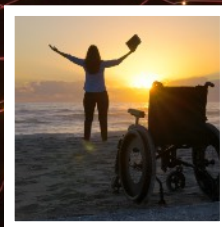
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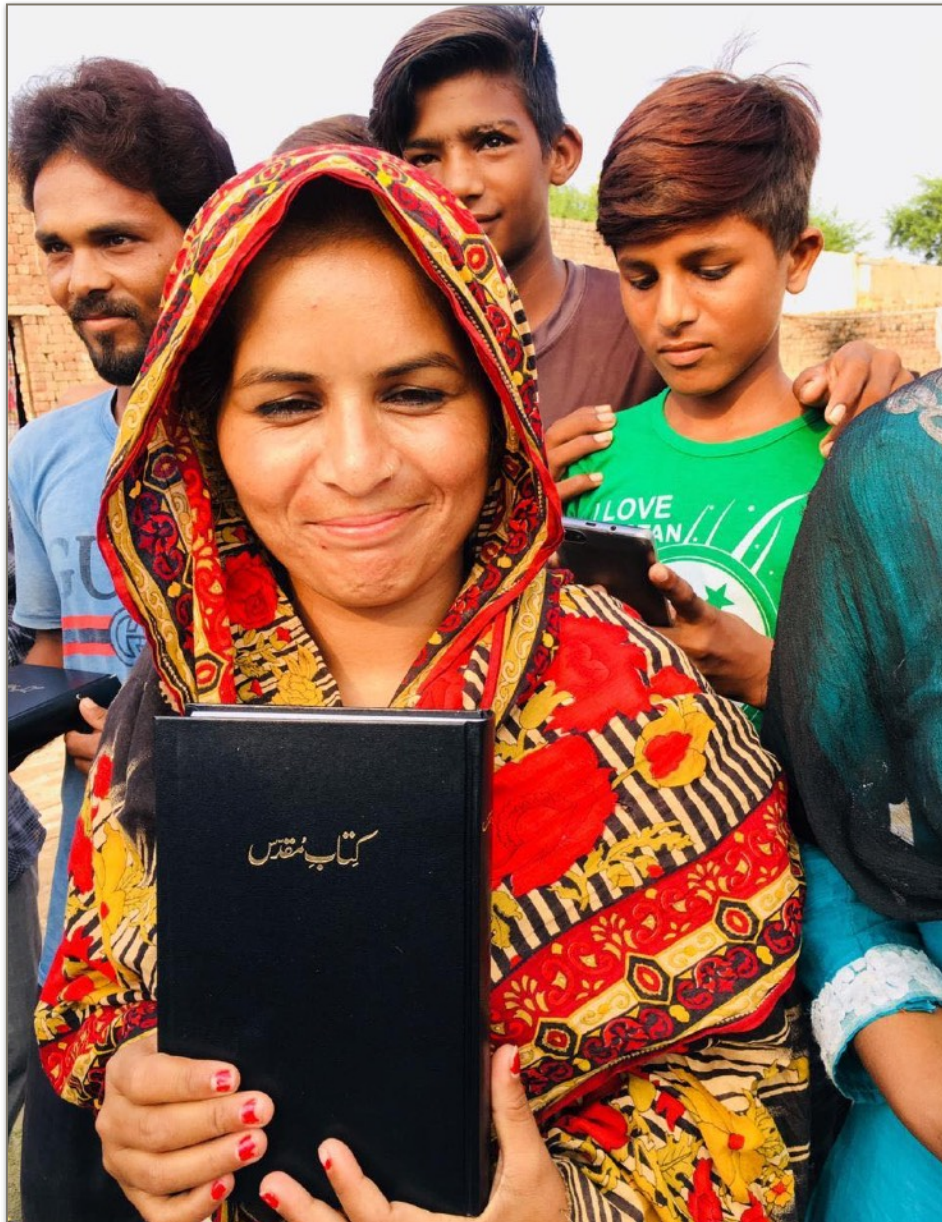
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Healing In
Redemption from
*The Gospel's
Saving Power*





Bible distribution in Pakistan



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Connecting Point Communications is the outreach arm of *Connecting Point Church*, located in Taft, California.

For more information regarding the ministries of *Connecting Point Communications*, as well as to take advantage of our free resources, simply go to our website, randylanebunch.org. While you're there, please to our YouTube channel and click the subscribe button. You'll find the link under MEDIA.

To learn more about *Connecting Point Church*, or to find out the times and location for our services, as well as other resources, go to the church website at connectingpc.org.

Please continue to pray for us. All contributions to *Connecting Point Communications* or *Connecting Point Church* are tax-deductible.

First Word:



The Growing and Evolving Mission of *Connection Point Communications*

Have you ever started a journey assuming the destination was one place when, in fact, it turned out to be someplace altogether different? If not in a car or on a trip, you've likely had the experience in life. So many of us expect our lives to go one direction when God turns us in a completely different direction than the one we had initially envisioned.

When we began *Connecting Point Communications*, the original vision was to deal with the challenges to the biblical worldview from threats such as progressive secularism, postmodernism, scientism, and the like. To do this we would employ apologetics and good teaching on biblical worldview. We still do this to some degree, particularly in our writing. However, in recent months, God has turned the prow of our ship in a little different direction.

While we are still producing various kinds of media, such as blogs, podcasts, our magazine, and more, our emphasis has moved to reaching places like India and Pakistan with the good news of Jesus Christ. Since December, we have seen over 500 people come to Christ in our Skyped-in crusades, and many have testified to having received healing and deliverance as the power of the gospel was released through faith. In addition to the crusades, we have been assisting by helping to provide Bibles for those who have responded in the crusades that they might become grounded in their faith. Our friends there have also told us that there are plans to have temporary

Bible schools set up to help disciple the new converts, and we hope to be able to provide some of the content and curriculum to help with this process.

A newer door of opportunity, however, is the broadcast we are now airing in India. From about 2003 to 2008, we aired a television show which reached a good part of Tamil Nadu, India's southern-most province. The testimonies of healing from this season of ministry still bless us to this day. We published a sampling of these in our book, *The Gospel's Saving Power*.

