

# NATIONAL GATHERING

FEBRUARY  
2014



## ECCLESIA NETWORK

FEBRUARY 25TH - 27TH, 2014 / CHEVY CHASE, MD / [WWW.ECCLESIANET.ORG](http://WWW.ECCLESIANET.ORG)

#ENG14

ecclesia



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*What if there was a community of entrepreneurial, creative churches and leaders who were on a collective mission to revolutionize the church and to reach our post-Christian culture? What if we had a global family of committed friends who were traveling the uncertain path of ministry together? What if that family provided a network of shared resources and ideas for ministry in this new context?*

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*What if that network valued risk and innovation? What if that network provided a supportive community for new church starts in various forms and an empowering environment for the renewal of declining churches? What if that network spanned across denominations aligning churches based upon a common mission? What if that network was both rooted in the scriptures, embracing of the past, and engaging with the realities of the future?*

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*This is our dream – welcome to Ecclesia!*



# WELCOME LETTER

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We are glad you made it to the 6th annual National Gathering of the Ecclesia Network! We are excited about being back together after merging our annual gathering with the launch of Missio Alliance last year. While that was a tremendous event, and we had wonderful times among the larger Christian community, we know that many of us missed this smaller, extended setting.

This year, our focus is on the reading, understanding, and proclaiming the scriptures in the midst of our changing culture. What does a faithful reading of God's story look like in our day? How do we tell this story in a way that people can hear it and yet be challenged by it? How does God's story form the communities of faith that we are attempting to nurture and mature? These, and more, are the many questions we will be exploring together the next few days.

As always, we are honored to have such a highly regarded collection of guests. We know that we will benefit greatly from their insight and from our conversations with one another.

A few points of note for our time together...

Collective Sessions are longer this year, but they will be more interactive and will have room for conversation with one another and those presenting. We will also be hearing from some other Ecclesia voices, in addition to our guests. Focused Sessions will again focus on a variety of specific areas related to our main focus. Many of them are offered on two occasions (though not all). Be sure to look at your guidebook for specific information. One reason many of these are offered multiple times is so you have the choice of taking a break away from the gathering for a few hours – whether that is to take a nap or go downtown.

Evening Dessert will be offered on Tuesday evening. While the National Gathering is a great opportunity to connect with those we've not seen in some while, it can often be difficult to connect with those that might not be in our



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normal circle. This will begin at 8 pm on Tuesday night.

This past year was a season of trying to hold the ship steady in the midst of a great deal of transition among Ecclesia. We are excited about the addition of new staff in 2014 and anticipate an increased momentum in God's work among our family. If this is your first time here, we are honored to have you with us, and we hope that you will sense the welcome of friends this week. It's possible that you are intended to be part of this story in some way. If so, we hope that you'll find this gathering a helpful step.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Backert". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

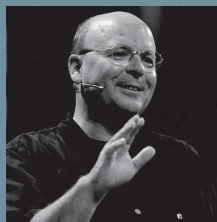
Chris Backert  
[Ecclesia Director & Organizational Architect]

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# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

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## **DR. SCOT MCKNIGHT -**

A world-renowned speaker, writer, professor and equipper of the Church. He is a recognized authority on the historical Jesus, early Christianity, and the New Testament. His blog, Jesus Creed, is a leading Christian blog.

A sought after speaker, he has been interviewed on several radio and television programs as well as spoken at numerous local churches, conferences, colleges, and seminaries in the United States and around the world. Scot McKnight is a member of the Society of Biblical Literature and the Society for New Testament Studies. McKnight's books have been translated into Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Portuguese. He is Professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary.



## **MANDY SMITH -**

Originally from Australia, Mandy Smith serves as lead pastor at University Christian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is the creator of The Collect, a citywide trash-to-art project.

Mandy's latest book is *Making a Mess and Meeting God: Unruly Ideas and Everyday Experiments for Worship* and she lives with her professor husband and two children in a little house where the teapot is always warm.





### **AL TIZON -**

Al Tizon is Associate Professor of Holistic Ministry at Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University and the director of holistic ministry programs for Evangelicals for Social Action.

Al is the co-author of *Linking Arms, Linking Lives: How Urban-Suburban Partnerships Can Transform Communities*, along with Ron Sider, John Perkins and Wayne Gordon, author of *Missional Preaching: Embrace, Engage, Transform*, and co-editor of *Honoring the Generations: Learning with Asian North American Congregations*, with Sydney Park and Soong-Chan Rah.



### **BILL WEBB -**

Dr. Webb is married (Marilyn) with three grown children (Jonathan, Christine, and Joel) and a dog (Muffin). Education: Ph.D. Dallas Theological Seminary. Teaching: adjunct professor at Tyndale Seminary.

In addition to conference speaking ministry, Bill has published several articles and books, including *Returning Home* (Sheffield Press, 1993), *Slaves, Women, and Homosexuals* (InterVarsity Press, 2001), *Four Views on Moving from the Bible to Theology* (one view and responses; Zondervan, 2009), *Corporal Punishment in the Bible: A Redemptive Hermeneutic for Troubling Texts* (InterVarsity, 2011). His forthcoming projects: *Bloody, Brutal and Barbaric: War Texts that Trouble the Soul* (InterVarsity, [forthcoming]) and *Reading Revelation Wrong: A Hermeneutical Challenge to 'End of the World' Apocalyptic Thinking*.



