

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Spring 2015

Looking Ahead

In Seattle

Earl Palmer Interprets St. Paul

Four Studies in Romans - Part II
First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma
Sept. 13, 20, 27, Oct. 4
9:15-10:15 a.m.

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

(Walker-Ames Room, Kane Hall, UW)
Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7
7-8:30 p.m.

Seminar on Expository Preaching

Princeton Theological Seminary
Nov. 4, 5, 6

Word and Worship

The Highlands Chapel
Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19
7:30-8:30 p.m.

Around the Nation

Merced Presbyterian Conference

The Book of II Timothy
Mt. Hermon, CA
Apr. 17, 18, 19

New College Lectures

The Book of Philippians
Berkeley, CA
May 2, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Register: www.newcollegeberkeley.org

Summer Service of Worship

Montreat Conference Center, NC
June 21

Around the World

C.S. Lewis Summer Study Week

Session I: July 11-17

Session II: July 19-25

Oxford, England

See Page 2 for details

Watch for details at www.earlpalmer.org

For more information,

Email info@earlpalmer.org

I've been thinking...patience is an undervalued and sometimes suspect virtue in a fast moving time like ours. I think one reason is that swiftness has become today's definer of best practices, especially where an immediate need requires immediate action. But even in non-emergency human encounters we often want and expect successful solutions for personal and interpersonal goals to happen as quickly as possible. Technology has enabled swiftness to become a norm.

There is a downside to this capability of the new norm when it comes to learning and creating and sifting and wondering. These human brain capabilities taken together describe wisdom, and they each have a friendly alliance with patience. Each takes time.

I am struck with this when I read the New Testament. Jesus seems unhurried in his ministry and even in the time of his post resurrection meetings with his disciples and especially Peter; that event happens with a non-immediacy cadence though we are aware of Peter's distress after his failure of courage on Good Friday. Peter is fishing at the lake of Galilee with other disciples; a breakfast is prepared and it is there that Peter, the one who fell so hard during the trial of his Lord and friend, is quietly restored to wholeness by Jesus, and to his original leadership too. (John 21).

St. Paul meets the risen Lord on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). In that swift restorative noontime flash of light, he learns that Jesus is alive and that Jesus knows the man Saul of Tarsus by name. Saul is overcome by that discovery and he speaks the words of immediate, present tense faith, "Lord what do you want me to do?" But then what he hears from Jesus is a non-immediate instruction: "Go to Damascus and you will find out."

Jesus is unhurried with both Peter and Paul. There is an important lag time preserved for each. As much as two years later Paul is found by his friend Barnabas in Tarsus and brought to Antioch. The rest of the story is the history that the Book of Acts and the letters of St. Paul unfold for us.

It is in fact patience that Paul will offer as advice to the believers at the city of Philippi in Paul's final letter to a church. "Let all people know your moderation, the Lord is alongside" (Phil. 4). This is not an urgency challenge but of an unflappable patience that knows and trusts the Lord of time.

Paul gives the same advice to his young friend Timothy in his last letter (II Timothy). He urges Timothy in the face of the dangerous stresses of the Roman world in the mid-sixties of the first century to take the time that it takes to teach the Word and the Words of the Gospel. He compounds the word "patience" for this young teacher with the adverb *pase*. "Be patient everywhere, every time." (II Timothy 4:2) Paul is convinced that the words of the good news have the ring of truth about them and that those words will win a hearing sooner or later; therefore, Timothy should take the time it takes to teach.

The Lord may choose swiftness when that is necessary, and if that happens we will rejoice in the experience of the acceleration at the core of love, faith, hope, and joy. But when patience slows everything down, we should welcome that cadence too.



At the weekend series on the Book of Revelation with Jon and Jackie Campbell - Sammamish Presbyterian Church

-Earl F. Palmer

The Seminar in Seattle: Expository Highlights



Attendee checking out the day's program

In February, Earl Palmer Ministries hosted the *Seminar in Seattle*, a full-day event uncovering and exploring the importance and art of expository teaching and preaching. Earl led the group of pastors and lay teachers in three teaching sessions. Responses followed from a handful of Northwest pastors: Eric Jacobsen, Rick Danner, Jeff Lincicome, Steve Blacksmith, and Doug Bunnell. Stephen Newby provided an inspiring demonstration of exposition through music. A vast range of attendees were present, including pastors, Community Bible Study leaders, Young Life staff, and many others. To give a feel of the event, here are a few snapshots from the day.