More recently, however, our friends there have once again offered us the opportunity to broadcast on their internet channel which goes into over one million homes in the area. At the time of this writing we have aired seven shows and the testimonies are once again pouring in to the station there in India, and our friends are sending them to us as they are able.

The message of healing features very strongly in these broadcasts for reasons we will explain in some of the articles contained in this edition of *Connecting Point Magazine*. Years ago, the Lord gave us a special commission regarding the ministry of healing, and throughout our many years in ministry, He has been faithful to provide a platform where that message could be heard. As a result, many are being healed and God is showing Himself to be both real and powerful in the lives of those being touched by the

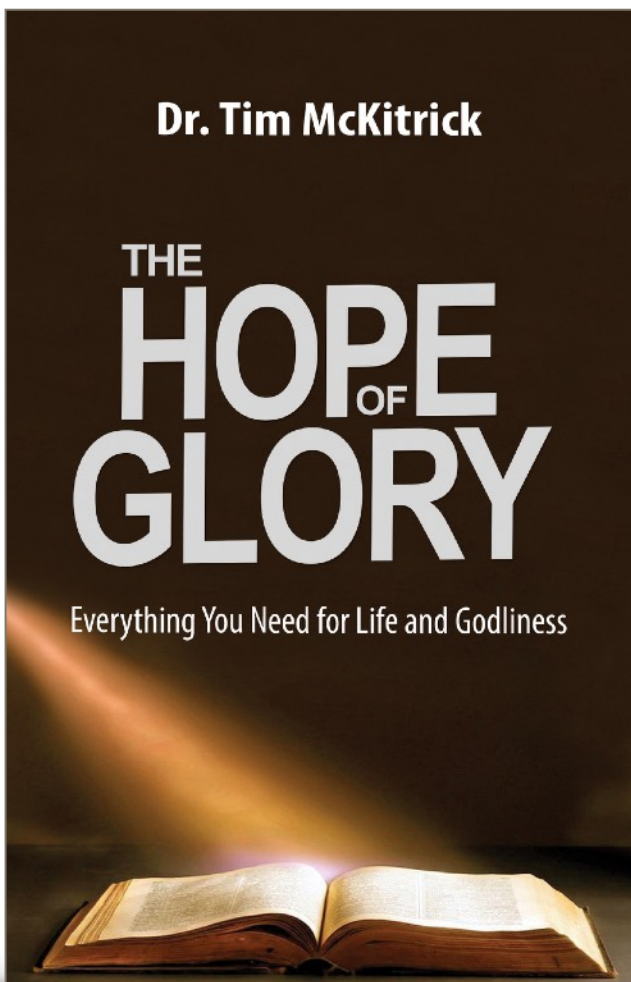
broadcast and the message of the gospel.

We have launched *Connecting Point TV*, a new division of *Connection Point Communications*, and updated our YouTube channel to help share these messages with all and any who desire to be healed or build faith in their hearts to be better equipped to minister to others. We are asking all our friends and partners to please subscribe to that channel so we can better promote what God is doing through *Connecting Point Communications*. We are just getting started in this ministry, and only God knows where it will go from here.

Our desire is to get our broadcast into other nations such as China, to reach those who are limited in their ability to receive good, Bible-based teaching programs. We are making connections now to achieve this very end, so we covet your prayers for success in these endeavors.

Lastly, we would ask everyone reading this to prayerfully consider partnering with us. We produce everything in-house, so our production costs are not high, but there are some costs to air our program, help distribute Bibles to the new believers in Pakistan, and pay other expenses as well. You can donate by simply going to our site, randylanebunch.org and finding our DONATE page. Also, Please pray for us. God is on the move, and we want to take advantage of every opportunity He brings our way! God bless you!

GOD WANTS TO REVEAL HIS GLORY IN YOU!



You were made to carry the presence of God. This is your hope - his glory, his empowerment, and the incredible inheritance he offers us. The down payment of this inheritance is made possible through a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, who is meant to be working in your life today, revealing the magnitude of what Christ did on the cross, and drawing you closer to God and the vision he has for your life. This inheritance is your hope - *The Hope of Glory*.

The glory of God is the manifest presence of God - everything that God is: all of his attributes, all of his love, all of his majesty, all of his splendor. It is what makes heaven magnificent, but God's presence is not limited to heaven. Jesus came to give you access to the presence of God and the resources of heaven in your here and now.

In this book, discover how to:

- See God's master plan for revealing his glory and why it's important
- Understand the role of the Holy Spirit in experiencing your inheritance
- Develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit and experience the glory of God
- Access God's resources for change and personal growth



About the Author

For the past thirty years, Dr. Tim McKittrick has had one goal on his mind: connect ordinary people to the extraordinary presence of God. Tim had an experience with God during his college days that completely transformed him. Now, he hopes to help others encounter the incomparable gift of God's presence. In pursuit of this goal, Tim earned a Master's and a Doctorate of Ministry from Oral Roberts University, and in 2016 accepted the position of Executive Director of World Ministry Fellowship — a ministry credentialing organization based in Parker, Texas — worldministry.com. He enjoys promoting the ministry of the Holy Spirit and speaking about the topic closest to his heart: the glory of God. Tim and his family are based in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. To find out more or to contact Dr. McKittrick, please go to timmckittrick.org.



HEALING, THE BACKDOOR TO EVANGELISM

My Personal Call to the Healing Ministry

Dr. Randy Lane Bunch

Everyone has their own unique call from God. Each of us, according to the grace given us, will minister differently and distinctly. As a church planter, pastor, and Bible teacher, I have marveled to watch those in the office of the evangelist, for example, operate in giftings so distinct from my own but with an undeniably powerful anointing.

I have friends who operate in prophetic gifts on a level that I have never touched, and I have always enjoyed bringing their gifts into the churches I pastored so that our people could get exposed to their ministries and be benefited by them. While I have touched the edges of other offices of ministry, I am always conscious of those boundaries that clearly let me know where my gifting ends and someone else's begins. Rather than seeing this as a weakness, I have always appreciated the fact that as different members of Christ's body, we all have a place to fill and are likewise benefited, and indeed *dependent* to some degree, on the gifts of others to supply what we lack. After all, the scriptures tell us

that the Church is built up "by what every joint supplies" and "according to the effective working by which *every part* does its share" (Ephesians 4:16). What one of us lacks, the other supplies.

