

CONNECTING POINT

Where God's Answers Meet Man's Questions

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 17, FALL 2018, A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF CONNECTING POINT COMMUNICATIONS

FRONTIERS

WHERE ARE MISSIONS HEADING IN A
NEW AGE OF ENTREPRENEURIALISM,
OPPORTUNITY, AND TECHNOLOGY?

ALSO INSIDE:

A SPECIAL UPDATE ON DR. RANDY'S
CRUSADES TO PAKISTAN VIA SKYPE

MINISTERING LIFE TO THE NATIONS

See how Keith & Heidi Hershey are helping to bring the life and love of Christ to the nations through the ministry of *Mutual Faith Ministries International*. Pg. 5

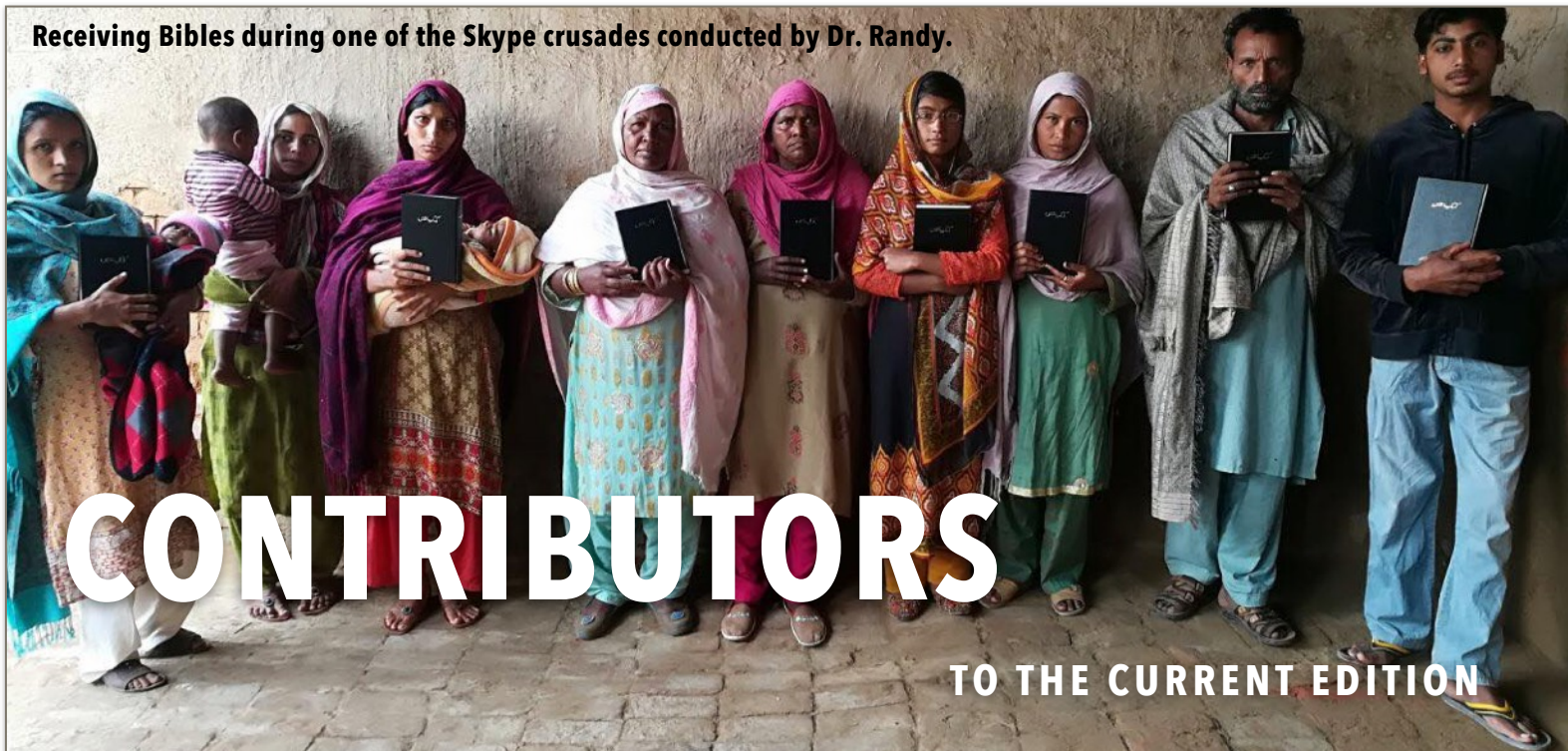
ENTREPRENEURIALISM & MISSIONS

MissionNext, founded by Vicky Warren, is helping to bring the good news to developing nations through start up businesses that create inroads for the gospel. Pg. 13

WORLD MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP EMPOWERING MINISTERS

Exploring the power of technology for communicating abroad while still preserving the importance of relationships in missions and discipleship . Pg. 17

Receiving Bibles during one of the Skype crusades conducted by Dr. Randy.



CONTRIBUTORS

TO THE CURRENT EDITION



Keith Hershey is the founder of *Mutual Faith Ministries International*, a ministry that has been impacting the nations of the world through "preaching, teaching, and reaching" since 1984. *MFMI* seeks to raise up leaders to spearhead regional and national offices around the world. They currently, have offices and teams in Costa Rica, Philippines, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Lebanon. These international campuses have different functions and ministry expressions based on the calling and gifting of the local leadership, as well as the needs of

individual communities and nations. The ministry is headquartered in Mission Hills, California. To find out more, go to mutualfaith.org. (Pg. 5)



Vicky Warren spent 33 years working in innovative and creative environments from multi-million-dollar technology deployments, alliances with technical luminaries such as Steve Jobs, Nicholas Negroponte's MIT media lab, Stanford Research Institute (SRI) and The Walt Disney Studios to entrepreneurial startup businesses. Since 2011 she has been serving Church Planters in Asia and Africa through Pioneer Business Planting. Today she serves as the CEO and President of *MissionNext*, an organization focused on significantly

increasing the number of global kingdom workers to serve the Lord among the nations. To find out more, go to missionnext.org.



For the past thirty years, Dr. Tim McKittrick has had one goal on his mind: connect ordinary people to the extraordinary presence of God. 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.



