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# Evangelicals

Magazine | Winter 2018/19 | Vol. 4 No. 3





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# Evangelicals

The Magazine of the National Association of Evangelicals



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*Good.*®

The mission of the National Association of Evangelicals is to honor God by connecting and representing evangelical Christians.

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## CONTEXT

The National Association of Evangelicals is a family of denominations, nonprofits, schools, churches and individuals, held together by a set of shared beliefs. As our 75th anniversary approached, the NAE staff considered how to mark this milestone. Should we host a massive event and ask for donations? Should we get a high-profile speaker to keynote? In the end, we opted to celebrate an anniversary like a family would.

**W**e invited representatives of our membership to a family dinner. Over dessert, several NAE leaders shared stories about the connections they made through the NAE, why the NAE was important to them and how the NAE has furthered the good news of Jesus Christ. We gave thanks to God, prayed together and humbly looked forward to what lies ahead.

This Evangelicals magazine issue is a little like a family scrapbook featuring photos and highlights we want to remember. It's not comprehensive, but it celebrates the faith that brings us together and bold actions NAE leaders took that had big impact, such as welcoming Pentecostals into the fold and partnering with unlikely allies to secure meaningful legislation.

We are grateful that even in the midst of World War II, a group of Christian leaders recognized the need and anticipated the value of such a network. At the time, there was a strong theological pull to liberalism and a reactionary fundamentalist response. The NAE founders sought a thoughtful middle way that brought diverse groups together under a shared faith for God's glory.

The NAE does not have a perfect history nor has it had a straightforward trajectory, but it does have a story to tell of how God used — and continues to use — a group of imperfect followers to be an *Influence for Good*. It's the family story we love to tell.

# WE BELIEVE IN SECOND CHANCES



Together we can open the door for 70 million Americans who've paid their debt to society! Join the movement for second chances—and give hope to our brothers and sisters with a criminal record.

We have tools to help your church unlock brighter futures. Learn how your congregation can celebrate Second Chance Month this April by hosting a Second Chance Sunday and more!

Get Your **FREE** Second Chance Sunday Toolkit at [prisonfellowship.org/scm/churchtoolkit](http://prisonfellowship.org/scm/churchtoolkit)



# EVANGELICAL CALENDAR

Please join the evangelical community at these events hosted by the NAE and its members. **Your prayers are welcome too.**

Many of these events include downloadable resources for promotion and participation.



JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 1, 2019

## Christian Student Leadership Conference

**Washington, DC**

National Association of Evangelicals  
[NAE.net/csle](http://NAE.net/csle)

The Christian Student Leadership Conference is a place where college students who care deeply about today's pressing issues come to learn and consider how to engage in public policy. This year's theme is Justice, Mercy & Humility in Public Life.

JANUARY 31-  
FEBRUARY 1, 2019

## Are We Not One?

**Nampa, ID**

Northwest Nazarene University  
[NNU.edu/WesleyConf](http://NNU.edu/WesleyConf)

With plenary speakers Mark DeYmaz and Soong-Chan Rah, this conference will explore the call to love, as well as better imagine and plan for how churches can welcome and love all peoples of the world.



FEBRUARY 8-9, 2019

## IF:Gathering

**Dallas, TX**

[IFgathering.com](http://IFgathering.com)

Thousands of women will gather at the Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory in Dallas while more will attend local IF:Gatherings across the country to learn about this year's theme: relying on the wisdom of God and not on one's own understanding.



APRIL 24-26, 2019

## Q Conference

**Nashville, TN**

Q Ideas  
[Conference.QIdeas.org](http://Conference.QIdeas.org)

The Q Conference offers 30 curated 9 or 18 minute talks, featuring the state of American culture and ways Christians can navigate the complexity of our changing society. Education by thought leaders and stories from change-makers will inspire a hopeful way forward.



FEBRUARY 7-14, 2019

## National Marriage Week

Let's Strengthen Marriage  
[NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org](http://NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org)

Join with others across the country and organize a local marriage event during the week leading up to Valentine's Day. Focus on practical ways to strengthen marriages in your church and community.

FEBRUARY 20-22, 2019

## Leveraging Cultural Insight for Adaptive Change

**Orlando, FL**

Association for Biblical Higher Education  
[ABHE.org/annual-meeting](http://ABHE.org/annual-meeting)

This annual meeting serves as the rallying point for 200 institutions of biblical higher education in North America. Leaders in biblical higher education gather to confer and sharpen their gifts and abilities.

## ✓ Celebrating 75 Years of the NAE

### NAE Leaders Reflect on Past and Look Forward to Future

Leaders and members of the National Association of Evangelicals gathered on October 10 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., to give thanks for what God has done through the NAE over 75 years of ministry and to look forward to the work that lies ahead.



Mark Noll, a notable American historian, shared his perspective on the NAE’s influence in the United States and beyond. His remarks began, “Seventy-five years ago, it took unusual insight, unusual dedication, unusual patience and unusual commitment for the founders of the NAE to establish this organization.”

He commended the NAE for showing the value of cooperative Christian action for serving the larger society and called the programs of World Relief, the NAE’s humanitarian arm, “the crown jewel” of the NAE. Noll also noted that in light of the great strength of American individualism, the NAE succeeded in providing “an extraordinary array of opportunities for fellowship, mutual support and cooperation among an extraordinary array of believing communities.”