"In the last days, the ministry of divine healing will come under tremendous attack, and I've called you to stand in the defense of that ministry"

In 1984, I crossed a personal "Rubicon" in my own life when I experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues. Having been raised Southern Baptist, this marked a definite crossroads in my life and ministry. Over a year later, I would head to what was then called *Rhema Bible Training Center*, now *Rhema Bible Training College*, in Broken Arrow Oklahoma, founded

by Kenneth E. Hagin. My time there was invaluable, and I have always considered Bro. Hagin to be my spiritual father, so to speak. However, between the time I was filled with the Spirit and left to attend Rhema, the Lord gave me a special commissioning that was to be a foundational part of my ministry.

While driving from a neighboring city to my home town, the Lord spoke clearly to me and said, "In the last days, the ministry of divine healing will come under tremendous attack, and I have called you to stand in the defense of that ministry." Those words were branded on my heart, and I've never forgot them in over 30 years.

Since that time, I have had the privilege of pioneering churches, pastoring, and serving local churches all across the country and overseas in the traveling ministry, and always the ministry of healing has featured prominently. There's no way to even begin to tell the stories of the many who have testified to God's faithfulness to heal over the many years.

However, this call to the healing ministry would not have the opportunity to express itself right away. Like anyone starting off, I needed to be trained and equipped for the call upon my life, and so Bible School proceeded my first days of full-time ministry. It was during this time in Bible school that I noticed that while I had a good hunger for the Word of God in general, the subject of healing lit a fire in me like nothing else. The fires of that calling to the healing ministry were certainly stoked by my time at Rhema.

Afterward, I began pastoring in a small church in my home state of California. It was here that we would begin to see the first evidence of God's healing power at work in our ministry. In fact, there was a season during our time pastoring that church in which we were visited by a mighty move of God. Powerful manifestations of the Holy Spirit took place regularly, with some of our Sunday evening services lasting for four hours or more. Afterward, people would hang around for another hour just to linger in that atmosphere and talk about what God had done in the service. The stories that come from this season of ministry would merit their own book, but consistently present were testimonies of healing. Very few weeks went by that we didn't have someone testifying about some kind of healing that took place in their lives.

It was while at this church that I wrote my first book on healing entitled *Healing: The Gospel Truth*. My secretary was assisting me in editing and retyping some portions of the manuscript when she said something that went off inside me like an explosion. She told me that she had been watching a program on a Christian television station in which some healing ministers had been taking some sharp criticisms from other prominent leaders who took issue with the subject of healing. My secretary said to me, "Pastor, I wish this book was already out there, because as I'm reading it, I see that it answers all the objections these critics were raising against the healing ministry."

Immediately I remembered the words God has said to me years before: "In the last days, the ministry of divine healing will come under tremendous attack, and I've called you to stand in the defense of that ministry." God's word to me was being fulfilled.

It's important to point out that God was not calling me to defend healing *minsters*, per se, but to stand in the defense of the Biblical truth of healing in the scriptures. Interestingly, I would notice that whenever it came to teaching or preaching on healing, my delivery always came across like that of a lawyer making his case before a

Interestingly, I would notice that whenever it came to teaching or preaching on healing, my delivery always came across like that of a lawyer making his case before a jury. When I got done teaching on healing, I wanted to be able to say with confidence, "The defense rests!"

jury. When I got done teaching on healing, I wanted to be able to say with confidence, "The defense rests!" It wasn't until years later when I began to study and then teach Christian apologetics that I learned that the Greek word, *apologia*, from which we get the word *apologetics*, means "to make a defense," just like a lawyer pleading his case to a jury. What God has essentially called me to do was to be an apologist for the subject of healing.

It was later in the traveling ministry, however, that God showed me another dimension to the healing ministry that would be important to my own calling. As I was preparing to minister in a church one night, the Spirit of God said to me, "Healing will be your backdoor to evangelism." While this may have not made sense to anyone else, it definitely did to me.

By gifting, I am a teacher. I have planted churches, served as a pastor and had the opportunity to travel widely, ministering in local churches

across America and even overseas. But the one thing I knew I *wasn't* was an evangelist! Growing up Southern Baptist, I had tried to preach an evangelistic message a time or two, but it fell flat, completely void of any anointing whatsoever. That simply wasn't my calling. Of course, as a pastor and minister I had had the privilege of leading many to Christ, but these were usually one on one instances in my office or someone who responded to an altar call in my church. Verses like 2 Timothy 4:5 haunted me. Here, Paul tells his spiritual son and protégé, Timothy, "But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, *do the work of an evangelist*, fulfill your ministry." Timothy was serving as a pastor at this time, and I knew that if he had to do the work of an evangelist as a pastor, I had to as well! I had always felt inadequate in these areas, and God was giving me a hint as to how this would be accomplished, at least in part, in my life. However, this word really had more of a prophetic message to me regarding doors of ministry that would open to us much later.

In the early 2000's, I met two men from India. They were brothers whom we affectionately came to call Elan and Velu. Their names were much longer and harder for our American tongue to pronounce, so Elan and Velu it was! They found my website online and invited me to India. While we could not go at once, they offered us an opportunity to minister on a television channel for which they supplied some programming. Since they saw that there was an anointing upon us in the area of healing, they requested that we send them programs that ministered along that line.

We did so, using the most primitive of video recording equipment. It's embarrassing now to think of the camera we used and the set we filmed on, but it was what we had and God didn't seem to mind. Before long, the testimonies began to come in. What follows are just a few of the many testimonies from this season of ministry. Many of these were published in our book, *The Gospel's Saving Power*.



Performing Baptisms in Tamil Nadu,
India, in the Summer of 2007

Dear Sir,

I do not know how to address you, as I come from a Hindu family. I heard little about Jesus Christ and never believed much of his miracles.

