

# THE ENCOURAGER

## COLLIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

October 2016



QUOD SUBSISTO TRACTUS

STAY THE COURSE

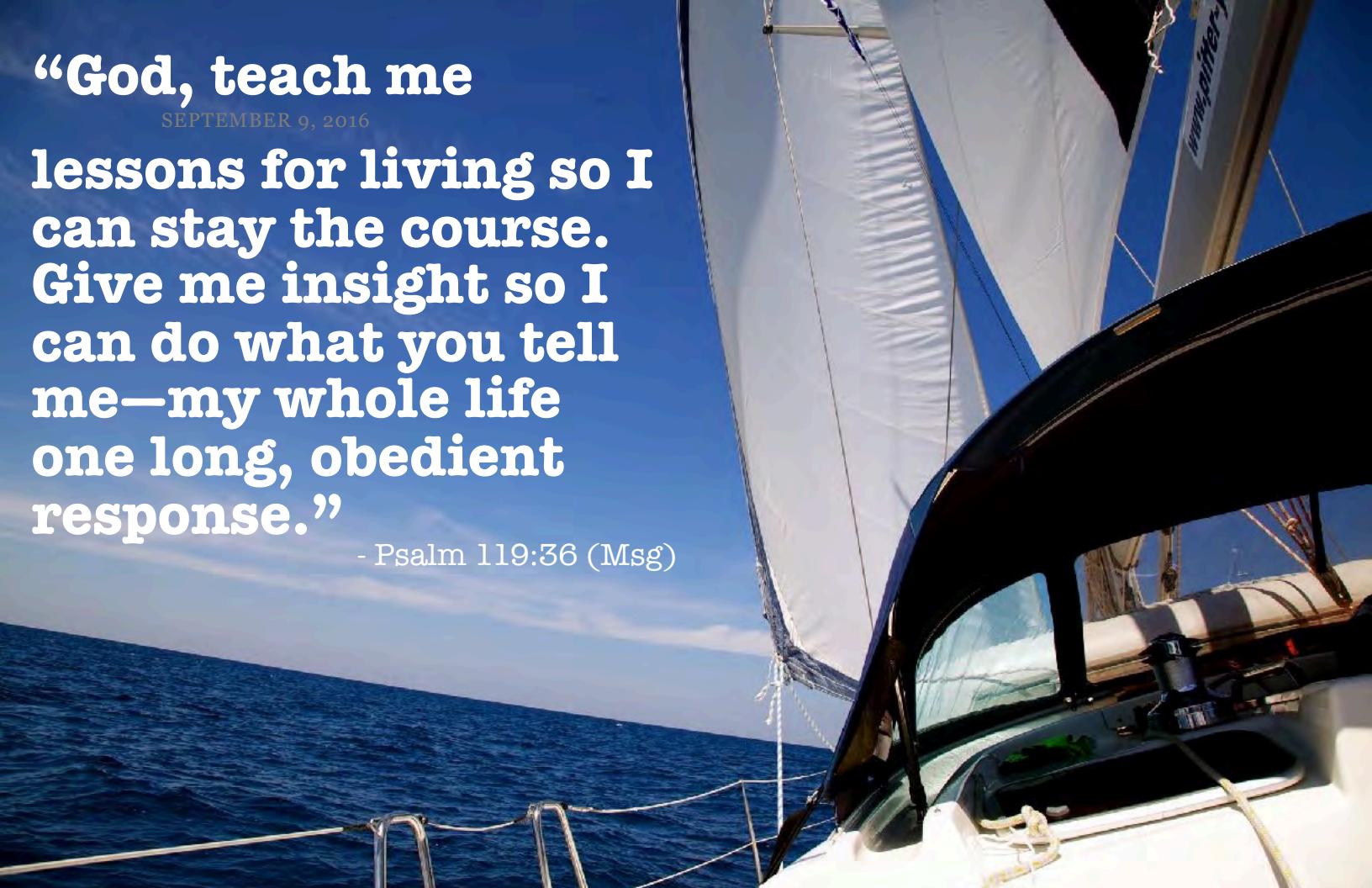
CBA ANNUAL GATHERING 2016

# “God, teach me

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

**lessons for living so I  
can stay the course.  
Give me insight so I  
can do what you tell  
me—my whole life  
one long, obedient  
response.”**

- Psalm 119:36 (Msg)



A focused time of prayer for churches, and the ministry work in Collin County will highlight the 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering of the Collin Baptist Association (CBA) later this month.

The event, hosted this year by First Baptist Church of Wylie, will be held in their Event Center on Sunday, October 16, and is not just for church staff or leaders, but the event is open to all members of CBA churches.

The theme for this year’s gathering is “Quod Subsist Tractus”, Latin meaning “Stay the Course” and is taken from Psalm 119:33-36. It is a recognition of the fact that while there are times that God asks to make “course corrections,” or to change course altogether, often times His desire is for us to keep our eyes fixed on the destination and course that he has plotted for us.

This theme is also reflected in the nine icons that CBA uses to remind us of our mission, that “every girl, boy, woman, and man within our reach experience a living

witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” These icons, which are modeled after locator pins used in electronic maps, remind us that God utilizes figurative *locator pins* in our own lives and allows them to remind us not just of where we are going, but of where we have been and different points of interest along the way.