Marvin Charles from New Light Christian Church comments, "At first I felt as if I was in a room where everyone was on stilts (over my head) and I was the only that wasn't. Then Pastor Rick Danner, came over me to and said he noticed from the stage that I looked like I felt that I might not belong in this room. He went on to reassure me that I was right where I needed to

be. Shortly after that, Art Kopicky, Men's Teleios Ministry, came to me and said, "Marvin, isn't this great? Everything Earl is talking about you are doing on Wednesday morning?" This affirmation put me at ease. Once I settled down, Pastor Palmer really opened my eyes to a whole new way of looking at the scriptures and interpreting them. For an African American preacher, it was very enlightening for me."

Rick Danner, Senior Pastor of New Light Christian Center, said "The seminar was very refreshing and encouraging. Earl's ability to engage the audience, and explain the Bible in such a way that everyone listening understands the text is priceless."

Katie Tormey, who works with Young Life in Western Washington, said it this way: "I left the seminar with great tools to use in teaching. I also left with a desire to dig deeper into God's word and learn more of who He is. Earl and his team presented different styles of teaching that created a rich environment of learning. From reading to study to song, I felt the fullness of God's word come alive."



Earl - Making a point in EP fashion

This Is Your Chance to Experience the World of C.S. Lewis



The Kilns, the home of C.S. Lewis, Oxford

The C.S. Lewis Foundation presents two weeklong sessions this summer at The Kilns, home of C.S. Lewis in Oxford, England.

Resource speakers are Earl Palmer and Kim Gilnett.

Session 1: July 11-17

Session 2: July 19-25

(Note: This second week is a repeat of Session I).

Contact <http://www.cslewis.org/event/2015-summer-seminars/schedule/> SPACES ARE LIMITED.

IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING THIS ADVENTURE, REGISTER NOW.

Mark Your Calendar End of the Year: Word and Worship

Where: The Chapel at the Highlands

Series: The 10 Commandments and New Testament Faith

May 21: **The Grand Positive
Commandments 5 to 10**
(Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5)

Directions:

Enter at the corner of 3rd Ave. NW and N 145th St. Keep left, where you will be asked to give your name to the guard. Follow the signs to the chapel.

Fall: Word and Worship

Series: Seasons of Our Lives

Sept. 17: **The Gospel for Jews (Acts 2)**

Oct. 15: **The Gospel For Greeks (Acts 17)**

Nov. 19: **The Gospel For Romans (Acts 16)**

Plan to Start the Fall at First Presbyterian Church in Tacoma

Why: To hear how St. Paul encouraged first-century believers with the powerful strategy of contagious love and truth.

What: A Bible Study Class with Earl from the Book of Romans/ Session II - Chapters 12-16

When: Sunday Mornings 9:15-10:15 a.m.

Dates: September 13, 20, 27, and October 4

Where: On the corner at 20 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, WA

Parking is available.



Back again, as Pastor Emeritus, Earl returned to Manila to preach and visit Pastor Steve Ruetschle.

Princeton in the Fall and Look What's Happening...

Princeton Theological Seminary will host a seminar over three days to explore the case for exposition of the Bible in the preaching mandate for the church of today. The dates are Wednesday, November 4 through Friday, November 6. Earl is the main lecturer, and selected individuals will serve as responders after each session. Modeled after the *Seminar in Seattle* in February 2015, this event is open to pastors and Bible teachers through the Center for Continuing Education at the campus. Rev. Palmer explains the goal of exposition as “enabling a text in the Old and New Testament to make its own point within the whole witness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ so that the listener discovers the meaning for him or herself and then further, to affirm that message to people in the language of today.” Let your leaders know about this opportunity. For further information contact coned@ptsem.edu or (609) 497-7990.