I used to make fun of people that they were cured by Jesus Christ. I was sick and in bed and I was changing my TV channel. There was not much interesting thing on television and I got annoyed and was changing the channels as mad man, but in few minutes it did not work.

To my surprise, I saw someone (I saw your name and email at the end of the show) was telling about Christ and he can heal anyone. I was stunned as I was having pain on my knees and could not walk for weeks.

But when the prayer was offered to Jesus to heal the sick people, I said, "Jesus, heal me." When you finished the offering of prayer to Jesus I felt a great touch from someone and I saw a hand took me out of my bed and made me to walk. I thought it was dream. But it is 4th day and I am walking without any pain on my knee.

I saw your email at the end of the show and I thought of sending my gratitude to you. Now what must (I) do? Is there anyone here that can help me to know what I have to do? I offer prayer that Jesus works through you. I am expecting a reply soon.

Your friend

Ponraj


...

After Ponraj's testimony reached me via email, we directed him to our friends in India whose offices were not far away. They led him to Christ and he wrote us again to rejoice in his new-found salvation!

...

I have been watching Pastor Randy (on) Kingdom TV for the last 2 months and it gave me to increase my faith. I have a brother who has mental problem for 8 years. He was taken to many doctors, but no result. He was like a child and we had to do everything for him like feeding, bathing, dressing, and so on.

When I was watching Pastor Randy's message on healing, I brought my brother near the TV. When he was praying for the sick I also prayed with him and put my hand (on him)



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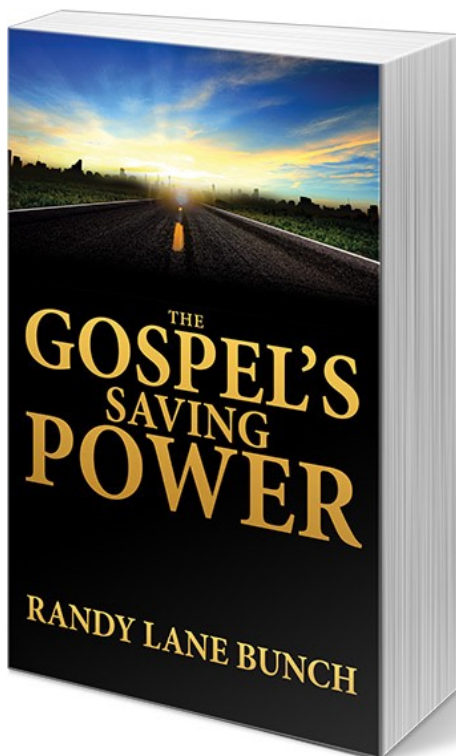
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Saving Truth

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ,
for it is the power of God to salvation for
everyone who believes, for the Jew first and
also for the Greek.” Romans 1:16

Published in 2013, *The Gospel's Saving Power* is Dr. Randy's book which deals with the comprehensive scope of the salvation that Christ purchased for us through redemption. Pastor Randy shares from both God's Word and his own personal experience to teach about the life-changing power of God available in the gospel. This book is available through Amazon or Barnes & Noble. It is also available in digital format in iBooks for Apple devices.

and prayed for him. I did not see any change at that time. But the next morning he was sitting quiet and was brushing his teeth. He talked normal after 8 years.

We all shed tears thanking the Lord and Pastor Randy for bringing healing and joy to our family.

Jesus, bless Pastor Randy
Kuppusamy, Punnai Nager.

...

"My daughter Jasmine was admitted in the hospital for brain fever. She was suffering with much pain. The doctors gave drips but it seemed she was in great agony.

We used to record your healing messages that come on Kingdom TV. So we have decided to play your message in the hospital so she and we all can hear and increase our faith to heal her. We brought the TV, VCR and played your message and we all knelt down and prayed when you started praying for the sick.

As soon as we finished the prayer we saw our daughter opened her eyes and was praising. Not only that 2 other patients in adjacent room also were healed from their illness. Thanks to you and God. God bless you Pastor for your love for the sick people.

James, Neyyoor"

...

These testimonies represent a small fraction of those we received, and there were many which came to our friends in India which they were not able to send us. There were so many. However, it's vital to point out that the healings were not an end in themselves. Healing has always served as a means of reaching the lost for Christ. Early 20th century evangelist, Raymond T. Ritchie, often said, "Healing is the dinner bell!" Back in the days when most people worked on the family farm, they would ring a bell at dinner time which would get everyone running to the house. Likewise, when the power of God is moving to heal the sick and diseased, people will come!

When the Lord said to me that healing would be our backdoor to evangelism, He also gave me four reasons why this was so. Let's cover each of these briefly.

1. Healing addresses a universal need.

Matthew 4:23-25

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. 25 Great multitudes followed Him—from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan.

There is not a one of us who have not been touched either directly or indirectly by sickness. If we have not suffered personally, we know of loved ones or friends who have. Why? Because sickness and disease came into the human experience though sin (more on this later). Since we live in a fallen world, we see the suffering it has brought on the human race.

Romans 5:12

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned—

Sickness is incipient death — part of the "death package" we inherited because of Adam's sin. We inherited that from him, since he was our representative in the garden. Thus, sickness is pandemic in the world. For this reason, healing ministers to a universal need. Everyone can relate to the need for healing, and no one is unmoved when God touches a life in this way. It's a reality that touches all our lives.

2. Healing is a demonstration of the Lord's compassion

Both Matthew and Mark make note of the fact that on different occasions, the Lord was "moved with compassion" and "healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14, Mark 1:41). Certainly, healing is a

demonstrations of the Lord's compassion toward us. While any sign or wonder may prove the reality of God's existence, testify to the risen Savior, or otherwise convict the skeptic of the reality of His power, there is something about healing that tells us even more. When we see the Master heal the sick, we see not only His power but His compassion as well.

Jesus has never gone out of the healing business. He commissioned the Church to "lay hands on the sick" (Mark 16:18), the elders to "pray the prayer of faith" for the sick (James 5:14-15), and He gave us the "gifts of healings" (1 Corinthians 12:9) as one of the gifts of the Spirit to empower the Church to minister to the sick. In reality, we are simply carrying on His healing ministry. We are His body.