Dr. Randy Bunch is the founder of *Connecting Point Communications*, a ministry committed to bringing "God's answers to man's questions" through the printed page, digital media, as well as seminars and church meetings. He is the lead pastor of *Connecting Point Church* in Taft, California and *Northeast Christian Church* in Bakersfield California. He is also an adjunct professor at Summit Bible College, also located in Bakersfield. In his 30-plus years of ministry, he has served as church planter on both east and west coasts, as well as

traveled extensively in local churches throughout the United States and also abroad. For more, go to randylanebunch.org and connectingpc.org.

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FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of *Connecting Point Magazine* was truly a labor of love. First of all, I have always loved missions and have been involved either directly or indirectly with various missions groups all my adult life. When in Bible school, struggling with a desire to reach the nations but sensing a call to stay in my own country, a good friend reminded me of the importance of having churches that would always be mindful of the work of missions and support it with their prayers and finances.

To a great degree, that has been my role. With the exception of a handful of trips outside my own country to preach, I have mostly reached out to the nations through various forms of digital media and telecommunications. However, we have always supported mission work and various missionary organizations with our prayers and with our finances. Today, however, opportunities through technology are advancing to the point where even smaller, local churches can have a missions expression in the nations. Recently, I began conducting crusades via Skype with the help of my friends in Pakistan. We have been able to reach into villages that were difficult to target with larger crusades and we've seen souls saved and miracles of healing and deliverance take place. This is an exciting day for those who are willing to step out and find creative ways of reaching outside their immediate context with the life transforming truth of God's Word.

Secondly, however, this edition is special to me because I have the privilege of highlighting the ministries of some of my friends who are doing great things in the nations of the world. Keith Hershey I have known since 1988. Vicky Warren, however, is a new friend I met through my work at Summit Bible College in Bakersfield, California. Tim McKittrick is a friend I've known for a number of years, ever since he was my publisher on *The Gospel's Saving Power*. It is with profound gratitude that I share their ministries with you. I know you will be both challenged and inspired!

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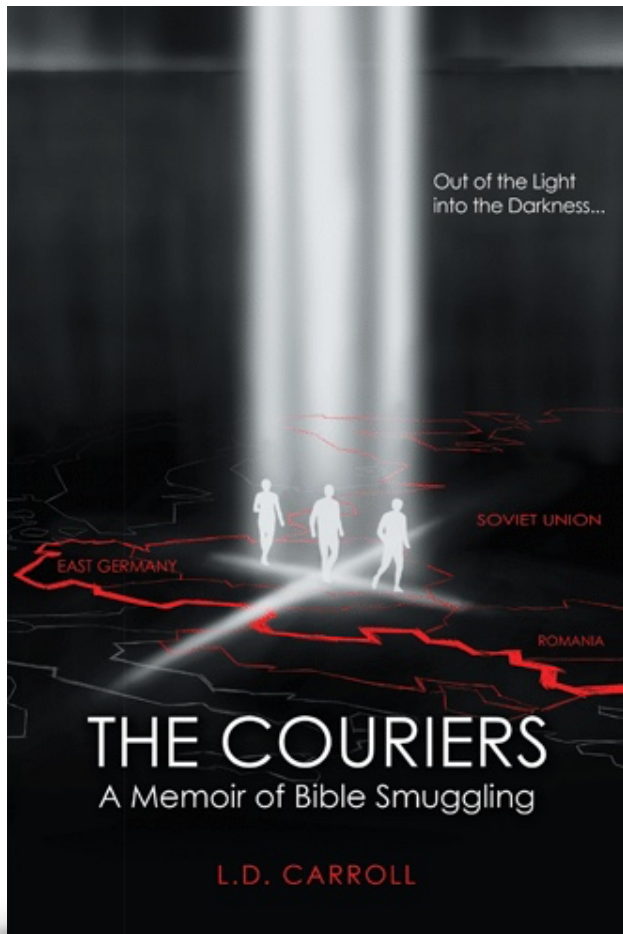
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Contact us, at info@connectingpc.org



THE COURIERS

A MEMOIR OF BIBLE SMUGGLING

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.

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MUTUAL FAITH MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL: SHARING HIS LIFE THROUGH PREACHING, TEACHING AND REACHING IN THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD



The beautiful LIFE CENTER USA,
located in San Fernando, California

Not long ago, my son and I had the privilege of visiting my old friend, Keith Hershey, at the wonderful LIFE CENTER USA, located in San Fernando, California. I have known Keith and Heidi Hershey since we became friends in 1988. He has preached for me many times and I have had the privilege of ministering at his annual Pastors and Leaders conference which he hosts each January. It was wonderful getting the opportunity to catch up and hear of all that *Mutual Faith Ministries International* is doing in the nations and now, through LIFE CENTER USA, in the local community as well.

When we decided to focus on missions for this edition of *Connecting Point Magazine*, I couldn't imagine not asking Keith to share his thoughts and reflections on the work of *Mutual Faith Ministries International* as well as the work of missions in general. What follows in the next pages are answers to questions I asked Keith. We are grateful for his generosity in sharing his answers with us. If you would like to know more about the global work of *Mutual Faith Ministries International* and their various outreaches to the nations, go to their ministry website, at mutualfaith.org.



MFMI was started by Keith and Heidi Hershey in 1984. Since then, they have continued to minister life to people in the developing nations of the world through their LIFE CENTERS and other outreaches.

Randy: Keith, I met you first in 1988 in Newport Beach at a minister's meeting. You were already involved in the work of MFMI by that time. When did *Mutual Faith Ministries International* begin and what was the genesis of the ministry?

Keith: *Mutual Faith Ministries* was actually launched in June 1984. My wife Heidi and I just returned to the USA following a year-long missions assignment in Africa and the Middle East with another mission organization. *Mutual Faith* is a missions concept that was placed in my heart in 1981, based on the scripture in Romans 1:11-12, where the Apostle Paul talked about a "longing to see people, to impart to them spiritual gifts" and in the process their would be an exchange of encouragement and comfort through the "mutual faith of you and me." Our

desire in launching *Mutual Faith Ministries* was simply to provide a place, where people could join their faith to impart heavenly help in some of the world's most challenging areas. This has been done through a variety of methods and assignments, preaching, teaching and reaching people through evangelistic ministry, teaching and training local indigenous leadership, and helping the displaced and disadvantaged through our LIFE CENTERS, Missions Centers, and Life Homes.