Several NAE leaders, including Leith Anderson, John Jenkins, Nick Hall, Jo Anne Lyon, Jenny Yang and George Wood, offered remarks on various components of NAE’s ministry, inspiring continued partnership and collaboration for the gospel. President George W. Bush and Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church (one of the NAE’s largest member churches), sent video greetings. The evening concluded with prayers for NAE’s future led by Deborah Pegues.

## ✓ International Religious Freedom Act Turns 20

The National Association of Evangelicals played a major role in the passage of the International Religious Freedom Act (IRFA), which was signed into law 20 years ago on October 27, 1998.

In 1996, the NAE issued its Statement of Conscience on Worldwide Religious Persecution, calling on the United States to make religious freedom a priority goal of U.S. foreign policy, to publish detailed reports on religious persecution, and to withhold aid from countries that continued to persecute. Each of these goals was addressed in the version of IRFA that Congress eventually passed.

The wisdom of addressing religious persecution may seem obvious, but IRFA faced substantial opposition when it was first proposed by Rep. Frank Wolf and Sen. Arlan Specter. Some were concerned about obstacles to trade, while others argued that religious rights should not be elevated above other concerns. In the end, a broad coalition of religious freedom advocates prevailed, and the bill passed by voice vote in both chambers.

The legislation requires the State Department to make religious freedom a significant goal of our foreign policy. It established the position of Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and the Office of International Religious Freedom, which is required to produce an annual report analyzing the state of religious freedom in each country in the world. It also created a bipartisan Commission on International Religious Freedom as an independent watchdog to monitor the status of religious freedom around the world.





## ✓ Andrew Brunson Returns Home

Andrew Brunson, an Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) pastor, was released from house arrest in Turkey and returned to the United States in October after being held for two years on terrorism and espionage charges. He was convicted of terror-related charges and faced up to 35 years in prison. However, on October 12, a judge sentenced him to three years, one month and 15 days in jail. The judge then reduced the sentence to time served on good behavior and ordered him to be released.

Jeff Jeremiah, EPC stated clerk, said, “The Brunsons continue to need prayer as they resettle in the United States. Andrew and Norine made Turkey their home and ministry for almost 25 years.... I urge all believers to ask our Lord to clearly reveal his will for the Brunsons as they seek how to continue to serve him.”

## ✓ New Financial Training Available for Pastors and Church Leaders

Over the past two years, the NAE Financial Health team has worked to develop online training for pastors and church leadership teams in the areas of personal finances and church generosity. These two six-session courses are now ready for any interested pastor or church leadership team and are available at no charge. The courses feature video training, assessment surveys, Best Practices worksheets and planning calendars, and are accessed through an easy-to-use online learning platform. The NAE is also partnering with several member denominations to offer matching grants to pastors with financial needs who complete the training.



Access resources and online training in personal finances and church generosity at [NAEfinancialhealth.org](http://NAEfinancialhealth.org).

## ✓ Thriving in Ministry Grants

Through its Thriving in Ministry initiative, Lilly Endowment Inc. has approved nearly \$70 million in grants to 78 organizations across the United States to help support pastors in congregational ministry. The grants are funding organizations to help clergy thrive as pastoral leaders, so they can lead the congregations they serve more effectively.

Several NAE members received these grants, including the Christian Reformed Church in North America, Church of the Brethren, Denver Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, International Pentecostal Holiness Church, Vineyard USA, and the Billy Graham Center at Wheaton College.

Through Thriving in Ministry, organizations will create or strengthen programs that support pastors by helping them build relationships with other clergy who can serve as role models and mentors and guide them through key leadership challenges in congregational ministry.





# Finding Unity in the Essentials

## The Story of the NAE Statement of Faith

When the National Association of Evangelicals was formed, it appeared at the time to be an unlikely association of Christians. The Statement of Faith reached its final form in 1943 in a gathering of more than 1,000 attendees from almost 50 diverse denominations and traditions, including Baptists, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Pentecostals, Congregationalists, Dispensationalists and Anabaptists.

**M**any were emerging from an era of separatism in which efforts at unity were minimal and even discredited. But, attendees at the Chicago event noted a unique moving of the Holy Spirit.

Thus, “Adopted — without dissent — was a seven-point doctrinal affirmation that would not only be NAE’s standard, but it also became the official statement of faith for many ... evangelical organizations in the years which followed,” according to Arthur H. Matthews in his book, “Standing Up, Standing Together.”

The NAE intentionally did not copyright its Statement of Faith, so that it would be used widely. As a result, countless evangelical groups and organizations across America and around the world have adopted the NAE statement as their own. Some Christian colleges and seminaries require incoming students to sign it, establishing shared faith among students.

Harold John Ockenga, the first NAE president and eventual first president of both Fuller Theological Seminary and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, gave the clarion



**Dennis Hollinger** is president and Colman M. Mockler Distinguished Professor of Christian Ethics at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

call in the opening address of the movement: “The hour calls for a united front for evangelical action.” There was an emerging call for unity among evangelicals, who to this point had been largely working in isolation from each other. Making an impact for the cause of Christ in a troubled world called for new synergies.

But how could such a diverse body of evangelicals come together? The early pioneers of the NAE focused on the core essentials of Christian faith, laying aside differences over ecclesiology, ordinances (or sacraments), eschatology and other doctrines deemed to be secondary in nature. They sought to find a path between the Social Creed (1908) of the Federal Council of Churches (which in 1950 became the National Council of Churches), and the more strident, separatist stance of the American Council of Christian Churches led by Carl McIntire. As Elizabeth Evans notes in “The Wright Vision: The Story of the New England Fellowship,” “These evangelicals agreed on the essentials of the faith, even though they had quite different views on nonessential matters.”

