

Born to Connect

We are living in a world experiencing a tremendous CRISIS OF CONNECTION! (Or, more accurately, one of "dis-connection".) It's not that the cultural trauma of a pandemic, a political transition, social injustice or economic instability created this crisis - mostly, it exposed how shallow, how fragile, or how lacking our connections actually are. We won't bother to cite statistics, percentages, or numbers... rather, just think - how many times a week do you say or hear it said, "I'm so tired, so lonely, so empty. Everything is out of sorts, everyone is so angry. People are overheated—there's so much friction!"

Have we forgotten that Jesus said, "In this world you will have friction!" (See Jo 16:33) Didn't Paul say "the whole world is groaning under the weight of such friction?" (Ro 8:22) What if Peter is correct in saying, "After you have suffered friction for a little while... God will perfect, confirm, strengthen, and establish you." (I Pet 5:10) Are we even interested in listening to James when he tells us, "Count it all joy when you encounter the friction of life..."? (Ja 1:2-4) What can Paul and Peter and James mean except "God means it! This world is not your home - stop looking on earth for what exists only in heaven. He will redemptively use it to draw and press us into our internal and eternal connection with Him. It is the sound of His Voice calling us to tune and turn to His uncommon (= holy!) sense in the midst of what gives every appearance of senselessness."

The world may seem to be such an impersonal place, but "in Christ" is a very personal place to call home. The world appears to be meaningless, but "in Christ" is always a meaningful place to abide. The world can be a very insecure place, but "in Christ" is an eternally secure habitat for humanity. Ecclesiastes 9:4 puts it this way, "For whoever is joined with the living, there is hope!"

The only reason for inviting anyone to come to Christ is for the purpose of Christ coming into them. Creating an eternal union, a living oneness, a fully personal connection of the Uncreated God and the re-created creature. We all started separated, dis-connected from God. At our first birth we were all born incomplete. We tried to organize around and orient ourselves to the created, but it was never enough. Having been "created with eternity in our hearts" (Ecc 3:11), we were made with an eternal "itch" that only the Uncreated could "scratch". We were made to be connected to Eternal Life, to God's quality (and quantity) of Life - unfading, non-degrading, incorruptible, forever Life.

It is His great delight to connect us who believe in His Son to Himself (I Jo 5:11,12). As the lost "sheep", lost "coins", and lost "sons" of Luke 15, we don't have to beg Him to come and find us. He is always seeking us, ever ready to rejoice with songs of recovery when any one of us believes into the gift of His Son He is ever ready to grace to us (Lk 15:6,9-10, 32; Zeph 3:17). All who receive Him enter into an indivisible, indestructible connection with the One True God (Jo 17:21-23). We enter into a new world. One with a holy constant of incorruptible Love, an immutable North Star of unchangeable Truth, and an un-fluctuating source of life supplied with everything pertaining to life and godliness.

Stop and take a deep breath of the Spirit of Life. Pause and sip a cool drink of Living Water. Periodically recalibrate your inner compass to True North. Dine regularly with the Bread of Life. And see if it is not true, "Whoever is connected with the Living One, there is hope."

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• Tax-deductible contributions -

may be made to *One In Christ, Inc.*

13820 NW 172nd Ave, Alachua, FL 32615

• Messages and sermons by Steve -

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• To receive this newsletter electronically -

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Praise Reports & Prayer Requests



Please inform us of any changes to your address



Greetings

Once again I would like to thank you for your personal, prayerful and financial support as we enter into the 35th year of sharing "Christ in you, the hope of glory." Through conferences and retreats, local church teaching and preaching, family and vocational ministry events, and one-on-one counseling, we have been able to enlarge this liberating awareness of "Christ our Life" in so many ways and so many places.

People ask me frequently, "How do you do it? You don't have a website, you don't set charges or costs, you don't do fund raisers, you don't advertise your services. How does this happen?" The answer is simple, "I don't know... but I know Who does know."

I can't make this happen, but I know Who can! No word of God is without His power. No God assigned ministry is done apart from His people. God keeps making a righteous way for this to continue. His people continue to affirm, support, encourage and even confront and challenge. Thank you Lord for Your desire and energy. Than you - God's people - for your encouraging participation and generous support. None of this could be done without either!

CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

3-5 Heritage Fellowship, Fruitland Park, FL
(men's retreat - 352-431-3935)
14 Alachua Study
12,19,26 First Baptist Church Alachua
24-26 Florida Retreat (see below)
28 Ocala Study

APRIL

21-23 Binghamton, NY (607-341-6062)

↓ Last Chance to Sign Up ↓

FLORIDA RETREAT

February 24, 25, 26, 2023

Alachua, Florida

*"Eternally Connected: Living with
Uncommon Sense in a Senseless World"*

**Deadline for reservations with \$50 per person deposit
will be January 27th, 2023**

\$325 couple

\$170 single (2 to a room)

\$270 single (1 to a room)

Includes:

lodging, conference fee, Saturday dinner and 2 breakfasts

\$30 person conference fee (no lodging, no meals)

\$50 person fee and Saturday dinner

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