# SCHEDULE

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## TUESDAY // FEBRUARY 25TH

12:00 - 2:00	ARRIVAL & REGISTRATION
2:00 - 3:30	COLLECTIVE SESSION #1: SCRIPTURE'S GRAND NARRATIVE - KINGDOM, MISSION, & WORLD
3:30 - 3:45	BREAK
3:45 - 5:15	COLLECTIVE SESSION #2: FROM LIVING WORD TO WRITTEN WORD - AND BACK AGAIN
5:15 - 6:45	DINNER
7:00 - 9:00	GETTING TO KNOW ECCLESIA

## WEDNESDAY // FEBRUARY 26TH

7:30 - 8:30	BREAKFAST
8:30 - 10:00	COLLECTIVE SESSION #3: RE-READING THE BIBLE REDEEMPTIVELY
10:30 - 10:45	BREAK
10:45 - 11:45	FOCUSED SESSION #1
11:45 - 1:15	LUNCH - TABLE DISCUSSION OFFERED WITH GCM
1:15 - 2:15	FOCUSED SESSION #2
2:15 - 2:30	BREAK
2:30 - 3:30	FOCUSED SESSION #3
3:30 - 3:45	BREAK
3:45 - 4:45	FOCUSED SESSION #4
5:00 - 7:00	DINNER
7:00 - 8:30	COLLECTIVE #4: LETTING THE BIBLE READ YOU



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## THURSDAY // FEBRUARY 27TH

7:00 - 8:30	BREAKFAST
8:30 - 10:00	COLLECTIVE SESSION #5: A SCRIPTURE - FORMED COMMUNITY - READING THE BIBLE THROUGH MISSIONAL EYES
10:00 - 10:15	BREAK
10:15 - 12:00	COLLECTIVE SESSION #6: COMMUNICATING THE BIBLE IN THE AGE OF GLOBALIZATION

*My cry today, my lament today is for the Church , the  
bride of Christ to be a voice-a beacon of hope, a light, a  
refuge in this time.*

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*Ty Grigg  
Life on the Vine / Long Grove, IL*



# COLLECTIVE SESSIONS

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## **#1: SCRIPTURE'S GRAND NARRATIVE – KINGDOM, MISSION, & WORLD** **SCOT MCKNIGHT**

Mission in the world, even if it requires discernment of what God is doing in our local community, is anchored in Scripture and God's clear message about what God is doing. God's mission from the beginning to the end is to form God's People — Israel, Church, Kingdom. This session will explore the centrality of the Church, the local church in particular, for discerning God's mission in the world today.

## **#2: FROM THE LIVING WORD TO WRITTEN WORD – AND BACK AGAIN** **BILL WEBB & DAVID FITCH**

The Authority of Scripture: What Does It (Not) Mean?

With much appreciation for N. T. Wright's *The Last Word* (2005) and its expanded treatment in *Scripture and the Authority of God* (2011), we will journey into the precarious subject of what it means to embrace the authority of Scripture. Adding Webb's "lesser authoritative lens" and a smattering of sample texts—Sabbath, monogamy, war rape, rod and whip, etc.—we will open up our own "biblical authority" suitcases and dialogue about their contents. Irony and intrigue abound.

Proclamation versus Explanation: Refusing to Defend The Authority of Scripture for the Sake of Inviting The World into It

Often we get caught up in apologetic concerns when it comes to the authority of Scripture. This sets into motion a dynamic, which not only undercuts the authority of Scripture in the world, but sets us over against those who have not yet believed. Instead, we need to see Scripture as an extension of the work of God in the world. It is God's unfolding Narrative of His Mission. It has been given to us and extended an authority by Jesus Christ Himself by the Spirit through the church for the world. The authority of Scripture therefore is inextricable from the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is only as we live in His mission (the Story), under His authority as Lord, that we can then proclaim his message as witness to what God is doing to save the whole world. Only in embodied witness, is Scripture's authority is made manifest to the world. Rather than defend it then and divide ourselves from the world, we only need proclaim it and invite in.



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### **#3: RE-READING THE BIBLE REDEEMPTIVELY**

BILL WEBB & SCOT MCKNIGHT

#### **A Redemptive-Movement Hermeneutic**

Drawing upon *Slaves, Women and Homosexuals, Moving Beyond the Bible to Theology, and Corporal Punishment in the Bible*, this plenary session will explore a redemptive-movement hermeneutic. We will discuss what it means to read the text not only literarily (up and down the page) but also redemptively within its ancient social context (the ancient-world soil and setting). Here is the surprising find: reading the Bible redemptively means that we hear the text in a dramatically different way. With a focus on slavery texts we will do a listening experiment that spans both legitimate academic inquiry and a street-level dialogue with our neighbors.

#### **How the Bible Works**

How we read the Bible determines how we live the Bible's mission. A more thoughtful and self-conscious approach to Bible reading includes watching "how the Bible works" so this session will look at the divorce regulations of the Bible to illustrate how the Bible actually works. What we learn is that the Bible is not a set of rules but a vision of how kingdom people live in the world in the here and now.

### **#4: LETTING THE BIBLE READ YOU**

MANDY SMITH

If the Word of God is living and active, why does Scripture sometimes feel dead and boring? Has it lost its relevance? Or have we, in our efforts to tame it, killed it? We all bring our own agendas to Scripture and ask it to perform for us. If we can set aside our own agendas, we can prepare for the challenge and thrill of handling a vibrant, writhing thing. And being handled by it.

