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2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & ORDINATION • LOUISVILLE

MOVEMENT

Scotland: a nation that needs a movement, and a special event coming soon

Trained to Lead: Dr. Evon Horton introduces CGIF College and our partnership with Southeastern University

A School in Every Church: Dr. Bob Rodgers on the open door in front of every pastor

Asking for Help: Ryan Ransom on the counseling boom and the care only the Church can give

Plus: Mike Campbell on what makes CGIF different, our global board, and three ways to connect.



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A special event is coming. Details soon at cgif.global



On the cover

Movement is what happens when the Spirit of God meets a people who are willing to go. This issue is about leaders who are still moving: across oceans, into classrooms, through counseling rooms and city streets.



About CGIF

Founded by Dr. Bob Rodgers in the spirit of Dr. David Yonggi Cho's Church Growth International, CGIF is a global network of apostolic leaders: pastors who keep their own denominational ties and gain a family of like-minded ministers committed to growth by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We equip. Leadership training, accredited education, resources.

We ordain. Credentials and covering for ministers.

We commission. Mission teams, conferences, and a global board.

THIS WEEK'S SPEAKERS



Dr. James Marocco
King's Cathedral and
Chapels, Maui



Russell Johnson
The Pursuit NW,
Seattle

— FROM THE PRESIDENT

Why *Movement*?

A church that stops moving starts dying. That conviction has shaped fifty years of Church Growth International, and it is the reason we gathered you here.

When Dr. Cho started Church Growth International in 1976, pastors flew to Seoul from every continent to ask the same question: how? His answer was never a program. It was a posture. Pray. Believe. Go. Keep moving. I have carried that posture for more than thirty years at Evangel World Prayer Center, and I have watched it work in Louisville, in Seoul, in Bogotá, and in places I never expected. It works because the Holy Spirit has not retired.

We chose the word *Movement* for this conference because I sense a fresh stirring in this fellowship, and because I believe God intends to do something in these three days that we will still be talking about next year. Let me tell you what I am expecting.

On Sunday night we will hear from Dr. James Marocco. Jim and Colleen took a congregation of a hundred on Maui in 1980 and, by the power of the Spirit, built it into King's Cathedral, the largest church in Hawaii, with chapels across the islands, the mainland, and the Pacific. When the wildfires came in 2023, that church opened its doors to the people who had lost everything. That is what a church in motion looks like: it grows, it sends, and it is there when the city is on fire. I expect Jim to stir this room to believe for growth again.

On Monday and Tuesday nights we will hear from Russell Johnson. Russell planted The Pursuit in a barn outside Seattle with no heat and no plumbing, in one of the least-churched regions in America, and today it is one church in four cities, praying for revival to sweep the nation. He is a builder, and he preaches like a man who expects God to show up. I expect the altars to be full both nights.

Monday morning belongs to our own CGIF pastors, and Tuesday morning we will lay hands on a new class of ordained ministers. I expect fresh anointing to fall on people who have been carrying their call quietly for years. I expect pastors who came in tired to leave with a second wind. I expect churches to be planted, schools to be opened, and teams to be sent because of decisions made in this building.

In these pages you will meet the people who are already moving: opening Christian schools, going back to the classroom, bringing healing to people the church used to lose, praying for Scotland. Read their stories. Then find yourself in one of them, and leave this conference moving again.

Dr. Bob Rodgers

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, CGIF

What we believe, and *why* CGIF

Five convictions carried from Seoul to Louisville and out to the nations, and what they mean for a pastor who joins us: no hierarchy to answer to, and a family to belong to.

-
- 01 Relationship over bureaucracy** A fellowship, not a hierarchy. Leaders keep their denominational ties and gain a family.
-
- 02 Apostolic leadership** Maturity, fruit, and a pioneering spirit: leaders who plant, send, and multiply.
-
- 03 The supernatural power of God** Growth is not a marketing outcome. It is what the Holy Spirit does when a people pray and believe.
-
- 04 Growth as obedience** A church that is not reaching its city is not finished. We measure health by movement toward the lost.
-
- 05 One body, many nations** Boards on three continents, one mission. One can chase a thousand; two can put ten thousand to flight.
-

+ Equip + Ordain + Commission OUR MISSION IN THREE WORDS

What we offer

Ordination and ministerial renewal
CGIF College: an accredited degree through Southeastern University
Regional gatherings and annual conference
Mentoring and leadership development
Mission teams and delegations: Seoul, Scotland, and more
A board on three continents

How to connect

Apply at cgif.global/apply
Meet a board member this week (gold lanyards)
Winter Retreat, March 1–3
Ask about CGIF College
Follow @cgifglobal
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What to expect

A personal call within 90 days
Honest relationship, not red tape
Prayer and pastoral care when you need it
Invitations, not obligations
Leaders who will tell you the truth
A place at the table



APPLY FOR ORDINATION

cgif.global/apply. Applications received during conference week are reviewed before December.

“One can chase a thousand, and two can put ten thousand to flight.”

DEUTERONOMY 32:30

The Board



Dr. Bob Rodgers

FOUNDER & PRESIDENT

Senior pastor of Evangel World Prayer Center in Louisville for more than three decades, president of Word Broadcasting Network, founder of The Lord's Kitchen, and a presiding board member of Church Growth International in South Korea. Author of more than sixty books; co-host of *Word Alive* with his wife, Margaret.

FOUNDERS' CIRCLE

Dr. David Yonggi Cho (1936–2021), founder, Church Growth International

Dr. Bob Rodgers, founder, CGIF

Forty-three leaders on three regional boards. Different languages, different denominations, one assignment.



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Senior Pastor, Yoido Full Gospel Church, Seoul ·
President, Church Growth International

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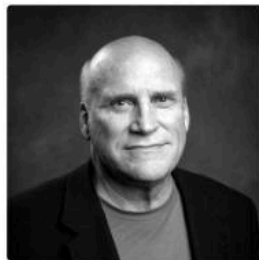
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LEADER, CGIF COLLEGE



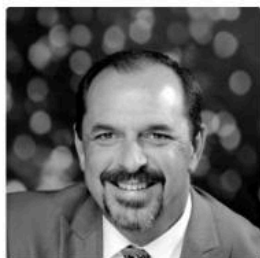
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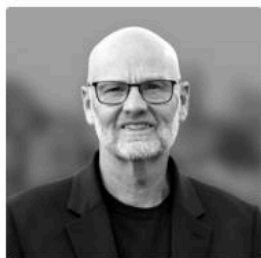
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Ordination, education,
and a global family of
leaders.

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daily encouragement.

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— IN MEMORIAM

A man *of honor*

Remembering Chuck Brewster: agent, author, and a shepherd of men.