Randy: What were some of the first areas you reached out to?

Keith: We were very itinerant in the early days, preaching in various nations throughout Africa and Latin America. But our first Mission Center was in Monrovia, Liberia in 1985. We had

indigenous teams of nationals conducting evangelism and leadership training throughout the nation. This all came to an end, during the civil war in 1990, when our campus was destroyed, and vehicles and equipment stolen, and our team members fleeing for their lives to neighboring nations.

Randy: What were some of the great challenges in those early days?

Keith: One of the main challenges, was just to be patient and faithful to what we held in our hearts. We learned early on, that everyone we met did not necessarily have the same vision or assignment that we carried. We learned to trust the Lord in the "carrying the vision" process, until there was the season for the manifestation of what we believed God called us to do. Sometimes, we are so eager for the ministry to unfold quickly that we can become disappointed in the process God has called us to. Also, being faithful in the working relationships of national leaders in other nations that are not familiar with the Western Culture, and finding the confidence in each other to actually build teams and ministry leadership, but also to build the buildings and infrastructure necessary to be effective in sharing the Gospel.

Randy: I remember when the civil war broke out in Liberia. Your ministry base was hit, and your leaders had to flee. What was that crisis like for MFMI?



Keith pictured with Don Korach, president of the Latin American expression *Mutual Faith Ministries* known as *Fe Mutua*. Don moved to Costa Rica in 1992. Now, he and his wife, Marjorie, labor side by side, running the LIFE Leadership Institute as well as the other outreaches in the area.

Keith: As I referenced earlier, the Liberian civil war destroyed all our investment, equipment, etc., after working there for more than five years. When I returned to Liberia later, the devastation and human suffering was indescribable. However, all of our leaders did flee to neighboring nations, and this now became the open door pattern to establish *Mutual Faith* in

these nations. So, Ghana and Nigeria became the new hub, for *Mutual Faith Ministries* expressions in West Africa.

Randy: You have always been involved in some of the most challenging places in the world. What are some of the greatest challenges you face in some of these developing nations?

Keith: I think the need in these nations is so enormous; it is hard for a Gospel

ambassador to ignore the people, and do nothing! However, all that we can do seems so insignificant in terms of the tremendous challenges. Even the government agencies from around the world that flood to refugee ridden countries cannot alleviate the pain of the people. This is why the Gospel needs to be preached, to provide hope and help and re-position people's minds in the goodness and faithfulness of our Father and trust for His full supply in these overwhelming circumstances.

Randy: One extremely fruitful area of ministry in the Middle East is the development of the Middle East LIFE CENTER. How did all of that come about?

Keith: After the events of 9/11 in 2001, my heart was stirred with the passage in Isaiah, "There will be on every high mountain and every high hill, streams of water, in the time of a great disaster, when the towers fall." In October of 2011, I felt the Lord leading me to bring "living water," the message of Jesus, to regions of rage. We started *Operation Life Cell*, a ministry to train up people like Ananias, who would go alongside people like Saul – religious yet full of rage – and bring information that would become revelation to bring transformation. I began traveling in the Middle East, and the following year opened our Middle East Mutual Faith office and team in Beirut, Lebanon. In



The Middle East LIFE CENTER takes up an entire block in downtown Beirut, Lebanon and has been very fruitful in reaching this region of the world in a myriad of ways.

2009 we purchased a huge campus in the heart of Beirut, and the Middle East LIFE CENTER was born, which trains hundreds of Syrian refugee children and assists over 1000 Syrian Families every year.

Randy: Over 30 years in now, how has the work of missions changed, or has it essentially changed?

Keith: The Gospel remains the same; the finished work of Jesus – His death and His resurrection – for everyone, everywhere! The assignment remains the same – “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel!” But the methodology has changed. Now with the technologies and social media platforms, etc., we are always praying to see what is the best way to come alongside people, to befriend them, and introduce them to the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world!

Randy: What is the primary focus of MFMI today?

Keith: In all of our international teams, Costa Rica, the Philippines, Nigeria, Ghana and Lebanon, we find the needs just as enormous as when we started almost 35 years ago. So, I guess our main focus is still the proclamation of the Gospel, pointing people to the message of the cross, and seeing people take their place “in Christ.”

Randy: I’ve been at the Mission Center

a number of times. It’s a great facility doing a great work. Can you tell us the story of how that came to be?

Keith: Actually, we have two facilities in the USA. The Mission Center building is our original administrative office and production center, which was purchased in 1996. Our newest, LIFE CENTER USA, was purchased almost 5 years ago in December 2013, and is a reflective



campus for missions and training in San Fernando, CA. That is where we host an annual missions gathering, and join our faith with churches and ministries in the region to reach the multi-cultural communities throughout our region.

Randy: I asked you earlier how the work of missions has changed over these years. How have you or your perspective changed, if they have?

Keith: I think I have changed in the sense that there is still urgency in my heart in terms of sharing the Gospel, but recognizing that this is the Lord’s work, and resting in His love in the process. This allows me to trust Him

more in the constant circumstances of life where I cannot fix a situation or solve everyone’s problems. I am learning to rest in the mystery of Christ, and know that He is the One who opens the hearts of people to believe and receive His love for them.

Randy: There are a lot of great missionary organizations out there, but you’ve been doing this for a long time

now in many places in the earth. What advice would you give to a young missionary or missions organization looking to make an impact in the world?

Keith: In the end, all of us can really only follow what we hold in our hearts. Young people that often ask me about launching in missions ministry, I encourage them to go on a

‘short-term’ missions assignment first, followed by a 3-6 month assignment, before jumping in completely. I think it is very important to ‘test all things’ and ‘hold fast to that which is good.’ I have seen many calamities of wonderful individuals and couples, who have launched too quickly into very difficult areas of the world, desiring to save everyone and in the process shipwrecking their faith. Also, it is so helpful if you have a strong team of prayer and financial support, because the pressures in these assignments, culturally and every other way, are not the norm.

Dr. Tim McKittrick

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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.

REACHING PAKISTAN FOR JESUS!

DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH



Our September 6 Skype crusade where 237 came to Christ

It's amazing what a handful of people can do with a couple of computers, a bedsheet, and a good internet connection. For starters you can have a crusade in Pakistan in hard to reach areas where larger crusades cannot be held. When my good friend, John Javed, a Pakistani evangelist, recommended that we do a crusade via Skype, I was game. I had my concerns about the technical challenges (some of our previous streaming conversations had broken down due to a poor connection), however, there was no way I was going to say anything but a resounding, "Yes!"