### **#5: SCRIPTURE FORMED COMMUNITY: READING THE BIBLE THROUGH MISSIONAL EYES**

AL TIZON



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When we claim that the whole Bible is a missional text we are not imposing an artificial framework. Indeed, the Bible itself invites a missional hermeneutic. The common strand interwoven from Genesis to Revelation that compels us to read the scriptures through missional eyes is the strand of the reign or kingdom of God. This session explores a way to read, interpret and preach the missional scriptures by a fresh understanding of the kingdom of God. Biblical preaching is kingdom preaching is missional preaching.

## **#6: COMMUNICATING THE BIBLE IN AN AGE OF GLOBALIZATION**

MANDY SMITH & AL TIZON

### **Lack and Longing: Rediscovering a Lost Strength**

Things have changed so much over the centuries, we could almost be a different species from the Bible's original audiences. One of our biggest challenges, as Christian leaders, is knowing both our text and our context so well that we can connect them. Paul was skilled at finding a way cultures longed for what the Gospel offered. What longings would he find in our culture? Could it be that something Christians should be good at (but have forgotten) connects deeply with a need in our culture? How can we rediscover this lost way of life so we can bring it to our culture?

### **Proclaiming the Gospel in an Age of Globalization**

Globalization is an interpretation of the world that is based on the collision of cultures, economies, religions, values, etc. Assuming that it is a credible interpretation of reality today, what are its implications for the church? What relevance is our gospel message in the age of globalization and how do we proclaim it faithfully? Although a single session will not be able to cover the complexities of these types of questions, this session will touch on what the church needs to become competent in so that the gospel retains its relevance in the world.



# FOCUSED SESSIONS #1

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## **READING THE WAR TEXTS – REDEEMPTIVELY**

RM / MINNESOTA

BILL WEBB

The so-called “holy war” texts of Scripture include disturbing scenes from genocide (the total kill of all men, women and children) to grabbing good-looking women captives as wives. Unfortunately, the traditional answers [holy God, evil Canaanites, etc.] simply do not work at the level of military ethics. They do not stand up to rigorous ethical scrutiny. By continuing to answer objections with the traditional answers, we have been banging square pegs in round holes. This session will look at some of the emerging, better answers for reading these war texts redemptively.

## **THE GOALS OF MISSIONAL PREACHING**

RM / AMERICA A

AL TIZON

The well-known adage, “If you aim at nothing, you’ll hit it every time,” is true for preaching as well. The fact that the language of objectives and goals is not used very much in homiletical discussions should be of concern to us. What do we hope to accomplish in our preaching? This workshop discusses seven goals, which when striven for, help determine the theological, ethical and practical—in a word, missional—shape of the church.

## **BOASTING IN OUR WEAKNESS & THE POWER OF THE WORD**

MANDY SMITH

RM / AMERICA B

Paul didn’t minister in spite of his weakness. Ironically, his ministry was empowered by weakness. If our brokenness or lack can make God shine, how are we shortchanging him by pretending we’ve got it all together? If our lives are the place where God’s Word meets this world, do our lives need to be perfect to reveal his Word? How can even our weakness and brokenness reveal His perfect Word? Through story, times of reflection and creative exercises drawn from Mandy’s book, this workshop will show how “Bringing the Word to Life,” heals to the worn out and restores the perfectionist.



## **DEBATING, DECIDING, OR DISCERNING? SEEKING SPIRITUAL DIRECTION IN THE COMMUNITY OF THE SPIRIT**

ALEXANDER, KEASLER, & HOLSCLAWS

RM / MISSOURI

The New Testament account states that the church is a new society, led and ruled by Jesus. This means that the church makes decisions in a way that is unique and peculiar. This workshop explores what it means and looks like for the church to be a "pneumocracy" (rule of the Spirit), rather than a "democracy" (rule of the majority) or an "autocracy" (rule of one). What does it mean for a local community of faith to discern God's will together? How can the church listen to God's Spirit and come to a place of consensus around potentially divisive issues? Can the local church make decisions in which they say "it seemed good to us and the Spirit"? (Acts 15)

## **OUR CHURCHES IN GOD'S STORY: HOW THE KINGDOM "EXPANDS"**

SCOT MCKNIGHT

RM / OHIO

We live in the already/not yet reality of God's Kingdom. What we often miss, however, is that the church exists within this same dynamic. Ironically, when we compare the present kingdom and the present church, or the future kingdom and the future church, we come out with near identities.

This fundamental identity shift has significant implications for how the church carries out her kingdom mission in the world today. In order to "make the world a better place" or "pursue the common good," we often ethicize, secularize, or politicize the church's mission, severing it from God's Kingdom mission. Instead, we must align with the King himself who came to build the kingdom/church. This workshop will seek to orient and expand these reflections within God's story.

# **FOCUSED SESSIONS #2**

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## **READING THE WOMEN TEXTS – REDEMPTIVELY**

BILL WEBB

RM / MINNESOTA

The journey of Scripture is one of movement towards egalitarianism —



equality of male and female—but within an ancient context where patriarchy ruled. This workshop will explore both the problematic treatment of women within the biblical text (far from an ultimate ethic) as well as the more redemptive side of the equality story. We will also discuss the practical question of what it means to engage our multicultural society and our divergent church context today. Do we whisper, scream or do a little of both?

## **THE WORD ON THE STREET: PREACHING JUSTICE & RECONCILIATION**

AL TIZON

RM / AMERICA A

One of the goals of missional preaching is to guide God's people to an understanding and practice of biblical justice and reconciliation. But what is justice? What is reconciliation? And what does it mean for a church to be committed to these things? This workshop will address these questions and offer principles that will help leaders to preach and teach in a way that moves the church toward becoming a just and reconciling people.