Psalms 145:8-9

**8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
Slow to anger and great in mercy.
9 The Lord is good to all,
And His tender mercies are over all His works.**

F. F. Bosworth, in his great text, *Christ the Healer*, has much to say on this subject. Commenting on the verses cited above, he says the following:

"In the study of the Lord's compassion, we have a complete revelation of the Lord's willingness to heal. During His earthly ministry He was everywhere moved with compassion, and healed all "them that had need of healing." It is "this same Jesus" who, after saying, "It is expedient for you that I go away," is now seated at the right hand of God, "that He might be a merciful [compassionate] and faithful High Priest" for us.

In the Scriptures, *compassion* and *mercy* mean the same. The Hebrew noun *rachamin* is translated both "mercy" and "compassion." The Greek verb *eleeo* is translated "have mercy" and "have compassion"; and likewise, the Greek adjective *eleemon* is defined "merciful-compassionate."

To have compassion is to love tenderly, to pity, to show mercy, to be full of eager yearning."¹

In short, God is "full of eager yearning" to demonstrate His mercy and compassion by healing the sick.

When the sinner sees the love and mercy of God demonstrated through healing, it prepares his heart to receive the greater miracle of salvation.

3. Healing is an evidence of cancelled sin

Mark 2:3-12

3 Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."

6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

8 But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? 9 Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? 10 But that you may know that the Son of

Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." 12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw anything like this!"

When challenged by the Pharisees regarding His authority to forgive sin, Jesus replied with an interesting statement: "Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'?" Then, to prove He had the authority to forgive, He healed the crippled man. This begs the question, "How did Jesus healing the crippled man prove He had authority to forgive?"

The Jews believed that sickness and disease were the results of sin. This was so ingrained in their thinking that once when seeing a blind man, the disciples asked Jesus, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). The assumption is not wholly false, since it was Adam's original sin which opened the door to death, including sickness and disease (see Romans 5:12). This, however, does not mean that an individual who is sick or diseased brought it upon themselves through their own personal sin. In fact, Jesus responded to the disciples' question by saying, "Neither this man nor his

parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (John 9:3). Nevertheless, this belief was in the Jews' minds nonetheless. Jesus used this to demonstrate that He was able to forgive sin by removing its consequence.

For example, in our country, a state governor can commute the sentence of a criminal. The reason he can do this is because he has the authority to pardon the crime which brought the sentence. In other words, Jesus could not have commuted the "sentence" of sickness unless He first had authority to pardon the sin which was the cause of the sickness in the first place.

Likewise, when Christ paid the penalty for our sin, He destroyed sin's claim to us. When He pardoned our sin, He commuted the sentence of death, including sickness and disease. "Yet he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains... and we are healed by His wounds" (Isaiah 53:4-5, *Christian Standard Version*).

4. Healing is a sign that accompanies the preaching of the gospel

When Jesus commissioned the disciples to carry the gospel to all nations, he told them that healing

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would be one of the signs that would accompany the gospel to give it divine validation. Thus, healing is bound up in the proclamation of the gospel.

Mark 16:15-20

15 And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”

Healing, perhaps more than any other sign, demonstrates both the power and compassion of God, as we mentioned earlier. However, beyond this, healing demonstrates the nature of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 10:5-8

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: “Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. **6** But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **7** And as you go, preach, saying, The

kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ ⁸ Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

When I was a young boy, I remember the Avon lady coming to our house. She would come in and tell my mother all about the new cosmetics the company was selling. Better yet, the Avon lady carried a sample case with her. Not only did she “preach” Avon, she demonstrated it! That’s what samples do! Oftentimes, it’s the sample that sells the product more than the presentation.

In effect, Jesus was telling his disciples, “Don’t just preach the Kingdom. Give them some samples!” *Healing is a Kingdom sample!* It’s a demonstration of what is included in the Kingdom!

When the Avon Lady left our house, she left a few of those samples with my Mom. However, those samples were but a taste of all that was available through the company. They were there to entice her to want to sign up for all that the company could provide!

Healing isn’t all that is in the Kingdom, but very often when someone has tasted the goodness of God through a healing miracle,

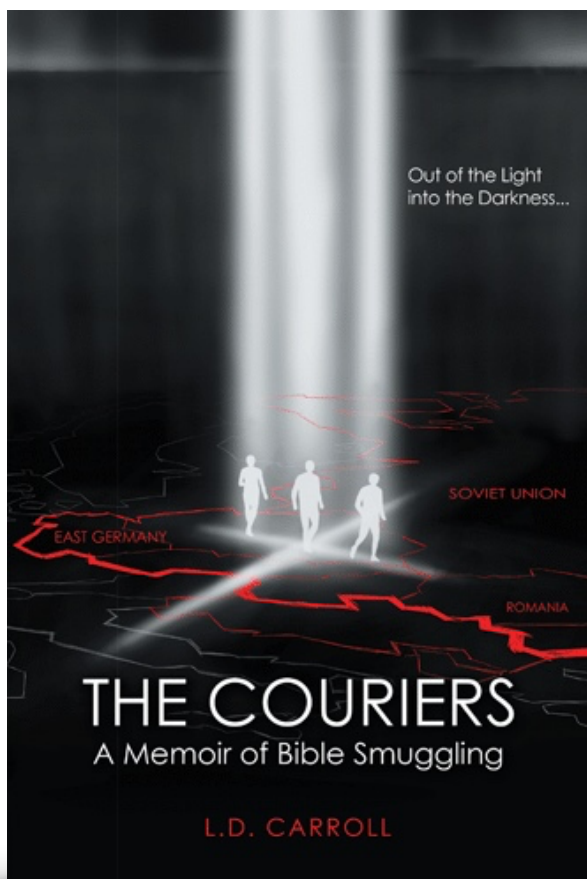
they’re ready to take all that God has for them. Healing is indeed the backdoor to evangelism because it demonstrates the Kingdom of God, bringing heaven’s blessings down to man through the good news of Jesus Christ.

