

CREATING CONNECTIONS-
REACHING OUT LIKE JESUS
(ONTARIO CONFERENCE
11/05/2023)
DR KIRK THOMAS
BRITISH UNION
CONFERENCE

**WHAT REALLY MOVES GOD TO
TEARS? WHAT CAUSES HIS HEART
TO ACHE WITH DESIRE? WHAT IS
THE REAL LONGING AND PASSION
OF JESUS CHRIST?**



CREATING CONNECTIONS- REACHING OUT LIKE JESUS

- A CREDIBLE MESSAGE NEEDS A CREDIBLE MESSENGER BECAUSE CHARISMA WITHOUT CHARACTER IS CATASTROPHE.”
- (PETER KUZMIC)



CREATING CONNECTIONS-REACHING OUT LIKE JESUS

- ▶ **EPHESIANS 2:14 “FOR CHRIST HIMSELF HAS BROUGHT PEACE TO US. HE UNITED JEWS AND GENTILES INTO ONE PEOPLE WHEN, IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE CROSS, HE BROKE DOWN THE WALL OF HOSTILITY THAT SEPARATED US.”**



CREATING
CONNECTIONS-REACHING
OUT LIKE JESUS

- **COLOSSIANS 1:20**
AND THROUGH HIM
TO RECONCILE TO
HIMSELF ALL THINGS,
WHETHER THINGS ON
EARTH OR THINGS IN
HEAVEN, BY MAKING
PEACE THROUGH THE
BLOOD OF HIS CROSS.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- ▶ WE ARE LIVING IN A POLITICALLY POLARIZED, MORALLY RELATIVIZED, MEDIA-DOMINATED WORLD. DISAGREEING WITH PEOPLE IS OFTEN INTERPRETED AS HOSTILITY; PREACHING ON SEXUAL PURITY IS INCREASINGLY BEING HEARD AS HATE SPEECH; AND ACCUSATIONS OF DISCRIMINATION SEEM TO NEVER END, NO MATTER WHAT WE SAY OR DO.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS –
BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

**MEANWHILE, SOCIAL MEDIA IS
REDEFINING HOW WE TALK TO ONE
ANOTHER. IT IS VERY EASY FOR
SPIRITUAL LEADERS TO FEEL
HELPLESSLY OUTSHOUTED AND
OUTMUSCLED BY THE CULTURE IN
GENERAL.**



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING
CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

➔ **INTO THIS MIX COMES THE
PERFECT BARRIER BREAKER,
CHANGE MAKER - JESUS -
PERSON BY PERSON, DAY BY DAY,
JESUS IS STILL PUSHING AGAINST
THE HEADWINDS OF PREVAILING
CULTURE — AND WINNING.**



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- **IT STARTS WITH HOW JESUS VALUES PEOPLE OVER SOCIAL NORMS OR INSTITUTIONAL STEREOTYPING. HE DOESN'T LABEL PEOPLE, BUT HE VERY PERSONALLY LOVES AND REDEEMS THEM. HE LOOKS AT EVERY PERSON THROUGH THE LENS OF CREATED DIGNITY.**



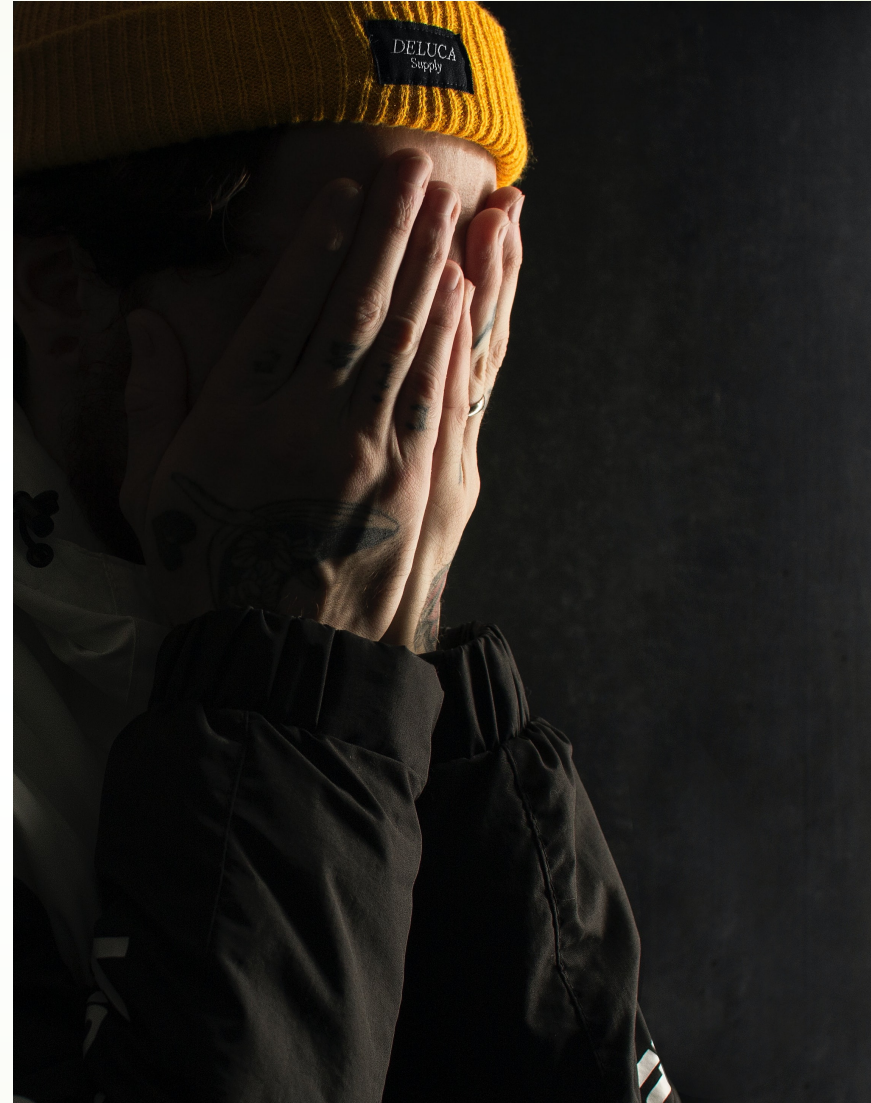
BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS
– BUILDING CONNECTIONS
LIKE JESUS