CHARLES "CHUCK" BREWSTER

MARCH 24, 1945 – DECEMBER 4, 2025

Some men guard the powerful. Chuck Brewster spent the first half of his life doing exactly that, and the second half guarding something he believed was far more valuable: the souls of ordinary men and the health of the local church. To know his story is to watch one calling quietly become another, the same steady character simply pointed at eternity.

He was a son of Pensacola, born in 1945 to Joseph and Dorothy Brewster. He came up through Pensacola High School, served his country in the United States Air Force, and studied Criminal Justice at Florida State University before entering law enforcement in Birmingham, Alabama. That path led him to the assignment that would define his professional life: twenty-three years as a Special Agent with the United States Secret Service, standing watch over the nation's leaders until his retirement in 1998. Those who served alongside him remembered him simply as "a man of honesty and sound character," which, in that line of work, is the highest honor there is.

Most men would have called that a full life and rested. Chuck was only getting started.

He carried his agent's instincts of vigilance, discipline, and duty straight into the Kingdom. He became the National Director of Men's Ministry for the General Council of the Assemblies of God, pouring seven years into calling men out of spiritual passivity and into purpose. In 2005 he founded Champions of Honor in Pensacola, a ministry

devoted to raising up Christian men as spiritual warriors, and he wrote *Dead Men Rising*, a small-group resource that wove his Secret Service training into the everyday battles men face in their faith and families. Leaders across the church took notice, and many summed him up in three words that fit him perfectly: a man that never quits.

That same tireless heart brought him into the CGIF family. Chuck served as Executive Director of Church Growth International of the Americas, lending his experience and considerable energy to the fellowship's mission of strengthening churches and their leaders. He believed what this movement believes, that the local church, healthy and courageous, is the hope of the world. True to form, he found still another way to serve it, founding The Brewster Group and Church Security Insights to help congregations protect the very people they gather each week to reach. Once a protector, always a protector.

Chuck's greatest legacy was never a title or an organization. It was people. He is survived and dearly loved by his wife, Rhonda, his son Chad, his daughter Lanie, and a family who knew the honorable, immovable man behind the public work. On December 4, 2025, he was carried to Fort Barrancas National Cemetery with the military honors he had earned many times over.

He spent his years making sure the powerful got home safely. He spent his life making sure that everyone else found their way Home, too.

Well done, good and faithful servant.

An exciting, *Spirit-filled* fellowship

Not a denomination. Not another organization. Mike Campbell on what CGIF is, what it is not, and the three things every member gains.



BY MIKE CAMPBELL · EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CGIF



CGIF stands for Church Growth International Fellowship, founded by Dr. Bob Rodgers with the purpose of fellowshipping while focusing and strategizing on church growth. CGIF exists to help churches facilitate growth on a global platform through the power of the Holy Spirit.

One thing CGIF is not is a denomination or just another organization. It is a fellowship with a mission to evangelize our cities and nations with the supernatural power of God. Jesus told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people group. This is the mandate of the church, and when we do it, the gates of hell cannot prevail against us.

CGIF has no intention of replacing present affiliations with other organizations or denominations, but will serve to provide a fellowship with leaders who have a

dream to see their churches grow and mature. With the help of an international panel of experienced and successful leaders on the CGIF Board, we believe that our relational impetus will provide a vehicle with greater cohesive power that will ultimately supersede anything other organizational relationships provide.

To do this we must unite with like-minded believers and leaders. Our mission and purpose are to strengthen, strategize, and support each other as a body. We recognize the spiritual principle that one can chase a thousand and two can put ten thousand to flight. That is why it is important that we stay focused on the vision of preaching, teaching, and healing and not get bogged down in bureaucratic and hierarchical structure. Our two main objectives are fellowship while focusing on growing and planting churches. We are like-minded leaders working side by side to grow and steward what God has given us.

Covering

One of the things you gain in being a part of CGIF is a covering through licensing and ordination, which brings affirmation to an individual of their call. The process of credentialing assists members in their personal and ministerial growth. CGIF then continues to support members through equipping and relationship while they fulfill their purpose and call in ministry.

Equipping

The second benefit of membership is our commitment to equip members through continued education, mentoring, and spiritual experiences. One of the ways we do this is our various gatherings throughout the year to celebrate and demonstrate what God is doing in our lives and ministries. We will also endeavor to stay in contact with members through monthly emails and regular video calls. Another exciting development is our ability to offer continuing education through CGIF College as an extension campus of a fully accredited university, with undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programs.

Relationship

The third, and we feel the most important, benefit of membership in CGIF is relationship. We understand that ministry can be very lonely; therefore CGIF provides the opportunity to receive help and support on an individual basis. Areas in which CGIF connects ministers together include ministry transition support, ministry position postings, counseling, and support while facing tough issues and needing advice.

I would like to invite you to be a part of an exciting fellowship that focuses on people working together to reach the harvest. CGIF offers you the opportunity to come alongside like-minded ministers and leaders who are changing the way we reach the world for Jesus. I look forward to working alongside each and every one of you. Together we can make a difference!

Mike Campbell



BECOME A MEMBER

cgif.global/apply. Licensing, ordination, and membership. Applications received during conference week are reviewed before December.



Mike Campbell · Executive Director, CGIF

“We understand that ministry can be very lonely. CGIF provides the opportunity to receive help and support on an individual basis.”

Three benefits of membership

- ◆ **Covering:** licensing and ordination that affirm your call
- ◆ **Equipping:** gatherings, mentoring, monthly contact, and CGIF College
- ◆ **Relationship:** transition support, position postings, counseling, and counsel in hard seasons



**MIKE CAMPBELL
MINISTRIES**

mikecampbellministries.com

A school in *every church*

Your building sits empty five days a week. Your city's families are looking for a school that shares their faith. Dr. Bob Rodgers on the accredited program that lets any church open its doors on Monday.



BY DR. BOB RODGERS · FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, CGIF



Ask any pastor what his church owns and he will describe a building. Ask him what it produces, and the honest answer for most of the week is silence. Sunday fills the sanctuary; Monday through Friday it waits.

Now ask the families in your city what they want. More and more, they want a school, one where their children are known, taught to read well, and taught that the Bible is true. They are not looking for a lecture on culture. They are looking for a place.

I believe every church can be that place. For years the honest objection was that a church could not build a

real school: the curriculum, the accreditation, the transcripts, the teachers for every subject. That objection is gone. We have built the thing that removes it, and I want to put it in your hands.

Evangel Christian School has been educating students in Louisville since 1980. Five years ago we set out to take four decades of accredited, values-based education and put it online, so that a church anywhere could offer its families the same program our own families have. Evangel Online School is the result, and it is now open to churches and institutions across this fellowship and around the world.