September 8 of this year was our first, and the results were encouraging if not overwhelming. This was not one of the large crusades John and his wife,

Rachel, conduct in the open air where tens of thousands attend. This was a much smaller group in a more remote village where they had been told a large crusade was not possible. Still, this first effort resulted in two-hundred and thirty-seven people coming to Christ, including nine who had been practitioners of black magic – one of them for thirty-nine years! Others were also healed of demonic influence. Additionally, some tremendous healings occurred including one man who was healed of a tumor in his chest. Results like these were fully anticipated. Years ago, I had the privilege of broadcasting on a Christian television station in Tamil Nadu, the southern-most province of India. The healing testimonies from that season of

ministry were incredible, including those who had been mentally disabled, those possessed by evil spirits, and those with various physical maladies. You can read about some of these wonderful healing testimonies in our book, *The Gospel's Saving Power*. They continue to inspire me today and still stand as one of the most powerful seasons of healing ministry I have yet experienced.

However, as good as those memories are, there is nothing like seeing God break through in a new place, especially where the stakes are so high. The recent release of Pakistani Christian woman, Asia Bibi, who had been sentenced to death for blasphemy, has incited riots and threats of violence from the radical Islamic community.

One of the most vociferous clerics fermenting the hate and violence held his rally in the very city where our friends' ministry is based. Pakistan needs prayer, but it also needs the fearless labors of people like John and Rachel, whose gospel crusades attract thousands and who continue their work in spite of the danger.

Since some who advocated for the release of Asia Bibi (who spent eight years in prison before finally being acquitted) were assassinated, the threat is very real, not only for the judges who freed Bibi, but for her, her family, and the entire Christian community in Pakistan. Just a little over two years ago the terrible Easter bombing which targeted Christians in Lahore and killed

seventy-four devastated the nation and brought international attention to the tensions there. Only the Prince of Peace can bring peace to this and any other nation suffering from religious, political, or ethnic violence. Our second crusade was held on October 6, and while the results were more modest, one-hundred and twenty-eight came to Christ, and there were more healings and dramatic deliverances. In all, between three and

four hundred have been saved and there is still more to come.

Our next crusade, scheduled for Wednesday, November 7, will have already occurred by the time this article is published, and plans are underway to assist in discipling those who are coming to Christ. Temporary Bible schools are being planned by my friends there, and my desire is to begin to produce materials to assist their



spiritual growth. One book I wrote some time back can be translated into Urdu for only \$250. We are raising money to assist with this and other areas of need. Indeed, one of the greatest needs now is for Bibles which are in great demand. Even though we sent what money we could to help with this, our friends there have still only been able to give one in five a Bible. This is not nearly enough, so we are endeavoring to raise up partners to

help get Bibles into the hands of those making commitments to Christ.

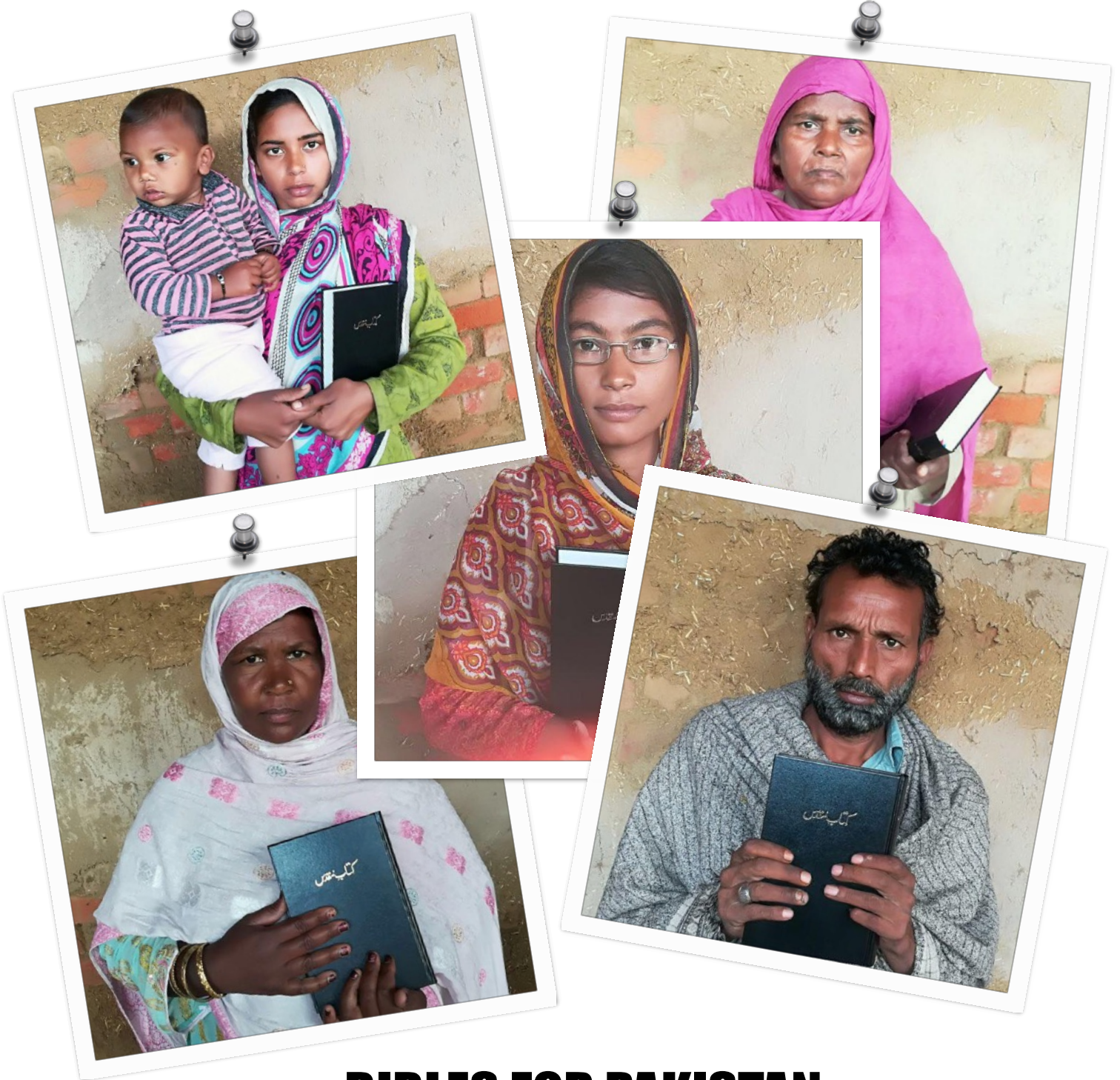
This is the very reason we founded *Connection Point Communications*: to reach those needing heaven's answers to life's challenges. I cannot think of a better way to invest ourselves than in seeing God turn a nation to Himself. This is the reason you and I have been born into this time. Let us not miss the opportunities that God has afforded to

us in these last days.

