

## EVANGELICAL PRESS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION

APRIL 7-9, 2019

**Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown** 





TITLE SPONSOR

FROM THE PRODUCER OF MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN

BREAKTHROUGH

IN THEATERS EASTER 2019

#EPAideas



#### Welcome to EPA 2019!

From cowboy culture to conservatories, stockyards to shopping districts, baseball to bull riding, Oklahoma City provides a diverse backdrop for this year's meeting.

Intriguing location aside, the 2019 convention also offers a fabulous opportunity for inspiration, instruction, and–perhaps most important–interaction with others in the Christian media industry. EPA is not just an association, but rather a unique and tightly woven community focused on professionalism, respect, and commitment to God. EPA members do not just meet with Christian publishing leaders—they become them.

This year, take advantage of 34 sessions led by 39 great speakers; reconnect with old friends and make new ones. Browse exhibits to meet our sponsors and partners and learn more about their valuable resources. And, maybe, take home one (or more) of 297 awards from the annual contest.

Let's take the advice of Oklahoma City native and MLB Hall of Fame catcher Johnny Bench: "I always set my expectations so high that I have a lot to live up to." Together, we can make EPA 2019 a convention to remember!

Eric K. Thomsen EPA Board President





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Statements and publications from speakers and workshop presenters do not necessarily reflect the official positions of the Evangelical Press Association.



### **SPONSORS**

#### TITLE SPONSOR

**BREAKTHROUGH** – BREAKTHROUGH is based on the inspirational true story of one mother's unfaltering love in the face of impossible odds, an enthralling reminder that faith and love can create a mountain of hope, and sometimes even a miracle. Learn more at **breakthroughmovie.com**.

Contact: Julie Fairchild | 130 Agency 214-536-0037 | julie@130A.com

#### **DIAMOND SPONSOR**

Freeport Press, Inc. – A nationally-recognized leader in the print production of high-quality, short-run niche publications and catalogs. Freeport Press has a partnership with EPA to print our annual directory, the Liaison newsletter and the convention program. Learn more at freeportpress.com.

Contact: David Pilcher

740-658-4014 | dppilcher@freeportpress.com

#### **PLATINUM SPONSORS**

Blessings Through Action – Our Action Place is a safe social media network for Christians to interact, connect, organize and be inspired with other likeminded Americans of faith. Join the online community for followers of Christ in the U.S. and be a part of the movement to unite "All Christians Together In Our Nation." Learn more at blessingsthroughaction.org.

Contact: Elaine Beck

520-219-1122 | blessingsthroughaction@gmail.com

Feed The Children – Feed the Children exists to end childhood hunger. It's the cause upon which we were founded in 1979 and the one that we continue to fight for each and every day. Learn more at feedthechildren.org.

Contact: Elizabeth Logan

405-945-4174 | elizabeth.logan@feedthechildren.org

Kingdom Studios – From the creators of I CAN ONLY IMAGINE comes KINGDOM STUDIOS, a new entertainment content company in partnership with LIONSGATE. Learn more at kingdomiscoming.com.

Contact: Jennifer Willingham | ICON Media Group 615-483-4729 | jennifer@iconmediagroup.com

North American Mission Board – The North American Mission Board (NAMB) is the domestic missions agency of the Southern Baptist Convention. Learn more at namb.net.

**Contact:** Jennifer Willingham | ICON Media Group 615-483-4729 | jennifer@iconmediagroup.com

**Thrivent Financial** – A financial services organization that helps
Christians be wise with money and live generously. As a
membership organization, it offers its more than 2.3 million memberowners a broad range of products, services and guidance from financial representatives nationwide. Learn more at **thrivent.com**.

Contact: Callie Briese

612-844-7340 | callie.briese@thrivent.com

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Contact: Cassandra Atchison

573-644-7024 | CAtchison@modernlitho.com

#### SILVER SPONSOR

John Brown University – Celebrating "100 Years of Christ Over All,"

JBU provides quality Christian education. They are noted for their strong journalism program. Learn more at jbu.edu.

Contact: Julie Gumm

479-524- 7211 | jgumm@jbu.edu

#### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Biblica – Biblica, the International Bible Society, translates the Bible into contemporary languages so people can easily read and understand God's Word and have their lives transformed by Christ. Learn more at biblica.com.

Contact: LaReau Anderson

719-231-0456 | lareau.anderson@biblica.com

The Voice of the Martyrs – VOM is a Christian missions organization dedicated to serving the persecuted church worldwide through practical and spiritual assistance and leading other members of the body of Christ into fellowship with them. Learn more at persecution.com.

Contact: Jeremy Burton

405-448-3374 | jburton@vom.org

#### **EXHIBITORS**

LifeWay Research – LifeWay Research assists and equips church leaders with insight and advice that will lead to greater levels of church health and effectiveness. Frequent surveys on today's church and culture demonstrate our knowledge of the dynamics of ministry today and our understanding of the realities of the culture we live in. Learn more at lifewayresearch.com.

Contact: Scott McConnell

615-251-2032 | scott.mcconnell@lifeway.com

The Media Project – TMP empowers journalists to provide a more profound understanding of the role of religion in public life through accurate, thorough and intellectually honest reporting. The organization educates journalists on the importance of religion at training programs worldwide. Learn more at themediaproject.org.

Contact: Melissa Harrison

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EPA would also like to thank the following: **Bible Gateway, Infinity Concepts, Integity Music, Moody Publishers, Radiate Music, and Turning Point with David Jeremiah** for donations of services or products.





## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

APRIL 1, SUNDAY						
11:00 a.m	. Student On-site Journalism Contest	Red Carpet				
12:30 p.m	. Convention Check-in and Registration Opens	Pre-Function				
1:00 p.m.	Group Trek to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum	Meet by Registration Desk				
3:15 p.m.	Opening Reception	Pre-Function				
3:45 p.m.	First-time Attendee Orientation	Green Country				
4:30 p.m.	Opening Plenary Session with Mark DeYmaz	Century Ballroom				
6:00 p.m.	Dinner and Networking	Plaza North and South				
	The Opening Session and Dinner are sponsored by Thrivent Financial					
7:45 p.m.	Table Talk	Century Ballroom				

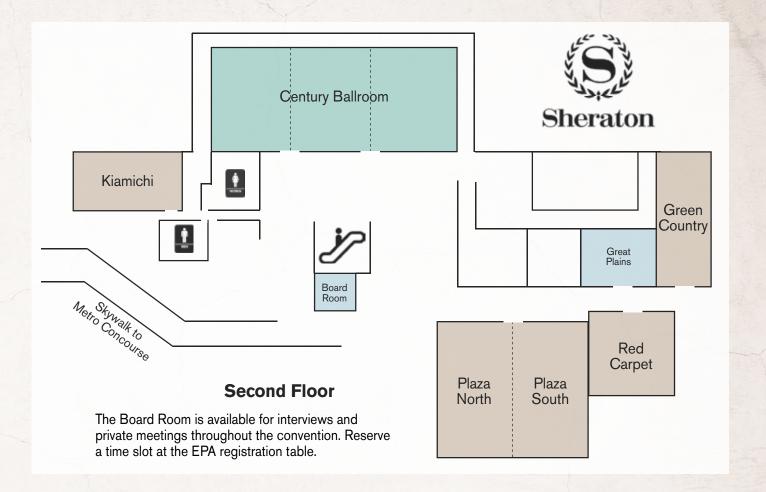
#### APRIL 8, MONDAY

7:15 a.m.	Hosted Breakfast (multiple presenters)	Century Ballroom
8:15 a.m.	Plenary Forum - The Andrew Brunson Interview	Plaza North and South
9:10 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Pre-Function
9:40 a.m.	Workshop Block 1	
10:35 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Pre-Function
11:05 a.m.	Workshop Block 2	
12:15 p.m.	Luncheon	Century Ballroom
	Lunch sponsored by BREAKTHROUGH	
1:20 p.m.	Feed the Children Service Project	One Broadway
2:35 p.m.	Higher Goals Presentation - Part 1	Century Ballroom
3:00 p.m.	Free Time - Dinner on your own	
3:30 p.m.	Group Trek to the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum	Meet by Registration Desk
3:30 p.m.	Group Guided Tour of Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory	Meet by Registration Desk
7:20 p.m.	Board bus for Harkins Theater (bus leaves at 7:30)	Sheraton Lobby Entrance
7:35 p.m.	Board bus for Harkins Theater (bus leaves at 7:40)	Courtyard by Marriott Lobby Entrance
8:00 p.m.	BREAKTHROUGH Movie Private Screening	Harkins Theater Bricktown 16
10:00 p.m.	Bus Returns from Theater	

#### **APRIL 9, TUESDAY**

7:15 a.m.	Hosted Breakfast (Kingdom Studios)	Century Ballroom
8:15 a.m.	Plenary Forum - Biblical Literacy	Plaza North and South
9:10 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Pre-Function
9:40 a.m.	Workshop Block 3	
10:35 a.m.	Networking Coffee Break	Pre-Function
10:40 a.m.	BREAKTHROUGH Movie Media Roundtable	Great Plains
11:05 a.m.	Workshop Block 4	
12:15 p.m.	Lunch   Business Meeting   Higher Goals Awards - Part 2	Century Ballroom
	Lunch sponsored by Blessings Through Action	
2:35 p.m.	Workshop Block 5	
3:30 p.m.	Networking Break	Pre-Function
3:50 p.m.	Workshop Block 6	
5:30 p.m.	Closing Banquet and Plenary Session with Carlos Whittaker   Awards of Excellence	Century Ballroom
	Dinner sponsored by NAMB	

The Monday Higher Goals Awards are primarily writing-oriented awards. Tuesday lunch will feature primarily design-oriented and editorial/design combination awards. The Closing Banquet will include the entire Awards of Excellence presentation.