The seven-point NAE Statement of Faith is fairly straightforward:

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

This statement has become the primary qualification for membership in the NAE. Its broad-strokes orthodoxy has enabled it to be used widely by denominations, educational institutions and evangelical organizations.

As NAE President Leith Anderson notes:

It says a lot in very few words. And, there is much it does not say. There are distinctives among our member denominations that vary in understanding what the Bible says about prophecy, spiritual gifts, church government and more. The NAE Statement of Faith was never intended to speak to every doctrine or teaching but to establish the center that all evangelicals share. Long before the notion of defining organizations by their center rather than their boundaries, the NAE strongly declared the center of our faith in the Bible and in Jesus Christ.

While the NAE Statement of Faith was a significant factor in bringing evangelicals together 75 years ago and continues to serve the evangelical community well, many of us have noted one missing element in the statement: the Church. The absence of any reference to the Church likely reflects the individualism of the time, as well as the antipathy to the conciliar movements such as the World Council of Churches or National Council of Churches, with their focus on structural unity over theological and spiritual unity. If the statement were written today, I suspect that there would be a clause in point seven or a separate point eight, reminding us that to be a believer in Christ is to be in the Body of Christ, his Church.

Nevertheless, the statement itself serves as a connector for people of shared faith and inspires us to work as the Body of Christ in united action for his glory. **E**



A large, stylized graphic of the number 75 in a gold color. The '7' and '5' are composed of thick, blocky strokes. A horizontal bar is positioned across the middle of the '7' and '5'. Inside this bar, the text 'NAE | National Association of Evangelicals' is written in a gold, sans-serif font. Below the bar, the word 'YEARS' is written in a smaller, gold, sans-serif font, centered under the '5'.

# NAE | National Association of Evangelicals YEARS

Here we share 75 quotes, historical details and interesting tidbits about the National Association of Evangelicals in honor of its 75 years of ministry.

1 “Every family needs a kitchen table. The National Association of Evangelicals serves as convener and organizer and switchboard and shaper. It gives to the evangelical world and beyond a much-needed influence.”  
JOHN ORTBERG

2 In April 1942, evangelical leaders across the United States met in St. Louis to draft a constitution for an evangelical association. The following year, more than 1,000 participants representing nearly 50 denominations gathered in Chicago to officially create the National Association of Evangelicals.

3 The first president of the NAE was **Harold John Ockenga**, who also served as the first president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary.



4 While the fundamentalist movement that preceded the NAE was largely the domain of Baptists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians in the northern part of the United States, the NAE also embraced numerous Christians in the Pentecostal, Holiness, Reformed and Anabaptist traditions.

5 United Evangelical Action was the magazine of the NAE from 1942 to 1995.



6 The first of many actions of the NAE was to create an office in Washington, D.C., tasked to support chaplains, assist mission agencies with the State Department, champion religious broadcasting to the Federal Communications Commission, and defend religious liberty.

7 **Clyde Taylor**, a Baptist General Conference pastor in New England, former missionary to South America with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, and part-time professor at Gordon College, was the first director of the D.C. office and the dominant figure in the NAE over its first 30 years.



8 One of the NAE's first initiatives was to respond to the needs of refugees in Europe by founding the War Relief Commission, later known as **World Relief**. World Relief continues to be a wholly owned subsidiary of the NAE and our humanitarian arm.

9 The most visited page on the NAE website addresses the popular question: "What is an evangelical?"

10 The decision of radio networks to stop selling time for religious broadcasting prompted the NAE to form the **National Religious Broadcasters** at its 1944 convention. NRB responded to the challenge, persuading the networks to reverse their policies. Radio continues to be an important medium for spreading the gospel.

11 "The NAE has stood true and faithful to the Evangel. NAE has lifted high the cross of Christ, NAE has declared the Resurrection, and NAE has believed in the power of the Holy Spirit."

BILLY GRAHAM



12 In the 1940s and 1950s, the NAE assisted missionaries in securing passports from the State Department and visas from the countries to which they were being sent. In later years, the NAE helped end the practice of CIA interrogation of missionaries.

13 Created in 1945 as the Evangelical Foreign Missions Association to handle the special needs of missionaries and their agencies, **Missio Nexus** is one of several organizations with roots in the NAE.

14 By the time the NAE celebrated its fifth anniversary, it had regional offices in Detroit, Minneapolis, Portland and Los Angeles, in addition to its Washington, D.C., office, which remains today.

15 Harold Smith, now president and CEO of Christianity Today, once served as NAE director of information and editor of NAE's United Evangelical Action magazine.



16 In 1956, the NAE adopted a resolution calling on evangelicals to use "every legitimate means to eliminate unfair discriminatory practices" in order to provide equal rights and opportunities for all Americans.



**17** **President Dwight Eisenhower** was the first president of many to welcome an NAE delegation to the White House.

**18** The NAE is a member of the World Evangelical Alliance, which brings together the evangelical alliances of 129 countries. For many years the NAE hosted WEA offices at the NAE headquarters in Wheaton, Illinois. Tom Correll, NAE global church representative, currently acts as the liaison between the NAE and the WEA.

**19** The NAE held its first Federal Seminar (now called the Christian Student Leadership Conference) in 1956, introducing generations of evangelical collegians to opportunities for public and government service.