## **HIS AND HER.MENEUTICS**

FRANK AND CAROLYN CUSTIS JAMES

RM / MISSOURI

It is a sad reality that for millennia professing Christians have been killing other professing Christians over their respective interpretations of the Bible. Things have greatly improved in our modern world but the Bible still can become a dangerous weapon of abuse, coercion and marginalization. Nowhere has our interpretation of the Bible created more conflict than the subject of gender. Part of the reason has been the dominance of his-meneutic and the absence of her-meneutic. This seminar will explore the good, bad and ugly hermeneutics among Evangelicals. The goal will be to gain a missional perspective on how we approach the Bible.

## **THE (OTHER) KINGDOM OF JESUS: HOW JESUS REDEFINES KINGDOM IN SCRIPTURE**

SCOT MCKNIGHT

RM / OHIO

The character of a king determines the character of the kingdom. The "character" of Jesus can be seen in the titles used for him – Son of Man, Son of God, and Messiah – titles that evoke the story of one exalted to be King following suffering and death. Thus, the kingdom becomes cruciform by virtue of the character of King Jesus. Kingdom citizens then are Jesus-redeemed humans, people who have been saved from sin, liberated from cosmic powers, and who are conquering systemic evil through the



power of the Spirit. This workshop will explore the nature the kingdom in Scripture, specifically the kingdom rooted in the person of Jesus himself and in those who claim to follow him.

## **BEYOND EGALITARIANISM & COMPLEMENTARIANISM: THE KINGDOM CALL FOR WOMEN IN MINISTRY**

DAVID FITCH

RM / AMERICA B

This session explores the New Testament view of women in light of the Kingdom, the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the Church, and the already/but not yet eschatology of Scripture. Once we see church leadership and gender dynamics in these terms, we discover that the unresolved conflicts in Scripture over women in ministry are resolved and a wonderful Kingdom dynamic is unleashed in regard for men and women leading out of their giftedness in mutual submission to one another.

# **FOCUSED SESSIONS #3**

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## **READING THE HOMOSEXUAL TEXTS – REDEEMPTIVELY**

BILL WEBB

RM / OHIO

What does it mean to read the sexuality and homosexuality texts of Scripture redemptively? If someday it is discovered that sexual orientation has a genetic component, how does that impact the question? Would Jesus or Paul use the OT term “abomination” to describe homosexual behavior in our present-day world? Moving from the sexuality we find within the ancient biblical text to a well-reasoned contemporary Christian sexual ethic is by no means an easy or straightforward. This seminar will attempt to work through certain key biblical parts of this labyrinth.

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MANDY SMITH

RM / AMERICA B

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### **DWELLING WITH THE WORD IN LITURGY**

DAVID BAILEY

RM / AMERICA A

Worship is not only expression, it is formation. When we only see worship as expression, without considering how our practices of worship forms us, our community can be shaped in a way that we do not intend. In this workshop, we will explore how we can let the word of Christ dwell in our communities richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.



# FOCUSED SESSIONS #4

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## **READING THE HOMOSEXUAL TEXTS – REDEEMPTIVELY**

BILL WEBB

RM / OHIO

What does it mean to read the sexuality and homosexuality texts of Scripture redemptively? If someday it is discovered that sexual orientation has a genetic component, how does that impact the question? Would Jesus or Paul use the OT term “abomination” to describe homosexual behavior in our present-day world? Moving from the sexuality we find within the ancient biblical text to a well-reasoned contemporary Christian sexual ethic is by no means an easy or straightforward. This seminar will attempt to work through certain key biblical parts of this labyrinth.

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## SERMON SMITHING – BEST PRACTICES FOR SERMON PREPARATION

JOHN CHANDLER & JR BRIGGS

RM / AMERICA A

The sermon fills a unique role in the life of a congregation, inviting a conversation between ancient texts and contemporary realities. It is a merging of arts and sciences intended to engage both hearts and minds toward change. This session will be a structured collective workshop, exploring the craft of sermon preparation as we learn from experienced preachers and each other.

## THE SCRIPTURES AND DISCIPLESHIP/SMALL GROUP

JIM PACE

RM / AMERICA B

It's always easier to say what we don't want - always has been. We don't want small groups that just read popular books about the text but never wrestle with the actual words of life. We don't want small group leaders that download their theology from a blog to their people assuming everything a certain person says is right. We don't want to always read a section of text and do the "what do you think this means?" game. We get that. But what do we want? How do we do we engage in one of the hardest and most important responsibilities in the church? Where do we aim? Join us as we talk through several ways, ancient and contemporary to allow the Word, propelled by the Spirit to help us see the Father. And if we can see God more clearly, even just a glimpse, everything can change.

*As married partners-in-ministry who appreciate taking a theological approach to local church ministry, the Ecclesia National Gathering is the most important conference of the year for us.*

J.R. & Amy Rozko



# NOTES

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/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #1

/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #2



/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #3

/ FOCUSED SESSION #1

/ FOCUSED SESSION #2



# NOTES

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/ FOCUSED SESSION #3

/ FOCUSED SESSION #4



/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #4

/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #5

/ COLLECTIVE SESSION #6



# YEAR IN REVIEW

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Looking Back – Looking Forward: Life in Ecclesia in 2013 – 2014.