#### THINGS YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW

- The mobile app is the best way to follow the convention and to connect with each other. Download the SOCIO EVENT mobile app from the Apple iOS or Google Android stores. Search for "EPA 2019 OKC."
- Social media hashtag: #EPAideas.
- Award certificates for all awards will be available after the closing banquet.

### **Hosted Breakfasts**

This year we have two hosted breakfasts provided at the generosity of several of our sponsors. Breakfast opens at 7:15 with brief presentations beginning at 7:35.

Monday morning's breakfast is presented by three sponsors.







The Tuesday morning breakfast is presented by Kingdom Studios.

KINGDOM STUDIOS

- Discounted tickets for the Conservatory and OKC National Memorial are available at the registration desk.
- The Board Room is available for private meetings, consultations, and media interviews. Sign up at the registration desk for a time slot.
- To get to the movie screening, take a bus from the hotel, ride the OKC streetcar or, if you plan to dine in Bricktown, take a short walk. No matter how you get there, the bus can bring you back.
- We have international guests from Turkey, India, Nigeria, and Mexico. Be sure to get to know them and hear their fascinating stories.
- Get to know all our exhibitors and sponsors. Thank them
  for helping to underwrite the cost of the convention.
   Write two names of those with whom you connected
  (different names each meal) on the back of your meal
  tickets to be entered into drawings at each meal.
- A new feature this year (adapted from something we did years ago) is Sunday night's Table Talk – roundtable discussions on a variety of subjects. Pick a table with a subject of interest to you and join in.
- Local attendees commuting daily to the convention can get discounted parking vouchers (\$6) from the hotel front desk. Pick up one for each day.

## BEING WISE WITH MONEY STARTS WITH A SINGLE QUESTION: WHAT'S YOUR ENOUGH?

It's about understanding how much you need to live a life that's true to your faith and values. At Thrivent, we can guide you to make wise financial choices, so you can live a more content, confident and generous life.





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Learn more about making progress on your Wise With Money Journey at Thrivent.com.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 7 | Opening Session | 4:30 p.m.

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Connecting faith & finances for good.

### MARK DEYMAZ | Keynote Speaker



A thought-leading author, pastor, and recognized champion of the Multiethnic Church Movement, Mark planted the Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas in 2001 where he continues to serve as Directional Leader. In 2004, he co-founded the Mosaix Global Network with Dr. George Yancey and today serves as its president, and convener of the triennial National Multi-ethnic Church Conference. In 2008, he launched Vine and Village and remains active on the board of this 501(c)(3) non-profit focused on the spiritual, social, and financial transformation of Little Rock's University District and the 72204 ZIP Code.

Mark has written six books including his latest, Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community (Thomas Nelson, March 2017); and Multiethnic Conversations: an Eight Week Guide to Unity in Your Church (Wesleyan Publishing House, October 2016), the first daily devotional, small group curriculum on the subject for people in the pews. His book, Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church (Jossey-Bass, 2007), was a finalist for a Christianity Today Book of the Year Award (2008) and for a Resource of the Year Award (2008) sponsored by Outreach magazine. His other books include, re:MIX: Transitioning Your Church to Living Color (Abingdon, June 2016); Leading a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church (formerly Ethnic Blends; Zondervan, 2010, 2013), and the e-Book, Should Pastors Accept or Reject the Homogeneous Unit Principle? (Mosaix Global Network, 2011). In addition to books, he is a contributing editor for Outreach magazine where his column, "Mosaic" appears in each issue.

#### Ben and Noelle Kilgore | Music

Ben and Noelle Kilgore are worship leaders and songwriters who serve at Cornerstone Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Kilgores' journey, including the heartbreak of infertility, joys of adoption and a miracle of healing for their child, have helped shape their ministry and their songs. "Our story plays out in our music," says Noelle. "We've had



to trust God in ways that we never thought possible and we've discovered that it's okay to be desperate, it's okay to worship in the brokenness."

#### 6:00 p.m. Dinner & Networking

Use this opportunity for an extended time of **networking** with old friends, and be sure to make new friends.

7:45 p.m. Table Talk



LUCAS

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DENNIS HAYSBERT













FROM THE PRODUCER OF MIRACLES FROM HEAVEN

## BREAKTHROUGH

IN THEATERS THIS EASTER
OPENS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17
BreakthroughMovie.com

#### NAME YOUR DATE

HOST AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWTIME BUYOUT!

With **BREAKTHROUGH**, *you* determine what works best for your group—any time between April 5–21.

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## MONDAY, APRIL 8 | Plenary Forum | 8:15 a.m.

#### The Andrew Brunson Interview

Learn the "art of interviewing" and hear the riveting story of American pastor Andrew Brunson.

#### **ANDREW BRUNSON**



For 23 years, Andrew and his wife Norine were American missionaries in Turkey doing church planting, training, and ministering to refugees. Then Andrew was falsely charged with terrorism and espionage. What followed was two years of imprisonment in a Turkish prison. On October 28, 2018, Andrew was convicted by Turkish authorities, sentenced to time served, and then immediately released and allowed to return to America.

#### **DEAN NELSON**



Andrew will be telling his story in an interview conducted by Dean Nelson, the founder and director of the journalism program at Point Loma Nazarene University. Dean is also the founder and host of the annual Writer's Symposium By The Sea, where he has interviewed writers such as Ray Bradbury, Garrison Keillor, Joyce Carol Oates, Jeannette Walls, Anne Lamott, Tracy Kidder, Eugene Peterson, Philip Yancey, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rob Bell, Shauna Niequist, Donald Miller and dozens of others. He has also written for the New York Times for 25 years, for the Boston Globe, and writes for several magazines. Dean is the author of "Talk to Me: How to Ask Better Questions, Get Better Answers, and Interview Anyone Like a Pro" published by HarperCollins.

## MONDAY, APRIL 8 | Luncheon | 12:15 p.m.

**LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY** 



The luncheon will be followed by a service project, sponsored by Feed the Children, in which we will all join together in assembling 1,000 backpacks with supplies for needy children.

The Higher Goals Awards - Part 1 presentation will follow the service project.

## MONDAY, APRIL 8 | Movie Screening | 8:00 p.m.

BREAKTHROUGH will be screened in a private EPA-only showing at the nearby Harkins Bricktown 16 Theater, 150 E. Reno Ave. Walk to the theater after dinner in Bricktown or catch a private coach—courtesy of Infinity Concepts—from the Sheraton, leaving at 7:30, or the Courtyard by Marriott, leaving at 7:40. The bus will take everyone back to their respective hotels after the movie. The OKC streetcar also has a stop at the theater.



## owr ACTION place

Our Action Place is a safe social media network for Christians to interact, connect, organize and be inspired with other likeminded Americans of faith. Join the fastest growing online community for followers of Christ in the U.S. and be a part of the movement to unite "All Christians Together In Our Nation."



**Social Media For Christians** 



Download on the App Store



Get IT ON Google Play



## TUESDAY, APRIL 9 | Plenary Forum | 8:15 a.m.

#### Biblical Literacy: Advancing the Knowledge and Comprehension of Scripture

#### **BILL CROWDER**



Our Daily Bread Ministries

#### ESTEBAN FERNANDEZ



Biblica - International Bible Society

Biblical Literacy is EPA's 2019 Cause of the Year. Articles and photos/illustrations published in the calendar year 2019 on this subject may be entered into the contest to be awarded in the spring of 2020.

