

EASTER

CHANGES EVERYTHING

INFORMATION MEETING
FOLLOWING THE SERVICE

Special Easter Offering
SUN, APRIL 02, 2017

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

*Trade Your If Only Regrets for God's
What if Possibilities*

LAUNCH DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 21

BIBLE STUDY (Off Campus)

The following Bible studies are scheduled at Kimberly's in MARCH: Thursday, March 16, March 23, and March 30. Let Kimberly know if you plan to attend.

TOBYMAC
HITS



TOUR

Sears Centre / March 30, 2017



ORIGINAL

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

APRIL 27-29, 2017

You are enough

ROCKFORD FIRST-
NOW CITY CHURCH

CONNECTION CARD

Each week everyone will be asked to fill out a Connection Card in order to "MEASURE" our church in five key areas. There will be a summary report each week in the bulletin that identifies those five key metrics.

Please turn in your card each week. Members, leaders and guests will be asked to turn these in.



- Mar 05 » Daniel's Story
- Mar 12 » Hope: Where Courage is Birthed
- Mar 19 » Humility: How Credibility is Earned
- Mar 26 » Wisdom: The Power of Perspective

PRAYER REQUESTS ▶ THINKING-OF-YOU PRAYER

Breanna V. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kenny D. ▶ Neurological	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Danny L. ▶ Peace Corps	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trevor W. ▶ Afghanistan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Phyllis L. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ralph H. ▶ Fluid in the brain	<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert G. ▶ Mobility Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suzie S. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Maureen R. ▶ Shoulder Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Barb D. ▶ Bone Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patty L. ▶ Gall Bladder Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donald S. ▶ Addictions	<input type="checkbox"/>	George S. ▶ Chemo	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noe F. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michelle William's daughter ▶ Anxiety Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>

▶ URGENT PRAYER

Barb S. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ed Gearen ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Toni R. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Judi Gearen ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peggy K. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gearen Family ▶ Drawn closer to God	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emma G. ▶ Health Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cindy ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kathy T. ▶ Cancer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linda G.'s brother ▶ Critical Condition	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eric G. ▶ Back Injury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stein Family ▶ Salvation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sam H. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paul G. ▶ Cardiac Issues	<input type="checkbox"/>		

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"What's coming against me is only training for where God is taking me." —Steven Furtick

03/05/17

METRICS ▶ THAT MATTER

37

ATTENDANCE

11,975¹⁰

GIVING

1

GUESTS

17

VOLUNTEERS

0

DECISIONS FOR CHRIST

DANIEL

THRIVING IN BABYLON

H O P E
WHERE COURAGE IS BIRTHED

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. *Daniel 1:1-2*

Daniel is an incredible story of a young man whose world was turned upside-down by reason of the Babylonian captivity. He wrestled with questions that you and I wrestle with:

- ▶ How do we as Christians both interact and live with the world around us?
- ▶ How are we to be in the world but not of the world?
- ▶ How is our faith relevant to the real issues our world is facing?
- ▶ Where might there be a tension in your life as you are living in your cultural context?

HOW DOES DANIEL INTERACT WITH HIS CULTURE?

Responding to Culture

When uprooted and taken to Babylon, Daniel's response is instructive. He had **THREE** basic options in response to his captivity. Let's look at the possibilities:

AVOIDANCE

- ▶ Culture is evil. Everything out there is bad.
- ▶ There is nothing worthy of our time—music; arts; performance.
- ▶ So the message is remove ourselves.
- ▶ Stay huddled together.
- ▶ Watch Christian movies—listen to Christian songs—buy Christian products—woohoo!
- ▶ The solution is not to hunker down in Christian ghettos and hang out with one another.

ASSIMILATION

- ▶ Go all out—be part of the culture to the extent that no one knows that we are Christ-followers.
- ▶ Be so fluent in the culture that we don't look any different—there is nothing distinctive about us.
- ▶ There is no thoughtfulness or intentionality with how we engage with culture because we are a part of it.

▶▶▶▶▶ THE TENSION IS REAL... <<<<<<<

- ▶ But to assimilate into culture and never live in a way that reflects that Jesus has died and offers the promise of life eternal is not what God intended.

ENGAGEMENT

- ▶ *There is a third way to respond to culture and that is to engage the culture and yet remain distinctive as Christ-followers.*
- ▶ It takes courage because it is a walk of faith.
- ▶ The path of cultural engagement means that God has a plan for our lives.
- ▶ There are specific places and spaces that God intends for us to occupy.
- ▶ Daniel accepts his place in Babylon *without protest; without a chip on his shoulder; without running the other way; without losing his distinctive identity as one who had chosen to follow God.*

What's different about Daniel?

- ▶ He's not trying to run from Babylon.
- ▶ He's not trying to overtake it.
- ▶ He doesn't resist learning about their culture and their beliefs.
- ▶ He doesn't protest serving the king or being part of his inner circle.
- ▶ He fully engages the culture.
- ▶ He sees his training as an opportunity to become equipped in the language and culture of Babylon.

EASTER CHANGES EVERYTHING

INFORMATION SHEET

What's Taking Place in Advance? • Furniture repairs • Pew repairs
• Window repairs • Building clean-up

**Easter Offering
SUN, APRIL 2** Special offering designed to help us offset the added costs for repairs, promotion, and projects for Easter. Give that lives may be changed.

**Events for Easter
FRI, APRIL 14** Good Friday Service - a moving service helping us to focus on the sufferings of Christ and the triumph of the Cross.

**EASTER SUNDAY
SUN, APRIL 16** Easter Sunday Service - a service of music and the Word affirming Christ's resurrection and His power to set us free from sin, death, and bondages.

Photo Booth an incredible background for fun and engaging photos for you, your friends, and family.

Easter Egg Hunt for children/teens at Coleman School following the service. Cool gift cards in obvious and not-so-obvious places.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- 1 Easter Invites – You are asked to send five Easter Invite Cards to your circle of friends. Cards are on the table in rear of the auditorium. You provide the stamps. Follow up one week before Easter with a phone call or text.
- 2 Guest services – Baked goods are needed for the Coffee Bar for Easter.
- 3 Easter Offering – Give as you are able on Sunday, April 2.