What you actually get

This is not a curriculum in a box. It is a complete, fully accredited K through 12 school delivered through your church. The lesson plans, assessments, grading systems, transcripts, and academic support are all provided. Every student earns credentials from an accredited American institution, and a diploma from Evangel Christian School is recognized by universities and employers worldwide. High school coursework is NCAA certified, and students in grades seven through twelve can begin earning college credit through dual-credit courses before they graduate.

Your church gets its own branded portal, where families apply, enroll, manage tuition, and follow their children's progress. Our enrollment team walks you through onboarding, roster import, and credentialing. You do not need a certified teacher for every subject, because the teaching is built in. What you need is a room, a leader who loves children, and the will to open the door.

Three ways in

Churches start at different sizes, so the program is offered in three tiers. **Elementary Standard** gives you the full accredited K through 6 curriculum with grade management and progress tracking. **Elementary Premium** adds an expanded resource library, enrichment materials, and priority academic support. **Secondary Complete** covers grades 7 through 12 with the full diploma program, NCAA certified coursework, dual credit, graduation planning, and college-prep counseling resources. Pricing is set for each school based on enrollment and grade levels, and our team will work with you to find the right fit.

Start with what you have

Not every church will open a full-time academy in year one, and it does not need to. A homeschool co-op that meets at the church two days a week. A hybrid program for a dozen families. A kindergarten. Because the accreditation and the coursework travel with the platform, a church can begin small and grow as families come, without ever having to rebuild.

Why this matters for the Kingdom

Families who come for the school stay for the church. A school gives your youth pastor a mission field on a Tuesday. It gives your people a reason to invest in the building beyond a weekend. It gives your city one more reason to trust you with its children, and it gives those children twelve years of hearing that the Word of God is true.

Our mission at Evangel is to empower, encourage, and equip every student to become a compassionate, responsible, self-motivated lifelong learner. I would love for that mission to have an address in your city. Scan the code, tell us about your church, and we will walk with you from the first conversation to the first day of school.

Evangel Online School

- ◆ Fully U.S. accredited, K through 12
- ◆ Serving students since 1980
- ◆ Curriculum, assessments, grading, and transcripts included
- ◆ NCAA certified high school coursework
- ◆ Dual credit college courses
- ◆ Your church's own branded family portal
- ◆ Guided onboarding and enrollment support

"Families who come for the school stay for the church."

Start a school



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— BOB RODGERS MINISTRIES

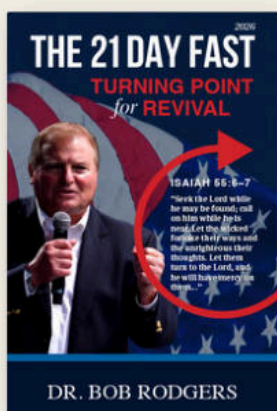
Sixty books. *One message.*

Teaching on prayer, fasting, faith, and the supernatural from more than thirty years of pastoring, now in print, on air, and online.



Dr. Bob Rodgers

SENIOR PASTOR, EVANGELIST
WORLD PRAYER CENTER
CO-HOST, WORD ALIVE



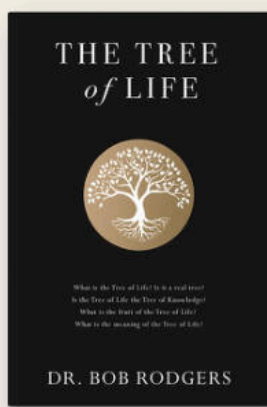
The 21 Day Fast

Turning Point for Revival • 2026



Power Prayers

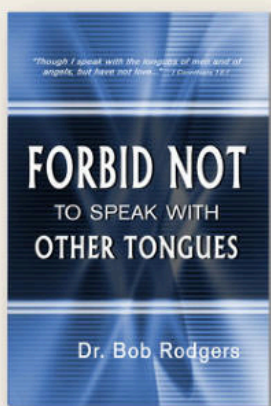
21 greatest prayers in the Bible



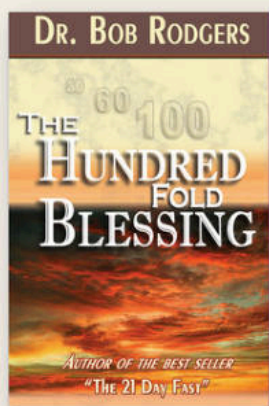
The Tree of Life



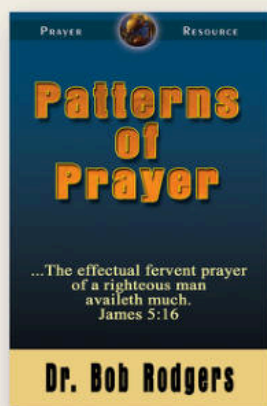
Six Reasons to Pray



Forbid Not to Speak with Other Tongues

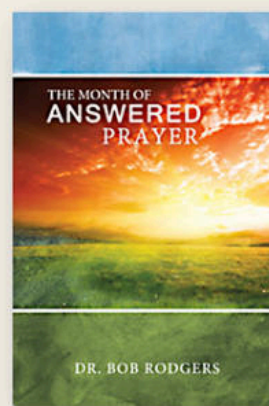


The Hundred Fold Blessing



Patterns of Prayer

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man



The Month of Answered Prayer



BOOKS & TEACHING

bobrogersministries.org

Browse the full library, order books and Bibles, and find *Word Alive* air times.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL

Visit the resource table

Signed copies and conference-week pricing on the titles above, all week in the atrium.

Fuel the *movement*

CGIF is funded by the generosity of its members and friends. Every gift trains a minister, sends a team, or opens a door in a nation we could not reach alone.

\$50

A MONTH

Helps a pastor who could not otherwise afford it take the next step in accredited education.

\$250

A MONTH

Underwrites a regional gathering so that no leader in our fellowship is isolated.

\$1,000

ONE TIME

Sends a team member to Scotland, Seoul, or the next city God opens.

Three ways to give

Online. Scan the code or visit cgif.global/donate. One-time or monthly.

By mail. Church Growth International Fellowship, 6900 Billtown Road, Louisville, KY 40229.

Church partnership. Add CGIF to your missions budget and become a Partner Church, with recognition at conference and a seat at the partners' breakfast.



GIVE NOW

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Partner Churches

Churches giving \$3,000 or more a year are listed in every issue of this magazine and on cgif.global. Ask about Partner Church status at the welcome desk.