“Hold it steady” would be an accurate way of describing the path of Ecclesia in 2013. While it was a tremendous year of progress and fruitfulness for many churches within our network, it was also a year of incredible transition for the network as a whole.

Last January, JR Woodward officially stepped down from his role on staff with Ecclesia. With many thanks for his role in helping to develop Ecclesia since the beginning, we wished him well as he embarked on the next chapter in his life’s story. We are excited to see how God uses him with the v3 movement and are glad that there will be some ways to partner together down the road. With JR’s departure, our central role in launching Missio Alliance, and figuring out God’s plan for our network in this new season, I found it difficult to do much other than keep things steady in 2013. Of course, on top of all this, my family underwent a major move from Richmond, VA to near Baltimore, MD and that meant that the Ecclesia offices also underwent a major move.

In spite of these realities, there are still many things to be grateful to God for within Ecclesia this past year. With Ecclesia as the central organizer in the launch of Missio Alliance, we shouldered a heavy but important load in getting this new initiative off the ground. While the launch gathering was a great success, with nearly 800 people attending in person or online, we are more pleased with the new movement that is coming together to help provide a substantive, forward looking, but evangelically rooted framing of the most pressing cultural and theological issues of our day. We have met many new friends and forged several significant relationships through this work. There is a tremendous excitement and willingness to partner with Missio Alliance and for that we are blessed.

Shortly after the inaugural Missio Alliance gathering we held what was quite possibly, our strongest church planters training to date. It seems that each year we make this same statement – and it is true – but the diversity of



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models, the “normalness” of the church planting ethos, and the relational and practical credibility, make the Genesis Training a unique environment in today’s wider church context. A few strong regional gatherings helped to round out the fall and prepare the way for what we expect to be a fruitful 2014.

As we look ahead to this coming year, we personally believe that Ecclesia is heading toward a new and significantly stronger place. Last summer, as we continued to weigh the direction Ecclesia should take following JR Woodward’s transition, I clearly sensed the Lord tell me “3 people at 3 days a week for 3 years” is what we would need to see the network move to the place God would want. It is important to know, especially if you are an Ecclesia Network church, that this is a staffing arrangement that we cannot afford. Yet, the word was clear and in discussion with others, was affirmed. After several months of conversation, we are excited to have J.R. Briggs and Bob Hyatt join our staff team. J.R. will take over the role vacated by JR Woodward focusing on leadership and congregational formation. Bob will focus on overseeing some of the various aspects of church planting that are part of Ecclesia’s ministry. Both will be striving to increase the connection between the churches in Ecclesia to the network itself and to other congregations. We are incredibly excited about the new doorways this will open up for Ecclesia and how it will support our growth in the future. Our prayerful expectation is that God will take our step of faith in drawing on our savings to pay for these expansions that the financial dimension of Ecclesia will grow in the next few years to pay for this new arrangement. Bob and J.R. join Jane Linton (Administrator), Dave Fitch (Theologian-in-Residence), and Chris Backert (National Director) to round out the staff team.

In addition to new staff members, we officially welcome both new board members, regional coordinators, and new congregations to Ecclesia in 2014. Aaron Graham of the District Church, Keas Keasler of Rhythm in Miami, and Jeanette Staats of New Life Christian Fellowship in Blacksburg all officially joined the board in December.

Mike Hollenbach of the Bridge Community Church in Easton, PA is our new



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regional coordinator in the Northeast (taking over for J.R. Briggs).

We also gladly welcome new churches to Ecclesia early in 2014 including Engage Community Church in Carlisle, PA (pastored by Jon Hand), Next Gen Church in Princeton, NJ (pastored by Mia Chang), and a new church plant in Pasadena, CA (pastored by Kyle Sears). There are several others in the pipeline and a few larger partnership conversations with other like groups that we are continuing to explore.

As we look to the year ahead, our primary goal this year is increase the connectivity of the relationships to both pastors and churches within Ecclesia. J.R. and Bob are proactively touching base with many of the church staff within Ecclesia and they are already planning several visits to congregations. If you are interested in having one of the Ecclesia staff speak on a Sunday or lead a retreat for church leaders, please let us know! As many of you will know, Ecclesia has been the context for doctoral research that JR Rozko has been conducting over the last three years. One of the practical implications of that research was a proposal for the formation of "Communities of Practice," as a means of advancing the formation of Ecclesia pastors and churches as well as the reach of our network. Ecclesia's Board is excited to move this vision forward! The first one to be launched will be focused on the Spiritual Formation and Discipleship of Children, led by Cyd Holsclaw, later this year. We also want to strengthen the coaching support that is available within our network and will be holding a training for coaches this Fall. Contact J.R. Briggs or Bob Hyatt if you are interested. As always, we are looking forward to the National Gathering and the upcoming church planters training from May 12-16 at a new location in Baltimore, MD. Stay tuned for regional gatherings (both large and small) this year as well.

As I look with hope toward 2014, I sense with confidence that Ecclesia is ready to move to the next place on our journey. I am ever so grateful to those who have journeyed with us and the many friends we have made along this way. Many of you know that Dallas Willard, one of the dear friends of Ecclesia, passed away earlier this year. There are so many things that Dallas



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said which resonate profoundly to me, but as I close out this yearly review, one of his prayers come to mind for all my family in Ecclesia.

"I pray that you would have a rich life of joy and power, abundant with supernatural results, with a constant, clear vision of never-ending life in God's World before you, and of the everlasting significance of your work day by day. A radiant life and a radiant death."