#### MART GREEN



Every Tribe Every Nation Museum of the Bible Hobby Lobby | Mardel

#### **BRIAN RUSSELL**



YouVersion



Sponsor - 2019 Cause of the Year

## TUESDAY, APRIL 9 | Luncheon | 12:15 p.m.

**LUNCHEON SPONSORED BY** 



The luncheon will include the annual business meeting for the association, including the election of one board member, and Part 2 of the HIGHER GOALS awards presentation.

#### Introducing a candidate for the EPA Board of Directors

**NOTE:** EPA president Eric Thomsen completes his two-year term at this convention. President-elect Carol Pipes moves into the role of president for the next two years. A nominating committee has selected one candidate to be the nominee for president-elect. The president-elect serves a two-year term followed by a two-year term as president. Additional nominations may be made by members from the floor during the business meeting. However, it is necessary to have confirmed, in advance, the eligibility and willingness to serve by the potential candidate. In the case of additional nominations from the floor, an election will be held during the meeting.

#### **Nominee for President-Elect**

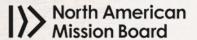


Dan Stelzer is the lead designer for Answers magazine, a publication of Answers in Genesis near Cincinnati, OH. He sees design as a vital extension of telling a good story; therefore, he continually seeks to communicate in creative ways that are both clear and memorable. With over 18 years of experience in advertising, branding, and publishing, Dan has had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects—from his children's numerous school posters to an exhibit at the Ark Encounter. He has been an active part of EPA for 13 years. In that time, he has had the opportunity to lead workshops, conduct person-to-person consultations, and serve on the nominating committee.

## TUESDAY, APR 9 | Closing Banquet | 5:30 p.m.

The evening program will include the AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE presentation.

**DINNER SPONSORED BY** 



#### CARLOS WHITTAKER | Keynote Speaker



Carlos Whittaker is a People's Choice Award winner, a former recording artist signed to a major label, a social media maven, and currently spends the majority of his time writing books and speaking on stages around the world. It really began when the Whittakers found their family in America's spotlight with appearances on shows like CBS Early Morning, The Today Show and more when their viral video "Single Ladies Devastation" went viral. But for Carlos, his wife Heather and their three children, this viral moment was just a snapshot of the bigger picture.

The release of "Moment Maker" marked Carlos' debut as an author, but his current book "Kill the Spider" has taken Carlos' tribe into the deeper parts of their souls. In his newest book Carlos helps people identify, locate, corner, and kill the spiders that are plaguing their lives. "My dad once told me that I must stop cleaning to cobwebs in my life and kill the spider," Carlos recalls. "This was a massive shift in my soul that began my journey towards being truly centered in my life."

As an adult, Carlos and his wife Heather moved from California back to Atlanta where he joined the team at Andy Stanley's Buckhead Church. There, Carlos continued to apply 'moment making' into his everyday life, blogging about his experiences and recruiting his family and friends along the way. In 2009 Carlos signed a recording deal with Integrity Music and moved his family to Nashville TN. It was in Nashville where Carlos decided to make the shift from writing music to writing books. And from singing on stages to speaking on stages.

Currently Carlos is teaching at churches and conferences worldwide. Including Catalyst Conference, Embrace Church, FreshLife Church, and many more.

### **INTERVIEW ROOM**

The Board Room is available during the convention for private interviews and small meetings. Reserve a time slot at the EPA registration table.

ROOM Green Country Kiamichi Plaza North Plaza South Red Carpet	Green Country Kiamichi Plaza South Red Carpet Plaza North	Green Country Kiamichi Plaza North Plaza South Red Carpet Green Country Kiamichi Plaza North Plaza South Red Carpet	Green Country Kiamichi Plaza North Plaza South Red Carpet	Green Country Kiamichi Plaza North Plaza South Red Carpet
PRESENTER(S) Steven Walker Randy Petersen Jeremy Burton, Danielle Smith Erin Hayes Alan Noble	Dave Meurer John Dyer Dean Nelson Andy Olsen Cheryl Odden, Dennis Waterman, Kim van Veen	Alan Noble Mark Forrester Todd Nettleton, Kim van Veen Jason Dreistadt Alan Blanchard, Michael Longinow, Dean Nelson, Marquita Smith Sarah Gordon Bill Crowder Cheryl Odden Mark Dreistadt Andy Olsen, George Paul Wood, Jeff McDonald, Sevil Omer	Neal Holland Bobby Ross, Jr. Sandra Glahn Marquita Smith Ann-Margret Hovsepian	Dan Stelzer Ann Byle Todd Nettleton Scott McConnell Matt Hufman
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### **Local Attractions**

#### Bricktown

Just a short walk from the EPA convention hotel is a former warehouse district filled with more than 45 restaurants and retail shops, along with family-friendly attractions, public art, museums, galleries, and even an urban beach for summer fun.

#### **Water Taxi on the Bricktown Canal**

Take a seat and enjoy the sites of OKC's Entertainment District on the Bricktown Water Taxi. Once on board a water taxi, you'll be entertained as you learn all about the city's unique history and recent renaissance. Boats run continuously every 10-15 minutes and tickets are all-day passes. You can ride round trip, which takes approximately 40 minutes, or you can board and exit at any of the docking locations along the canal to get you through Bricktown and to the Boathouse District.

#### National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum preserves and embodies the histories and cultures of the American West, part of the nation's identity and heritage. Explore the vast, diverse history and artistry of the American West through fine art and artifacts, educational classes and demonstrations.

#### **OKC Streetcar**

Oklahoma City unveiled their new streetcar just a few months ago. With a station platform adjacent to the Sheraton, the streetcar connects conveniently with Bricktown, the National Memorial, and many points in downtown Oklahoma City. \$1 per ride or \$3 a day. Trains operate on 10-minute intervals. The Downtown Loop train, which includes Bricktown, operates seven days a week. The Bricktown (only) Loop operates on weekends only. See the service schedule and learn more at okcstreetcar.com.

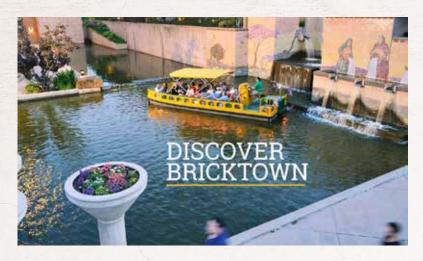
#### **American Indian Artists: 20th Century Masters**

The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum is offering a special exhibition through May 12, 2019. This exhibition highlights this depth and the 20th century American masters who shaped it. Explore early artists such as the Kiowa Six, Tonita Peña, Harrison Begay and the institutions that influenced them.

#### **American Banjo Museum**

Even if pickin' and grinnin' isn't your thing, seeing the beauty of these instruments and learning their uniquely American history is worth the stop. See over 300 banjos on display, as well as interpretive exhibits that tell the story of the banjo from its humble roots in American slavery to its modern-day roles in bluegrass, folk and world music.





#### **OKC Underground**

Downtown OKC's Underground is a series of tunnels and skywalks that connect a large part of the Central Business District's buildings and parking garages, including the Sheraton Hotel. Opened in 1974, the tunnel system is about one mile long and covers more than 20 square blocks. Different colored hallways display themed photo galleries, most relating to Oklahoma City's history. There are also a few art installations.

#### Oklahoma City Museum of Art

The Oklahoma City Museum of Art is home to one of the most comprehensive collections of Dale Chihuly glass sculptures in the world, including the 55-foot Eleanor Blake Kirkpatrick Memorial Tower in the atrium of the museum. More works can be seen in the permanent exhibit, which is full of colorful glass and drawings. Chihuly is widely heralded as the most important artist working in glass since Louis Comfort Tiffany, and the museum's collection represents more than three decades of his work.

#### The 45th Infantry Division Museum

The 45th Infantry Division Museum features wide-ranging collections covering from the Revolutionary War era to today's Oklahomans and their current involvement in the War on Terror. Highlights include one of the finest collections of American military weapons and original drawings by Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin whose characters, Willie and Joe, chronicled the lives of infantrymen in World War II. The 45th Division Museum's 15-acre park features tanks, artillery, personnel carriers, aircraft, and the Thunderbird Monument.

#### Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge

Get closer to nature at the Stinchcomb Wildlife Refuge at the north end of Lake Overholser. It is a pristine area of 1,000 acres that has remained unchanged since before statehood. Hiking the area will put you in close contact with whitetail deer, beaver and egrets and beautiful views of lakes, bottomland forest and marshlands. Adventurers also can fish or rent kayaks and canoes.

#### **RIVERSPORT Adventures**

RIVERSPORT Adventures in the downtown OKC's Boathouse District is the "go to" place for metro area families and visitors looking for outdoor fun including whitewater rafting and kayaking, adventure courses, zip lines, rock walls, cycling, high speed slides, bicycle pump tracks, flatwater kayaking and stand up paddle boarding. You can also zip across the Oklahoma River and back along the Sandridge Sky Zip, a 700-foot zip line.