**20** In 1957, the NAE formed a committee to explore the development of a new translation of the Bible, resulting in the **New International Version**. Today the NIV is the most popular and best selling Bible in the United States and around the world, and the only one to displace the King James Version in about half a millennium.

**21** “The National Association of Evangelicals serves a vital and constructive role in providing evangelical cohesion. We need strong voices today, defending what was the cause of the Reformation: the continued reform of the holy, catholic, apostolic church. Thank you for being willing to stand for Christ in these difficult times.”  
CHUCK COLSON

**22** The NAE held annual conventions for many years in order to bring together evangelicals from across the United States and inspire cooperation for the advancement of the gospel.



**23** At the 1960 meeting of the NAE’s Commission on Evangelical Action, members discussed the top challenges facing American evangelicals: communism, IRS pressure on ministers who preached about politics, alcohol on airplanes, and Hollywood’s “attacks on evangelical Christianity.”

**24** **Billy Graham** was a personal friend of many early leaders of the NAE and credited the network for playing a large role in the effectiveness of his early crusades. Graham regularly met with NAE leaders and spoke at NAE events.



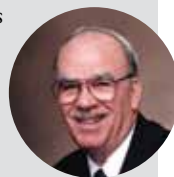
**25** In a 1970 resolution, the NAE pledged “to support every legitimate effort to maintain balance in ecology, preservation of our resources, and avoidance of the cluttering of our natural beauty with the waste of our society.”

**26** The NAE Board of Directors includes the CEOs of 40 member denominations and representatives of a broad array of evangelical organizations including missions, universities, publishers and churches to comprise more than 100 top American evangelical leaders.

**27** Starting in 1972 with a board resolution, the NAE advocated for the ban of smoking on airplanes. Congressional action 15 years later led to such a ban.

**28** The Evangelical Chaplains Commission, established by the NAE in 1944, provides support and endorsement for evangelicals to minister as chaplains in the military and other institutions. The Commission also connects the chaplain ministries of NAE denominations, making it the largest representative body of chaplains in the U.S. Armed Forces and Veterans Administration.

**29** **Billy Melvin** served as NAE executive director for 28 years, retiring in 1995. During his tenure, 15 denominations joined the NAE and Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H. W. Bush spoke to NAE audiences.



**30** The NAE passed a resolution in 1973 supporting Vietnam veterans. It said in part: “We urge upon our entire nation the importance of seeing to it that all Vietnam veterans are effectively reabsorbed into the mainstream of American life, into our churches and our economy.”

**31** **Robert Dugan** was the leading figure in the NAE's Washington, D.C., office from 1978 to 1997. Under his leadership, the NAE gained significant influence on Capitol Hill. Dugan was instrumental in the passage of bills on drunk driving, church audit procedures and equal access to public school facilities for religious organizations.

**32** The Washington Insight newsletter, founded by Robert Dugan, was published monthly from 1979 to 2007, providing updates on public policy issues of concern to evangelicals.



**33** In the 1980s, NAE Executive Director Billy Melvin sent a fundraising letter each summer saying that if each NAE constituent would just send in a nickel, the NAE would make its budget.

**34** **President Ronald Reagan** delivered his famous "Evil Empire" speech at the NAE's 1983 convention in Orlando, Florida.



**35** The NAE conducted a multi-year research project in the 1980s on Peace, Freedom and Security Studies, critiquing the rhetoric of both the Right and the Left regarding threats to national security and world peace. The final report is a testimony to the NAE's ability to engage contentious issues in an irenic manner.

**36** In 1991, a series of dialogues with leaders of the National Black Evangelical Association led to an NAE resolution and a joint NAE-NBEA declaration on racism.

**37** At the NAE's 50th anniversary celebration, Billy Graham, standing for nearly two hours, met and greeted every member of the NAE board before flying to North Korea on an humanitarian mission.

**38** In his acceptance speech for NAE president in 1992, **Donald Argue** foreshadowed coming changes when he suggested that NAE members were "too old, too male and too white."

**39** As part of his advocacy on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, **Forest Montgomery**, NAE legal counsel at the time, passed out "Religious Liberty for All!" pins all over Capitol Hill. In the end, only three senators voted against the bill's passage.

**40** The NAE was part of a broad coalition that researched, drafted and advocated for the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. In remarks at the bill's signing, then-Vice President Al Gore said, "When you have the National Association of Evangelicals and the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Islamic Prison Foundation and B'nai Brith ... we're doing something right today."



**41** "When it comes to advancing religious liberty for all persons of any faith over the past 25 years, the NAE can only be described as indispensable."

STEVE MCFARLAND, LEGAL COUNSEL FOR WORLD VISION

**42** Don Argue, former NAE president, and Richard Cizik, former NAE vice president of government affairs, were selected to participate in the 1998 Religious Leaders' Delegation to the People's Republic of China, a first of its kind diplomatic initiative by the U.S. government to a totalitarian state.

**43** The NAE played a leading role in supporting the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, which Congress passed in 2000 and which protects religious congregations from discriminatory zoning rules and upholds the religious freedom of prisoners. The NAE continues to file amicus briefs with courts in defense of rights granted under RLUIPA.

**44** Among NAE's members are some of the world's leading humanitarian organizations, including Compassion International, World Vision and The Salvation Army. The Accord Network, which brings together more than 100 Christian relief and development organizations, is an NAE affiliate member.

**45** The Evangelical Project for Public Engagement was initiated at the March 2001 NAE board meeting and resulted in a major volume titled "Toward an Evangelical Public Policy" and the abbreviated guide for engagement, "For the Health of the Nation."





