

EARL PALMER MINISTRIES

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Serving to Encourage and Build Up in Christian Faith

Spring 2011

On Earl's Calendar

In Seattle

The Kindlings Muse Podcast*

Oct. 3: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Nov. 7: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Dec. 5: 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Theological Dialogue

Letters & Papers from Prison

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Oct. 5: 9 - 11 a.m.

Nov. 9: 9 - 11 a.m.

Dec. 7: 9 - 11 a.m.

Teleios Celebration*

University Presbyterian Church

Sept. 16: 6:30 p.m.

Chapel Service

Seattle Pacific University

Oct. 18

The Case for Expository Preaching & Expository Worship Conference*

Sheraton Hotel

Oct. 24 - 27

Around the Country

Laity Lodge Lay Retreat*

Leakey, Texas

July 7 - 10

Murdock Charitable Trust

Board Retreat

Portland, Oregon

Aug. 18

First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma*

Tacoma, Washington

Sept. 18: 8:30 a.m. & 11 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Tacoma*

Tacoma, Washington

Studies in St. Paul

Sept. 25 & Oct. 2: 9:50 a.m.

Sammamish Presbyterian Church*

Sammamish, Washington

The Book of Philippians for Today

Oct. 7 & 8

Sammamish Presbyterian Church*

Sammamish, Washington

Oct. 9: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Around the World

C.S. Lewis Foundation*

Seminars at "The Kilns"

Oxford, England

July 10 - 16

C.S. Lewis Summer Institute, Oxbridge

Oxford, England

July 26 - 28

* Contact info@earlpalmer.org for more information on this event

I've been thinking ... about relevance, and did I ever see it in living color in the 750+ men and women who make up the leadership of Young Life Canada. Recently, I had the honor of sharing four Bible studies from the book of Acts with the national conference. We examined the strategy of St. Paul for his time and ours. Over the subsequent three days, I met with a smaller group for an intensive study of the Gospel of John. All of these good people are committed to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with youth. And the youth across the land of Canada are responding. As I experienced the enthusiasm and dedication of these people, I picked up on their love and respect for youth and their clear and thoughtful attention to affirm the message of the Bible. These leaders do not focus on the edges of doctrine but keep centered on Jesus Christ as revealed in the scriptures. Being with these fun-loving and earnest Christian servants helped me to think about the whole family of believers and our churches in contemporary culture. We are all commanded by our Lord to share the good news and do so in the midst of the high winds of ideological confusion, the cultural isolation of people, and even the wrong reading of Scripture with predictions about the end of the world.

I am convinced that what our generation needs today is solid and winsome teaching of the Bible and preaching that gains its relevance from being faithful to the Living Center of all scripture, Old and New Testaments. That Living Center is Jesus Christ. No wonder I am looking forward to the October 24-27 conference here in Seattle "The Case for Expository Preaching in the Church Today." We need your help to get the word out and to financially support pastors who want to attend but whose budgets are small. Would you join with me and find ways in your Bible study group or fellowship to sponsor your pastors and worship leaders to attend? If you and your Christian friends could give to the study leave/conference budget at your church, it would be an investment in the message and ministry of your local congregation. We believe that this time together with national leaders will refresh and renew your staff to maintain the relevance of the message for our day. Visit our conference website at www.earlpalmer.org/conference.

—Earl F. Palmer

**THE CASE FOR
EXPOSITIONAL PREACHING
& EXPOSITIONAL WORSHIP
IN THE CHURCH TODAY**

A Conference for Pastors and Worship Leaders

OCTOBER 24-27, 2011
Seattle, Washington

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Speakers include (from left): Earl Palmer, Mark Abbott, Timothy George, Jack Haberer, Darrell Johnson, Cleophus LaRue, Bunice McGarrahan, & Mark Roberts

CELEBRATING THE RELEVANCE OF FAITHFUL EXPOSITION OF THE BIBLE



Please join my colleagues and me to:

- **Explore** preaching and worship, taught & practiced
- **Discover** the relevance of the biblical witness **here and now**
- **Interact** w/pastors & worship leaders impassioned towards change
- **Experience** the old and new testament in new ways
- **Worship** together in Christ-centered community