The Concert of Prayer will begin at 6:30pm and will be a time of worship and prayer that is centered around CBA’s nine areas of focus. Those areas are broken into three sections: what we should be doing as individual believers (*Prayer, Care, and Share*), what the Association does (*Connect, Collaborate, and Engage*), and where we should be sharing our message of the Gospel (*in Homes, in the Marketplace, and among People Groups*.)

CBA leaders will guide the group through prayer for each of these areas while also sharing about different forms of ministries CBA churches are involved with. Music for the event will be provided by a multi-church praise and worship team.

"We believe that God is calling our nation, and specifically our churches, back to a time of prayer," said CBA Director of Missions Vince Smith. "If we are to see our churches continue to grow, and to reach the lost in our community, we must begin on our knees in prayer." Smith added that everything we do as an Association should begin and end with prayer as the focus. "So, as we come together for our Annual Gathering, while the business of the Association is important, the focus of our gathering is prayer," he said.

The business meeting will begin at 4pm, and all CBA churches are encouraged to send pastors, staff, and lay-leaders as voting messengers to represent their church.

More than a dozen ministries will be represented at this year's Ministry Fair & Dinner which will begin at 5pm. Included in the list are the Collin Baptist Men, WMU, and Baptist Student Ministries, Dallas Baptist University, the Baptist General Convention of Texas,

and outreach ministries such as AIM, an orphanage ministry based in the Philippines, and Project: Start, a Dallas-based refugee ministry.

The meal will be catered by Babe's Chicken Dinner House and is \$10 per person. Participants are encouraged to pre-register online. However, walk-ins are welcome.

To register for the business meeting, dinner, and/or the Concert of Prayer for the 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Gathering, go to <http://bit.ly/CBAgathering2016>, or click the box below in the electronic version of this document.



QUOD SUBSISTO TRACTUS  
STAY THE COURSE

COLLIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GATHERING 2016

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16  
FBC WYLIE

## A word from Vince

# Stay The Course

One of my best memories from high school was my senior trip. Many of my friends went to the beach or the mountains. A few traveled abroad. My trip with two buddies was very unique, however.

My family owned a 27ft Bristol sailboat. It was built in 1967, the year after I was born. My father had fully restored it. It took almost a year to complete. The boat was renewed from stem to stern (from front to back for landlubbers). It was now in "Bristol" condition (again for you landlubbers that means it was absolutely perfect).

When I talked with my dad about a senior trip, imagine my surprise when he said, "Why don't you and a couple of friends take the Bristol to Pensacola, FL for a week or so?" That might not sound like too big a deal until you know we lived in New Orleans and Pensacola was more than 250 miles away by transit through the Gulf of Mexico! In reply I asked him,

"Alone, without you?" He replied, "Yes. I trust you. I have taught you how to do that. You are ready."



So we went. The Bristol was not a speed demon. The fastest she traveled was about 8 knots (9mph), but if the wind held, she could do that indefinitely. The trip would take 28 hours of sailing time each way.



**Vince Smith**

While not a speed demon, she (all boats are she, don't ask me why--they just are) was an absolute dream to sail. For you car enthusiasts, imagine a completely restored vintage Rolls Royce. While heavy and slow, there is not a ride like it.

The Bristol was the same way. I could set a course, trim the sails just right and take my hand off the tiller (steering handle for the uninitiated). With "no hands," the boat would sail straight and true without moving the compass needle. It was like there was an invisible person guiding the boat. There was something truly mystical how an inanimate boat became a living thing in wind and water. As a young 18 year old kid, it was a joyful thing to know I could sail such a boat.

Psalm 119:33-35 are the theme verses for our annual gathering of our churches

on October 16 at FBC Wylie. This passage of Scripture voices the psalmist's desire for God to teach him how to set the course of his life from God's teaching and, at the same time, asks God to keep him on the path, on course. The paraphrase

### **The Message**

(emphasis mine) puts it this way: "God, teach me lessons for living so I can **stay the course**.

Give me insight so I can do what you tell me—

my whole life one long, obedient response.

Guide me down the road of your commandments; I love traveling this freeway!"

This passage made me think of my high school trip. Sailboats must go where the wind blows. Followers of Christ must go where the Spirit blows. While the skipper of the boat is an active participant, in the end the best the skipper can do is set the course and sails so

the boat can more efficiently and effectively go where the wind is blowing. We too are active participants in the life God has given us and in the mission God has entrusted to us. God teaches us his principles and, if we will yield to Him, He will guide our path.

neighborhood and among the people groups. This is how we set our sails.

Our need to connect, collaborate and engage in this work continues to be essential—this is what it means to stay the course. We indeed live for the day when every girl, boy, woman and man within our reach experiences a living witness to the Gospel of Jesus

*Teach me, Lord, the meaning of Your statutes, and I will always keep them. Help me understand Your instruction, and I will obey it and follow it with all my heart. Help me stay on the path of Your commands, for I take pleasure in it.*

Psalm 119:33-35 (HCSB)

Christ. Let's take joy in it.

Back to the high school trip—it went without a

hitch. Indeed we had learned our lessons well. The trip was a true rite of passage for the three of us. We soloed on the Gulf of Mexico with my father's prized possession. I learned that possession was not the boat—it was me. My dad did teach me well; how much better God teaches us.