My television ministry to India began with a low-end camcorder and a set that would have made any production designer cry. Our ministry in Pakistan is done with a bedsheet for a screen. Still, lives are being changed and the best is yet to come! If you would like to help us reach the nation of Pakistan, the information on the next

page will tell you how you can.

Author's Note: *In addition to the crusades and associated needs, Connecting Point Church has been supporting the Christian orphanage sponsored by John and Rachel. To feed these children only takes about \$11 per child per month. If you would like to support the children of Pakistan, simply indicate your desire when you give. All proceeds will go as directed unless left to the discretion of CPC.*



BIBLES FOR PAKISTAN

These pictured are among some of those fortunate enough to receive a Bible in our crusade. However, the demand is great and the supply is nowhere close to meeting the need. Only one in five have received Bibles. If you would like to contribute, send your tax-deductible gift to *Connecting Point Communications*, at **randylanebunch.org/donate**. One-hundred percent of your gift will go to our friends in Pakistan to purchase Bibles for those who respond in the meetings.

We are also raising money for the translation of materials as well as transportation for those living in remote regions who must be bussed in to these meetings. If you would like to donate to any of these needs, please indicate it when you give. All gifts are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated. Together, we can make a difference!

PIONEER BUSINESS PLANTING

BY VICKY WARREN



How *MissionNext* is bringing business and church planting together in developing nations to make a way for the gospel and changing lives both naturally and spiritually.

Kingdom Business, Business as Mission (BAM), Business on Mission (BOM), Business for Transformation (B4T), Business for Missions (B4M), and Missional Business (MB). These are just a few of the terms used when describing the activity of business as a High Calling. Prior to 2010 I had never heard of any of these terms. In 2010, I attended a class on Pioneer Church Planting, and as a professional who spent 33 years in the Marketplace, I immediately began to see the parallels between Church Planting and

Business Planting. The methodology, the practices, and the strategies were so in alignment that I was quite motivated to learn more. During that same year, I also learned there were approximately 1.5 billion people who had never heard the name "Jesus." I was so shocked and burdened by this statistic that I began to pray and seek information and understanding. How could this be in the 21st century? My heart was broken. As a believer, I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow a calling, to use the experiences that I

had been given to extend the reach of the Gospel by strategically and intentionally combining the strategies of business and church planting. Thus began an eight-year journey that led me to develop and deliver Pioneer Business Planting in 40 countries, involving hundreds of church planters and a diverse array of denominations and mission agencies.

In 2011, I was introduced to several Asian and African Church Planters through a couple of connections; it didn't take long to realize there were

many barriers for Church Planters working among Unengaged People groups. An Unengaged People group is one that has no access to a church, no missionaries among them, no access to a Bible in their local language, and significant access obstacles. As I met with these church planters, I often heard comments such as, "I want to go and live among the people, but I do not have the financial means to even feed my family," or "I do not have a legitimate reason to be in their village or city."

As I began to seek solutions, the Lord birthed the idea of Pioneer Business Planting. Pioneer Business Planting is the practice of entering a community, assessing the need for products and services that are not available and determining the viability of a unique, profitable, and legitimate business. There are two reasons you want to identify a "unique" business: first, as a light in the community, you do not want to alienate yourself as a competitor to a local family, and secondly, you want to provide value.

Pioneer Business Planting is very focused and frontier-minded (Asia and Africa). We work with long-term teams on the ground to increase the probability of success, and we focus on equipping and enabling Church Planters to conduct business well and

Planter realizes that they are not running a business as a platform for doing ministry but that the business *is* the ministry, there is always a breakthrough.

Despite the amazing results, there are still obstacles. Extending the reach of the Gospel through

Pioneer Business Planting among Unengaged Peoples is often difficult for a number of reasons, including, but not limited to, governmental policy, limited logistical access, other dominate religions that are often hostile to the message of the Gospel, and cultural and language barriers.



transform their own thinking about business. Globally, there has been a great divide between the secular and the sacred; church activities were sacred and business activities were categorized as secular. In other words, a believer could conduct business as the world conducted business, and that was acceptable. If you were to water down the milk to extend the profit or cheat the customer, that was considered shrewd business practice and had no impact on one's walk as a believer. Yet the reality is, it does. When a Church

Pioneer Business Planting always strives to provide a pathway around these obstacles.

Now almost eight years later, we have seen over 200 businesses planted in over 40 countries among Unengaged People groups. We have witnessed transformation as ethical businesses become a light in the local communities. We have observed families coming to Christ through the efforts of the Business Planters as they have lived out their faith through the way they conduct business.

The interesting fact is that we never advertise, nor do we have a website to refer someone to – every invitation is by divine introduction and divine invitation, and we have more invitations than we can meet. Thus, I have moved into a new season of multiplication. Now that we understand Pioneer Business Planting, we are seeking to invest in others, and especially the next generation, in order to multiply the efforts and meet the needs of the field. We are in a season of transition while keeping our eye on

the importance of the marketplace and ministry. As we see in the Gospels, Christ spent much of His time ministering in the marketplace. And, of the twelve original apostles that Jesus called, most were businessmen – not synagogue ministers. Six were fishermen operating established businesses in Galilee, one was a tax man in Capernaum, one a zealot and another was a doctor. Jesus himself was a craftsman. Throughout the New Testament we see the Gospel message

being shared in the marketplace as business was being conducted. There is significance in the role of business in Kingdom efforts, and those planting businesses put all their heart into work that brings Christ's love to people in the marketplace. They find the amazing power of the Holy Spirit at work in them as they conduct legitimate, viable and profitable businesses. They witness God moving in and through their businesses to make His name known among the nations.