Trained *to lead*

CGIF College has partnered with Southeastern University to offer an accredited Bachelor of Science in Ministerial Leadership. Dr. Evon Horton, who leads the college, on the partnership and what else is new in the fellowship.



BY **DR. EVON HORTON** · LEADER, CGIF COLLEGE



Welcome to the new and improved Church Growth International Fellowship. We are determined to work together to support you in your ministry, and I am pleased to make an announcement that sits at the heart of that commitment: CGIF College has partnered with Southeastern University.

Southeastern University is located in Lakeland, Florida. It is a Christian university affiliated with the Assemblies of God since its inception in 1935, and it is committed to equipping the next generation to go into the world as influential servant leaders in their careers and their communities. SEU offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral degrees and is fully accredited with regional accreditation, the

same accreditation held by any state operated university in the United States.

Through this partnership we will be offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Ministerial Leadership, designed to give you the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a leadership or support role in ministry. Because the degree carries regional accreditation, our students have access to financial assistance. Currently 99 percent of students enrolled at SEU receive financial aid.

For many of the ministers in this fellowship, that combination has never been within reach before: an accredited degree, from a Spirit-filled university, built for the work you are already doing.

Why I said yes

I have the privilege of assisting with the launch of CGIF College, and I want you to know who is walking with you. I have fifty years of ministry experience, including serving as President of Masters College and Seminary in Toronto, Canada. Most recently I served for twenty years as senior pastor of Brownsville Assembly of God in Pensacola, Florida, the church that hosted the largest and longest revival in U.S. church history. From 1995 to 2001, five million people from around the world came through its doors.

My own training came through a Bachelor of Arts from Spring Arbor University, a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary. I have seen what happens when the anointing and preparation meet in the same minister, and I look forward to working with you to receive the ministerial tools needed to accomplish the Lord's work.

More than a college

CGIF College is one part of a larger commitment to serve you better, and it begins with greater communication. You will receive a monthly email newsletter with news and views for ministry today, and we will gather quarterly on Zoom for a timely word from Dr. Bob Rodgers, President of CGIF.

We are also coordinating support through our board members, who bring decades of ministry experience to the fellowship. Ministry is demanding, and no one should carry its hardest seasons alone, so we are organizing help for those with concerns in balancing family and ministry, financial struggles, conflict resolution, and depression and anger management. If you are facing one of these, a seasoned leader in this fellowship is ready to walk with you.

And we are excited to launch, on our website, a place to post ministry opportunities and the resumes of those looking for a ministry placement. Churches in this fellowship are looking for leaders, and leaders in this fellowship are looking for a place to serve. We intend to bring them together.

Take the first step

If you would like more information about CGIF College, email me directly at Evon.Horton@CGIF.Global. For information on all of these developments, write to info@CGIF.Global. We are determined to work together to support you in your ministry, and I believe the best days of this fellowship are ahead of us.



Dr. Evon Horton · Leader, CGIF College

CGIF College at a glance

- ◆ In partnership with Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida
- ◆ Bachelor of Science in Ministerial Leadership
- ◆ Regionally accredited, the same as any state university
- ◆ Financial aid available; 99% of SEU students receive it
- ◆ Affiliated with the Assemblies of God since 1935

Ask about CGIF College



EVON.HORTON@CGIF.GLOBAL
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BROWNSVILLE CHURCH
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— SAVE THE DATE



CHURCH GROWTH INTERNATIONAL · 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

Seoul, *October 2026*

OCTOBER 28-31 · YOIDO FULL GOSPEL CHURCH, SEOUL

1976-2026 · Celebrating 50 Years of the Holy Spirit

Fifty years ago, Dr. David Yonggi Cho founded Church Growth International to serve pastors with the essence of the gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. This fall, Dr. Younghoon Lee and the church Dr. Cho built welcome leaders from more than twenty-five nations back to Seoul to mark the milestone. In CGI's own words, it is more than a celebration of the past; it is a sacred milestone that invites us to reaffirm our vision and renew our commitment for the next fifty years.

Four days of plenary sessions with more than thirty international church leaders, daily early-morning prayer, a Holy Spirit prayer meeting, and a closing grand prayer rally, all at Yoido Full Gospel Church. Ask about traveling with the CGIF delegation.

JOIN THE CGIF DELEGATION

Travel with the fellowship

Register at cgikorea.kr. For travel and group details, contact the CGIF office at info@cgif.global or (502) 231-9100 ext. 1216.



CONFERENCE INFO

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Registration, lodging, and the full schedule will be announced this fall. Watch cgif.global and your inbox, and plan now to keep the first days of March open.

"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

MARK 6:31

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Details coming soon

Pastors and spouses. Space will be limited.



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Scan for updates as details are released.

For such a time *as this*

You did not end up where you are by accident. Cynthia Thompson on Esther, assignment, and why the season you are in is the one you were made for.



BY CYNTHIA THOMPSON • BOARD MEMBER, CGIF



Esther did not apply for the job. She was an orphan, a foreigner, a young woman with no platform and no protection, and she was carried into the palace by circumstances she never chose. If you had asked her at any point along the way whether she felt qualified, I suspect she would have laughed, or cried.

And yet, when the moment came, her uncle Mordecai said the words that have echoed for twenty-five centuries: "Who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

I want to say those words to you. Not as a slogan on a coffee mug, but as a diagnosis of your life. You are

not where you are by accident. The church you serve, the city you live in, the family you carry, the season you are walking through: none of it is random. Purpose is not something you find at the end of a search. It is something God assigned before you were born, and He has been arranging your circumstances toward it ever since.

Dr. Myles Munroe used to say that the greatest tragedy in life is not death, but a life without purpose. I would add this: the second greatest tragedy is a person with purpose who does not recognize their moment when it arrives.

Assignment is bigger than ambition

Ambition asks, "What do I want?" Assignment asks, "What have I been sent to do?" The two can look alike from the outside, but they come from opposite places. Ambition is fueled by comparison and runs out. Assignment is fueled by the Holy Spirit and does not.

Esther's assignment cost her something. She had to risk her position, her comfort, and her life to walk into the king's court uninvited. That is the pattern. God rarely assigns us to what is convenient. He assigns us to what is necessary, and then He supplies the courage as we step.

Three signs you are in your moment

The problem in front of you keeps you up at night. Nehemiah wept over a wall in a city he had never seen. Burden is often the first evidence of assignment. If a need will not leave you alone, pay attention.

You feel unqualified. Moses stuttered. Gideon hid. Jeremiah said he was too young. Esther was a girl in a man's world. God has a long habit of choosing people who are painfully aware they cannot do it alone, because those are the people who will pray.