The same principles apply to our network of churches. God continues to move people into our area at unprecedented rates from literally all over the world. He fully expects us to be living witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to these girls, boys, women and men. This is the wind direction. We need living witnesses who pray, care and share Jesus in the marketplace, in the

# *The Gathering: A National Solemn Assembly*



Photos and story by  
MARC IRA HOOKS

Some of the nation's most recognizable evangelical leaders are rolling out a three-pronged plan designed to call Christians, across denominational and racial lines, to a new age of spiritual awakening.

Nearly a dozen pastors and teachers stood shoulder to shoulder in Dallas Sept. 21 for The Gathering 2016 at GateWay Church, a non-denominational congregation, where several thousand assembled for "a national solemn assembly" -- the initial step in their plan.

Organized by Tony Evans, senior pastor of the 10,000-member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship Church in Dallas, the group has been meeting since the beginning of the year in an effort to bring a spirit of prayer and repentance to the U.S. The group organized this special prayer meeting to pray for forgiveness, wisdom and provision for the country.

"It just seems to be that God is raising up a mighty commitment to pray," said Ronnie Floyd, senior

pastor of Cross Church in northwest Arkansas, and immediate past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

"People are concerned about our country, and they are concerned about the condition of the church, and concerned about the brokenness in the lives of people."

The concept of the solemn assembly is found in the Old Testament, according to event organizers, and is a special time of prayer and fasting. These meetings have been called by priests, prophets, and kings who led people to repent of their sins and passionately pursue the return of God's presence in their midst.

Organizers noted The Gathering is "the Body of Christ coming together one day to unite across racial, denominational and generational lines; lifting up the name of Jesus, and taking responsibility for the condition of our nation."



Dr. Tony Evans, organizer of The Gathering 2016 speaks to pastors in Dallas about a three-part plan to call the nation to repentance and to prepare the way for the next great spiritual awakening in America.

A similar meeting for pastors and key leaders from around the country, a "gathering of the elders," was held earlier this year in preparation for the larger meeting in Dallas, which included several thousand attending in person, and several dozen churches participating online.

During his message, Floyd said many Christians are often more desperate for their football teams during the weekend than they are for the touch of God on Sunday.

"Many of us as believers are more committed to some kind of political awakening," Floyd said. "That's not the answer to this nation. The answer to the nation is the next great awakening with the Holy Spirit of God and He wakes up the church and He shakes the church."

International Bible teacher and leader of Precept Ministries Kay Arthur led the assembly in a prayer of repentance saying the United States of America is not united in God.

"We trust in man rather than in God. There is no knowledge of God in our land. There is no fear, or respect, or trust," she prayed. "We've played church instead of sitting at Your feet, and knowing that every work is God-breathed, and You expect us to live by every word."

With incidents of racial violence fresh on the minds of those attending, John Jenkins, pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Maryland, spoke to the issue of racial reconciliation.

"These situations and circumstances are creating a mountain level of rage and discontent and worry," Jenkins said. "The 11 o'clock hour of Sunday morning still remains the most segregated hour of the week. We

are further apart from each other (than ever), and the church has stood silently with little or no action or comment.

"While the world accepts racial disharmony, the church must not accept racial disharmony," he said. We know how to interpret Greek and Hebrew, but we don't know how to communicate in English to someone who doesn't look just like us," he said. "What God ultimately wants us to achieve is that we give value to all cultures and embrace and learn from one another." Evans described America as "desperate."

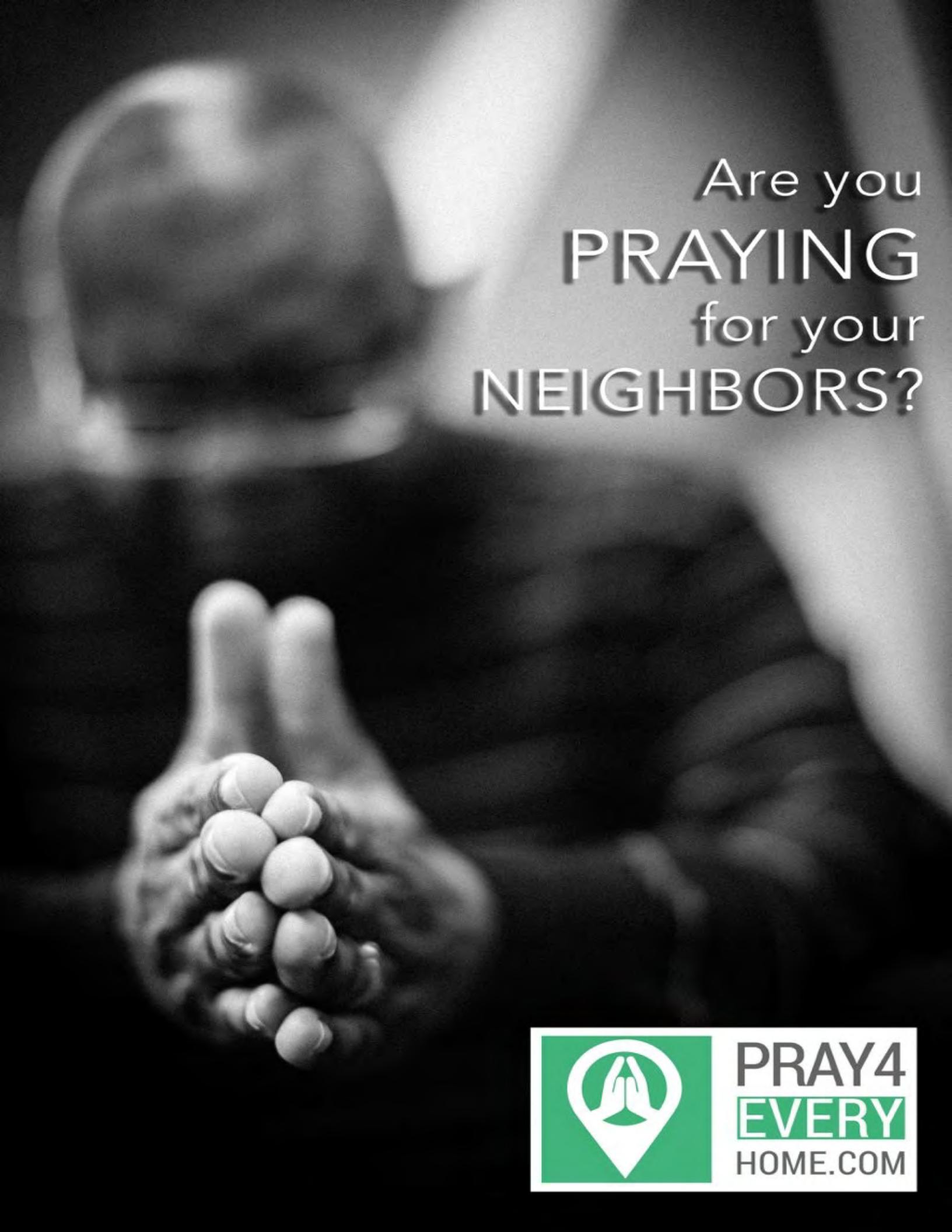
"But God will not fix the White House by skipping the church house," he said. "It will be this [the church] house that determines the well-being of that [the White] House. If He cannot get the attention of this house (the church), then that house (the government) will stay in trouble."