**46** “For the Health of the Nation” was adopted by the NAE Board of Directors in 2004. Along with board resolutions, the publication serves as the platform for public policy work and offers a biblical basis for religious freedom, sanctity of life, marriage, poverty, creation care, peace, human rights and racial justice (added in the 2018 version).

**47** “For the Health of the Nation” was presented on Capitol Hill in March 2005, where the signatures of 100 plus evangelical leaders were released. A remarkable variety of evangelicals affirmed the document including Rick Warren, James Dobson, Charles Colson and Richard Mouw.

**48** The Evangelical Chaplains Commission currently provides direct endorsement and support for 93 chaplains — most of whom are chaplains in the military, though some serve in health care and law enforcement.



**49** **United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon** spoke at the Global Leaders Forum, an event organized by the NAE and Micah Challenge USA in 2007.



**50** **Richard Cizik**, former NAE vice president of government affairs, was named to the “TIME 100” list in 2008 for being among the most influential Americans.

**51** The Washington Insight newsletter was rebranded in 2008 as NAE Insight and broadened to cover ecclesial topics in addition to public policy. In 2015, the eight-page NAE Insight was replaced by Evangelicals magazine.

**52** While a student at Wheaton College, **Dan Coats** attended the NAE’s Christian Student Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. He went on to serve as a U.S. congressman, senator and ambassador, and currently serves as director of National Intelligence.

**53** The 2009 NAE board resolution on immigration provided the basis for robust evangelical support for immigration reform and led to the formation of the Evangelical Immigration Table, which advocates on behalf of refugees and immigrants.

**54** “I see the NAE speaking out on the refugee crisis and speaking on behalf of creation care and immigration reform. Those are issues that 20 years ago evangelicals weren’t known for thinking about.... The NAE, I believe, has really helped elevate issues that are real important for the most vulnerable in our society.” **NICOLE BAKER FULGHAM**



**55** Signed by thousands of pastors, the NAE Code of Ethics for Pastors provides a professional standard of conduct for ministers. The companion resource, the NAE Code of Ethics for Congregations and Their Leadership Teams, equips church leadership teams as they relate to their pastors, congregation and community.

**56** The NAE endorses the only operational chaplain in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Erik Myhrberg.

**57** From 2009 to 2012, the NAE conducted research on young evangelicals and their beliefs and practices on sex and abortions. One result of that project was the “Theology of Sex” resource created to help Christians understand and cherish human sexuality, build strong families and celebrate the gift of life.

**58** Research on evangelicals often varies due to the methods used to identify evangelicals. In response to that challenge, the NAE and LifeWay Research developed a tool to provide a consistent standard for identification of evangelical belief in 2015. It has become LifeWay Research’s most common rubric.

**59** **Dorothy Boorse**, associate professor of biology at Gordon College, analyzed scientific data, collected reports from development workers, and summarized the reflections of theologians to create the discussion paper, “Loving the Least of These: Addressing a Changing Environment,” published by the NAE in 2011.

**60** Several denominational leaders say that the NAE’s Denominational Executives Retreat is the one event they will not miss every year. One leader noted, “This is where I learn how to do my job.”



61 In 2015, **President Barack Obama** participated on a panel organized by the NAE and the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University.



62 Written by leading evangelicals and scientists (in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science), the NAE's "When God and Science Meet: Surprising Discoveries of Agreement" publication brings science and faith to the same page and is designed to help church leaders address their congregants' curiosity and concern about science.



63 Starting in 2016, the NAE has organized Pray Together Sunday, encouraging churches around the country and across denominational lines to commit to a time of prayer for our nation one Sunday in July.



64 For many years, participants in the NAE Washington Insight Briefing came to Washington, D.C., to be informed and to advocate on key issues facing our nation. The NAE continues this tradition through the Washington Briefing for NAE board members and other evangelical leaders.

65 This is **Leith Anderson's** second stint as NAE president — first serving from 2002 to 2003 as interim president and now serving from 2006 to present.

66 For over two decades, churches across the nation have used the NAE's Thru the Bible Reading Guide to help their members make God's Word part of their every day. One year, staff members accidentally left off the last chapter of Revelation. Calls flooded the NAE office.

67 Prior to joining the NAE staff in 2009, NAE Vice President **Galen Carey** was a longtime World Relief employee. His concern for the vulnerable and collaborative spirit led to the creation of several coalitions, including the Evangelical Immigration Table, Faith for Just Lending, Evangelicals for Peace, and Circle of Protection.



68 In April 2014, the State Department sent NAE President Leith Anderson on a diplomatic mission to the Central African Republic where he met with evangelical, Catholic and Muslim leaders in an effort to end a surge in violence and killing. The visit is credited with saving lives and laying the groundwork for peace in the nation.

69 Countless scholarly and popular books mention the NAE and its influence on culture. The books, "Cooperation Without Compromise" (1956) by James DeForest Murch and "Standing Up, Standing Together: The Emergence of the National Association of Evangelicals" (1992) by Arthur H. Matthews, focus exclusively on the early years of the NAE.

70 From 2012 to 2013, NAE President Leith Anderson served on President Barack Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

71 The NAE's breadth and diversity of partners allow us to organize unique gatherings that encourage, resource and enrich leaders in the evangelical community. The NAE Talk is one such event that serves as a safe space for high-level evangelical leaders to discuss difficult issues, such as sexuality, race and Islam.