## **Recommended Free Time Options**

EPA has negotiated discounted group tickets to these two attractions. With a ticket, you have the option of going with a scheduled EPA group or visiting on your own. Tickets may be purchased at the registration desk with cash or check.

#### Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory

Myriad Botanical Gardens and Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory are across the street, adjacent to the Sheraton.

The Myriad Botanical Gardens is a 17-acre botanical garden and interactive urban park. The gardens are home to multiple tiers of densely landscaped areas that surround a sunken lake. Its primary feature is the Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory, a living plant museum featuring towering palm trees, tropical plants and flowers, and exotic animals. Within the 13,000 square feet, you will discover 750 varieties of plants, a cascading waterfall, and a sky bridge to experience stunning views into the tropical forest. Its unique cylindrical design has earned attention and praise in the architectural community. It is 224 feet long, 70 feet in diameter, and is covered by 3,028 sections of translucent, double-layered acrylic panels.

The gardens are outdoors and free of charge to explore at your leisure. The conservatory is indoors and requires an admission fee. Visitors spend an average of 45 to 60 minutes here. EPA has arranged a reduced group rate. Tickets must be purchased in advance from EPA and presented for entrance. The general admission ticket is good for a single admission on any of the three days of the convention. A deluxe ticket can be purchased to join the EPA guided group tour.

Garden hours: Daily 6am to 11pm

Conservatory hours: Sunday 11am to 5pm | Monday and Tuesday 9am-5pm

Conservatory tickets (EPA rate):

Guided group tour (\$6) - Monday 3:30pm to 5pm General admission (\$5) - Explore on your own anytime



The Oklahoma City National Memorial honors the victims, survivors, rescuers, and all who were affected by the truck bombing on April 19, 1995, that killed 168 people, including children. The memorial is located in downtown Oklahoma City on the former site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, which was destroyed in the bombing. Highlights of the Memorial include the Field of Empty Chairs, Reflecting Pool, Gates of

Time, Survivors' Wall, the The Survivor Tree, and the Memorial Fence.

The National Memorial and Museum is a 12-minute walk (.6 mile) from the hotel or a \$1 per one-way ticket on the OKC Streetcar (streetcar does not run on Sunday).

The National Memorial is outdoors and is free of charge to visit. Visitors spend an average of 30 minutes here. The Museum is indoors and requires an admission fee. Visitors spend an average of 60 to 90 minutes here. EPA has arranged a reduced group rate. Tickets must be purchased in advance from EPA and presented for entrance. The ticket is good for a single admission on any of the three days of the convention.

Museum hours: Sunday 12-6pm (entrance closes 5pm) | Monday and Tuesday 9am-6pm (entrance closes 5pm)

Museum tickets (EPA rate): Admission to Museum (\$10) Memorial only (no charge)

Visit the Memorial and Museum on your own anytime, or go as a group during one of these times:

Sunday 1:00 (walk or take streetcar)

Monday 3:30 (walk or take streetcar)



## WORKSHOP BLOCK 1 | Monday, April 8 | 9:40-10:35

#### **Big Design, Little Time**

**Steven Walker** 

Green Country
Design

A streamlined approach to magazine design that saves time, improves visual and editorial directives and continues to benefit over time.

#### You will learn:

- Efficiency
- How to improve collaboration with editors, illustrators, and photographers

## Finding Freshness and Joy in Writing about the Bible

**Randy Petersen** 

Kiamichi

Freelancing | Writing

Can we respect the Bible and still have fun with it? As Christian communicators, we have to. The Bible is full of creativity, humor, off-beat characters, and odd situations. How can we express that to a new generation of readers?

#### You will learn:

- · How essential humor is in the Bible
- · How to look at familiar stories in fresh ways
- How to avoid trying too hard to be funny, but let Scripture find its own fun
- How to give yourself and others permission to have fun with the Bible

#### Social Media: Marketing or Mission – Lessons from Museum of the Bible's Social Media Effort

Jeremy Burton, Danielle Smith Plaza North

Marketing | Social Media | Technology

Since the birth of social media, there has been a struggle between whether each platform should be used for marketing efforts or to advance mission through engagement. You will hear thoughts on this debate and processes, including content marketing strategies, used by Museum of the Bible which was one of the top 10 museums on Facebook before they even opened their doors.

## Clarity in a Crunch: Tips for Writing Clear and Compelling Copy – Fast

**Erin Hayes** 

Plaza South

Editing | Freelancing | Writing

Tight deadlines shouldn't induce panic. They should induce discipline. In our session, you'll learn three key steps for disciplined swift-writing to help streamline the writing process and produce clear, clean and compelling copy – on time.

#### You will learn:

- · How to plant the primary point
- How to employ the process of elimination
- · How to position moment and elements

## Online Publishers and the Obligation to Promote Healthy Reading

**Alan Noble** 

**Red Carpet** 

Digital | Management | Technology | Writing

We know how to draw traffic: clickbait headlines, short articles, and controversial opinions. But Christian publishers cannot just think in terms of traffic. We have an obligation to desire the good of the reader. This workshop will consider how publishers, editors, and writers can cultivate healthy reading habits in their readers.

#### You will learn:

- · The ethical obligations of caring for your readers
- · How to care for your readers in a distracted age
- · How to balance traffic and the good of the reader

## WORKSHOP BLOCK 2 | Monday, April 8 | 11:05-12:00

#### **Humor Me! Your Readers Want to Laugh**

**Dave Meurer** 

**Green Country** 

Freelancing | Writing

A guy who might never read a serious book or article on communication with his spouse might pick up that book or article because he heard his wife crack up when she read it. Humor is a powerful but underutilized communication tool that can hook readers, break down walls, bring relief, teach, exhort, rebuke and edify. Your readers love to laugh, want to laugh and need to laugh — so we are going to explore how to accommodate them.

#### You will learn:

- Humor is a powerful but underutilized communications tool
- Humor is sometimes the best way to make a point, and especially to discredit bad ideas
- Humor can break down walls of resistance and reach readers who might not otherwise read something on a serious subject
- How to incorporate humor into your material even if you cannot write good humor material

## The Place of Technology in the Story of God

**John Dyer** 

Kiamichi

Management | Technology

In a 24/7 always on, hyperconnected world, most of us have a love/hate relationship with technology. We know it can be used for incredible good or terrible evil. But under the surface, there are deeper biblical, theological, and philosophical truths that can help us faithfully navigate our world. Technology is a good gift from God. Technology is anything but neutral. Let's see it for what it really is so we can structure our lives and work to honor God.

#### **Avoiding Silos in Publication Creation**

Cheryl Odden, Dennis Waterman, Kim van Veen Plaza North

Content Strategy | Design | Editing | Management

Creating a publication contains many moving parts in several different departments. How these individuals work together can lead to the construction of silos. Members of The Voice of the Martyrs' Editorial and Creative teams will share about their processes for creating their award-winning monthly magazine—a publication that has been in print for more than 50 years. From planning the editorial calendar and content strategy to scheduling photographers and writers and designing the publication, VOM has developed a wide range of expertise in using each department's skills in order to collaborate versus construct silos.

## Talking To Strangers: How to Craft And Conduct Interviews that Will Get Anyone to Talk

**Dean Nelson** 

Plaza South Freelancing | Writing

The difference between an adequate story and a great story often rests on the quality of insight provided by sources. It takes skill to get people to talk to you, to get them to say something worthwhile, and to get them to trust you. This seminar will provide tools and examples of how to get even the shy, the reluctant, and the attention hogs to give you something useful and colorful.

#### You will learn:

- · How to prepare for an interview
- · How to get past cliches and platitudes
- · How to get a source to trust you
- · How to avoid the likelihood of getting sued

## On Writing Long: How to Chase Your Dream Story

**Andy Olsen** 

**Red Carpet** 

Freelancing | Writing

In an era of slivered attention spans and continued pressure to be brief, longform journalism is seeing something of a revival. But it still feels risky, like you're committing a writerly sin by even considering it. How can you, as a writer or an editor, justify going long? How can you find the time, the budget, and the right audience for your epic project? Andy Olsen, CT managing editor and former International Justice Mission storyteller, will share lessons learned from a career of successful and less-than-successful long reads.

#### You will learn:

- Common characteristics of long pieces that succeed (and that flop)
- · How to identify the right story and writer for a long read
- How to make the case for longform and deliver on your promise



## WORKSHOP BLOCK 3 | Tuesday, April 9 | 9:40-10:35

#### **How to Write Great Blog Posts**

**Alan Noble** 

**Green Country** 

Digital | Freelancing | Writing

What defines greatness in a blog post? If evangelical bloggers use the same metrics as the world to evaluate content, we will inevitably create viral, readable, but vapid posts. This workshop will consider what standards we should use to create great content.