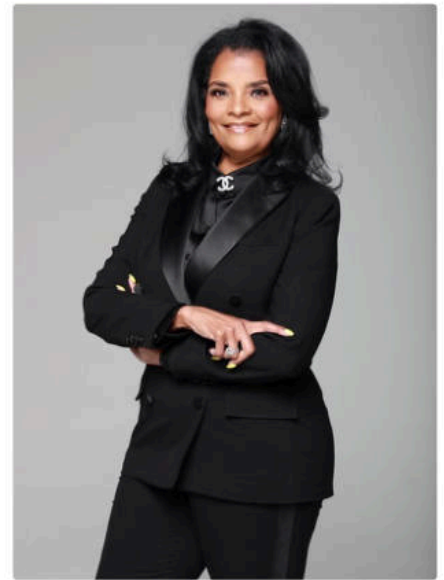
Doors open that you did not knock on. When favor begins to show up in places you did not engineer, in a conversation, an invitation, or a resource, it is often the Lord confirming that the time is now.

What to do when the moment comes

Esther did not rush. Before she moved, she fasted for three days, with her people alongside her. I cannot overstate this. In a fellowship built on prayer and fasting, we of all people should know that a fast is not a religious formality; it is how you get your own heart quiet enough to hear the assignment clearly and strong enough to obey it.

Then she moved. "If I perish, I perish." Purpose always ends in a step of obedience that feels like a risk. If you are waiting to feel ready, you will wait forever. Readiness is not a feeling. It is a decision to trust that the One who assigned you will go with you.

Sister, brother, pastor, you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this. The times are not getting easier, but they are getting clearer. Fast. Pray. Then walk into the room.



"Purpose always ends in a step of obedience that feels like a risk."

Three signs you are in your moment

- ◆ The problem in front of you keeps you up at night
- ◆ You feel unqualified, and it drives you to pray
- ◆ Doors open that you did not knock on



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The pastor's *second wind*

Somewhere past twenty years in ministry, most pastors hit a wall. Dr. James Horvath on what is on the other side of it, and why the best years may still be ahead.



BY DR. JAMES HORVATH · BOARD MEMBER, CGIF



Nobody warns you about the middle. The beginning of ministry is all adrenaline; the end is all legacy. The middle is where the calls do not come, the crowd has plateaued, and the vision that once kept you up at night now barely keeps you awake in a meeting.

I have been there. And I have sat with enough pastors to know that the wall is not the end of the race. It is the place where God renegotiates the terms. He takes away the fuel you started with, the ambition, novelty, and applause, and offers a different fuel, one that does not run out.

Elijah hit the wall the day after his greatest victory. Fire had fallen on Carmel; the prophets of Baal were finished; the drought had broken. And twenty-four hours later he was under a broom tree asking God to let him die. Notice what God did not do. He did not rebuke him. He fed him, let him sleep, fed him again, and then walked him forty days to a mountain where He spoke, not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire, but in a whisper. Then He gave him a new assignment and a successor. That is the whole second-wind story in one chapter.

Name the wall

Fatigue, disappointment, and comparison are the usual bricks. Most pastors will not say them out loud, because saying them feels like admitting the anointing has lifted. It has not. Elijah was exhausted, not disqualified. Say the words, to God first, and then to one trusted friend in this fellowship. A wall you refuse to name is a wall you will never climb.

Change the question

The first half of ministry asks, "What can I build?" The second half asks, "Who can I raise?" Moses spent forty years leading and then poured his last strength into Joshua. Paul wrote his most enduring letters not to crowds but to Timothy. Pastors who make that turn discover that the church grows in ways it never did when the growth depended on them, because now there are ten hands on the plow instead of two.

Recover the private life with God

Every leader in this fellowship began on their knees. The second wind comes the same way. Dr. Cho's Prayer Mountain was never a strategy; it was a lifeline, and it still is. Somewhere in the middle years, most of us traded the secret place for the platform. The remedy is not complicated. Get up earlier. Turn the phone off. Open the Bible with no sermon to prepare. Fast one day a week. The whisper is still there; the noise is the problem.

Give yourself away

Mentor a younger pastor. Take the mission trip. Say yes to the thing that scares you. The strange law of the Kingdom is that fuel is found in pouring out, not in holding back. Movement is the cure for the middle.

I am in the back half of my race now, and I can tell you honestly: the best years were not the years of building. They are the years of raising. The wall was the door.



"The wall is not the end of the race. It is where God renegotiates the terms."

Four moves for the middle years

- ◆ Name the wall
- ◆ Change the question
- ◆ Recover the private life with God
- ◆ Give yourself away



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Dr. James Horvath, Senior Pastor ·

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The Lord gives
wisdom; from His
mouth come
knowledge and
understanding.
Proverbs 2:6

The whole world is learning to *ask for help*

The Church can offer the deepest kind.

Counseling has exploded into a multibillion-dollar industry. That isn't a threat to the local church. It may be the clearest invitation we've had in a generation.

BY RYAN RANSOM · FOUNDER, TEND PASTORAL SYSTEMS

A few years ago, telling someone you had “a therapist” still came with a small flinch. Today the younger people in my church trade counselor recommendations the way my generation traded mixtapes. Something has shifted, and the numbers behind that shift are staggering.

Consider BetterHelp, the largest of the online therapy platforms. It has connected more than five million people with over thirty-four thousand licensed counselors, and at its peak it was bringing in more than a billion dollars a year. It is not alone. Talkspace, Cerebral, and a dozen others have turned “talk to someone” into an app you open between meetings. The online-therapy market was worth roughly four and a half billion dollars in 2025 and is projected to more than triple within a decade. This is one of the fastest-growing corners of health care in the country.

And it isn't only happening online. The federal government's own health survey found that one in seven American adults sat down with a counselor or therapist in the past year, a figure that rose again from the year before. Step back further and the trend is unmistakable: the share of adults receiving any kind of mental-health care climbed from nineteen percent to twenty-three percent in just three years, and among young adults the increase was a remarkable forty-five percent. A whole generation has decided, more or less at once, that it is not weak to need help.

What the boom is really telling us

It would be easy for a pastor to read those numbers as competition. They are not. They are a revelation.

What all of this growth reveals is a country full of people who are quietly desperate to be seen, to be heard, and to make sense of their own lives, and who are now willing to raise a hand and say so out loud. The stigma that kept people silent for a generation has finally lifted. The question is no longer whether people will reach for help. They already are, by the millions. The only real question is what they find when they reach.

Because here is the part the market cannot solve. Even with all that growth, roughly forty percent of Americans, about a hundred and thirty-seven million people, live in an area with a critical shortage of mental-health providers.