Erdman Hall - the site for the fall Seminar

CONFERENCE IN TAIWAN FEATURES EXPOSITORY PREACHING



Earl with members of the Shen Family in front of poster honoring Dr. Paul Shen

Earl was honored to be a lecturer at the Paul Shen Memorial Conference in March. Simon Yu, son-in-law of Dr. Shen, sent these comments from pastors in attendance:

“Dr. Palmer’s teachings have encouraged me to study God’s Word systematically.”

“This conference is a true spiritual feast. It is quite an eye-opener for expository preaching.”

“I must learn to rightly divide the Word of God, and not to preach on the basis of my own whims. I’ve learned the importance of knowing the Biblical background. The conference has created a hunger for expository preaching.”

“We have gained new, profound insights on II Timothy through the study of history and Greek words.”

“We learned much, through studies of words in their original language. The message and the intent of Paul had become so much clearer.”

“Dr. Palmer’s rich knowledge has encouraged me to study my Bible much more seriously.”



**Come join us in Kane Hall
The Walker-Ames Room**

is located on the 2nd floor of Kane Hall at the University of Washington.

10/5/15 **After Ten Years: A Reckoning (1943)
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Letters and Papers from Prison

Edited By Eberhard Bethge

11/2/15 **An Imaginary Story by C.S. Lewis**

The Great Divorce

By C.S. Lewis

12/2/15 **Artist and Interpreter of the Bible,
Rembrandt van Rijn**

The Return of the Prodigal Son

By Henri Nouwen

To attend an event, please register at:
www.thekindlings.com/events

Each event is podcast and made available to download at:
www.thekindlings.com

Please visit The Kindlings Muse page at www.earlpalmer.org for detailed directions and instructions on parking, or email info@earlpalmer.org.

Dates and Time
7-8:30pm.

On the Road with EPM: An Exposure to Asian Hospitality

I served myself what appeared to be rice and steamed string beans; it wasn't until after the food was on my plate that I was told I had just served myself eel. Here I was with Earl in Taiwan where he was invited to give a week of lectures on expositional preaching. Our hosts, the Shen family, welcomed us with open arms when we arrived in Kaohsiung at The Holy Light Seminary. Throughout our opening meal together at a local restaurant I was impressed with the leadership present – earnest Christians from China, Hong Kong and the United States. As I assisted with the video production by operating a camera in the mornings and then attending Earl's classes every night, I learned about the challenges facing the Christian church in Taiwan – not unlike some of the challenges in my own country. I came to appreciate the importance and commitment to solid Bible teaching in the worldwide church.

When the week was over I traveled with Earl to Manila. A highlight of the trip was meeting Pastor Steve Ruetschle and his family there. I was really impressed by Steve and his ministry. Seeing Earl preach in his former church, the Union Church of Manila, was memorable because of the stories and photos I've seen of his time there. The food was great, the teaching was superb, but most of all the people of Taiwan and the Philippines made the most memorable and lasting impression in this amazing trip.

-Gray Segars



Daniel Luan, Earl's translator for the week, with Earl & Gray

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If you have any questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or email us at info@earlpalmer.org.

If you know of others who would like to receive this newsletter, or if you would prefer not to receive this mailing, email Gray at gray@earlpalmer.org.

Mission Statement

EPM's mission statement comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11: "Serving to encourage and build up in Christian faith." These words from the Apostle Paul inspire our ministry of teaching, writing, and mentoring. First, we seek to mentor young theologians through our internship program and monthly theological dialogues. Live podcasts through The Kindlings Muse offer regular teaching and conversation for all ages to consider major Christian themes. Word and Worship provides a setting for expositional teaching of the Bible and inspirational music. EPM's wider ministry focuses primarily on encouraging pastors and giving a case for expositional worship.

Your support makes this ministry happen. As we continue in this seventh year of ministry, we invite you to share in this outreach again with your prayers and your financial investment. To make a tax deductible contribution, please send a check made out to Earl Palmer Ministries, PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145, or electronically via PayPal or credit card at www.earlpalmer.org.

On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

Earl F. Palmer