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Choose Connection

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Hello friend,

What is happening in your world?

Sure, we all live on earth and in the same world in general, but we each have such unique experiences, that we really are in our own world.

There's so much happening, and so much information from all kinds of different sources that we each drink from different streams, so to speak. And even if we do see the same events, we see them from a different angle. Plus, all the unique things that happen in your life that no one knows about creates your own 'world' of experience.

The war in Ukraine is definitely something that is impacting many across our common world. Yet, people are experiencing it differently in their own context. We should all be praying for those impacted by that conflict, and for a resolution of peace.

During the isolating time of the pandemic, we really were in our own worlds, with only a very superficial connection to what was happening around us. But it feels like things are starting to change. More people are meeting together in person. There's a feeling that the pandemic may be weakening and we are ready to connect with people in a way that has been missing for a couple of years.

I've been watching a few of the RootsTech presentations this week and the perfectly fitting theme is #ChooseConnection. See a [highlight video here](#).

And watch any of the presentations on <https://rootstech.org>

They even have their own awesome theme song. I attached it to this email.

I think that concept has deep meaning, to 'choose connection.' When we choose to connect with another person we are wanting to come together and unite, not be divided and separate.

It means we care about them and want to find common ground that can connect us, even if it's just that we're both humans, part of the same family of people.

We don't need to have much in common to connect, it's our diversity that creates such uniqueness and beauty in the world. When we're curious to learn about and respect our differences that can connect us too.

The purpose of the gospel and the church of Jesus Christ is to unite us. It's what Christ prayed for and wanted the most, "That they may be one", as He was with the Father.

After years of isolation, it is what we need the most, connection. Connection to family, friends, and even strangers. And with family history we can connect generations throughout time through stories and pictures.

When we choose to connect, we are friendly and caring. We want to connect on a deeper level. When we are connecting with strangers, we start off by using small talk, or talking about the weather, because that is something we have in common, but that is just a doorway to go a little deeper and find out what they care about. We're always looking for commonality so that we can connect.

The more we get to know someone, the more we care. So, to increase our desire to care, we need to increase our connection.

Think about the example of Jesus. He noticed the one. He listened to individuals. He cared. He took the time to let 2,500 people come to him one by one when he visited the people in America so they could "feel the prints of the nails in his hands and in his feet." (3 Nephi 11:15) "And they did all... bow down at his feet, and did worship him" (3 Nephi 17:10) "For they all of them did see and hear, every man for himself" (3 Nephi 17:25)

That's why I love the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a gospel of connection. We are trying to connect everyone, not only those around us, but everyone throughout the ages through Family History and Temple work.

Brother Hymas, our ward Family History and Temple leader, has organized a wonderful event on March 18, from 6:30-8:00pm, for us to learn more about FamilySearch.org and how to connect with our ancestors. Join us at the church and bring your computer.

I enjoy connecting with people. I think we all do. That's why the worst possible punishment in prisons is solitary confinement. It's a human need to be with others.

I cherish my connection with you. Even if it is only by email. I would love to have a one-on-one conversation with you in person sometime. I would like to be a part of your world.

Let's connect.

Take care.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Come join the choir and connect your voice with others, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Walker's home: [12323 31st Ave, SE, Everett, WA 98208](https://www.google.com/maps/place/12323+31st+Ave,+SE,+Everett,+WA+98208). Casual dress.
- This Wednesday is the Youth Global Face to Face broadcast. We will watch it with our ward youth as a delayed broadcast at our normal youth activity night at 7:00 pm at the church. All youth are invited. <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/event/face-to-face-for-youth>
- March 18th, 6:30-8:00pm - Our ward Family History learning event. Bring your device to the church and hear from stake experts.
- The church is helping refugees in Europe. Here's an article with more information: <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/church-helping-europe-refugees> You can help by donating to the Humanitarian Aid Fund.
- The Single Adults across the region are having a Spring Conference at our building!

March 25th - 27th, 2022

Theme: "Gather Together in One All Things in Christ"

Where: [11915 29th Ave SE, Everett, WA 98208](https://www.google.com/maps/place/11915+29th+Ave+SE,+Everett,+WA+98208) (the Penny Creek building)

What to Expect: Dances, Fireside, Food, Service Projects, Social Activities and Workshops

Registration Link: <https://www.wewasa.org/conferences>

If you have questions, contact:

Ramona Blackmon, coolestfamilyever@yahoo.com, 425-220-2371

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.

 [choose-connection-no-intro.mp3](#)
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