Recently our friends in India once again offered us an opportunity to go on the air in their nation. Now, Vijay, Elan’s son and Velu’s nephew, is heading up the enterprise, airing our new program, *Connecting Point* into over one million homes in India. Already the testimonies are pouring in, and we can’t wait to share them with you in a future edition of *Connecting Point Magazine*.

In the meantime, you can catch *Connecting Point TV*, our newest outreach on our YouTube channel. You’ll find the link on our website, randylanebunch.org, beneath the *Media* button on the menu.

Additionally, we are still conducting crusades in Pakistan via Skype. We are awaiting the numbers from the last crusade, but they will take us over the 500 mark in souls saved, and God has shown Himself strong by confirming the message with many healings and deliverances as well!

¹ Bosworth, *Christ the Healer*.



THE COURIERS

A Memoir of Bible Smuggling

by L.D. Carroll

The Couriers is one man's memoirs of his and others' service in a time of Communist oppression against the Christian faith. In this book, Lawrence recounts his experiences taking Bibles and other Christian materials to believers behind the Iron Curtain.

Many today, who did not live during the time of Soviet oppression, are not aware of just how restricted religious freedom was in those nations under Communist rule.

This book serves as a reminder of both the blessings we enjoy in our nation in regard to freedom of religion as well as the precious right to freedom of speech. Join Lawrence as he recounts his experiences aiding the persecuted Church.

Available at Amazon, B&N, and iBooks

For more information, or to purchase your copy, go to thecouriersbook.org

IMMUTABLE

CHANGELESS TRUTH FOR A CHANGING WORLD

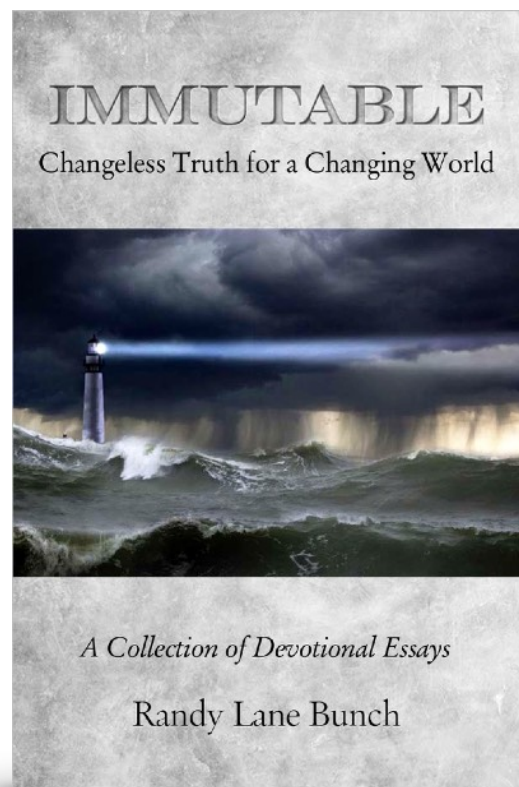
NEVER BEFORE HAS THE NEED BEEN GREATER FOR OUR NATION TO RISE OUT OF THE MORAL CHAOS IN WHICH IT HAS FOUND ITSELF AND DISCOVER THE TRUTH THAT SETS THE CAPTIVE FREE!

"Now, perhaps more than ever, the Church must rise to the challenge of communicating the gospel to a nation adrift, without moorings or moral compass. This cannot be done through argument alone, but through a demonstration of the life and love of God lived out through the Church as a witness to the world."

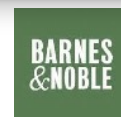
Author, Randy Lane Bunch

This collection of devotional essays by Dr. Randy Bunch will inspire, challenge, and inform you. The simple message of the gospel is truth for the ages and the answer for all mankind. While this was once taken for granted in our nation, it is not so any longer. The strident message of relative morality promoted by our increasingly secular culture has presented a new challenge to the church in America.

Part apologetics, part Bible teaching, and part homespun tales with a message to warm the heart and inspire faith, IMMUTABLE: Changeless Truth for a Changing World will help you to start thinking about how to engage the culture with the timeless truths of God's Word. You can order online from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Apple iBooks, or go to the book website at randylanebunch.org! Get your copy today!



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HEALING IN REDEMPTION

But He was wounded for our
transgressions,
He was bruised for our
iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace
was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are
healed.
Isaiah 53:5



The following article is an excerpt from Dr. Randy's book, *The Gospel's Saving Power*

There is no greater passage of scripture in the Old Testament to examine concerning Christ's atoning work on the cross than Isaiah 53. This chapter is a prophetic look at what Christ's death accomplished for us hundreds of years before it actually happened.

**Who has believed our report?
And to whom has the arm of the
Lord been revealed?
For He shall grow up before Him as
a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.
He has no form or comeliness;
And when we see Him,
There is no beauty that we should
desire Him.
He is despised and rejected by
men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted
with grief.
And we hid, as it were, our faces
from Him;
He was despised, and we did not
esteem Him.
Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

**But He was wounded for our
transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace
was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
(Isaiah 53:1-5)**

While we will primarily look at verses 4 and 5 of this chapter, it is too beautiful a passage not to look at more of these verses which tell the greatest love story ever told, of a guiltless Savior who would take our guilt upon Himself to become the object of God's wrath, that we might be declared righteous in God's sight. This passage, particularly verses 4 and 5, reveal the comprehensive salvation that God made available to us in Christ's redemptive work. Most often, when talking about healing, people will point to Isaiah 53:5.

**But He was wounded for our
transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace
was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.**

(Isaiah 53:5)

Here again, we see a full salvation for the total man. There is forgiveness of our sins to provide salvation by grace, peace for our soul (which answers the needs of our mind and emotions), and healing for our physical bodies - a complete salvation! In his own epistle, Peter refers to this passage when writing about Christ's vicarious death on the cross.