Evans noted that every year on Sept. 11, we remember the terrorist attack on our nation. "Nineteen men from around the world, in the name of their faith, shut down the most powerful nation in the world. If 19 men from around the world, in the name of their faith, can shut down the most powerful nation in the world, what do you think we can do in the name of our faith to redeem the most powerful nation in the world?"

Evans told a group of Dallas pastors who earlier in the day gathered for pray that Phase Two of the plan would be a call to greater discipleship. While Phase Three would focus on coordinating a massive, cross-denominational, interracial, service project where Christians from around the nation work together in their communities to demonstrate the love of Christ.



Popular speaker, author and actress Priscilla Shirer drops to her knees in prayer during The Gathering 2016 in Dallas where thousands prayed for repentance and for the repentance of the nation.



Are you  
**PRAYING**  
for your  
**NEIGHBORS?**



## ***Pastors In Profile – Randall Worley***

# Prairie Creek Pastor is not just playing games

By MARC IRA HOOKS

What you do in your life is the door to what you do in your ministry, says Randall Worley, pastor of Prairie Creek Baptist Church who added that his life experiences have shaped how he pastors his flock.

While Worley began preaching at the age of 16, he never really saw himself becoming a pastor. As the son of International Mission Board missionaries growing up in Spain, Worley began said his dad's advice to him was "they will teach you everything you need to know in seminary anyway," so Worley studied art. "If I hadn't been called to ministry, that's what I would have pursued in life," he said.



After a period of uncertainty, the Worleys made their way back to the Canary Islands of Spain where his wife Eli is from. It was there that God told Worley it was time to go to seminary. So, they returned to Texas to attend Southwestern Seminary. "My dad was a pastor while I was growing up, so I knew that it wasn't something that I really craved because I had seen first-hand how difficult it is," he said. After seminary he began pastoring a Hispanic congregation in Fort Worth. "Then I discovered that I really loved it!"

Today, Worley continues to use art as part of the ministry he leads at Prairie Creek. In his personal painting he prefers to paint people. However, he also does much of the church's art and design work himself. "I design all of our bulletins, our banners, and our web stuff," he said. "I really enjoy that kind of thing."

Each summer Worley leads an Art Camp at the church where he takes a week to teach about 20 people while creating a large art project. Worley says the camp is different each year. Not only does the project vary, but some years it is focused more on teaching people from within the church, and other years it is more of an outreach project designed to bring new people into the church.



*A look at the Worley bookshelf shows a host of board games. From the well-known Ticket to Ride, to the lesser-known Mr. Jack, Randall plays them all.*

Another of Worley's passions is gaming. But if you think this pastor is content with the likes of Clue and Monopoly, then you would be quite mistaken.

"I have always enjoyed games," he said. "It used to be computer games, but a few years back we had a guy join our church who was into table-top games." Worley explained they started a monthly game night where this person would bring non-traditional games. "I've found that I enjoy sitting around a table with a group

of people, having some fellowship while you play a game that requires some thinking and strategy," Worley said. He added that this has pushed him to find and buy more exotic games, and he now has a shelf full of them.

Whether preaching, painting, or playing games, Worley says he hopes his biggest witness is "authentic Christian living." "I am a Christian 24/7," he said. "That is who I am. It's what I do, and how I live. So in every context, that's how I try to lead people to Christ."