#### You will learn:

- How to rethink the way you evaluate content
- · How to desire the good of the reader
- How to balance the good of the reader with the need to attract readers

## Trending Up: Social Media Strategies for Content Providers

**Mark Forrester** 

Kiamichi

Social Media | Technology

Social media has changed dramatically since 2017, especially for content publishers. This workshop will connect publishers with effective social media strategies in this environment.

#### You will learn:

- Which social media platforms are proving to be effective in 2019 for publishers
- What core strategies can get publishers' content in front of readers
- What trends we can reasonably predict in the coming months

#### **Cross-Cultural Interviewing**

**Todd Nettleton, Kim van Veen** 

**Plaza North** 

Freelancing | Writing

Join The Voice of the Martyrs' radio host, Todd Nettleton, and Deputy Editor, Kim Van Veen, in a discussion about the lessons they have learned in the course of interviewing hundreds of persecuted Christians around the world. And learn how you can better navigate cultural barriers in order to connect, honor those you interview and tell their story in an engaging and accurate manner.

## **Enter the NO FEAR Zone and Find Creative Freedom**

**Jason Dreistadt** 

Plaza South Design

The enemy of creativity is fear. Discover the keys to overcoming the fear that may be paralyzing your creative & design efforts. Whether it is finding a fresh approach, feeling the confines of tradition, or finessing endless revisions, they can be overcome by finding that inner courage to confront

#### You will learn:

· The best weapons in your arsenal

and conquer in order to create with bravery.

- Practical ways to move forward
- · How to discover a new perspective on your creativity

#### Freedom that's Not Free: First Amendment Principles in a Christian College or University Setting

Alan Blanchard, Michael Longinow, Dean Nelson, Marquita Smith Red Carpet

Issues

You enrolled at your college or university to study journalism, media or communications. Or maybe you didn't but found out, through work on your campus newspaper or magazine that you love seeking out and telling the truth through journalism. But you've found some stories are off limits. They can't be told at all – or must be covered so vaguely that the real problems underneath never get into full view. Should you just transfer to a public university? Or are there solutions right where you are? Whether you're a staffer, an editor or an adviser, come to this session and bring your experiences, your thoughts, and the solutions you've seen to what is often a self-silencing among media at Christian colleges and universities.

## WORKSHOP BLOCK 4 | Tuesday, April 9 | 11:05-12:00

## Spread the Love: Designing Delight into Your Opening Spreads

Sarah Gordon

**Green Country** 

Design

Good design should include delight—not just for the reader but you as the creator. Learn to love your opening spreads from concept to completion, and discover how to balance your aesthetic while maintaining the integrity of your brand. We'll talk about ideas, images, type, and all the good stuff that goes into making a two-page layout with which you can be proud.

#### You will learn:

- · New ideas to improve feature article designs
- · Tips to get more variety out of your design toolkit
- · Creative ways to operate within a limited budget

## **Devotional Writing: From the Heart, to the Heart**

**Bill Crowder** 

Kiamichi

Editing | Writing

For the follower of Christ, arguably no form of writing is so internally focused as devotional writing. The process of writing requires the full engagement of the writer's heart, and the goal of this writing is to impact the reader's heart deeply—drawing both writer and reader into a more significant relationship with the God of heaven. For this reason, devotional writing is worthy of our attention and our best efforts... drawing us closer to God and enriching our walk with Him.

#### You will learn:

- · A brief history of devotional writing
- · Distinctives of devotional writing
- · Preparing the heart for devotional writing
- · A suggested process for devotional writing

## **Discipleship Through Storytelling: Inspiring Your Readers**

**Cheryl Odden** 

**Plaza North** 

Freelancing | Writing

As Christian writers and editors, how do we ensure that the stories we tell are inspiring our readers to deepen their commitment to Jesus Christ and His Great Commission? The Voice of the Martyrs' Executive Editor, Cheryl Odden, and Deputy Editor, Kim Van Veen, will present tools that help identify spiritual principles in the stories they publish in VOM's monthly magazine, which has been inspiring Christians around the world for more than 50 years.

#### **Branding from the Inside Out**

**Mark Dreistadt** 

**Plaza South** 

Management | Marketing

A strong brand must be intentional. A strong brand must be memorable. A strong brand must be consistent. A strong brand must be true. But a brand is much more than a logo or a slogan. It is an expression of your purpose and core values. This informative and insightful workshop will empower you to analyze your current brand and ensure that your brand is an authentic expression of your organization. Learn about the art and science of definition and differentiation. Discover how to make you brand memorable and remarkable. Understand how to build your brand from the inside out.

#### You will learn:

- The power of defining your Brand Essence, Brand Positioning, and Brand Promise
- How to make your brand intentional, memorable, consistent and true
- · How to build a strong brand from the inside out

## We Can't Say That: How Christian Publications Wrestle with Self-Censorship in Finding and Telling the Truth

Andy Olsen, George Paul Wood, Jeff McDonald, Sevil Omer

Editing | Issues | Management

**Red Carpet** 

Evangelical Christians have a history of talking about difficult issues – truths that need response – behind closed doors or on the sidewalks outside the church rather than inside it. Yet David Aikman, an evangelical and former Time magazine correspondent, would say we have a prophetic calling: a mandate to tell the truth about what we see, hear and experience. Come share your experiences, your thoughts, and the solutions you've seen to what is often a self-silencing among Christian media professionals seeking integrity and excellence.



## WORKSHOP BLOCK 5 | Tuesday, April 9 | 2:35:3:30

## Working with Freelance and Amateur Photographers

**Neal Holland** 

**Green Country** 

Design | Editing | Photography

The publisher, writer and/or editor's guide to pre-planning, logistics and art direction considerations when working with freelance and amateur photographers. This session will look at decisions regarding whom to hire, planning the shoot, directing the photographer and producing usable and desirable photographs.

#### You will learn:

- How to prepare a non-professional photographer for success
- How to manage logistics in a way that favors the photographer's working environment
- How to plan a successful shoot
- How to make the most of non-professional photography in publishing

#### Reporting on Crisis: Do's and Don'ts

**Bobby Ross, Jr.** 

Kiamichi

Freelancing | Writing

From tornadoes to terrorist attacks, journalists often find themselves caught in the middle of traumatic events. In this session, we'll offer tips for obtaining the most accurate and vital details amid all the chaos – and for treating victims and their loved ones with compassion and respect.

#### You will learn:

- Best practices for reporting on a crisis
- How to approach and interview victims
- Self-care for journalists when covering a tragedy

## Justice through Media in a #MeToo #ChurchToo World

Sandra Glahn

**Plaza North** 

Editing | Writing | Freelancing | Issues | Management | Writing

Workshop Description: After #MeToo came #ChurchToo with thousands of sexual-abuse stories within evangelicalism. And sadly, many believers responded in all forms of media with remarks that contributed to rape culture. Attendees in this workshop will learn to identify subtle rape-culture thinking, hear biblical responses to some common falsehoods, and learn ways to use their vocations to expose falsehood and teach truth through news, profiles, and social-media.

#### You will learn:

- · How to identify rape-culture thinking
- · Biblical responses to common falsehoods
- · Identify ways to counteract falsehood and expose sin

#### The Art and Craft of Feature Editing

**Marquita Smith** 

**Plaza South** 

Editing

Good editors want creative works. We want compelling stories. We want reporters to find a story and tell us a secret. We expect great works. Understanding that perhaps 80 percent of a reporter's time can be spent choosing the right subject, editors need to be better coaches. The key to editing features well is up front discussions. Come let's have a conversation.

#### Participants will:

- · Evaluate coaching verses fixing
- Receive some coaching tips
- · Practice front-ending tips for longer form stories
- · Explore coaching for multimedia projects

## Seal the Deal - How to Find (and Deliver) Great Freelance Assignments

**Ann-Margret Hovsepian** 

**Red Carpet** 

Freelancing | Writing

A compelling story and excellent writing are a freelancer's power tools. Without an outlet to plug them into, however, those tools remain lifeless. Seal the Deal will guide attendees through the three key elements of a successful freelance assignment: finding and pitching strong stories, connecting with the right publication and delivering a polished manuscript.

#### You will learn:

- · How to find inspiration everywhere
- · How to get great assignments
- · How to move your freelance career forward

## WORKSHOP BLOCK 6 | Tuesday, April 9 | 3:50-4:45

#### **Visual Storytelling**

**Dan Stelzer** 

Green Country
Design | Editing

Sometimes the best way to tell a story is through a well-designed chart or graphic. An infographic can often be the best way to summarize a story or help explain a complex process event. We will discuss the role of infographics in storytelling and explore what elements are key in creating effective and impactful presentations. Through several examples we will identify what makes a successful graphic.

