

the RECONNECTOR

Equipping YOU to bring God into every conversation!

Vol. 3



Where and how can YOU bring God into your daily conversations?

Carmen with Phil and Kathleen Cooke at NRB Convention in Nashville

We invite you to read, listen, and Speak the Truth wherever you work, live or play.

FREE NEW RESOURCE for new Reconnectors

Until the end of May we are offering a new, free e-booklet *10 Ways to Fan the Flame of a New Reformation* for new reconnectors. Reconnectors are investors in this ministry who give monthly contributions online. You can sign up securely at ReconnectwithCarmen.com, just click the **Donate** button and select monthly donations.

We are convicted of the need for a new reformation. One in which the Word of God is returned to its rightful place, Christ alone is exalted as Savior and Lord and the Church is renewed in her calling as ambassadors of Christ in the kingdoms of this world. In this ebook, you'll find practical suggestions for fanning the flame of a new reformation in our culture.

About The Reconnect & You

Our vision is to mobilize every Christian to get off the sidelines and into the cultural conversations of the day in ways that honor Jesus.

Become a Reconnector

Read and share this newsletter with others. Utilize the Conversation Tool inside (find others [here](#)) individually, or introduce them to your Bible study group and make conversational apologetics practice part of your discipleship. Send us your stories of conversations (what was or wasn't effective) via email at info@reconnectwithcarmen.com. **Sign up** for our weekly email and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram. Subscribe to the Connecting Faith podcast, or download the Faith Radio App to hear Carmen every weekday help Christians be prepared to represent Christ in the conversations of our day. Become a Reconnector! We couldn't do what we do without the regular support from people just like you.

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As Christians, we live with certainty even in the midst of uncertain times. Change is the constant in our culture. Technological advances often outpace serious Christian ethical and moral consideration. Parents literally cannot keep up with what their kids are doing and the news cycle churns at a pace that keeps us from knowing very

much about anything. The question of trust looms large and when we turn our attention to the emerging generations, the question of faith looms even larger. How do we make sense of it all? That's literally what we do every day at The Reconnect.

Through a constellation of media resources we reconnect the eternal with the everyday every single day. Our radio ministry was recently recognized as the Radio Program of the Year by the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB). The criteria for the award is "a radio program that impacts the listener by being compelling, relevant, informative, personable, and entertaining, while demonstrating an authentic Christian faith." The Reconnect, and now Connecting Faith, genuinely help people cultivate, integrate and apply the mind of Christ to the headline issues of our day. No other ministry is doing what we're doing the way we're doing it, and the industry recognizes the unique offering we make to the conversation.

While we work in partnership with many other ministries, we continue to be 100% donor supported. That means we need to hear from you. While we now have access to a nationwide audience, it takes time to move people from hearing a program or reading a blog post or downloading a free resource to becoming financially supportive of the ministry. We rely on the financial support of those who know us, trust us and understand the culture-changing impact we seek to make - and that's you!

As we look ahead, it would be a great encouragement to us to hear from you. How has the ministry of The Reconnect equipped you as an ambassador of Christ, to move into the conversations of the day with Gospel clarity and hope? One listener and reader of the blog wrote to share that her temperament toward others had been

changed. She said, "When you said 'we can't present the Gospel in non-Gospel ways' it hit me. It just hit me and it stuck with me. I've read the 'speak the truth in love' command a thousand times but you helped me see what that looks like in real life." She went on to share an encounter she had in the grocery store parking lot.

"I saw an older woman struggling to get things into her trunk. I stopped and offered to help. As I moved things from her cart she kept calling me an angel. I know I'm not an angel and I felt compelled to say so. I told her I was happy to help, it's what we do for one another, it's the right thing to do. She said again, 'You're just an angel.' And I replied, 'No, I'm not an angel. God made angels as a very specific part of His Creation. Human beings are actually higher than angels because we're made in the very image of God. You're made in God's image and so am I.' She just looked at me and finally said, 'I'm Edith.' I replied, 'Edith, it's very nice to meet you. I'm Sally. Do you have someone to help you get these bags out of the car once you get home?' To which she smiled warmly. 'Yes, dear. My husband. And I'm going to tell him he doesn't have to be an angel to help me. I'm going to tell him he just has to be human.' And with a delighted look of joy she got into her car and I wheeled my grocery cart to mine. Thank you for changing the way I see people and the sharing of the Gospel always in all ways."

World changing? For Edith and Sally and one conversation in one grocery store parking lot on one day in middle America? Yes. That's what we're trying to do: change the world, one redeemed conversation at a time.



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AS GOES THE MAINLINE, SO GOES THE CULTURE.

Once faithful mainline denominations have, in many ways, undermined the culture's moral foundations by turning from the clear meaning of God's Word and affirming, ordaining and celebrating all manner of sexual sin. The latest example of this truth comes from a story that is both Presbyterian (PCUSA) and Lutheran (ELCA) in origin. It also involves a ministry with which we have partnered over many years, Oneby1.

Peter Smith of the Pittsburgh Post Gazette reports about the ELCA Seminary now in turmoil because it's new President has a past (in mainline renewal ministry) that no one bothered to research. Dr. Theresa Latini once directed an organization in the PCUSA called Oneby1. That ministry recognizes same sex relations and every other variety of sexual identity and expression apart from fidelity in marriage between one man and one woman or chastity in singleness as sin.

Latini was affiliated with OneBy1 many years ago and at that time, her position was the position of both the PCUSA of which she was

CONVERSATIONAL TOOL: Why Religious Liberty Matters

The Connecting Point:

What happens when rights clash? That tension has been present since the founding of this country, but has come to a particular head in the last few years as rights of religious liberty clash with sexual rights of same-sex marriage and abortion.