QUOD SUBSISTO TRACTUS

STAY THE COURSE

# COLLIN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GATHERING 2016

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

FBC WYLIE

4PM - BUSINESS MEETING

5PM - MINISTRY FAIR & DINNER

6:30PM - CONCERT OF PRAYER



# Ministry Profile



By MARC IRA HOOKS

Wylie native Keith McDougal and his wife, Nahn, have always had a heart for orphans. This desire to reach out to “the least of these” has been a part of McDougal’s ministry for the bulk of their ministry, mainly he says, because they were both orphans themselves.

By the time he was 17 both of McDougal’s parents had passed away and then FBC Wylie Pastor Al Draper stepped in as a mentor and surrogate parent to him. Several years later at East Texas Baptist University, McDougal met his future wife, a Vietnamese national who was orphaned when her mother was arrested for helping American soldiers and who later escaped and was rescued by International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries in the Philippines.

Today, after serving as missionary church planters with the IMB themselves for 18 years in Kazakhstan and the Philippines, the couple are taking a new ministry path, one that is allowing them to follow their passion for rescuing and caring for orphans.

McDougal explained that at the end of 2015 the IMB offered a voluntary retirement as part of a massive reduction of personnel. At that time, he felt called to use the opportunity to follow a calling that his work with IMB never really let him pursue.

McDougal said there are 1.8 million orphans in the Philippines, and when he approached IMB officials about creating an orphanage ministry, he was told, “that’s a beautiful ministry, but somebody else will do that,” because the IMB’s main focus was on planting churches. So, McDougal saw early retirement as an opportunity for him to remain in the Philippines and to begin a ministry to help orphaned children.



Recently the McDougals established Agape Impact Ministries (AIM), a non-profit ministry focused on rescuing and caring for orphan children in the Philippines. “We want to rescue them, and we want to put them in families,” he said.



McDougal said they are working to establish their first rescue home in the Metro Manila area. "It is our desire to be the Good Samaritan to as many children as the Lord will allow us to rescue," he said. "Our *AIM* is to pour the love of God into the precious lives of these hopeless and lost children, placing each child into a loving and nurturing family."

"It is our prayer that you would hear God's heart cry for His needy and neglected children and that you would find a way to bring God's love to a needy child. Whether you assist us here at *Agape Impact Ministries* or you find another reputable orphan care organization. Your much needed involvement, at whatever level, will make a huge difference in the life of a child. Once you experience the smile of a rescued child your desire and vision for orphans will never be the same," said McDougal.

*Agape Impact Ministries* will be represented at the Collin Baptist Association Annual Gathering as part of the Ministry Fair. If you would like more information about their ministry, you can visit their website at [www.agapeimpactministry.com](http://www.agapeimpactministry.com) or contacting McDougal directly via email at [info@agapeimpactministry.com](mailto:info@agapeimpactministry.com)



# FACES OF THE MOTHERLAND

## CHURCH HOSTS PHOTO GALLERY FEATURING PORTRAITS FROM RUSSIA

When Americans hear the name Russia, we often think of Putin, Lenin, Stalin, or other leaders, and never look beyond the country's political landscape. However, a new photo exhibit by local photographer and former missionary Marc Ira Hooks is casting a different countenance on the world's largest country.

This month Community North Baptist Church in McKinney will host a photo gallery exhibit titled *Faces of the Motherland* — a collection of black & white portraits of people from across Russia taken by Hooks during his nine years as a photojournalist and missionary church planter with the Southern Baptist

International Mission  
(IMB).

Board

Recently returned to the States as part of a massive reduction of IMB's overseas personnel, Hooks now serves as the Associate Director of Missions/Director of