72 In 2016, NAE President Leith Anderson and NAE Vice President for Government Relations Galen Carey co-authored "**Faith in the Voting Booth**" to show how better informed, faith-directed voting is both possible and needed in our country.



73 Hosted by NAE President Leith Anderson since 2015, **Today's Conversation** podcast gives an opportunity for listeners to hear from experts on a range of topics. The most popular episodes featured Claude Alexander on What White Christians Need to Know About Black Churches; Greg Johnson on What's Up With Mormons?; and Joseph Cumming on Understanding Islam From an Evangelical Perspective.

74 Recognizing the widespread financial challenges of evangelical pastors, the NAE Financial Health project was created in 2016 to help address these issues. Over 200 pastors have started going through the online training that launched this September.

75 "Congratulations to the National Association of Evangelicals on your 75th anniversary. Thank you for spreading God's message of love and mercy and for putting hope in so many hearts."  
PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH



**George O. Wood** is chair of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and former general superintendent of the Assemblies of God (USA).

# Better Together

## Looking Back With Gratitude, Looking Forward With Hope

As a kid growing up in an Assemblies of God pastor's home in the 1940s and 50s, I was keenly aware of the differences between Pentecostals and other Christians. I hesitated to mention the name of my church for fear that the other kids would make fun of me as a "Holy Roller." And for the record, in nearly eight decades of living, I've never actually seen any Pentecostals roll.

**T**hat feeling of being different pervaded Pentecostalism in the first few decades of its existence. These were the heady decades of the Fundamentalist-Modernist controversy in American Protestantism. The Assemblies of God — along with other Pentecostal denominations — clearly mustered in the ranks of conservative doctrine. Indeed, in 1928, Pentecostal Evangel editor Stanley Frodsham declared, "We are all Fundamentalists to a man."

And yet, the Fundamentalists didn't want us. Fundamentalist leader Carl McIntire described Pentecostalism as "a work of darkness whose disorder is known to all." As far as he was concerned, our theology was "a subtle, disruptive, pernicious thing."

That feeling was widespread among conservative Protestants, even those far less truculent than McIntire. For

example, Walter Martin was a personal friend who for many years taught a Sunday school class at the church I pastored in southern California. At one time in his ministry, he was assistant to Donald Grey Barnhouse, longtime pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. As Martin was researching what became "The Kingdom of the Cults," Barnhouse advised him to write a chapter on the Pentecostals. But after looking into the matter, Martin informed Barnhouse that with the exception of our distinctive understanding of Spirit baptism and tongues, Pentecostals believed what they did.

### Gratitude

The Fundamentalists rejected Pentecostals because they valued separation over fine points of doctrine. The National Association of Evangelicals valued cooperation based on



broad agreement with basic orthodoxy. The Assemblies of God and other Pentecostals have benefited over the years because membership in the NAE helped move us from the margin to the mainstream.

Billy Graham often quoted Edwin Markham's poem "Outwitted," which to me has always symbolized the inclusive nature of evangelicalism:

He drew a circle that shut me out—  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took him in!

As Pentecostals look back on the first 75 years of the National Association of Evangelicals, we do so with gratitude, because forward-thinking leaders followed the way of love and drew us in.

## Hope

And yet, while we should take a moment to be grateful for our shared past, we've still got work to do. These days, many evangelicals are gripped by fear. That's understandable in many ways. American culture has changed rapidly, radically and religiously within our lifetimes.

We need to remember, however, that Christians are people of hope, not fear. This is inscribed in the very etymology of the names we use to describe ourselves. "Evangelical" derives from the Greek word *euangelion*, "good news," the announcement of a notable victory. "Pentecost," also Greek, names the Jewish festival celebrating the harvest. It was a joyful holy day because it meant there was food for the coming year. Victory and provision. Christ has won and through his Spirit, Christ will provide.

## Better Together

Let me share some Assemblies of God statistics with you. By 1942, the year the NAE was founded, there were 218,127 members of the Assemblies of God in the United States and 103,433 abroad. Today, measuring adherents rather than members, there are 3.2 million and 69.2 million respectively. In 1942, U.S. membership was overwhelmingly white. Today, adherence is 56.2 percentage white and 43.8 percentage ethnic minority. If trends hold, the Assemblies of God will

As Pentecostals look back on the first 75 years of the National Association of Evangelicals, we do so with gratitude, because forward-thinking leaders followed the way of love and drew us in.

be a minority-majority fellowship before America is a minority-majority nation.

Go a bit further back in history. According to the World Christian Database, in 1900 there were just under 1 million Christians worldwide who could be loosely classified as Pentecostal or Charismatic. Today, according to the World Christian Database, the total worldwide Pentecostal and Charismatic population is 338 million, 13.5 percent

of all Christians. And the majority of that population lives in the fastest growing segments of the world — the Global South.

I don't tell you this to brag about Pentecostals generally or the Assemblies of God specifically. I do it to express gratitude that 75 years ago, the founders of the National Association of Evangelicals resisted the Fundamentalist temptation to marginalize or oppose us. Instead, the NAE embraced the gospel imperative to recognize the unity of our shared evangelical doctrine and mission. In doing so, they planted seeds of inclusiveness and diversity that are even now bearing fruit in the United States and, through missions, around the world. If our history teaches us anything, it is this: We need each other, and we are better together.