The average wait for care now stretches past six weeks. In the places where help is scarcest, only about a quarter of the need is actually being met. Demand has outrun supply, and it is not close.

That gap is not an abstraction. It is the woman in your third row who is on a waitlist. It is the college student home for Christmas who has been “meaning to talk to someone” since August. Your congregation is living inside that gap right now.

The care only the Church can give

An app can offer a person a listening ear, and that is not nothing. But the local church can offer something no subscription ever will: not merely someone to talk to, but a way to sit down with God and hear His voice for themselves.

So let me be clear about what Tend is, and what it is not. We are not trying to build a Christian version of BetterHelp, and we are not competing for the same chair. Tend is not clinical therapy. We are ordained ministers offering non-clinical pastoral care: spiritual guidance, biblical wisdom, and a church walking with someone through what they are facing. We do not diagnose, and we do not treat mental illness. When a person is carrying something that needs a licensed professional, we say so plainly, and we help them find that care. Think of Tend, then, not as a rival to the counseling boom but as its missing half. A pastoral alternative for the millions who are reaching for help and are, underneath it all, reaching for God.

That conviction is why we built Tend, and it is why Tend is inseparable from Devo10, the daily devotional practice at its heart.

Devo10 is a library of more than two hundred ten-minute devotionals, each one written for a specific, real situation: anxiety that will not quiet down, a marriage gone silent, grief that ambushes you in the grocery store, a faith someone is quietly questioning. A person does not scroll a menu of generic content. They name what they are actually walking through, in their own words, and land on a reading written for exactly that. Ten unhurried minutes a day to be still, open the Word, and let God speak, not through a counselor's paraphrase, but to them directly.

Tend is the pastoral care wrapped around that practice. When someone needs more than a page, Tend puts a pastor within reach and makes the follow-up turnkey for a church team. It quietly surfaces the people who are struggling before months slip by, and it hands whoever sits down to counsel a clear picture of where that person has been walking. It means caring well no longer depends on one overstretched pastor happening to remember everyone. A trained volunteer, a lay leader, a small-group host: any of them can walk beside someone faithfully, because the path is already laid out.

Why now

I have become convinced we launched this at precisely the right moment, and not because of anything clever we did.

The culture spent the last decade making it normal, even admirable, to seek care for your inner life. The professional system that was supposed to meet that demand cannot keep up. And into that exact gap steps the institution that has been in the soul-care business for two thousand years, that is already present in nearly every community in the country, and that offers the one thing the whole search was ultimately for: God Himself. The timing is not our achievement. It looks a great deal like providence.

The season people need us most

We tell ourselves the holidays are the happiest time of the year. For an enormous number of people, they are the hardest. A 2025 survey found that nearly a third of Americans feel worse, mentally and emotionally, in November and December than in any other months. The American Psychiatric Association's holiday poll consistently finds that close to half of us are grieving someone we have lost, wrestling with strained family relationships, or lying awake over money we do not have. And the cruelest detail of all: nearly half of the people who had been "seeing someone" report pausing their sessions at year's end, right when the darkness is heaviest.

Sit with that. At the very moment secular care goes quiet, the Church throws open its doors for Advent and Christmas. The building is already full. The longing is already there. What has been missing is a way to meet it that goes deeper than a warm service and does not collapse the moment January arrives. That is the gap we built Tend to fill.

An invitation to CGIF churches

Which brings me to why I am writing in these pages. I do not simply want to tell you about this. I want a handful of you to help me prove it, in your own congregations, this holiday season.

So we are opening a Charter Church cohort, exclusively for churches in this fellowship. The first twelve to join receive \$500 off their first year of Tend, a real charter welcome for the churches willing to step out first. In return we ask only for honest feedback along the way, and permission to tell your story to the churches who come after you. It is a genuine cap of twelve, and applications close October 31, early enough that we can have you fully running before Advent, when your people need it most.

If that stirs something in you, do not let this magazine close on it. Take two minutes and fill out the charter application online at tendpastoral.com/cgif, or simply scan the code at right. Tell us about your church, and we will personally walk you through the rest.

The world is finally asking for help out loud. Let us make sure that when they ask, they find the One they were really looking for.

1 in 7

AMERICAN ADULTS SAW A COUNSELOR
IN THE PAST YEAR

137 million

LIVE WHERE MENTAL-HEALTH
PROVIDERS ARE CRITICALLY SHORT

6+ weeks

AVERAGE WAIT FOR CARE

45%

RISE IN CARE AMONG YOUNG ADULTS

Charter Church cohort

Exclusively for CGIF churches. The first twelve receive **\$500 off** their first year of Tend. Applications close **October 31**, so you are running before Advent.



CLAIM YOUR SPOT
tendpastoral.com/cgif

Ryan Ransom is the founder of Tend Pastoral Systems and, with his wife Carey, a pastor, ordained minister, and member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. tendpastoral.com

Courage *to lead*

*The torch was passed to Joshua with six words and a promise.
Kevin McKnight on what it takes to pick it up today.*



BY **KEVIN MCKNIGHT** · EXECUTIVE PASTOR,
EWPC · BOARD MEMBER, CGIF

Few have ever been faced with a leadership challenge like Joshua faced in Joshua chapter one. He was following in the footsteps of Moses, without a doubt one of the greatest leaders in the history of Israel. Joshua was being called to complete the task of conquering the enemies standing in the way of taking the Promised Land.

How would you like to hear these words as you are called to a new ministry assignment? "Moses, My servant is dead, so now get up and cross over the Jordan." God did not mince words with Joshua. He got right to the point. The torch is being passed and I have chosen you to take it up.

Now, God promised that no one would be able to stand against him all the days of his life. It came with the assurance that God would never leave him. It is a great promise that God is with you. We have that same promise from God today.

Joshua was going to have to lead the people through some difficult places, and it was going to require some grit. Three times God says to Joshua, be strong and courageous. One of those times God says, very courageous.

God did not promise easy. He promised success. The success was assured if they adhered to the Word of God, the Book of the Law. Out of the Word we are made successful and wise. You can take heart to know God has not forgotten His promises. Though you may face mighty armies and giants, know that God is with you and you will not lose.

Your Promised Land

God has a divine destiny for you. It is your Promised Land, your place of rest. We can learn from Joshua some of the things we need to do to see that realized in our lives. In chapter three the command went out for the people to prepare themselves. They were told to move with the Ark. The Ark was God's presence. Never go without God's presence.

They were to consecrate themselves, for God was going to do amazing things among them. Tomorrow is a new day. Isaiah 43:19 says, "Behold, I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

The day in which we are living requires leaders who are strong and courageous. The destiny God has for us requires strength and courage. That strength and courage will come as we set ourselves apart for God's purpose. Remember, tomorrow God will do amazing things among us!