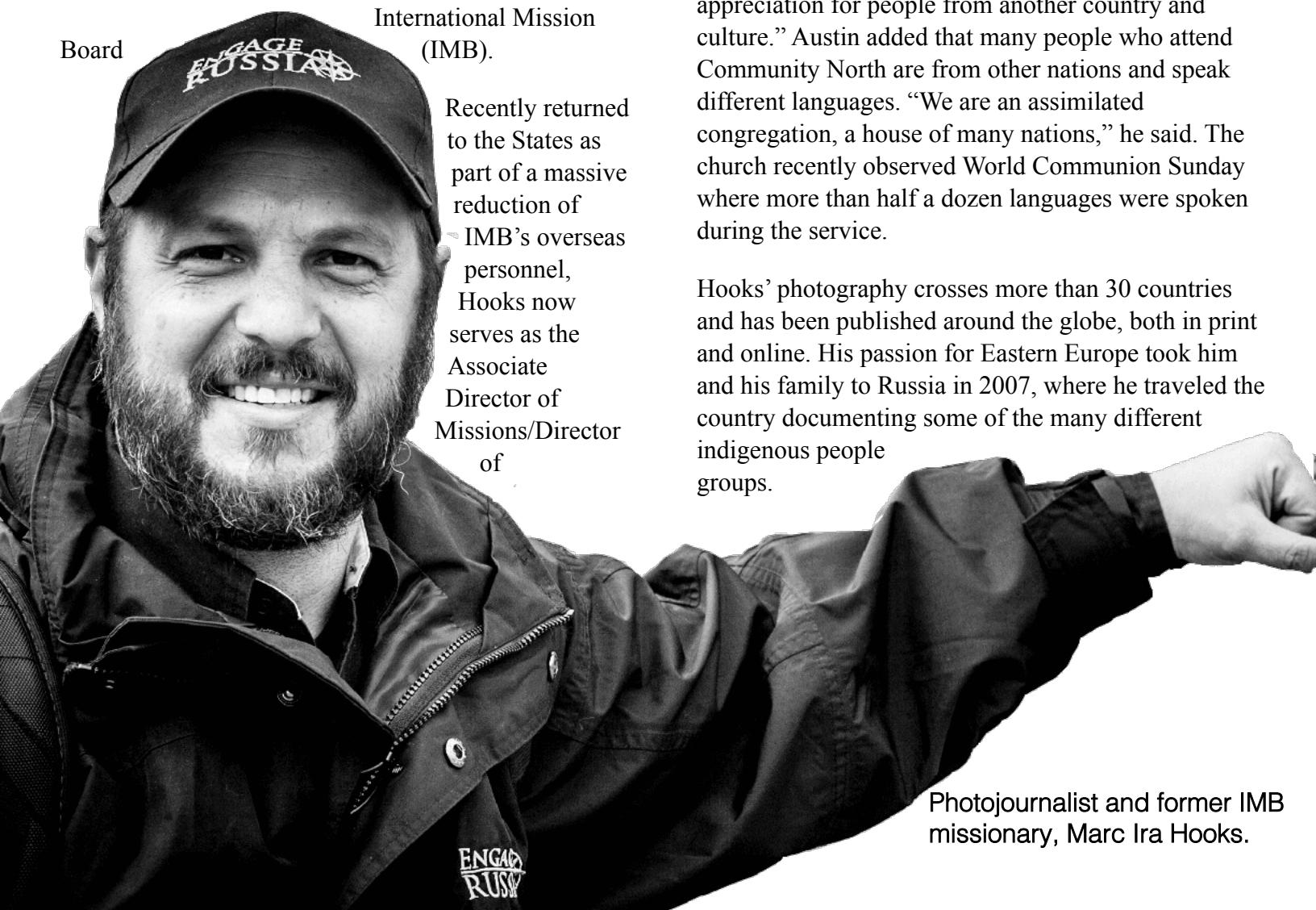
Communications for Collin Baptist Association.

Community North Pastor Dr. Bruce Austin said the idea for the gallery came from his own love of the arts. "I love looking at photographs in galleries, coffee shops, and in books," said Austin, who added that years ago in Mississippi he staged a similar exhibit in his church with a local watercolor artist.

Austin said he hopes this exhibit will reach inward to his own congregation as well as outward to the community. "I want both groups to experience Marc's beautiful photography, and for them to gain an appreciation for people from another country and culture." Austin added that many people who attend Community North are from other nations and speak different languages. "We are an assimilated congregation, a house of many nations," he said. The church recently observed World Communion Sunday where more than half a dozen languages were spoken during the service.

Hooks' photography crosses more than 30 countries and has been published around the globe, both in print and online. His passion for Eastern Europe took him and his family to Russia in 2007, where he traveled the country documenting some of the many different indigenous people groups.

Photojournalist and former IMB missionary, Marc Ira Hooks.



His photo essays and street portraits from across Europe capture a cross-section of everyday life and tell the stories of the places and people he has met along the way.

This exhibit features 12 portraits and represents several people groups from across Russia — from the capital city of Moscow, to the frozen north of Karelia, to the Pacific port city of Vladivostok.

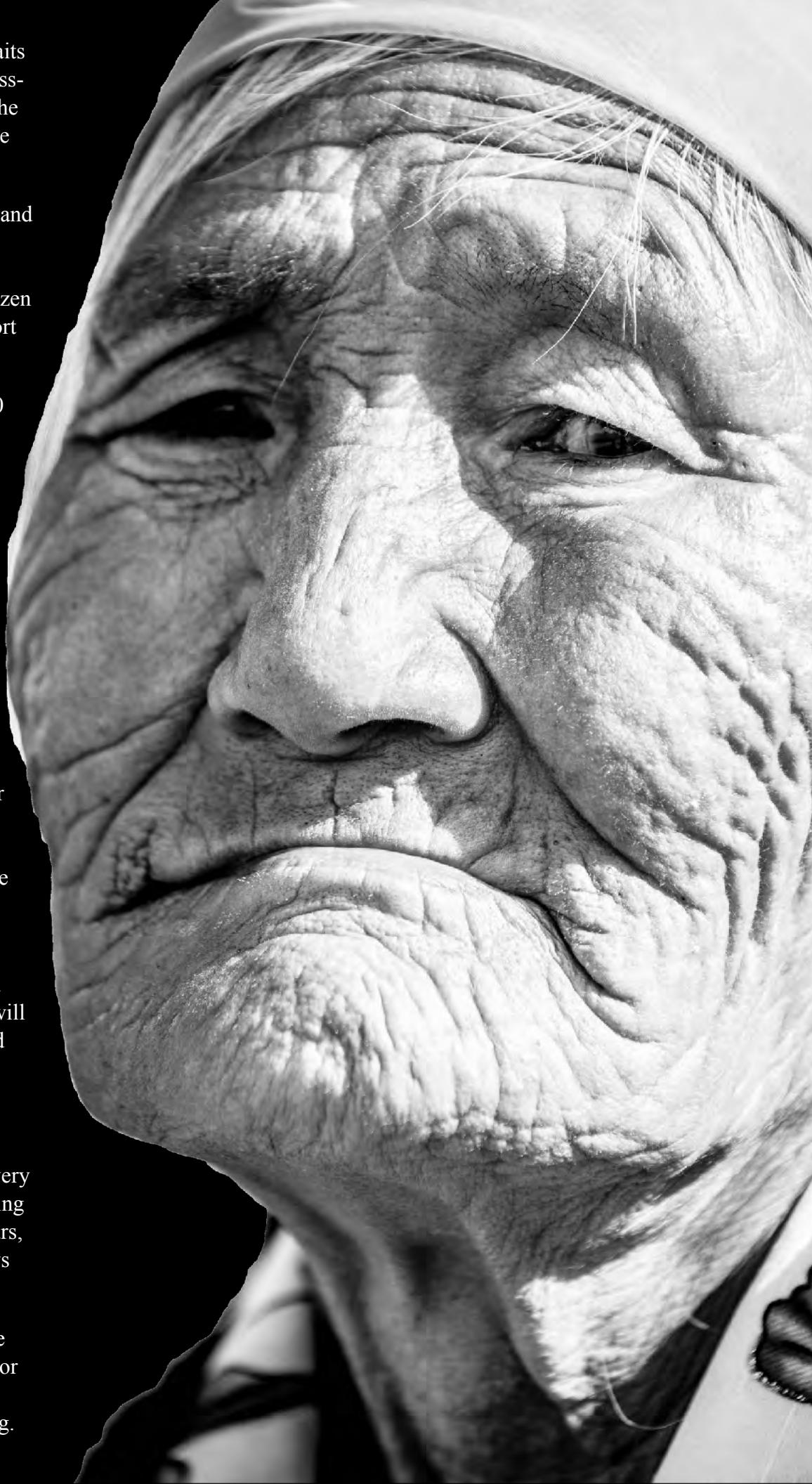
Hooks added there are nearly 200 different ethnic groups living in Russia, a land mass that spans 11 time zones and circles nearly half the globe.