More than that, we need the Holy Spirit. As Harold John Ockenga, one of the founders of the NAE, wrote in "Our Evangelical Faith" (1946):

Today the greatest opportunity of all time opens for Christians "filled with" and "anointed by" and "empowered by" the Holy Spirit. Oh that God could put his hand on [those] to whom he could entrust the blessing of the Holy Spirit in his fullness... We are to seek God's best, the fullness of his Holy Spirit and the manifestation of his presence and ministry in our lives.

May that be our prayer too! And should the Lord tarry, may he continue to bless the National Association of Evangelicals in its next 75 years of ministry. 🙏



**Richard Cizik** is founder of the New Evangelical Partnership for the Common Good and previously served as NAE vice president of government affairs.

# Working Across Boundaries

As a young man newly hired out of Denver Seminary by Robert Dugan to the Washington office of the National Association of Evangelicals, among the first people I was introduced to were two giants of evangelicalism — Carl F. H. Henry and Frank Gaebelein, theologians and former co-editors of Christianity Today.

**B**oth men lived in Arlington, Virginia, just blocks away from one another, and Gaebelein became a mentor. One conversation I'll never forget. At a dinner put on by Helga Henry, they asked, "Would the NAE lean into the moment and reach out to be the voice for all evangelicals?" Gaebelein was a Democrat who put the emphasis upon the word "all," and Henry was a Republican who put it on the "reach out." I replied, "I hope so and would value your help and friendship in doing so." They did, and we all should be grateful.

Henry and Gaebelein were characteristic of the larger evangelical world and agreed to disagree amicably over Reagan's agenda, the environment, and how best to meet social needs, among many things, but both wanted the NAE to be the "voice" of the movement. Both men helped "reform" fundamentalism, and believed that the challenge would continue. They were right. Today, challenging a 21st century version is risky. Leadership always pays a price, and courage is not always rewarded. But doing so is the "peacemaker" role lauded by our Lord.

Visionary leaders from the NAE gathered in 1942 and became known as the "neo" evangelicals. Over the course of 75 years, this vision for a new kind of evangelicalism has stood against leftist, atheistic secularism; apostasy in some mainline Protestant denominations; but also religious and political bigotry by alt-right, neo-Nazis and nationalistic hate groups.

And during each stage of the association's life, it has crossed boundaries to challenge norms. The organization put its name, leadership and advocacy behind landmark freedom bills such as the Equal Access Act, Religious Freedom Restoration Act, International Religious Freedom Act, Trafficking Victims Protection Act and many more. Each of these initiatives remains in force and gives freedom to millions here and worldwide as a result.

History books record that this collaboration with would-be opponents on behalf of the persecuted and prisoners, school children and victims of genocide and abortion, as well as polluters, is what Francis Schaeffer dubbed "co-belligerency." It suggests that compromise in pursuit of the common good is not a moral failure and that one need not agree with collaborators



to pursue higher ends together. Consider it a legislative version of the NAE's early motto "cooperation without compromise."

In my own mind, the best example of working across boundaries is NAE's 1996 Statement of Conscience on International Religious Persecution. This statement led to collaboration with the Clinton administration to pass the International Religious Freedom Act and the creation of an ambassadorial position and commission that continues to this day.

Today, polarization on Capitol Hill and in our culture would make passage of these initiatives all but impossible. The perception of an evangelical identification with one political party jeopardizes its vision. And, if evangelicals want to continue working across boundaries they must transcend partisanship.

Leadership exacts a price, and that includes being misunderstood. But the times call for it, no less so than when the NAE leaders met in St. Louis in 1942 and rejected the fundamentalist vision of their day.

Are we as a nation in trouble? You betcha. Entering into the 21st century, America is experiencing a deficit in moral leadership. The issues that we face — the degrading of human dignity, climate change, civilization conflict, war and violence — will require not just leadership that has been desperately lacking but moral imagination of a kind previously unheard of.

According to Jim Collins, author of "Good To Great," "These leaders blend extreme personal humility with intense personal will. They are studies in duality. Modest and willing, shy and fearless."

The times require, in my mind, people who realize they have an obligation that goes far beyond their own personal interests. The leaders of the NAE have exemplified this spirit. May they continue to lead the broader evangelical community in gracious humility, reaching across boundaries for the sake of the nation and world. ❶





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**Geoff Tunnicliffe** served as secretary general of the World Evangelical Alliance for 10 years.



# Worldwide Partners of the Gospel

## The U.S. Role in Global Evangelicalism

For decades, the National Association of Evangelicals and its members have made a huge contribution to the advancement of the gospel to every continent of the world. For one, tens of thousands of missionaries and aid workers have served under the auspices of the NAE-founded Evangelical Foreign Missions Association (now Missio Nexus).

**D**uring my tenure as the World Evangelical Alliance secretary general, the WEA worked closely with the NAE on key issues that impacted millions around the world, including religious persecution, creation care, human trafficking, nuclear disarmament and the illegal arms trade to name a few. Engaging with evangelical leaders from other national alliances, the NAE has been able to communicate a broad and well-informed evangelical perspective to U.S. policy makers on issues that affect so many lives around the world.

With the impact of globalization and the center of gravity of Christianity shifting from the West to the Global South, the NAE will continue to play a critical role in the work of the kingdom of God around the world.

First, the NAE can make a major impact by serving as a catalyst for engaging and building bridges with Christian leaders from around the world. Amplifying their voices and perspectives to U.S. evangelicals and policymakers is vital. Second, the NAE can also counteract the negative narrative that evangelicals are primarily a political movement — a message that has spread and has been having an impact internationally.