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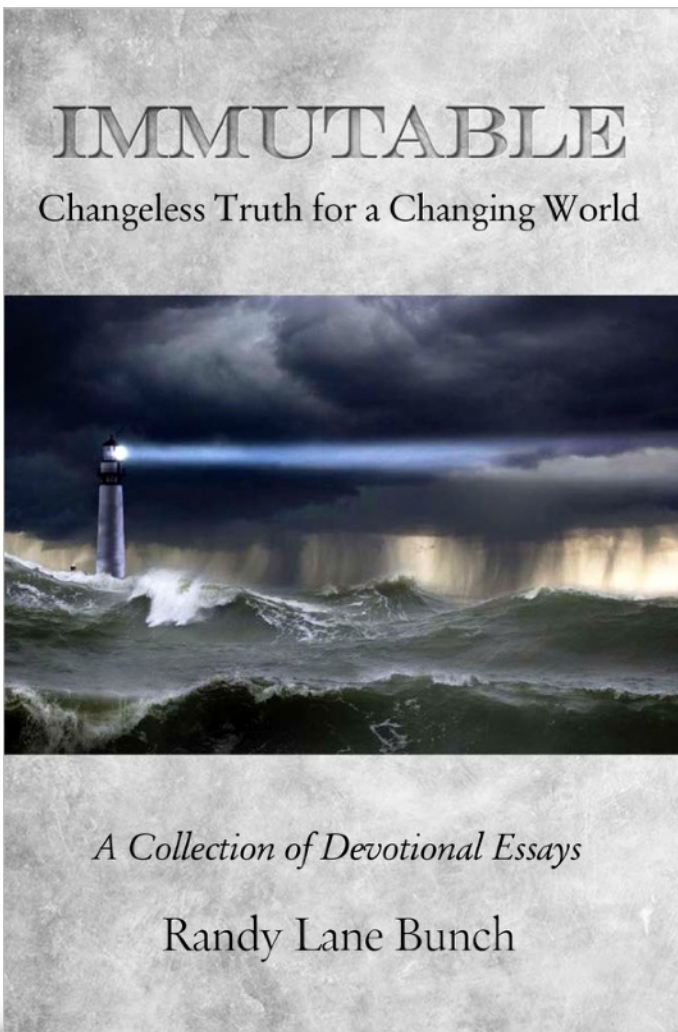
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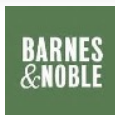
Author, Randy Lane Bunch

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.

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MISSIONS, TECHNOLOGY, AND RELATIONSHIPS IN THE 21ST CENTURY



BY DR. TIM MCKITTRICK

In August of 2018, three members of *World Ministry Fellowship* set out to the Democratic Republic of Congo to represent their organization at the ordination service for new ministers of a member church in Kinshasa. WMF President Brian Sharp, Executive Director Tim McKittrick and Pastor Jim McCool (formerly a missionary to the Congo and this particular church) were interested in assessing their organization's scope and efficacy in order to facilitate planning for future development options in the region. *World Ministry Fellowship* (WMF) is a cooperative fellowship of ministers and churches that provides its members with community and fellowship, credentials and oversight, professional development and empowerment.

Currently with approximately 650 members in the US and over 5,000 worldwide, WMF leadership is working to develop an operational plan to address the technological changes, societal challenges, and amazing opportunities the 21st century offers Christian Ministries.

Ephesians Chapter 4 teaches about the purpose God intends for those called into the 5-fold ministry. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.... So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers to equip his people for works of service so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and

become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:1-13).

It is the purpose of the 5-fold ministry to equip the saints to do the work of the ministry. As a ministry organization, WMF understands that in order for people to fulfill their God-given call to ministry, they must be recognized, equipped, encouraged, and empowered. This is what facilitates the works of service that build up the body of Christ. The trip to the Congo was planned to help develop a strategy that would explore the possibilities technology provides in creating and developing discipleship, training programs and other ministry opportunities.

As an organization, WMF



offers fellowship, and of course licensing and ordination, but it is also incumbent upon it to provide discipleship as well. It seems reasonable to assume that the most effective discipleship happens, not because information is transferred or downloaded, but because a new level of ministerial or spiritual understanding or competency is reached. These new levels of understanding normally flow out of relationship. The miracle of modern technology allows ministers in the 21st Century to develop relationships with people in other parts of the world. A person's ability to affect change is no longer limited by their geographical position, but by their willingness to connect with others. Of course, relationships can vary in depth and description, but their influence should not be

underestimated. True discipleship flows from relationship, and technology can greatly assist the global interactions necessary to develop life-giving relationships. Even though we know that technology

cannot become a substitute for being physically present in the process of building relationships, it can most certainly enhance and develop them when we are not able to be present physically.

The WMF team went to Africa to represent the organization at their ordination service and to meet with the local ministry leaders there about how to best position WMF to assist them in the future – both when present in person and when geographically distant. What they found there gave

them great joy.

For decades, former WMF International Missions Director, Charles Rogers, has invested in the work of missions, especially in the continent of Africa. The work he established in Cameroon, Liberia, and where the team visited in the Congo, continues to grow under the leadership of the WMF All Africa Director Floribert Mawit, and Country Directors Bishop Jonathan Muhuela, Bishop Desire Bansenga and others God has raised up over the years. The team was encouraged to find hundreds of WMF members at meetings in both Kinshasa, the capital of DRC, and Brazzaville, the capital of ROC. During the time there they had the opportunity to speak to a large ordination celebration of hundreds of people and ordain 23 new WMF ministers in Kinshasa. They spent the next week training 230 WMF ministry leaders in Brazzaville and preaching in churches in the evenings and on Sundays as well.