“A portrait allows us a small glimpse into a person’s soul,” said Hooks. “As Americans, we often think of Russians as being cold, distant, and aloof. Or, maybe we are stuck in a Cold War mentality that allows us to see them only as ‘the enemy.’ But, as we look into their faces, we connect with them and realize they are no different from us. They need to hear the message of the Gospel just like we do.”

The church will host a *Meet the Artist* reception on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 5-8 p.m. where Hooks will talk about some of the photos and his experiences living in Russia.

In addition to the reception, the exhibit will be open to the public from Oct. 22 through Nov. 19, every Monday through Wednesday during the church’s regular business hours, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m.

For more information, contact the church office at (972) 542-0261, or send an email to [secretary@communitynorthbc.org](mailto:secretary@communitynorthbc.org).



# COMING ATTRACTIONS



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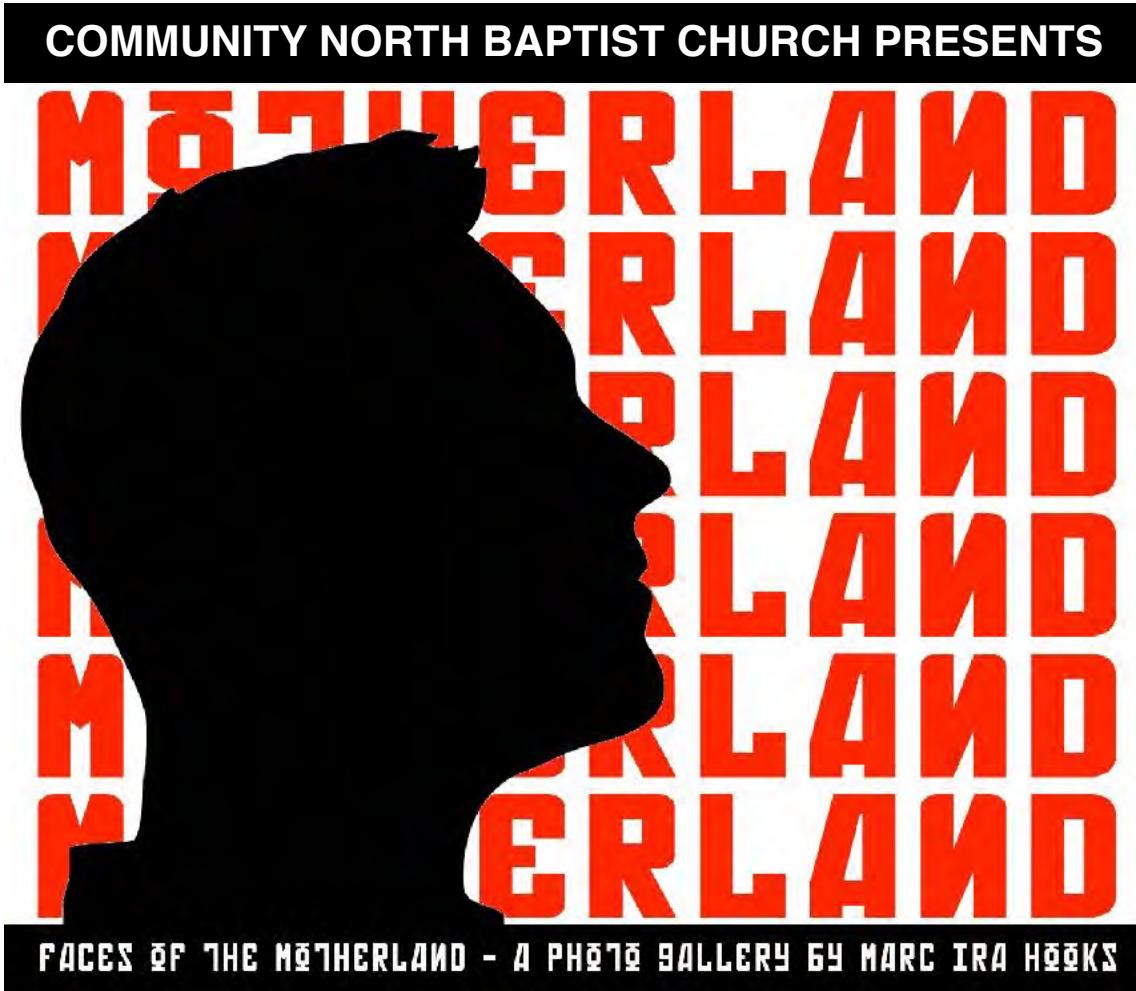
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Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/CollinBaptistAssociation/>