*This fellowship has among it one of the sweetest spirits of any I've encountered. I can tell there is a genuine love and care here - for each other and for guests like me.*

▼

*Dallas Willard*





A THEOLOGICAL & PRACTICAL TRAJECTORY

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MAY 12 - 16, 2014  
HOLY TRINITY SPIRITUAL CENTER  
840 PARK HEIGHTS AVENUE / PIKESVILLE, MD



# 2014 EQUIPPERS



CYD HOLSCLOW  
PASTOR  
LIFE ON THE VINE



DON COLEMAN  
CO-PASTOR  
EAST END FELLOWSHIP



STAN GRAHAM  
LEAD PASTOR  
PATHWAYS COMMUNITY



BOB HYATT  
PASTOR / THE  
EVERGREEN COMMUNITY



J.R. BRIGGS  
PASTOR / THE  
RENEW COMMUNITY



JON HAND  
LEAD PASTOR / ENGAGE  
COMMUNITY CHURCH



AARON GRAHAM  
LEAD PASTOR / THE  
DISTRICT CHURCH



J.R. WOODWARD  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR / V3  
CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

## PREPARE

Spend some time in prayer, perhaps asking specific people to pray for you during this week. This will be a very “intense” week with a full schedule, but our hope is that it will launch God’s church planting efforts through you in an effective way.

## LIST OF TOPICS

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Planting Missional Churches             | Developing Models & Approaches      |
| Planting Equipping Churches             | Developing Your Team                |
| Staying Healthy While Planting          | Planting in the Power of the Spirit |
| Developing a Philosophy of Discipleship | Fundraising for Church Planting     |
| Incarnational Ecclesiology:             | Administrative & Legal Issues       |
| Reading Your City                       | Keeping Heart Till the End          |
|   | ... and much more!                  |



# ABOUT GENESIS

“From the moment I arrived, I began to realize -- this is a room of like-minded individuals intent on seeing the Gospel spread and healthy, missionally minded communities planted. And in the lonely world of church planting, I can think of few things more valuable than having a handful of friends like that.

“The setting of the Holy Trinity community was wonderful with its rhythm of prayer and contemplative atmosphere. Hard to imagine a better setting for listening to God and seeing what it is He might be birthing through you.

*BOB HYATT / PORTLAND, OR*

## WHAT TO BRING

Holy Trinity provides sheets and towels for each guest. You will need to bring all other toiletries with you. In addition, please bring along any relevant documents and resources related to your particular church plant. This could include vision pieces, working budgets, drafts of values, demographic information, etc. Obviously, you should bring a copy of the scriptures with you.

## THE ECCLESIA DIFFERENCE

Genesis is unique in comparison to other church planters training opportunities available.

First, there will not be hundreds of people here. More than likely, there will be somewhere between 20 - 30. This means plenty of room for dialog, conversation, and questions amidst all of the planned training.

Second, everyone stays, eats, and prays together for the week. Most people leave with better friendships, some of which will be life-long, because they started the church planting journey - in this way - together.

Third, there will be a host of different equipppers with unique planting stories.

This gathering [as in all we try to do] isn't dominated by just a few individuals or models of church planting. You'll hear from a variety of planters, both seasoned and new, and learn from their experiences and approaches.

Finally, we hope to provide a good balance of theology, theory, and practicality. Each component is vital.



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**CHRIS BACKERT**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



# LOCATION

Holy Trinity Spiritual Center [www.TheTrinitarians.org]. Holy Trinity is a small monastery/retreat center, located on the fringe of Baltimore City. Most people will be sharing a room with one other person throughout the week. All meals are all included as part of our stay and will take place on the grounds.

# REGISTRATION

Register online at [www.ecclesianet.org](http://www.ecclesianet.org) or by sending an email to [bob.hyatt@ecclesianet.org](mailto:bob.hyatt@ecclesianet.org) to confirm your spot followed by a check send to:

PO BOX 996  
HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078

4 DAYS		DISCOUNTS	
\$599	EARLYBIRD [BEFORE MARCH 1, 2014]	3-5 / TEAM MEMBERS	10%
\$699	REGULAR [BEFORE APRIL 15, 2014]	6-10 / TEAM MEMBERS	15%
\$799	LATE [BEFORE MAY 1, 2014]	10+ / TEAM MEMBERS	20%