**Who Himself bore our sins in His
own body on the tree, that we,
having died to sins, might live for
righteousness—by whose stripes
you were healed. (1 Peter 2:24)**

However, I believe that it is verse 4 that gives us a more complete message on the subject of healing in the atonement. The key is seeing it in the original Hebrew rather than in our English translations, as they do not tell the full tale.

**"Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
(Isaiah 53:4)**

At first glance, this might not seem to be a message on healing in the atonement (except perhaps in the most indirect way). Sickness does bring grief and sorrow, but that by itself would be slim scriptural evidence to establish healing in the atonement.

However, the Hebrew words translated “griefs” and “sorrows” are *kholee* and *makob* and should be translated “sickness” and “pains.” Here are some places in the Old Testament where they are translated as such.

And the Lord will take away from you all sickness (*kholee*), and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you. (Deuteronomy 7:15)

Also every sickness (*kholee*) and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the Lord bring upon you until you are destroyed. (Deuteronomy 28:61)

This is the writing of Hezekiah king of Judah, when he had been sick and had recovered from his sickness (*kholee*)... (Isaiah 38:9)

“Man is also chastened with pain (*makob*) on his bed, And with strong pain in many of his bones... (Job 33:19)

Babylon has suddenly fallen and been destroyed. Wail for her! Take balm for her pain (*makob*); Perhaps she may be healed. (Jeremiah 51:8)

These examples show clearly enough that these same words, translated “griefs” and “sorrows” in Isaiah 53:4, should have been translated “sickness” and “pains.” Many of the literal translations by some of our greatest Hebrew scholars have translated these words to reflect this idea.

Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains—he hath carried them, And we—we have esteemed him plagued, Smitten of God, and afflicted. (Isaiah 53:4, Young’s Literal Translation)

But only our disease did he bear himself, and our pains he carried... (Isaiah 53:4, Leeser’s Translation)

Surely our sicknesses he carried, and as for our pains he bare the burden of them... (Isaiah 53:4, Rotherham Emphasized Translation)

While this scholarship is valuable in helping to confirm the true meaning of these Hebrew words, *kholee* and *makob*, we have an even stronger proof of their meaning. Matthew, writing years later about the healing ministry of Jesus, and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, quotes Isaiah 53:4 and leaves no question as to the meaning of these words and this verse.

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.” (Matthew 8:16-17)

No one disputes the fact that Matthew is quoting here from Isaiah 53:4, as any center column

Sickness and disease is a physical result of the spiritual death that Adam introduced into man’s experience through his sin.

reference in any reference edition Bible will confirm. But what’s most important is that Matthew’s use of Isaiah 53:4 leaves no question that the context of the verse is Christ’s bearing of our sicknesses and pains on the cross. Matthew’s use of this verse during Christ’s earthly healing ministry is simply showing that these healings came on the basis of the redemption Christ would provide through His death on the cross. Whether these benefits were administered before or after Jesus actually died is not an issue, since in the mind of God, Christ was “the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 5:8).

Again, healing is part and parcel of the redemption. Christ’s bearing of our sicknesses was not some separate act from His dying for our sins. Sickness and disease is a physical result of the spiritual death that Adam introduced into man’s experience through his sin. As some have said, “Sin is the root and sickness is the fruit.” When Jesus died, totally satisfying our debt before God, balancing the scales of divine justice, He released us

judicially from the affects of sin physically and spiritually, temporally and eternally.

Another thing to observe in the lines of Isaiah 53:4 are the verbs translated “borne” and “carried.” They are the Hebrew words *nasa* and *sabal*, and both carry the meaning of “bearing something as a punishment or chastisement.” These same words, describing Jesus’ bearing of our sicknesses and pains, are also used in this same chapter to describe His bearing of our sins as well.

By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear (*sabal*) their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:11)

And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore (*nasa*) the sin of many... (Isaiah 53:12)

Again, the use of these verbs to describe both Jesus’ sacrificial bearing of our sins and our sicknesses prove that when He died as our substitute to pay the full penalty for our sins, He provided both forgiveness for our sins and healing for our bodies. As David said in Psalm 103:3, “Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...” This dual benefit is often called the “double cure” and is underscored in passages where the twin benefits of forgiveness and healing are seen to go hand in hand, as in James 5:14-16 and others.

Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. (James 5:14-16)

Having seen how Jesus’ death paid the full penalty for sin and released us from its power, it should be easy to see why both forgiveness and healing would come together when faith is exercised toward God. We can preach with great confidence then that the healing of our bodies as well as the forgiveness of our sins, is available through the redemption of Jesus Christ.

Last Word: Growing Pains



We wanted this edition of *Connecting Point Magazine* to be a little more personal and a little more focussed on some of the aspects of God's calling upon this ministry. While the message of healing has been featured heavily, it is not an end in itself. As we shared in our feature article, it is a means of reaching souls for Christ. Besides this, it is a redemptive benefit that I believe does not get the attention it deserves from much of the Church. So, we are still living out the mandate the Lord gave us all those years ago to stand in the defense of the truths of divine healing.

At the same time, we are still writing blogs and articles to deal with the many challenges Christianity faces in our current cultural climate. I have a great concern for America, as I'm sure you do as well. The recent actions by the New York state legislature regarding abortion, the division in our nation, and the confusion over issues such as gender identity show us that we have much work to do to recapture a biblical worldview in our nation. However, we must never give in to despair or

allow ourselves to think that our nation is unrecoverable. There have been plenty of other dark periods in our history out of which God brought great victory. Besides, we are often handed only one side of the story through the various media outlets which keeps us from seeing how God is often working behind the scenes to accomplish His purposes.

When we started *Connecting Point Communications*, it was to address these encroaching threats to the biblical foundations of our nation. We have spent a lot of time and a lot of digital space online to address these issues. And yet, God has had other ideas for us as well.

It can be so easy to see the troubles immediately before us here in America that we forget to look abroad and see all that God is doing elsewhere in the world. Certainly, troubles abound everywhere, but great things are also happening, and often in the least likely places.

For the last five months we've been conducting live-streaming crusades into Pakistan which has resulted in over 500 hundred people coming to Christ. In these rural areas where

black magic is practiced, many have been delivered from the power of the devil and forsaken their false gods for the One True God. Healing testimonies have also been numerous, and we rejoice with every story we hear coming to us from that gospel-hungry nation.