The opportunity for the church and WMF in these regions is staggering. WMF is now present in 16 countries in Africa and has interest from 5 more that would like to affiliate with WMF immediately. These ministry leaders preside over hundreds of churches, new church plants, and many, many new young pastors in need of Biblical teaching, ministry training, and encouragement. The purpose of this trip was to learn how to begin developing strategy to tackle the immense opportunities that are being presented and direct WMF into another fruitful season in these regions. While the challenges of limited technological infrastructure around the world still need to be fully addressed, the future of global communications, social media and technologically enhanced discipleship is certainly ready to be more fully explored. Smartphone apps and cellular texting are now providing connections through

satellites and local wifi hubs where access to a hardwire internet connection may not yet be available. The WMF team is now working to develop an infrastructure where, through technology, the relationships developed in person can grow and amplify the benefit of the regular

mission trips the organization can provide. Discipleship, Bible instruction, ministry training, recognition, encouragement and empowerment can all benefit from an increased cooperation between our personal and technological interactions.

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. The only limitation to the Body of Christ fulfilling this command is quickly becoming our imagination and ability to see, understand and act on the opportunities presented to us. The next generation of global ministry leaders are out there, and it will certainly be exciting to see God's plan for equipping them come to pass!





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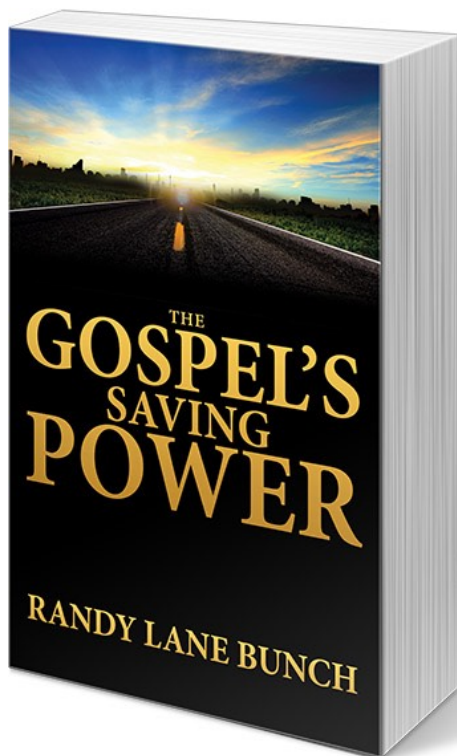
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SAVING TRUTH

"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.

COMPETENT IN YOUR CONTEXT

DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH



While we celebrate the work of missions the world over, we don't want to forget that for many of God's people, their primary mission field will be the people in their own neighborhoods – for some in the very place where they grew up. We must always remember the world in our own backyard.

"AND HE HAS MADE FROM ONE BLOOD EVERY NATION OF MEN TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND HAS DETERMINED THEIR PREAPPOINTED TIMES AND THE BOUNDARIES OF THEIR DWELLINGS, SO THAT THEY SHOULD SEEK THE LORD, IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT GROPE FOR HIM AND FIND HIM, THOUGH HE IS NOT FAR FROM EACH ONE OF US." (ACTS 17:26-27)

God is the One who determined your context; the environment, culture, and even the time into which you were born. He put you when and where He did so that you might seek Him and find Him. Some of us might question whether the particular condition into which we were born was really the best for our spiritual search, but God knows what we do not. His placement of you was significant to His purposes for your life.

Context plays an enormous role in influencing our lives. It does much to determine who we become and how our lives and values will be shaped. For example, the writer of the Proverbs said, "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20). Paul said something similar when he said, "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (1 Corinthians 15:33). The people who

influence us as we develop are a huge part of the context that shapes us. We will rise or fall to the level of our associations. If we are raised in an environment of intellectual curiosity, we will most likely grow up asking questions, reading widely, and being interested in new people and new places. If we were raised in a community without much outside influence, we might grow up suspicious of viewpoints or

perspectives that step outside the boundaries of what was the conventional wisdom of those who influenced us most.

Paul, being a citizen of Rome, a very cosmopolitan city, as well as being a well-traveled and educated man, found it easier than some might to identify with a wide range of people. He speaks of his efforts to find points of connection with those he encountered so that he might find an avenue for the gospel. He said, "...to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake..." (1 Corinthians 9:20-23).

Paul was not being disingenuous when he behaved like a chameleon, conforming his communication efforts to match the culture he was addressing. He was merely being relevant. We've all probably found those to whom we simply could not connect. Maybe they were from a different part of the world or from a very different culture or ethnicity with which we had little

affinity. We are all different, and while it's good to try to gain an understanding of other people and their worldview or way of life, we will always feel more at home among those most like us. This is not necessarily a bad thing. After all, God is the one who made the determination of when and where you would be born and by what culture you would be shaped. This is the very reason that missionaries spend more time training indigenous believers to reach their own people than trying to do all the evangelizing themselves. They've learned that those who already know the language, culture, and are at home in their surroundings, make the best missionaries.

This in no way is to discourage any of us from trying to gain a better understanding of people from other places who think and believe very differently from us. On the contrary, with the global community getting smaller every day by virtue of our connectivity through technology, it is more important than ever to be culturally sensitive to people who come from a very different context than our own. However, we should also realize that, like any other indigenous missionary, you have great potential for influence in the place where God planted you.

My mother, who was an enormous influence on my own spiritual life, used

to get frustrated with people that thought they had to go somewhere other than their own hometown to be used by God. There is often an assumption that if we are going to find our place in the world, it has to be somewhere other than where we were born and shaped. I am saying, "Not so." Some of us had to go away and see much of the world outside before we could truly appreciate the folks back home.

God planted you where He did for His purpose, and He allowed you to be shaped by the culture and context into which He placed you that you might be uniquely equipped to identify with those around you and communicate the gospel effectively. Even Jesus was born a Jew that He might first reach out to God's covenant people. His dress, language and mannerisms would have been profoundly Jewish, enabling Him to better reach the people to whom he was sent (see Matthew 15:24).

Now we, the worldwide body of Christ, are everywhere, in every context, that we might together reach the world for Christ. You may very well find yourself serving God in a very different place from where you started, but if not, realize that God kept you close to your roots to reach those who share that special heritage with you.

This article was an excerpt from Dr. Randy's devotional book, *Immutable: Changeless Truth For a Changing World*.



LAST WORD:

DR. RANDY LANE BUNCH

REDISCOVERING THE RELEVANCE OF OUR MESSAGE IN A NATION AND AT A TIME IN WHICH SOME WANT TO LEAVE THE CHURCH BEHIND...

Regardless of the field in which we labor, and despite the new technologies that come along to improve the means of communication, the message of hope in Christ is the same. All of us are a part of a great gospel tradition in which many have played their part. Styles and methods have changed and adapted as need has arisen, but the message of redemption remains the same.