\*LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

# ARRIVAL / DEPARTURE

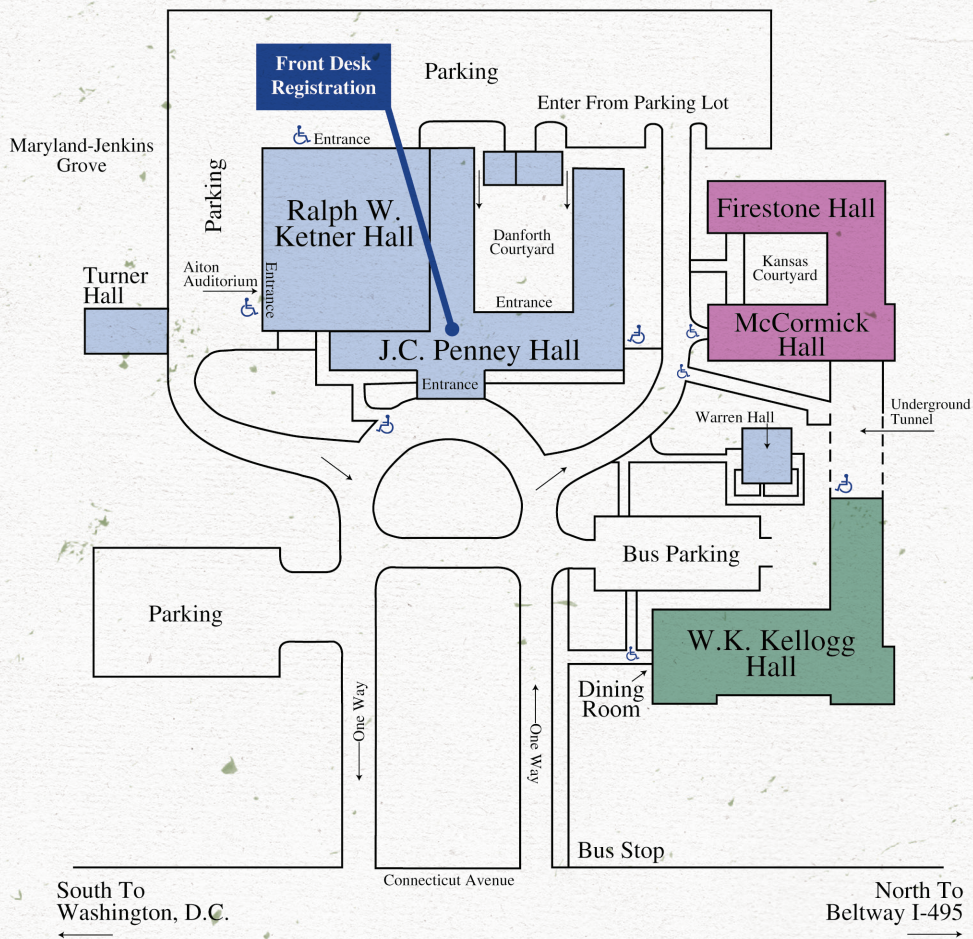
You should plan to arrive at Holy Trinity between **3:00** and **3:30** on Monday, May 12th. Please be prompt because we will start with the orientation to the week around **4:00** that evening. We plan to finish on Friday at approx. **12:00 PM**.



ECCLESIA IS A RELATIONAL NETWORK OF CHURCHES, LEADERS, AND MOVEMENTS THAT SEEK TO EQUIP, PARTNER, AND MULTIPLY MISSIONAL CHURCHES