*"God did not promise easy.
He promised success."*

JOSHUA 1

Before you cross over

- ◆ Move with the Ark: never go without God's presence
- ◆ Consecrate yourselves: set apart for His purpose
- ◆ Hold to the Word: out of it we are made successful and wise
- ◆ Be strong and very courageous



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Tell the *story*

*Your church has a message worth hearing and a camera in every pocket.
Rachel Rodgers on why media is not a department, but a doorway.*



BY **RACHEL RODGERS** · HEAD OF WORD MEDIA · CREATIVE DIRECTOR, CGIF



The first sermon most people in your city will hear from you will not be in your sanctuary. It will be on a phone, at a kitchen table, probably at eleven o'clock at night. What they see in those ninety seconds decides whether they ever come through your door.

That is not a threat. It is the biggest open door the church has had since the printing press. For most of church history the message was bound to the

building; now it is not. A church of two hundred can reach a city of two million on a budget that would not have bought a radio spot twenty years ago. I have watched it happen from inside Word Media, and I have watched it happen in churches with one volunteer and a phone on a tripod.

Media is not a department. It is a doorway. Here is how to walk people through it.

Start with truth, not polish

People forgive an imperfect video. They do not forgive a fake one. The churches winning online are the ones that look like themselves: the actual pastor, the actual people, the actual room. Production quality matters less than you think; sincerity matters more than you can imagine. If your church is warm, let the camera see it. If your pastor is funny, let him be funny.

Pick one channel and be faithful

One weekly clip, posted every week for a year, will do more than a burst of content that dies in a month. Consistency is the algorithm's love language and, more importantly, it is how trust is built with a person who does not yet know you. Choose the platform where your city actually is, which for most of us right now is short vertical video, and show up there every single week.

Tell stories, not announcements

Nobody shares a service time. Everybody shares a testimony. The single most effective piece of content a church can produce is a sixty-second story of a real person whose life God changed, told in their own words, filmed in their own kitchen. Announcements inform. Stories move. And a story travels to people you will never meet.

Train someone

Your media ministry is a person before it is a product. Find the teenager with the phone, the young mom who edits reels for fun, the retiree who used to run a camera at the local station. Give them a purpose, a little budget, and your trust. Nothing in our ministry has multiplied faster than the moment we stopped doing it all ourselves and started raising people.

Remember what it is for

The metrics will try to become the mission. Views are not disciples. Reach is not revival. The purpose of every clip is to get a real person to walk through a real door and meet a real Jesus in a real community of believers. If the content is not doing that, it is noise, however well it performs.

Your church has a message worth hearing and a camera in every pocket. Tell the story. Somebody at a kitchen table at eleven o'clock tonight is waiting to hear it.



“People forgive an imperfect video. They do not forgive a fake one.”

Five moves

- ◆ Truth before polish
- ◆ One channel, every week
- ◆ Stories, not announcements
- ◆ Train someone
- ◆ Views are not disciples

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Built *to last*

Walter Hallam on the difference between a church that grows and a church that endures, and the leadership habits that make the second possible.



BY **WALTER HALLAM** · BOARD MEMBER, CGIF



Any church can grow for a season. A gifted preacher, a move of God, a new building in the right neighborhood, and the seats fill. But I have been around long enough to watch churches that grew fast and churches that lasted, and they are not always the same churches. Growth is a gift. Endurance is a construction project.

Jesus ended the Sermon on the Mount with a story about two builders. Both built houses. Both faced the

same storm. The difference was not the quality of the lumber or the skill of the carpenter; it was what the house was standing on. One man dug down to rock. The other built on what was easy.

I want to talk about what it takes to build a church, a ministry, and a life that is still standing when the storm has passed and the builder is gone. There are three parts to it: the foundation, the framing, and the finish.

The foundation: what cannot change

Every enduring church I know has a short list of things that are simply not negotiable. Not preferences. Convictions. The authority of Scripture. The power and presence of the Holy Spirit. Prayer as the engine, not the ornament. The Great Commission as the reason the doors are open. Write your list. Keep it short. Then dig down to it every time a storm comes, because storms have a way of tempting you to build on something easier.

The framing: systems and people

Vision is not a structure. It is a drawing. What holds a church up between Sundays are the systems and the people: how you raise leaders, how you handle money, how you care for the hurting, how you decide who preaches when the pastor is gone. Churches that last have thought about succession long before they needed it. They have a bench. They have written down how things work so that the ministry does not live in one man's head. Ask yourself an uncomfortable question: if you were gone in six months, what would still be standing?

The finish: the culture people can feel

You can walk into a church and know within five minutes whether it is healthy. Not from the sign or the stage, but from the people. Do they honor one another? Are they quick to forgive? Is there joy in the room? Culture is the finish work of a ministry, and it is set by what the leader celebrates and what the leader tolerates. It takes years to build and one unguarded season to lose.

A long obedience

Underneath all three is one thing: a leader who keeps showing up. Not the flashy years only, but the ordinary ones. Eugene Peterson called discipleship "a long obedience in the same direction," and I have not found a better description of what it takes to build something that lasts. The church that is standing in forty years will be the one whose pastor kept praying, kept preaching the Word, kept raising people, and kept digging down to the rock every time it would have been easier not to.

Build for the storm. Build for the successor. Build for the generation that will never know your name but will worship in what you left them. That is what it means to be built to last.



*"Growth is a gift.
Endurance is a construction
project."*

Three questions for builders

- ◆ What on your list can never change?
- ◆ If you were gone in six months, what would still be standing?
- ◆ What do you celebrate, and what do you tolerate?



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“What is sustained publicly must first be cultivated privately.”

— FEATURE · GIRL ON FIRE

Ignited & *sustained*

“You were never created to live dimmed, depleted, or disconnected from the power of God. You were created to burn.”



BY ROSALINDA RIVERA · FOUNDER, BELLA WOMEN'S MINISTRY · BOARD MEMBER, CGIF

There comes a moment in a woman's life when she realizes she cannot keep living on yesterday's fire.

Maybe you remember when you prayed with greater expectation. You believed bigger. You dreamed without allowing fear to talk you out of what God placed in your heart. But somewhere between responsibility, disappointment, heartbreak, success, family, ministry, and simply trying to hold everything together, the flame became smaller.

Here is the good news: ashes do not mean the fire is gone.

You can burn again

Romans 12:11 tells us, *“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.”* God is not calling us to burn out. He is calling us to **keep burning**.

Being a **Girl on Fire** is not about hype or an emotional moment that disappears by Monday morning. It is about carrying a holy, steady fire that is ignited by God and sustained by His presence.