Meet the Hosts of the October Conference for Pastors & Worship Leaders: Q & A

What do you see as the main benefits for pastors and worship leaders in attending this conference? A.W. Tozer described worship as “the missing jewel,” and I view this conference as a time to rediscover a deeper integration of word and worship. Worship leaders will explore the deeper synergistic roots of worship. Pastors will get to see the ways in which the Bible is relevant in this world without flashy graphics or theological



compromise. We’ll get beyond fads and gimmicks to the essential elements of worship: word, mystery, and experience. **How might church members make it possible for their pastor and worship leaders to attend?** There is no better investment than one that helps your pastoral team learn together how to re-imagine worship and lead their congregation toward a richer shared experience of worship. If

Dick Staub is an award-winning broadcaster, writer, and founder of *The Kindlings*, a movement devoted to rekindling the creative, intellectual, and spiritual legacy of Christians in culture. For the past four years he has also served as Senior Pastor at the Orcas Island Community Church. His most recent book is *About You: Fully Human, Fully Alive*. For more information, visit www.DickStaub.com or www.TheKindlings.com

people were to come together in their small groups and pool resources to sponsor a pastor or worship leader, the whole congregation would benefit. **What do you look forward to about this conference?** I attended a church pastored by Earl in Berkeley, and worship was regularly a thoughtful, creative, planned experience that allowed us to approach the transcendent God in community. As a pastor myself, I want to learn more about planning, building, and sharing this kind of worship in my own setting.

What do you see as the main benefits for pastors and worship leaders in attending this conference? Encouragement, helping pastors and church leaders to feel better equipped for the important tasks of preaching and worship leadership in the church today. I worked with Earl for 17 years at University Presbyterian Church, and I saw how much he believed that preaching and worship leadership – and the preparation it takes! – are vital to the ministry of the Church.

To this end, we are bringing together a rare collection of seasoned leaders from different denominations who all believe in the importance of expositional preaching and worship. This conference will nourish our faith. We won’t just *talk* about preaching, we’ll *hear* the Word preached/taught throughout. **How might church members help their pastor and**



Rev. Kay Broweleit, Associate Pastor of Faith Formation at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Shoreline, WA.; a former colleague and (and still a friend!) of Earl Palmer at University Presbyterian Church, Seattle, for 17 years.

worship leaders to attend? This is critical. Church members, who catch the vision of encouraging their pastors and worship leaders in one of their most important tasks, can help sponsor them by contributing to their own church’s continuing education fund. **What do you look forward to about this conference?** I just finished reading one of Cleo LaRue’s (Cleo is one of the conference preachers and Professor of Homiletics at Princeton Seminary) books, *I Believe I’ll Testify*. Every preacher/teacher should read this book! I’ve underlined and marked something on almost every page. I feel encouraged, challenged, and renewed by this book, and I want to talk with people about it! I’ll be able to do that at the conference.

For more information, go to:

www.earlpalmer.org/conference



Alexander Hall where Earl attended classes

The Earl Palmer Papers at Princeton Seminary

Several years ago the library at Princeton Seminary established a special collection of Earl's books, audio sermons, study guides, and correspondence relating to church-wide issues as well as Earl's poems. So far, seven boxes of material have arrived from various sources. One such source was a gentleman from Berkeley who drove across country with a load of tapes he had saved from Earl's sermons at First Presbyterian Church. Five bound volumes of printed sermons were sent from The Union Church of Manila. The National Presbyterian Church in Washington D.C. printed all of the sermons given by Earl as Preaching Pastor in Residence and forwarded them to the seminary. Kenneth Woodrow Henke, the reference archivist said he "is waiting for the index of texts and quotations from Earl's preaching at University Presbyterian Church" to add – a project that will occupy Earl in the months ahead. In addition, Earl has been asked to submit class notes or diaries from his days as a student at the seminary as well as papers from his time on the board. The library has expressed interest also in autobiographical reminiscences of Earl's life and of his family to round out the stories of this "distinguished alum." The materials received so far are kept in a climate controlled area of the library especially constructed for the preservation of books and papers, and as the archivist remarked, "They find themselves in the good company of the papers of other Princeton Seminary-related folks like Archibald Alexander, Samuel Miller, Charles Hodge, Benjamin Warfield, Robert Speer, John Mackay, and James McCord" – professors, presidents, and distinguished luminaries from the school. This collection, still in the process of being catalogued, will be available for future researchers who may want to study the person and the ministry of Earl. *If you have any correspondence that you think would be useful, please send it to EPM @ PO Box 85117, Seattle, WA 98145.*

Roderick on the Road with Earl ...