# MAP / CAMPUS MAP





# MAP / INTERIOR CAMPUS MAP

## KEY

- Dorm Rooms

Meeting Rooms

Lounges

Administrative Offices

Roof

Tennessee Dining/Clover Cafe

Courtyards

Bus Parking

Laundry Room

Accessible Entrance

Elevator

Rest Rooms - Women

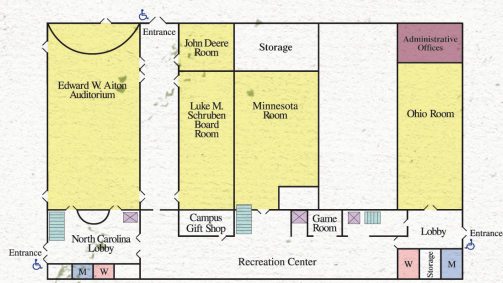
Rest Rooms - Men

Ice/Vending Machines

Phone

Stairs

### LOWER LEVEL

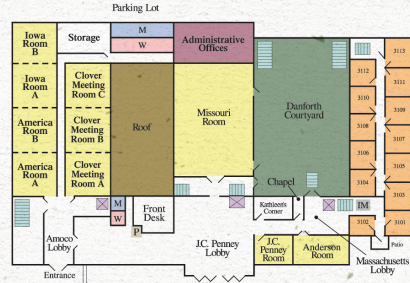


KETNER HALL

J.C. PENNEY HALL

### GROUND FLOOR

Rooms 3101-3113



KETNER HALL

J.C. PENNEY HALL

### SECOND FLOOR

Rooms 1201-1216  
Rooms 3201-3213

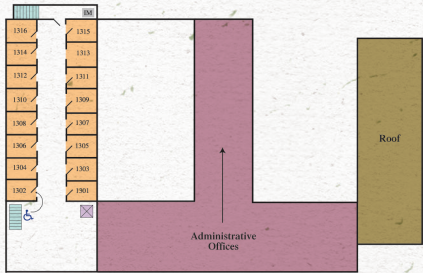


KETNER HALL

J.C. PENNEY HALL

### THIRD FLOOR

Rooms 1301-1316



KETNER HALL

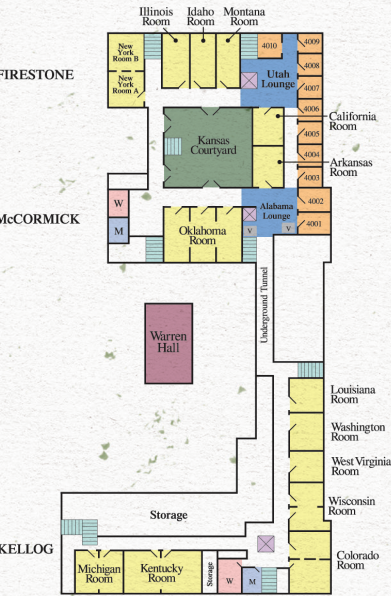
J.C. PENNEY HALL



# MAP / INTERIOR CAMPUS MAP

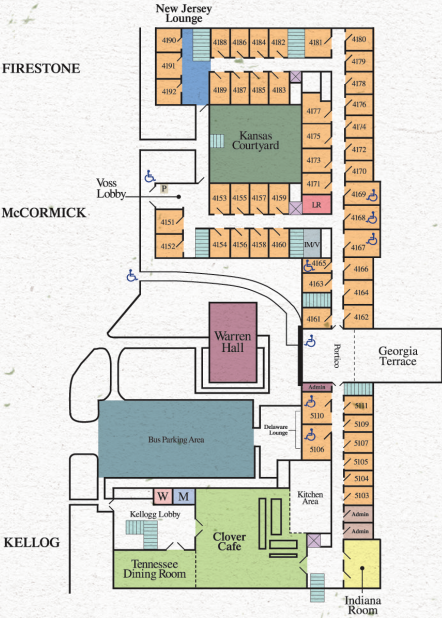
## LOWER LEVEL

Rooms 4001-4010



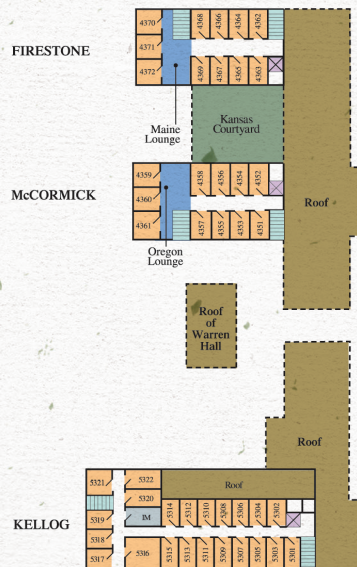
## GROUND FLOOR

Rooms 4151-5111



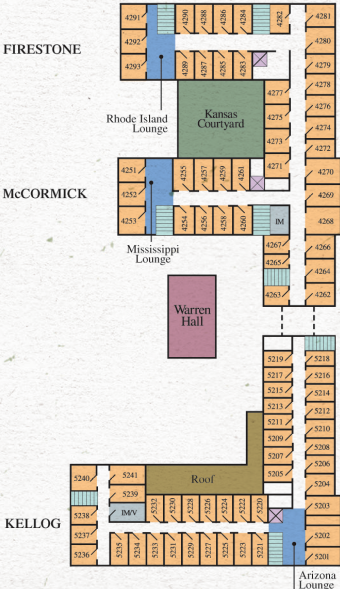
## THIRD FLOOR

Rooms 4351-5522



## SECOND FLOOR

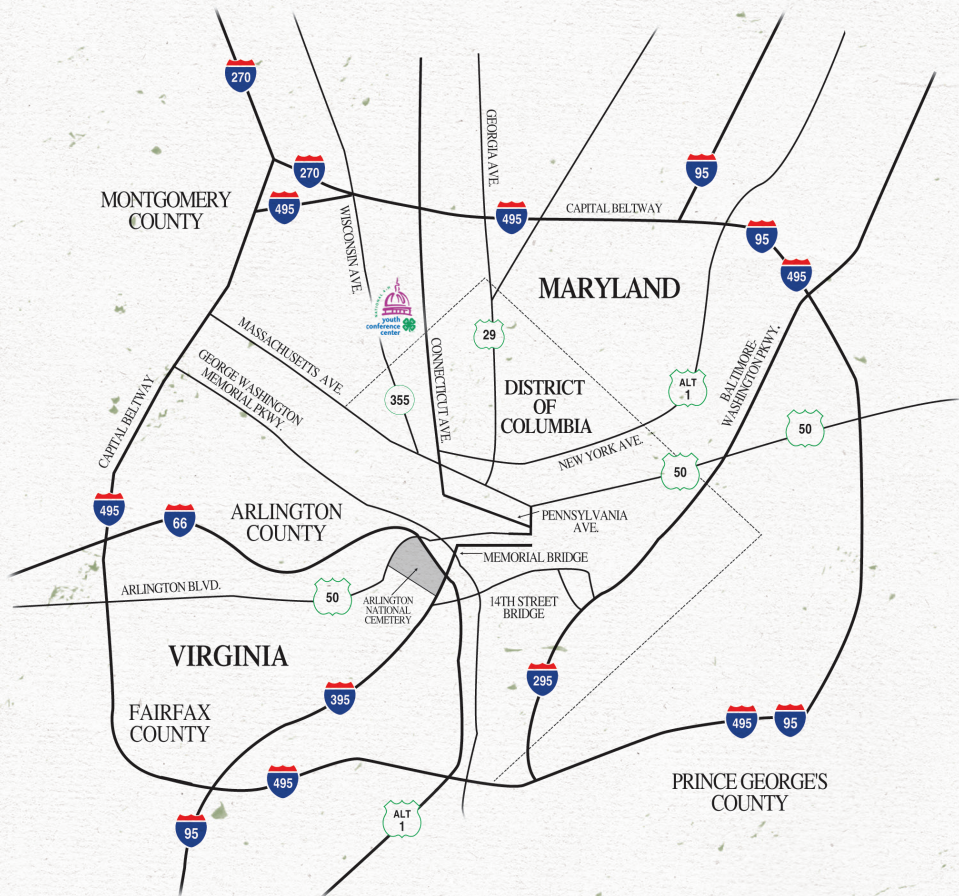
Rooms 4251-5241





# MAP / AREA MAP

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ECCLESIA IS A RELATIONAL NETWORK OF CHURCHES, LEADERS,  
AND MOVEMENTS THAT SEEK TO EQUIP, PARTNER, AND MULTIPLY  
MISSIONAL CHURCHES.

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