The Disconnect:

The Constitution's guaranteed right of free exercise of religion is not just the freedom of worship, as some may describe it. Freedom of worship says the Constitution only protects what happens within the four walls of your church or that you need to check your faith at the door when you go to work or school.

The Reconnect

What the Constitution actually guarantees—the freedom of religion—is much broader and stronger because faith extends beyond the walls of your "place of worship." Our founders recognized religious expression doesn't just happen one day a week. The First Freedom encompasses religious expression from government intrusion on every other day, too.

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then a part and the ELCA, the denomination whose union seminary she agreed to serve as its first President.

In the now archaic days of the early 21st century, Latini, was aligned with the prevailing theology of the Christian church for 2000 years and the prevailing theology of the denomination of which she was then a part. But times have changed and theology has changed and the positions of both of those denominations have changed and now the ELCA and the PCUSA both fully affirm every letter in the growing alphabet of the LGBTQIIAA sexual lexicon. They affirm it in ordination, they affirm it in marriage, and they affirm it in terms of what is taught and celebrated in their seminaries. But here's the kicker, so does Latini. She has migrated right along with the mainline on these issues. But the fact that she ever held an orthodox position is the sin for which she is now being expelled.

Theresa Latini is now being accused of having sinned in that she ever considered homosexuality a sin. And that, my friends, is a complete moral reversal in less than 2 decades' time.

Do you remember the days when mainstream Lutherans and mainstream Presbyterians almost universally believed that marriage should be between a man and a woman and that sex of any kind, under any other formula, was a sin because the Bible said it was so? Well those days are now long gone and we are living on the other side of what Anglican theological Theo Hobson calls a moral revolution.

Hobson has rightly observed that three conditions must be present in order for a moral revolution to take place:

1. That which was condemned must be celebrated
2. That which was celebrated must be condemned
3. Those who once condemned that which is now celebrated, well, they must now be condemned as well.

In the case of the ELCA seminary, that's exactly what we have. Homosexuality among Christians was once condemned as sin but is now celebrated as good. Sexual purity, once celebrated, is now

Keep the Conversation Going

Questions:

What do you think the Constitution communicates when it guarantees the "Free exercise of religion"?

Communicate:

Religious liberty is called our "first freedom" for a reason. Restricting religious liberty interferes on the most fundamental level of human dignity: the ability to believe about God (or not believe) and live out that belief as their conscience requires.

Apply:

The future of religious liberty in America and around the world depends on an understanding that religious liberty is only real freedom if it applies equally to everyone. So as we support efforts to protect our own religious freedom, we do so recognizing that any restrictions we allow today for others could as easily be used against us in the future.

For more resources:

reconnectwithcarmen.com/reconnect-2-16-17-breaking-news-religious-liberty-warren-cole-smith/

reconnectwithcarmen.com/reconnect-9-7-16-freedom-conscience-guest-brian-walsh/

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condemned. And Theresa Latini, a pastor, theologian and scholar, because she once condemned that which is now celebrated, well, she too must be condemned.

I know Theresa Latini, or, at least I knew her when I served with her in renewal efforts in the PCUSA. We're not talking here about ancient history - we're talking about quite recent history - 2009 for the Lutherans in terms of the affirmation of homosexuality and 2011 for the Presbyterians in terms of gay marriage.

What's going on here? Ideological cleansing. The total intolerance of those who are supposedly tolerant of all views. Even if you've come to affirm the LGBTQ+ worldview, if you EVER opposed it, well, you must now be opposed. That's the point to which we have arrived in mainline Protestantism in the United States - and as goes the mainline, so goes the culture.

That's why we do what we do every day. Having cultivated in the PCUSA the ability to speak the unchanging truth revealed by God in His Word, we now address those same issues as Christians begin to face them in the culture at large.



GIVING THANKS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND FOR THE LITTLEST OF THINGS

Billy is in his 60's and every day he cleans the deli and makes the soup at my local grocery store. I thanked Billy one day for making my lunch and he nearly wept. "No one ever says thank you," he confessed. "No one?" I asked in disbelief. "I been here five years. You're the first one," he said.

I was cut to the heart. I now make it a point to thank Billy and to thank Sue who makes the rotisserie chicken at my Sam's and the tattooed, shorn-haired, fairly angry, androgenous individual who puts the peanut butter on my double-toasted raisin bagel.

It makes no difference that any of these people know who I am. What matters is that I know who they are, I see them, I speak to them, and thank them for their act of service. Saying thank you costs me nothing but it has eternal value. So give thanks today in all circumstances and give literally for everyone you meet.

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WHERE IS CARMEN?

Here are some upcoming places where Carmen will be speaking.

We invite you to be in prayer for these events and to attend where open to the public! If you are interested in having Carmen speak at an event, please fill out our Speaker Request Form at reconnectwithcarmen.com/speaking-request/.

APRIL 18

Virginia Beach, VA
Regent University Chapel

APRIL 20-21

Atlanta, GA
ECO Presbytery Keynote Speaker

APRIL 25

Franklin, TN
Gala Host, Franklin Classical School

MAY 3

Tampa, FL
National Day of Prayer Brunch
Keynote Speaker

MAY 10

Atlanta/Alpharetta, GA
Salem Media's Women in Ministry
Keynote Speaker

MAY 21

Brentwood, TN
Conversation with Carmen:
Connecting Faith to Leadership, MDI
event at Fellowship Bible Church

MAY 23

Pinnacle Forum Teleconference
2 PM ET

JUNE 19

Memphis, TN
EPC General Assembly Leadership
Institute

JULY 14-15

Baton Rouge
LA -First Presbyterian Church
Weekend Services

JULY 26-27

Chicago/Northbrook, IL
Lutheran Church Charities National
Conference Keynote Speaker

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