- **MATT. 9:35 – 38 (JESUS HAD COMPASSION ON THE MULTITUDE)**
- **MATT. 8:5-13 (ROMAN CENTURION)**
- **MARK 10:13-16 (JESUS AND CHILDREN)**
- **MATT. 15:21-28 (THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN & HER DAUGHTER)**



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- **“THE POOR EXPRESS THEIR GRATITUDE NOT BY SAYING THANKS BUT BY ASKING FOR MORE” YANCEY (FINDING GOD IN UNEXPECTED PLACES)**
- **WHY DO THE POOR NOT SAY THANKS BUT ASK FOR MORE?**
- **SHAME IN BEING CONSTANTLY IN NEED OF HELP.**



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS



CANCEL CULTURE

- PITY – PIETY (PIOUS) – THIS WORD ONCE DENOTED A HIGH FORM OF SACRIFICIAL LOVE. NOW IT IS VIEW WITH SCORN, EVEN BY THOSE WHO NEED IT.
- CHARITY – GOVERNMENTS STILL BELIEVE THIS WORD – BUT NO ONE WANTS TO BE A CHARITY CASE.
- CONDESCEND – PHIL. 2:5-7 – WHO WANTS TO BE REFERRED TO AS CONDESCENDING!



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- **PATRONISE – RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER DICTIONARY (TO BEHAVE IN AN OFFENSIVELY CONDESCENDING MANNER).**
- **PATERNALISM – PATER OR FATHER – BUT NOW THE IMAGE IS OF ONE WHO IS STOOPING DOWN IN A SUPERIOR WAY TO HELP SOMEONE.**



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

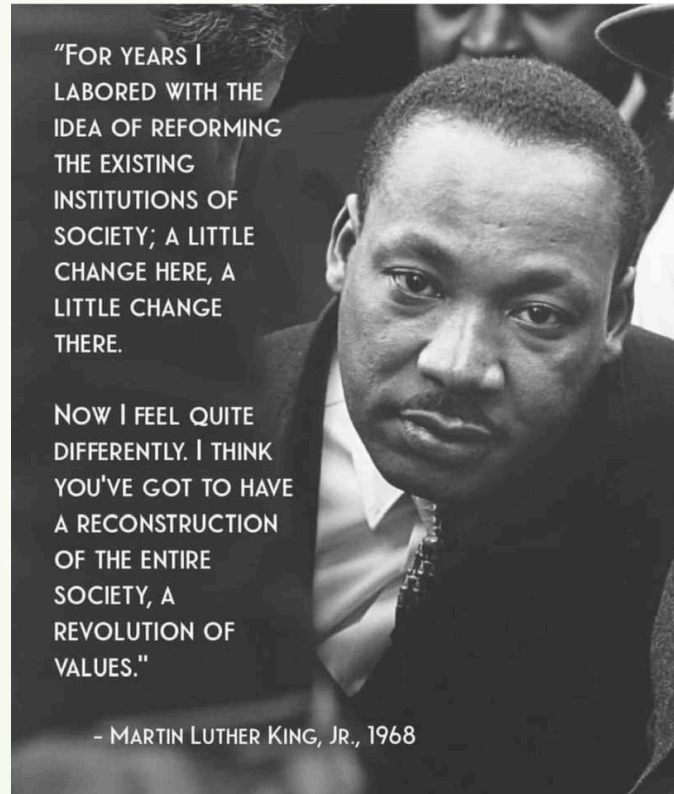
- **THE WORDS HAVE CHANGED SIMPLY BECAUSE WE CHRISTIANS HAVE FAILED SO OFTEN AND SO BADLY AT THE CHALLENGING TASK OF GIVING.**
- **CHINESE PROVERB – “NOTHING ATONES FOR THE INSULT OF A GIFT BUT THE LOVE OF THE GIVER.”**