Throughout Scripture, fire represents the presence, power, and purpose of God. Moses encountered God in a burning bush. Fire fell upon the altar. Tongues of fire rested upon believers in the Upper Room. Paul challenged Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God.” There is something inside of you worth fanning into flame again.

**Ignited by God.
Sustained by His presence.
Sent to carry His fire.**

Tend the fire

Leviticus 6:12–13 gives us a powerful picture. The fire on the altar was never supposed to go out. The priest had a responsibility: remove yesterday's ashes, add fresh wood, and tend the flame. That is still a word for us today.

Remove the ashes. What disappointment, offense, fear, failure, or old season are you still carrying? **Add fresh wood.** Return to prayer. Return to His Word. Return to worship. Surround yourself with people who stir your faith instead of suffocating it. **Tend the flame.** What God ignites, we must intentionally protect.

A woman on fire changes everything

A woman on fire does not get her strength from striving. She gets it from surrender. And when the fire of God is alive within her, it changes everything.

It changes how she works. She carries excellence, creativity, integrity, and courage into every room.

It changes how she loves. She stops expecting people to fill places only God can fill.

It changes how she lives. Her private prayers, unseen sacrifices, quiet obedience, and daily decisions become the fuel that keeps her burning.

You are not finished

Sometimes your fire will roar. Other times it will look like getting up one more time. Forgiving again. Praying when you do not have the words. Walking into the room even though you are afraid. Believing God when everything around you says it is impossible.

Jeremiah described God's Word as "fire shut up in my bones." That kind of fire cannot stay hidden. Eventually it gets into your voice. Your marriage. Your family. Your business. Your ministry. Your leadership. Your dreams. Your decisions. And when you walk into a room carrying the presence of God, you do not just experience the fire. **You carry it.**

So, Girl on Fire, maybe the question is not whether God can ignite you again. The question is:

What ashes do you need to remove?

What fresh wood do you need to add?

What flame has God asked you to protect?

You are not finished. You are not called to survive on yesterday's flame. **Burn again.**



About Rosalinda Rivera

Rosalinda Rivera is a pastor, author, speaker, business strategist, and founder of BELLA Women's Ministry. For decades, she has encouraged women to discover their God-given purpose, rise beyond adversity, and use their influence to transform the world around them. Alongside her husband, Carlos Rivera, she serves as lead pastor of New Life Outreach Church in Richmond, Virginia, and as executive director of New Life For Adults & Youth, a fifty-year ministry of recovery from addiction and trafficking, and hosts the *Faith Fuel* podcast.

HER BOOK

Dare to Dream Again



A seven-week journey pairing biblical wisdom with modern inspiration, for anyone ready to begin again.



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COMING SOON

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A SPECIAL EVENT IN

Scotland

The nation that once sent the gospel to the ends of the earth is waiting to hear it again.

Scotland gave the world John Knox, David Livingstone, and Eric Liddell. Today fewer than one in ten Scots is in church on any given Sunday, and most of the churches that once shaped its cities stand nearly empty. The hunger has not gone away. The Spirit who moved there before is moving again, and He is doing it through pastors who refused to give up on their nation.

One of our own CGIF members is hosting a special gathering in Scotland, and CGIF is going with them. Dates, location, and how you can be part of it will be announced soon. We believe this is the beginning of a movement in a land that has seen revival before and is ready to see it again.



WATCH CGIF.GLOBAL

Full details, dates, and registration are coming soon. Check cgif.global and follow @cgifglobal for the announcement.

Pray for Scotland this week

Ask a board member about it at the conference

Watch cgif.global for information coming soon



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ORDINATION INFO · [CGIF.GLOBAL/ORDINATION-1](https://cgif.global/ordination-1)



Ordination Service

Tuesday morning's special ordination service is open to all. Candidates for ordination and renewal should check in at the welcome desk with their credentials packet before the session begins.

Sunday, Sept. 13

EVENING SESSION



Dr. James Marocco

Monday, Sept. 14

MORNING SESSION

Various CGIF Pastors

EVENING SESSION



Russell Johnson

Tuesday, Sept. 15

MORNING SESSION



Special Ordination Service with Dr. Bob Rodgers

EVENING SESSION



Russell Johnson

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Annual Conference & Ordination
Evangel World Prayer Center · Louisville



— HOLY LAND BROADCASTING

Broadcasting from the *heart of Bethlehem*

IMPACTING THE HOLY LAND WITH THE GOSPEL

From the highest point in Bethlehem, on the ground where history records the angels announcing the birth of Christ, Holy Land Broadcasting has carried the gospel by television into the birthplace of Jesus for more than a decade. It is a beacon of peace in a region that needs one, reaching millions of viewers across the Holy Land and its neighboring communities.

HLB airs teaching from ministries viewers already trust, including Dr. Bob Rodgers, *In Touch*, Joyce Meyer, and *Prophecy USA*, and is devoted to the people it serves, with plans for drug and rehabilitation centers in both Palestinian and Israeli communities.

Partner with HLB

Give to keep the signal on the air, or bring your own program to the Holy Land. Your ministry can be part of reaching Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and beyond with the gospel.



WATCH · GIVE · BROADCAST

hlbroadcasting.tv

502-964-2121 · info@hlbroadcasting.tv

Five TV stations. Six radio stations. *One conversation.*

WORD reaches homes across five markets (Louisville, Houston, Columbus, Nashville, and eastern Kentucky) with faith-and-family television and a family of radio stations led by 88.5 WJIE. Build a campaign across the network: television placement and sponsorships, a station-specific or multi-station radio plan, or coordinated TV and radio planned in a single conversation.

Television

Broadcast placement and program sponsorship

Radio

Station-specific or multi-station plans

Network

Coordinated TV and radio, one contact



ADVERTISE · AIR TIME

wordmediagroup.com/advertise
Rates, inventory, and a station contact for your market.

TELEVISION

WBNA TV-21 Louisville, KY
Faith and family television

WBNM TV-50 Louisville, KY
Multicast television

KBPX TV-46/27 Houston, TX
Multicast television

WCSN TV-32 Columbus, OH
Multicast television

WJDE TV-31 Nashville, TN
Multicast television

RADIO

88.5 WJIE 88.5 FM
Contemporary Christian music

WFIA AM 900 · 107.3 FM
Christian talk radio

970 WGTK 970 AM
Kentuckiana's Voice · news and talk

WKLB 1290 AM · 104.5 FM
Manchester, KY

Big X Sports Radio 1450 AM · 96.1 FM
Sports

The Sound 105.5 FM · 94.7 FM
Christian music and teaching



Church Growth
International Fellowship