#### You will learn:

- How to use hierarchy, color, typography, illustration, and narrative to create effective charts and graphics
- How to appreciate the importance of planning, sketching, and having a focused message when creating successful graphics
- How to be motivated to think through ways to tell stories and communicate visually in your publication

## Putting the Pieces Together: Creating a Strong Article Using Sources, Details, Statistics

**Ann Byle** 

Kiamichi

Freelancing | Writing

Publishers are looking for articles that provide readers a well-rounded look at a given topic, but how do you put together a piece that includes stories, details, a variety of sources, statistics, and other information? We'll look at how articles come together using each of these things, where to find such details, how to incorporate them into stories, and how to tailor stories to match a publications' needs. An excellent resource for writers and assigning editors.

## From Zero to #1: Reaching Your Audience and Promoting Your Content with a Podcast

**Todd Nettleton** 

**Plaza North** 

Digital | Social Media | Technology

At least 124 million Americans had listened to podcasts by 2018, with 73 million listening monthly. But how do you start a podcast? And how does it connect to the content you're already producing? After The Voice of the Martyrs had produced a newsletter for more than 45 years, it launched The Voice of the Martyrs Radio in 2014. By 2016 it had been named Radio Program of the Year by the National Religious Broadcasters and Reached #1 on iTunes' Religion and Spirituality podcast charts. VOM Radio host Todd Nettleton will speak about the value of a podcast and the basics of getting started. In addition, he will share how

your organization can use a podcast to drive people toward your print and online publishing content while using print and online content to drive people to your podcast.

## Why Churches Lose Young Adults and What We Can Do About it

Scott McConnell

Plaza South

Editors | Freelancing | Issues | Management | Writing

Across Protestant denominations young people drop out of church when the choice is theirs. Findings from new quantitative research reveal the reasons young adults step away from church between ages 18-22. Their experiences in church and student ministry impacts whether they stay or go. Guidance from the study equips church leaders and parents to better reach teens and young adults.

#### You will learn:

- Get story ideas to equip church leaders to reach young adults today and to improve youth ministry.
- Learn about data that is available to support numerous story angles.

## Stand Out above the Fray: Creating Content that Gets Noticed

**Matt Hufman** 

**Red Carpet** 

Content Strategy | Editing | Management

To compete in a world of information, you need a strong voice as a content creator, whether as a writer, editor, designer and/or photographer. Using the Bible as a guide and a long tenure in daily journalism, Matt Hufman will help you chart a path to not only create a strategy for your publication but also create content that will help you stand out.

#### You will learn:

- Practical ways to create a strategy for your publication or work
- · How to position your work to stand out
- · How to turn strategy into content
- Ways of thinking about your publication/work that will set you apart



## **Speakers**



Alan Blanchard is associate professor of journalism and co-chair of the Communication Department at Taylor University, where he serves as student newspaper adviser and directs the multimedia journalism program. Before that he taught journalism at Cornerstone University and

advised the student newspaper. Prior to entering academia and earning his Ph.D. in Media & Information Studies, Blanchard worked more than two decades as a publisher, editor, copy editor, reporter and photojournalist at newspapers in California, New Mexico, Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. While editor of The Daily News in Greenville, Mich., the Michigan Press Association named it Newspaper of the Year for three consecutive years. While teaching at Cornerstone, he also owned and operated a commercial weekly newspaper for seven years in Michigan.



American pastor **Andrew Brunson** and his wife Norine served in Turkey for 25 years in church planting, training, ministry to refugees, and house of prayer. In October 2016, the Turkish government imprisoned Andrew on false charges of terrorism and espionage calling for combined prison terms of

35 years. After two years detainment, Andrew was convicted by Turkish authorities on October 12, 2018, on the charge of aiding terrorism but sentenced to time served. He was immediately released from Turkish custody and allowed to return home to America.



Jeremy Burton is the Chief of Connection at The Voice of the Martyrs, an interdenominational Christian missions organization dedicated to serving our persecuted family worldwide. He is the author of Manifesto on Social Media Influence. Previously, Jeremy was the Director of Communica-

tions for Museum of the Bible, which opened in November 2017 and is already one of the top ten museum's in the world on Facebook.



Ann Byle is a professional writer and owner of AB Writing Services. She's been a freelance writer for over 20 years. Ann is author of the book "Christian Publishing 101," for which she interviewed a host of publishing professionals to offer readers "a writers conference in a book." She writes

for Publishers Weekly, Christian Communicator, and Grand Rapids Magazine in her hometown. She has also co-written a number of books on topics ranging from caring for the world's vulnerable children and families to exploring the economics of Haiti and the developing world.



**Bill Crowder** joined the Our Daily Bread Ministries staff in 2001 after more than 20 years in the pastorate stretching from West Virginia to southern California to west Michigan. As Vice President of Teaching Content, Bill provides biblical and theological evaluation of the ministry's content for

their various ministry efforts. Additionally, Bill spends much of his time in a Bible-conference ministry around the world, serving ODBM offices and their outreach to their local communities, and in pastors' encouragement meetings in North America. Bill is a contributing writer for the Our Daily Bread devotional and has written many Bible study booklets for ODBM's Discovery Series. He has also published several books with Discovery House Publishers, the latest being Seeing the Heart of Christ: How Jesus Cares for Hurting People. Bill also serves as a co-host with Mart DeHaan, Elisa Morgan, and Daniel Ryan Day on the "Discover The Word" daily radio program, heard nationwide.



Mark DeYmaz is a thought-leading author, pastor, and recognized champion of the Multiethnic Church Movement, Mark planted the Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas in 2001 where he continues to serve as Directional Leader. In 2004, he co-founded the Mosaix Global Network with Dr.

George Yancey and today serves as its president, and convener of the triennial National Multi-ethnic Church Conference. In 2008, he launched Vine and Village and remains active on the board of this non-profit focused on the spiritual, social, and financial transformation of Little Rock's University District and the 72204 ZIP Code. Mark has written six books including his latest, Disruption: Repurposing the Church to Redeem the Community (Thomas Nelson, March 2017); and Multiethnic Conversations: an Eight Week Guide to Unity in Your Church (Wesleyan Publishing House, October 2016), the first daily devotional, small group curriculum on the subject for people in the pews. His book, Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church, was a finalist for a Christianity Today Book of the Year Award (2008) and for a Resource of the Year Award (2008) sponsored by Outreach magazine. In addition to books, he is a contributing editor for Outreach magazine where his column, "Mosaic" appears in each issue.



Jason Dreistadt provides strategic and creative oversight to the day to day operations at Infinity Concepts. He is best known for his passionate commitment to strategic thinking and creative innovation. He brings a broad spectrum of experience in creative design, branding, event

management, advertising and promotions to his work at Infinity Concepts. Prior to joining Infinity Concepts in 2003, Jason worked for over 10 years in the music and entertainment industry, actively involved in marketing, promotion, graphic design and event management for nationally known Christian recording artists and several large events and festivals. Jason has built a reputation as a creative thinker and problem solver, providing insightful resolution to challenges facing the clients he serves.



Mark Dreistadt is president and CEO of Infinity Concepts, Mark is defined by both his passion and his remarkable talent to help leaders maximize the potential of their organizations. He is a dynamic communicator known for his clear and compelling style of presenting transformational insights and

strategies. Mark is one of America's leading experts in branding, marketing, and communication to the Christian community. His reputation for creating successful strategies is well-known. Over four decades of experience have qualified Mark for his role as a consultant to some of the most significant Christian ministries in America.



John Dyer is the Dean of Enrollment Services and Educational Technology and Adjunct Professor of Media Arts and Worship at Dallas Theological Seminary. John has been a technology creator for more than 20 years, building tools used by Facebook, Google, Apple, Anheuser-Busch, the Department of

Defense, and the Digital Bible Society. His open source code is now used on more than 30% of websites. He has written on technology and faith for a number of publications including Gizmodo, Christianity Today, The Gospel Coalition, and in the book From the Garden to the City: The Redeeming and Corrupting Power of Technology.



**Esteban Fernandez** is a communicator, journalist, and pastor. He is the director of Latin Ministries for Biblica. For more than a decade, he conducted the work of Vida Publisher, and he is considered one of the most dynamic and innovative executives of the Christian publishing industry in

Spanish, according to the magazine Críticas, a publication of Publishers Weekly. He was recognized as "Publisher of the Year" in 2007 by the Spanish Evangelical Publisher Association (SEPA). Along with his wife Patricia, he is founder and president of the leadership-training ministry, Nuestra Fortaleza (Our Strength). He works in favor of the Latin community in the United States.