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS
– BUILDING CONNECTIONS
LIKE JESUS

- ▶ THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO ELIMINATE THE GAP BETWEEN GIVER & RECEIVER – RECOGNISE THAT ALL OF US ARE NEEDY BEGGERS SUSTAINED BY GOD.
- ▶ THERE IS BUT ONE TRUE GIVER IN THE UNIVERSE; ALL ELSE ARE DEBTORS.



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS



WE WELCOME

ALL RACES AND ETHNICITIES
ALL RELIGIONS
ALL COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
ALL GENDER IDENTITIES
ALL SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS
ALL ABILITIES AND DISABILITIES
ALL SPOKEN LANGUAGES
ALL AGES
EVERYONE.

**WE STAND HERE WITH YOU
YOU ARE SAFE HERE**

* Content adapted from the original "We Welcome" sign created by IPRC members Lisa Mangum and Jason Leviati.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- DEVELOP A MISSIONARY MENTALITY THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.
- 1COR. 9:19-23 - ¹⁹ FOR THOUGH I AM FREE FROM ALL PEOPLE, I HAVE MADE MYSELF A SLAVE TO ALL, SO THAT I MAY GAIN MORE. ²⁰ TO THE JEWS I BECAME AS A JEW, SO THAT I MIGHT GAIN JEWS; TO THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW, I BECAME AS ONE UNDER THE LAW, THOUGH NOT BEING UNDER THE LAW MYSELF, SO THAT I MIGHT GAIN THOSE WHO ARE UNDER THE LAW. ²¹ TO THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT THE LAW, I BECAME AS ONE WITHOUT THE LAW, THOUGH NOT BEING WITHOUT THE LAW OF GOD BUT UNDER THE LAW OF CHRIST, SO THAT I MIGHT GAIN THOSE WHO ARE WITHOUT THE LAW. ²² TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE WEAK; I HAVE BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE, SO THAT I MAY BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME. ²³ I DO ALL THINGS FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL, SO THAT I MAY BECOME A FELLOW PARTAKER OF IT.

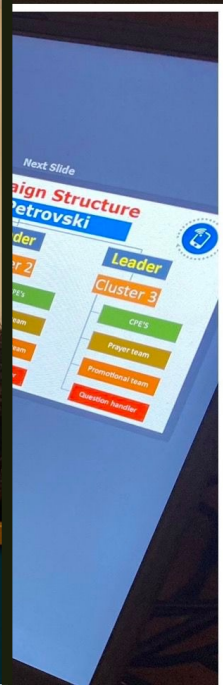


BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

➔ TENTS OF HOPE

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

CELL PHONE MINISTRY



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- UNDERSTAND THE IF – THEN CONCEPT (ISAIAH 58:6-9).
- IF- LOOSE THE CHAIN OF INJUSTICE
- IF - SET THE OPPRESS FREE
- IF – FOOD TO THE HUNGRY
- IF – SHELTER HOMELESS
- IF – CLOTH THE NAKED
- IF – CARE FOR YOUR OWN FLESH
- IF – QUIT MALICIOUS TALK
- IF – SPEND THE SABBATH IN MY WAY





BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- THEN: (GOD GIVES MORE)
- THEN – SHINE LIGHT ON YOU
- THEN – HEALING
- THEN– GO BEFORE AND BEHIND YOU
- THEN – ANSWER WHEN YOU CALL
- THEN – GUIDE YOU ALWAYS
- THEN – SATISFY YOUR NEEDS
- THEN - STRENGTHEN YOUR BONES
- THEN – WATER YOUR GARDEN
- THEN – RAISE UP A NEW GENERATION
- THEN – BRING HONOUR TO YOU



BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS – BUILDING CONNECTIONS LIKE JESUS

- GOD'S ALGORITHM FOR LIMITLESS BLESSINGS – LARRY ULREY
- THE BIGGEST OBSTACLE TO BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS & CHANGE IS OURSELVES
- THERE IS STILL HOPE FOR ALL OF US THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

SELF REFLECTION & PRAYER



- AM I SATISFIED WITH WHO I AM?
- WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS YOU WANT GOD TO CHANGE IN YOU?
- DO YOU WANT GOD TO TAKE AWAY YOUR PREJUDICES AND UNCONSCIOUS BIASES?
- ARE YOU WILLING TO WORK WITH GOD ON HIS PREFERRED FUTURE FOR YOU?