# COMING ATTRACTIONS



Gallery Opening and Meet the Artist Reception

**Saturday, October 22**

**5-8pm**

**2500 Community Ave, McKinney**

The exhibition will be open to the public during regular church business hours Monday through Wednesday from 9am to 3pm, and on Wednesdays from 6-8pm. For more information, call Community North Baptist Church at (972) 542-0261.



# COMING ATTRACTIONS



# **SHELTER**

“The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty.” Psalm 91:1

## **Presentation Dates**

**October 19, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30**

**Wednesdays 6 – 8 PM, Saturdays & Sundays  
4:30 – 8 PM**

Joe and Sarah Fulbright are a typical couple with two All-American kids, Mark and Macy. When stress starts to build at home, the Fulbright's decide to take a deep woods camping adventure to escape the troubles plaguing them. Little do they know that their disagreements will pale in comparison to the “storm” they are about to face. Shortly after arriving, to the family's dismay, their “problems” show up just in time to cause yet another unpleasant argument. After a heated dispute, emotional pain succumbs to physical and spiritual terror when a freak thunderstorm hurdles family members into eternity. Witness this family struggle physically, emotionally, and spiritually as they try to weather raging storms. Where will you find “Shelter” when things get rough?

# COMING ATTRACTIONS



# Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer

**Monday, November 7, 2016  
6:30. - 8:30 PM**

Waddill Street Baptist Church, McKinney

*Speakers: Jonathan and Stephanie Henderson, Central Asia*

Dessert will be served.

# COMING ATTRACTIONS

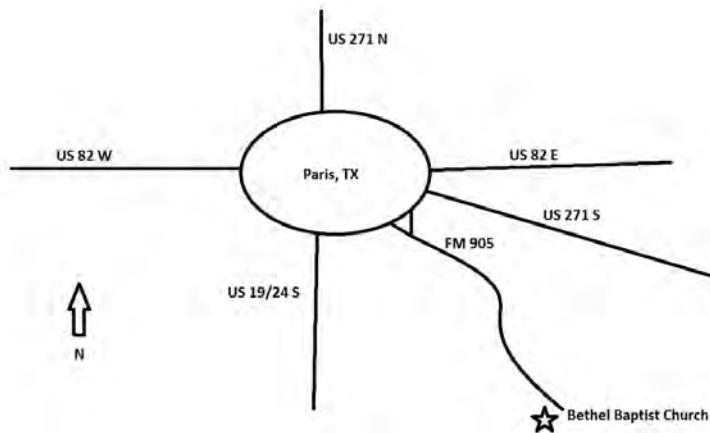


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**For reservations call 903-272-5145**

**E-mail: [jvandeaver@hotmail.com](mailto:jvandeaver@hotmail.com)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/Bethel-Baptist-Church](https://www.facebook.com/Bethel-Baptist-Church)**



# COMING ATTRACTIONS



## WillowCreek Fellowship Our Hearts to God – Our Hands to Man

### Annual Coat Drive



November 1-23, 2016  
Needed coats of every color  
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Deliver to WillowCreek  
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Plano, Texas 75074



or  
Contact: Sandra at 469-543-1680



1804 Avenue P

Plano, TX 75074

972-423-2950

## COMING ATTRACTIONS



# Perspectives

on the World Christian Movement™

We will have two classes in McKinney at Christ Fellowship, a Tuesday evening class from 6:30 - 9:30 beginning Jan 24th and a Wednesday morning class from 9:30- 12:30 beginning Jan 25th and we will have a class on Monday evenings beginning Jan 23rd from 6:30- 9:30 at Resurrection Church in Flower Mound.

For more information, call Nick at 630-780-7290.

## Collin Baptist Association

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For church job postings and classified ads  
visit our website

[www.collinbaptist.com](http://www.collinbaptist.com)



### NEWS FROM CAMP LAVON

The RA/GA planning meeting is set for October 13th! We will serve a little Camp supper at 5:30 pm (optional) and the meeting will start at 6:00 pm.

Both groups will meet together shortly, then we should plan on splitting up. Good news for the RA'S, we've got Keith Mack, the State RA director who's going to speak and do a question/answer.

Please bring/invite as many as possible!

Praying for a great Camp!

phil

# Collin Baptist Association



c b a

We live for the day when  
every girl, boy, woman,  
and man within our  
reach experiences a  
living witness to the  
Gospel of Jesus Christ.