Mark Forrester is the senior director of Public Relations and Communications for the General Council of the Assemblies of God. He is a graduate of Lee University and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. He is general editor of Trending Up: Social Media Strategies for Today's Church.



**Dr. Sandra Glahn** is an EPA board member who has authored more than thirty-five books, including the Coffee Cup Bible Study series. She serves as the interim department chair in Media Arts and Worship at Dallas Theological Seminary, where she served as editor in chief of their EPA

award-winning magazine for 19 years and now serves as faculty advisor for the DTS Student Paper. Dr. Glahn was the general editor of Vindicating the Vixens: Revisiting Sexualized, Vilified and Marginalized Women of the Bible (Kregel Academic) the profits of which benefit the International Justice Mission. And the fourth edition of her coauthored book Sexual Intimacy in Marriage (Kregel) is due out this June. She received her PhD in Aesthetic Studies from the University of Texas at Dallas, and one of her sub-specialties is the history of ideas about gender. She frequently speaks on issues relating to gender and human sexuality.



Sarah Gordon's career has bounced back and forth from the corporate world to the ministry realm, from boutique firms to in-house designer at a church. While her past experience was branding, marketing, and web design, Sarah found her true passion in editorial design when she landed at

Christianity Today. She is now Art Director of CT magazine. Sarah's other skills include eating well, completing Sunday crossword puzzles, and wrangling her twin boys.



Mart Green is the Ministry Investment Officer for Hobby Lobby and is the founder of Mardel Christian and Education Supply stores. His retail career began with his parents, who founded Hobby Lobby in their home. They now have over 800 stores in 47 states. He is also a leading champion

of illumiNations, a collective impact alliance, working to eradicate Bible poverty by 2033. Mart is a member of the Every Tribe Every Nation alliance. Every Tribe Entertainment (ETE) has released two films: Beyond the Gates of Splendor, a 2002 documentary, and End of the Spear, a 2005 adventure drama, both about the 1956 killing of five missionaries in Ecuador.



**Erin Hayes** is a professor of the practice of journalism at College of the Ozarks. She began her teaching career in 2013, after retiring from her role as a national correspondent for ABC World News Tonight. A 30-year veteran of broadcast news, she has been honored with numerous awards for her

reporting - which covered subjects ranging from breaking news to poignant stories of life in America. She reported from the midst of dozens of the nation's historic hurricanes, blizzards and floods. The subjects of her investigative reporting have included gang crime in Chicago, terrorism, aviation disasters and government blunders. Hayes is the recipient of three Alfred I. duPont Columbia Awards, four Edward R. Murrow Awards, the National Sigma Delta Chi Award for Investigative Reporting, the Ohio State Award, the National Investigative Reporters and Editors Awards and an Emmy Award, among others. Hayes began her broadcasting career in 1976 at the College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. From 1979 to 1981, she was a reporter and anchor for KTHS Radio in Berryville, Arkansas. From 1981 to 1986, she was a reporter at KYTV in Springfield, Missouri, where her work was awarded the duPont-Columbia Silver Baton. From 1986 to 1988, Hayes' work as an investigative reporter at WSMV-TV in Nashville earned her a second Silver Baton from the duPont-Columbia judges. From 1988 to 1989, she worked at WDAF-TV in Kansas City as an investigative reporter. From 1989 to 1993, she was a correspondent for the CBS News network. From 1993-2013 she was a national correspondent for the ABC News network. In her current role as a journalism professor, Hayes works to lead a new generation of journalists to seek the truth with integrity.





Neal Holland is currently in his 21st year of teaching at John Brown University as Professor of Visual Art and Chair of the Art Department. Prior to that, Holland worked at a digital media firm for national and international clients including Coca-Cola, Reebok, Nike, and General Motors. He

left the professional Dallas market in 1998 to become the first full-time faculty member in a new Digital Media program at John Brown University. Neal has been a champion of non-traditional programs and study-abroad partnerships with missions agencies and ministries worldwide. His work with the start-up Fields and Frames promotes professional media for non-profits and helps photography students get international experience while encouraging Christians to engage with evangelical and social justice issues.



Ann-Margret Hovsepian, an EPAaward-winning writer and best-selling author, has been freelancing for nearly 25 years. In September 2018 she was the keynote speaker at a Christian writing conference in Canada and has taught many professional and ministry-related workshops. A

long-time EPA member, Ann-Margret loves to encourage and support other freelancers.



Matt Hufman is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist. He has spent more than two decades in daily journalism, serving in a variety of writing, editing, and management roles. A past president of the Nevada Press Association, he oversaw several newspaper redesigns and publication launches and

re-launches. As a journalist, he has covered everything from professional sports to politics. He also has experience in radio and television. He has taught journalism, is a credentialed minister and holds a master of divinity degree. He currently serves as the executive editor for Evangel University, editing the university's magazine and helping shape creative communications for the University's three schools.



Michael Longinow coordinates the writing sequence in the department of Media, Journalism & Public Relations at Biola University. Reared by Mexican and Ukrainian parents, he makes multicultural understanding a major thrust of his approach to teaching. Mike has taught journalism and advised

campus media for 28 years and is an active member of the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC), College Media Advisers (CMA) and the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP). He is national executive director of the Association of Christian Collegiate Media (ACCM), a partner group with EPA. Mike earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Wheaton College and a Master of Science in News-Editorial Journalism from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. His Ph.D from the University of Kentucky blended study of the rise of evangelical Christian higher education and the rise of Christian publishing and radio between 1888 and 1942. Prior to teaching, Mike was a general assignment reporter for daily newspapers near Chicago and Atlanta covering city, state and national news.



Scott McConnell is executive director of LifeWay Research, a Nashville-based, evangelical research firm that specializes in surveys about faith in culture and matters that affect churches. He has researched the needs and preferences of church leaders, laity, and the unchurched for LifeWay

Christian Resources for over 20 years. His in-depth studies in eight countries and national polling in the U.S. have generated relevant insights on today's church and culture. For over 12 years, Scott has led LifeWay Research's national polling that regularly measures the views of Americans and Protestant pastors (see www.lifewayresearch.com). These findings regularly appear in numerous newspapers, magazines, and online media. Scott received a Bachelor of Science in Economics degree in Marketing and Strategic Management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



Jeff McDonald is editorial director for the Salvation Army National Publications Department, bringing 35 years of experience in the The Salvation Army's publications ministry to overseeing content and development for magazines, newsletters, books and related communications

outlets, primarily through the organization's national magazine the "War Cry." He contributes articles, reports and editorial and is involved in related projects such as website development and the Army's Crest Books publishing ministry. He has been recognized by the Evangelical Press Association for reporting/interviewing. He has also worked as a freelance writer, editor and designer, and is the author of a series of non–fiction books for pre–teens. He did graduate work in Religious Studies at Drew University and in Philosophy and Christian Apologetics through Trinity Divinity School.



**Dave Meurer** is an award-winning author and humor writer who somehow talked Focus on the Family, In Touch, Stand Firm, Marriage Partnership, Light & Life, New Man and oodles of otherwise respectable publications into printing his stuff. And they didn't do it just once! So you can't pin the

responsibility all on Dave. The editors are clearly culpable. Dave has penned seven nonfiction books that were released by Bethany House, Revell, Multnomah Publishers and others who, honestly, should have known better. Dave felt kind of guilty about this, but still cashed the royalty checks. Dave has received several EPA awards for humor writing and was featured as the Humor Writer of the Month for the Erma Bombeck Writer's Workshop at the University of Dayton. Dave was employed for more than two decades by the United States House of Representatives. This means that, technically, a comedian helped run the federal government. Dave believes you should find this alarming. Baker Book House recently released Dave's newest book titled, "New Every Day: Navigating Alzheimer's With Grace and Compassion." It is Dave's attempt to bring a bit of relief to a subject fraught with pain and loss. Caregivers need to laugh again.



**Dean Nelson** is the founder and director of the journalism program at Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego. He is also the founder and host of the annual Writer's Symposium By The Sea, where he has interviewed writers such as Dave Eggers, Ray Bradbury, Garrison Keillor, Amy Tan,

Joyce Carol Oates, Jeannette Walls, Anne Lamott, Tracy Kidder, Billy Collins, Eugene Peterson, Philip Yancey, Barbara Brown Taylor, Rob Bell, Shauna Niequist, Donald Miller and dozens of others. He has also written for the New York Times for 25 years, for the Boston Globe, and writes for several magazines.