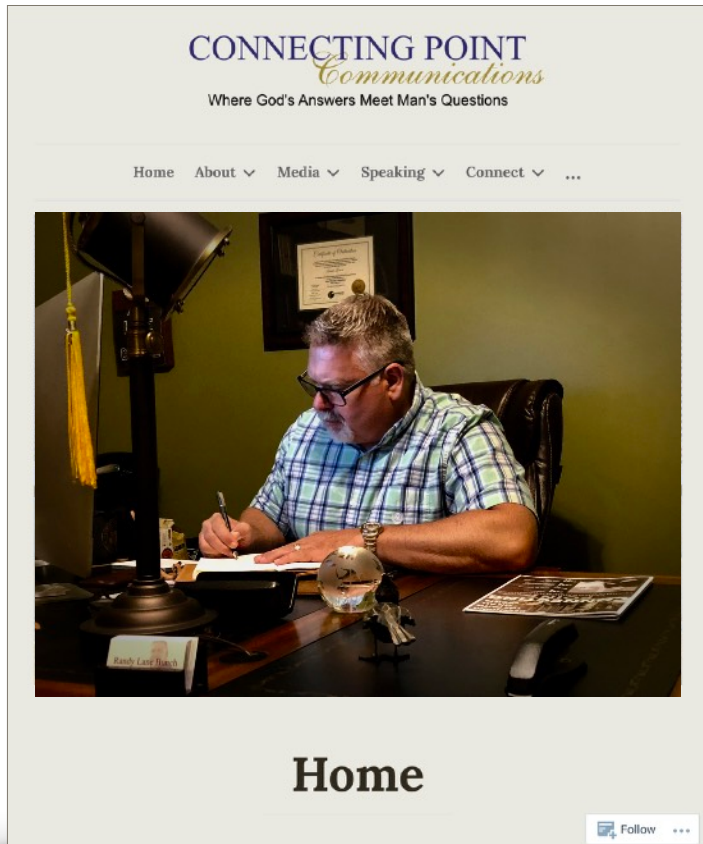
It's hard to believe the great door God has opened for us in India as well. *Connecting Point TV* is reaching into over one million homes, and our friends tell us that the testimonies coming in are many! We are so eager to receive more of them and share them in future editions of this magazine.

Growth is good, even when it takes us by surprise. It has a way of broadening our borders and challenging our assumptions whether we're ready for it or not. Certainly, the evolving vision of CPC is keeping us very busy.

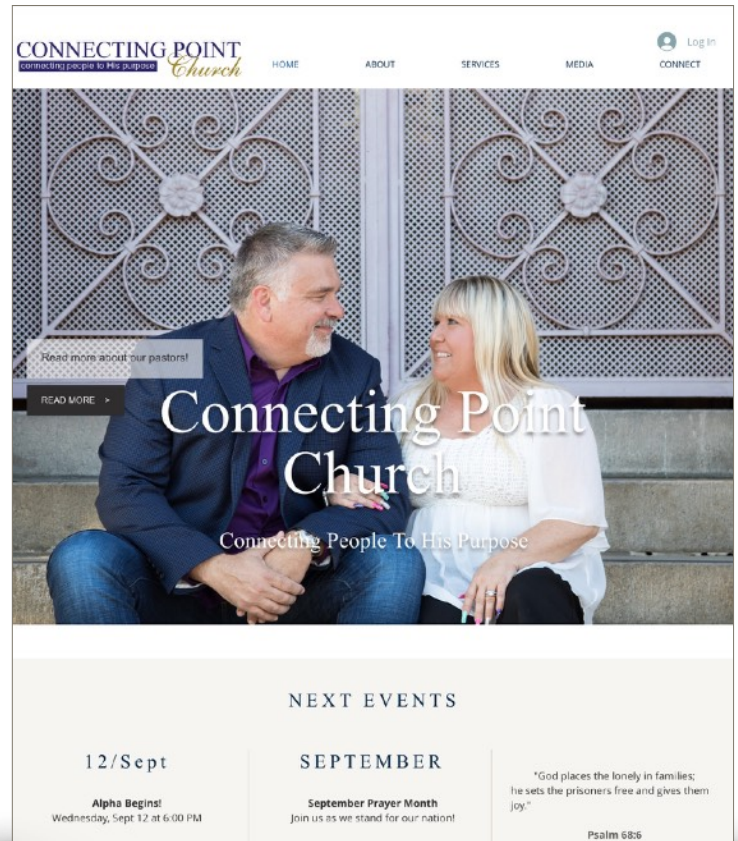
We hope you will prayerfully consider partnering with us in this venture. Your prayers and financial support will go along way in helping us see the vision through. Heaven alone will reveal the fruit that comes from our efforts together.

Connecting Point Media Resources

From the beginning it has been our vision to provide resource rich websites and materials that will minister to the needs of God's people. From these sites you can access our podcast, find links to our YouTube channel, as well as read our blog, access our Healing School materials, and much, much more. The best part? It's all free of charge!



Randy Lane Bunch Ministries' new personal ministry site, *Connecting Point Communications*, is found at randylanebunch.org, and contains links to the Connecting Point Podcast, Dr. Randy's Blog, *Connecting Point Magazine*, and much more! This is Dr. Randy's personal ministry website, designed to provide a rich, comprehensive media ministry experience. The resources are free and updated regularly. Remember, Dr. Randy is available to speak at your church or ministry event. To contact him, simply email him at info@connectingpc.org.



Connecting Point Church is the name of the church that Dr. Randy and his wife, Maria, pastor in their home town of Taft, California. Additionally, they lead North East Christian Church in Bakersfield, California (necchristian.net). The church website, connectingpc.org, contains much of the content Dr. Randy's personal site does, along with directions to the church and service times. Again, you can contact via email, at info@connectingpc.org to schedule Dr. Randy to speak at your church or ministry event.

Connecting Point *Communications*

Where God's Answers Meet Man's Questions

Contact us, at info@connectingpc.org