David Livingstone took the message to Africa and William Carey to India. George Whitefield lit the fires of revival in pre-revolutionary America with it, and Paul proclaimed it before Agrippa. Two things have been consistently true over all the centuries of gospel work: persecution has hounded both message and messenger, and lives have been transformed as the power of the gospel has removed the blackness of sin from the human heart. Many have paid the ultimate price to bring the message to unreached people groups, while others found themselves rejected by friends and family right here in the land of the free,

simply for choosing to put their faith in Christ.

Today, my heart breaks for my own nation. Much of our attention at *Connecting Point Communications* is given to communicating through the printed page, as well as teaching in various venues from churches to Bible college classes, to help equip believers for the current challenges we face in our nation.

While America has lost some of what made her great in generations past, there are reasons to have great hope for the future. While many have only seen the negative in the emerging generation, their desire for authenticity and their willingness to give themselves to what they see as a worthy cause are admirable. Where can a better place be found than the Church for utilizing these traits? The gospel cause is one of genuine, eternal significance, unlike the more trendy, politically correct causes, such as climate control and gender identity. It is true that the Church has struggled in this postmodern era in which all

truth claims are looked upon with skepticism and many bristle at what they perceive to be the intolerance of Christians. Certainly, the challenges in our day are different and, to many, bewildering.

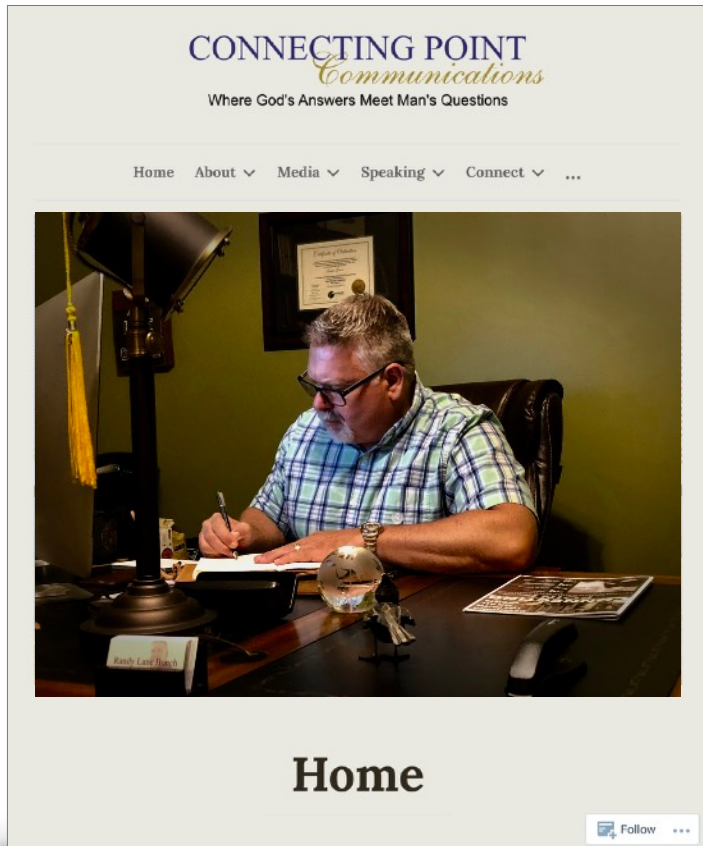
It seems that we are seldom speaking the same language as that of the culture around us, and there are many committed to see that disconnect continue so that the gospel is seen to be hopelessly antiquated and utterly irrelevant. The good news, however, is that the needs of mankind have not changed, and just because our society wants to redraw the lines of right and wrong doesn't mean the universe God created will play along.

Even in this age of materialism, where religious faith in the butt of atheists' jokes and our media marginalizes people of faith, the inner cry of humanity is for real answers to the big questions of life. This world does not have those answers. Jesus does. Our jobs are secure for the fields are still white unto harvest, and the gospel is still the power of God to save.

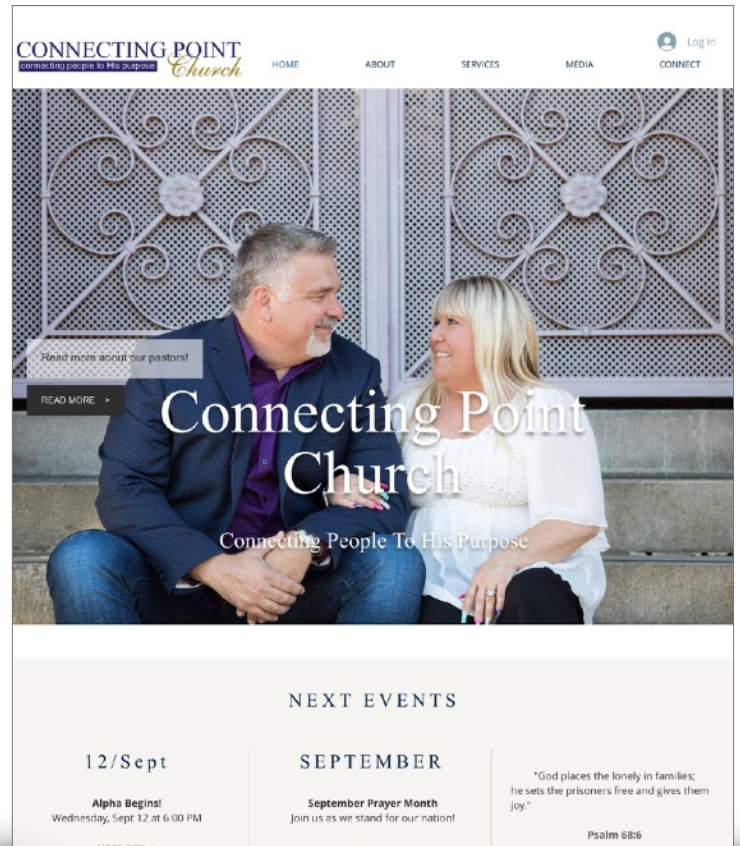
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From the beginning it has been our vision to provide resource rich websites and materials that will minister to the needs of God's people. From these sites you can access our podcast, discover our radio program air date and time, as well as read our 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. 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.

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