**Todd Nettleton** serves as Chief of Media Relations and as host of VOM Radio for The Voice of the Martyrs. In more than two decades of service with VOM, Todd has traveled the world interviewing hundreds of persecuted Christians from more than 30 nations. He has provided thousands of

interviews to various media outlets, including CNN, The Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times, the BBC and others. In 2014, he helped launch VOM Radio, a weekly program in which he interviews persecuted Christians as well as family members of believers who have been martyred for their faith. The program was named Radio Program of the Year in 2016 by the National Religious Broadcasters and currently airs on nearly 1,000 radio stations; the podcast has reached #1 on iTunes' Religion and Spirituality chart. Todd has contributed to four VOM books, including Extreme Devotion and FOXE: Voices of the Martyrs. He was the principal writer for VOM's RESTRICTED NATIONS: North Korea, published in 2009.



**Dr. O. Alan Noble** is Assistant Professor of English at Oklahoma Baptist University, editor-inchief of Christ and Pop Culture, and author of Disruptive Witness: Speaking Truth in a Distracted Age, InterVarsity Press. Dr. Noble has published articles at The Atlantic, VOX, First Things, Christian-

ity Today, and Buzzfeed.



**Cheryl Odden** serves as executive editor/ chief of editorial for The Voice of the Martyrs (VOM), leading a team of writers, editors and a project coordinator. She has the privilege of traveling to meet Christians who are persecuted for their faith and sharing their inspiring stories with

Christians in the U.S. through VOM's monthly magazine. In addition to working on VOM's monthly magazine, Cheryl also oversees content for VOM's books. She was part of the editorial team for VOM's I Am N and the recently released book Wurmbrand: Tortured for Christ – The Complete Story (both published by David C. Cook). Cheryl has also authored seven children's books and contributed stories to Extreme Devotion and Foxe: Voices of the Martyrs.



Andy Olsen is managing editor at Christianity Today. Prior to joining CT, he served with International Justice Mission in Washington, DC, managing communications for its Latin America programs and helping leverage the power of story to protect the world's poor from everyday violence. Andy

served with global nonprofits for nearly a decade as a writer, editor and photographer, traveling regularly to Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Africa. Before entering the nonprofit world, Andy worked as a staff and freelance journalist specializing in immigration, religion, and business coverage. His work has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, the Chicago Tribune, and The Seattle Times, among other publications. He studied journalism and Spanish at Asbury University and received an M.A. in international affairs from The Fletcher School at Tufts University.



**Sevil Omer** is an award-winning professional with extensive journalism and communications expertise. Sevil is a former NBC News journalist and Gannett editor with 20+ years of experience managing newsrooms, creative content development teams and strategy for digital and mobile

platforms. As editor-in-chief of World Vision magazine, Sevil seeks to bring innovative and compelling storytelling to readers and elevating staff development and organizational mission.



Randy Petersen is the former Director of Scripture Engagement Content for American Bible Society, and he is a writer/editor/consultant with more than sixty books to his credit, including Bible Fun Stuff and The Family Book of Bible Fun (both Tyndale House), His most recent book, The Printer

and the Preacher (Nelson), explored the friendship between Benjamin Franklin and George Whitefield. For many years, he has also written small-group curriculum for youth and adults published by Right Now Ministries. With a Master's degree in theater, Randy has been active as a playwright, director, and acting teacher in the Philadelphia area. He founded and wrote scripts for a drama group at his Methodist church, where he also teaches the Bible and occasionally preaches. His latest play, The Red Letter Locker, was produced by Beacon Theater Productions in Philadelphia in 2017. He first connected with EPA as a member of the staff of the now-defunct Eternity Magazine.



Bobby Ross Jr. is the chief correspondent and former managing editor for The Christian Chronicle, an Oklahoma City-based international newspaper for Churches of Christ. In his 29-year professional journalism career, Ross has reported from all 50 U.S. states and 13 countries. Besides

his full-time work with the Chronicle, he is a freelance correspondent for Religion News Service, Christianity Today and the Washington Post and a columnist for GetReligion.org. Ross previously served as a religion and politics writer for The Associated Press in Dallas and Nashville and as religion editor for The Oklahoman newspaper in Oklahoma City. He earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from Oklahoma Christian University, where he edited the student newspaper The Talon for two years.



For more than a decade, **Brian Russell** was active in cross-cultural work and Kingdom business ventures in North Africa. Now Brian is the executive director of YouVersion, maker of the Bible App and the Bible App for Kids, installed on more than 350 million devices around the world. YouVersion is a

ministry of Life. Church, one of the largest churches in the United States, with approximately 86,000 people attending 32 physical locations each weekend. In addition, more than 270,000 attend its online campus every week.



**Danielle Smith** is the PR and Social Media Manager for Museum of the Bible.



**Dr. Marquita Smith** is the Chair of the Division of Communication and Fine Arts and an Associate Professor of Journalism at John Brown University. Marquita worked in various newsrooms before joining the faculty at JBU in 2010. Most recently she served as Virginia Beach city editor at

The Virginian-Pilot. She joined the Pilot as a local government editor in 2001, and began teaching part-time at Hampton and Norfolk State universities. In 2008, she went on leave from The Pilot to complete a Knight International Journalism Fellowship in Liberia. During her year in West Africa, she created a judicial and justice reporting network and is helping journalists develop skills to cover the post-war nation's poverty reduction efforts. Ghanaians elected a new president in 2008, and she created several training models to help reporters and editors prepare for covering the event. Besides teaching responsibilities in the Communication department, Marquita serves as department head and is involved with advising the student newspaper. She leads a new multi-cultural student organization on campus. Marquita is a current member of the EPA Board of Directors.



Dan Stelzer is the lead designer for Answers magazine, a publication of Answers in Genesis. He sees design as a vital extension of telling a good story; therefore, he continually seeks to communicate in creative ways that are both clear and memorable. With over 18 years of experience in

advertising, branding, and publishing, Dan has had the opportunity to work on a variety of projects-from his children's numerous school posters to an exhibit at the Ark Encounter.



Kim van Veen graduated from Wheaton College with a degree in Political Science and no idea what to do next. Thankfully, her first job was at the San Bernardino County Sun newspaper, where she discovered a love for storytelling. After living on a ship for two years as a journalist for the mission

organization Operation Mobilization, she decided it was time to put down roots in Oklahoma, where she serves as deputy editor for The Voice of the Martyrs. Kim loves traveling to speak with persecuted Christians and telling their stories in VOM's monthly magazine. With a passion for good food and an adventurous spirit, she tries to include food in every story she writes (or at least sample everything she can in each country she visits).



**Steven Walker** started designing magazines in 1985 before the computer revolution and was instrumental in converting traditional production to computer design in the late '80s. Steven founded Walker Creative, Inc. in 1987. Walker Creative's designs have appeared in Print Magazine, Commu-

nication Arts magazine and multiple annual design publications. IRMA (International Regional Magazine Association) awards include multiple Magazine of the Year and gold design awards. Steven was named "2015 Designer of the Year" by Folio Magazine's annual Eddie/Ozzie awards.



**Dennis Waterman** is chief of creative for The Voice of the Martyrs, where he is responsible for the creative strategy of all print publications and Web pages. He leads the creative department and associated freelancers who provide photography, design and archiving for the organization's print and

digital assets. Under his leadership, Dennis has overseen the redesign of several campaigns and the monthly magazine. Prior to his current role, he worked in the missions community for 18 years as an associate creative director. Both Dennis and his wife, Danielle, have backgrounds in graphic design. In his free time, Dennis likes to develop his photography skills.



**Carlos Whittaker** is a People's Choice Award winner, a former recording artist signed to a major label, a social media maven, and currently spends the majority of his time writing books and speaking on stages around the world. It really began when the Whittakers found their family in

America's spotlight with appearances on shows like CBS Early Morning, The Today Show and more when their YouTube video, "Single Ladies Devastation," went viral. Currently Carlos is teaching at churches and conferences worldwide. Including Catalyst Conference, Embrace Church, FreshLife Church, and many more.



George Paul Wood is executive editor of Assemblies of God Publications, including Influence magazine, and coordinator of Religious Freedom Initiatives for the national office of the Assemblies of God. He is ranked as a Top 500 Reviewer on Amazon.com.

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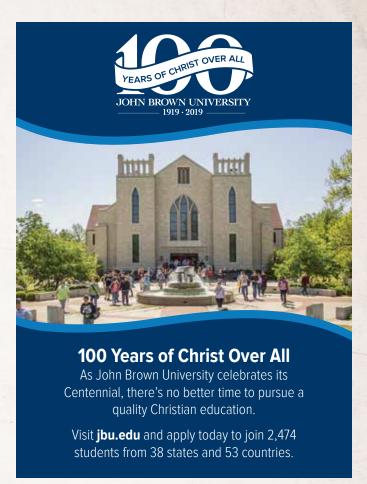
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