This article is bittersweet for me. I have the opportunity to highlight the recent blessings of traveling with Earl, but at the same time there is a nagging recognition that this will be my last publication as his study assistant. I could spend a whole newsletter speaking to all the things I have learned and ways that I have grown, but we have had so much going on recently that I do not have that kind of space. In May we had several wonderful opportunities to travel and meet with great groups of people. First, Earl and I went Berkeley, California. Earl taught the whole book of John in one day, as the 150+ people and I attempted to scribble down as many notes as we could. When we returned, he was invited to speak at the MissionFest Pastors' Luncheon. It was here that I had the opportunity to announce and explain our upcoming Expository Conference. It meant so much to be trusted with this important responsibility. It was fascinating for me to see the close relationship between good expository preaching and the missional mindset of these pastors; to see that at the heart of the ambassadorial and missional mandate of the gospel is a teaching mandate. I truly felt God's comforting presence near me as I zoomed down the zip line at RockRidge Camp (the second longest zip line in North America) and was nourished by the fellowship with the ecstatic and loving Young Life Canada community. More than anything I want to thank all of you who have contributed to this ministry, allowing me to enjoy, experience, and learn all that I have. I am honored to have been a part of this ministry and cannot wait to see the wonderful things God continues to do through Earl Palmer Ministries.

Thank You!

From Abroad (But Not Far From Home)

Young Life Canada gathered its Mission community of over 750 in RockRidge Canyon, British Columbia, this past May. Staff, volunteers, and society members from across Canada celebrated what God has done in their midst in the last 60 years, and shared together their vision for the years to come. Dr. Palmer led the group on an exciting journey through four of the Cities of Paul. He encouraged the group to imitate the Antiochian Christians and be criticized as *Christians* who were "always dragging in Jesus Christ." Dr. Palmer had a profound effect in helping us all to give expository talks, as each week club leaders share the gospel with their teen friends. In ministering to teens, he pointed out, it is important to be clear and direct and "let the text speak for itself." Earl's advice enables kids to focus best on the person of Jesus Christ. This is the second time that Earl has spoken to Young Life Canada; 15 years ago he unlocked the Sermon on the Mount. For the last 35 years Young Life staff have benefited greatly by following Dr. Palmer's expository work. Earl stayed for the staff training week following the National Conference and taught a course on the Gospel of John to 35 staff as part of their continuing education. It was a whirlwind tour, and yet Dr. Palmer was able to unpack obscure Greek words, point the group to oft missed details, and thrill them with other great works of literature. As one person commented, "We are delighted to have Earl teach our Mission as he constantly focuses us on Jesus Christ, Earl's love of Christ and the scriptures exudes from every comment and reflection he makes."

-Don Crompton, Director, Young Life Canada



Earl speaking at the Young Life Canada National Conference at RockRidge, B.C.



University of Washington
Burke Museum Café*

*Location Subject to Change

October 3

C.S. Lewis: The Man & His Message
@ Seattle Pacific University

November 7

Science & Christian Faith: Friends After All
Einstein, Walter Isaacson
Language of God, Francis S. Collins

December 5

Facing Arguments: A New Look at Christian
Apologetics
The Reason for God, Timothy Keller

To attend a live event, register at:
www.thekindlings.com/events

Each event is podcast and made
available to download at:
www.earlpalmer.org
Under "Resources"

PO Box 85117
Seattle, WA 98145

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1 Thessalonians 5:11

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If you have questions regarding Earl Palmer Ministries and its events, or to schedule an event, visit us at www.earlpalmer.org or e-mail 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, e-mail the Study Assistant at studyassistant@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. 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 third 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 at www.earlpalmer.org. On behalf of the EPM team, I thank you.