I am grateful for the role the NAE has played in the global movement and recognize that its role has never been more vital than it is today. **E**





# On NAE's Future

**H**eather Gonzales, NAE chief operating officer and vice president, has served the NAE since 2005, most recently as association director. Previously, she worked for IRI, an international democracy promotion organization; Africa Inland Mission in Namibia; and several congressional offices. Her NAE connection is nearly lifelong, growing up with a dad who was a denominational executive with the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and a member of the NAE Board of Directors.

## WHAT IS THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS GOOD AT DOING RIGHT NOW?

The NAE has been serving the evangelical community for 75 years, and today all of that history and experience has built an association that is as large, strong and significant as it has ever been. In the midst of our diverse and dynamic evangelical community, the NAE stands as a thoughtful unifying presence. We are providing networking and enrichment opportunities for evangelical leaders, endorsing and training military and institutional chaplains, providing resources to inspire and equip ministry leaders, winsomely advocating for evangelical concerns in public policy, and empowering pastors to minister out of a place of financial health (see [NAEfinancialhealth.org](http://NAEfinancialhealth.org)).

Due to the breadth and diversity of our membership, we are regularly consulted by the religious and secular press, government officials and leaders with influence. Nearly every day requests for connection, advice and direction come in from evangelicals and those of other (or no) faith persuasions. Our "What is an Evangelical?" page brings people to our website to learn more about our community. The NAE Statement of Faith (unchanged since 1943) is the gold standard of evangelicalism and is widely used by evangelical organizations. In short, we are working hard to serve as connective tissue for evangelicalism while providing a thoughtful voice that uses our influence for good.





**YOU HAVE WORKED FOR THE NAE FOR NEARLY 14 YEARS, WHAT ARE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGES YOU HAVE SEEN?**

The NAE has moved through different seasons in over seven decades of ministry. When I came to the NAE, it was a season of transition, and we were working hard to shore up the organization with meaningful member service, high quality staff and board, and a firm financial footing. As those pieces have come together in recent years, we've been able to turn more of our attention to the fun stuff — using our influence and connections to provide high quality resources, equip and empower chaplains, network evangelical leaders, invest in pastors, provide a robust voice on public policy, and work to better reflect the diversity of the evangelical community in our leadership and membership.

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE CHANGES IN THE EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT IN THE LAST 10 YEARS?**

In the 75 years of the NAE's ministry, evangelicalism has experienced enormous growth and expansion. The evangelical community today is large, representing as much as 30 percent of the people in the United States. Naturally, in a group that large, there are subgroups identified by where we live, how we vote, the level of our education or even our local cultural expressions. Each has distinctive beliefs and practices that may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable to one another. In the midst of all of this, we are committed to providing a measured, thoughtful voice for the winsome gospel message.

**WHAT DO YOU SAY TO PEOPLE WHO THINK THAT THE EVANGELICAL MOVEMENT IS MOSTLY ABOUT POLITICS?**

Evangelicalism is a vibrant and diverse group of “good news” people worshiping and serving in churches, nonprofits, missions, hospitals, denominations, homes and schools across the United States and around the world. Our common bond is personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, not politics. Evangelicals do and should engage in the public square, in a variety of ways across the political spectrum. The NAE's “For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility” calls them to a gracious and thoughtful engagement. Yet, that engagement is just one piece of our commitment as evangelicals to take the Bible seriously and serve as the agents of Jesus in a broken world.

**WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE NAE?**


There are lots of opportunities for the NAE to expand our connection and influence. We recently received a capacity building grant that will empower us to better reflect the ethnic, gender and generational diversity of evangelicals, establish a strong donor base, better serve our members, and tell a story that inspires evangelicals and informs the public understanding of our community.

I believe that the NAE is successful when we harness the rich diversity of our community and lead with wisdom, grace and conviction...

**HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE SUCCESS FOR THE NAE?**

The mission of the NAE is to honor God by connecting and representing evangelical Christians. And overlaying that mission is the early commitment of our founders to bring unity in the midst of diversity and provide a positive testimony to the gospel. I believe that the NAE is successful when we harness the rich diversity of our community and lead with wisdom, grace and conviction to provide a positive vision for evangelicals and empower them to be the hands and feet of Christ in their communities and spheres of influence. It's a big task.

**WHAT MAKES THAT SUCCESS POSSIBLE?**

I often find myself marveling at the remarkable diversity represented within the NAE. We represent millions of evangelicals in our churches, nonprofits, schools and denominations — all diverse in theology and practice but unified in common cause. The success of the NAE is driven by that body of believers — our members and partners — who are committed to honor God with a constructive voice of unity and winsome influence. 





# Diamond Anniversary

In the cultural hierarchy of anniversaries, paper is #1, tin is #10, silver is #25, gold is #50 and diamond is #75. Whoever started the list saved diamonds for 75 because 75 is a lot of years.

**D**iamonds are valuable because they are comparatively rare, amazingly strong, exceptionally durable and can be stunningly beautiful. Best known for their prominence in jewelry from engagement rings to royal crowns, they are most common in industry due to their extraordinary hardness and thermal conductivity. Simply stated, diamonds can cut through just about anything, but there are not many ways to cut up a diamond.

Sadly, diamonds are not always about happiness and good times. They have fueled wars and imprisoned slaves in mines. A “diamond heist” is a favorite crime in famous Hollywood movies. And, losing a diamond from your ring makes for a very bad day.

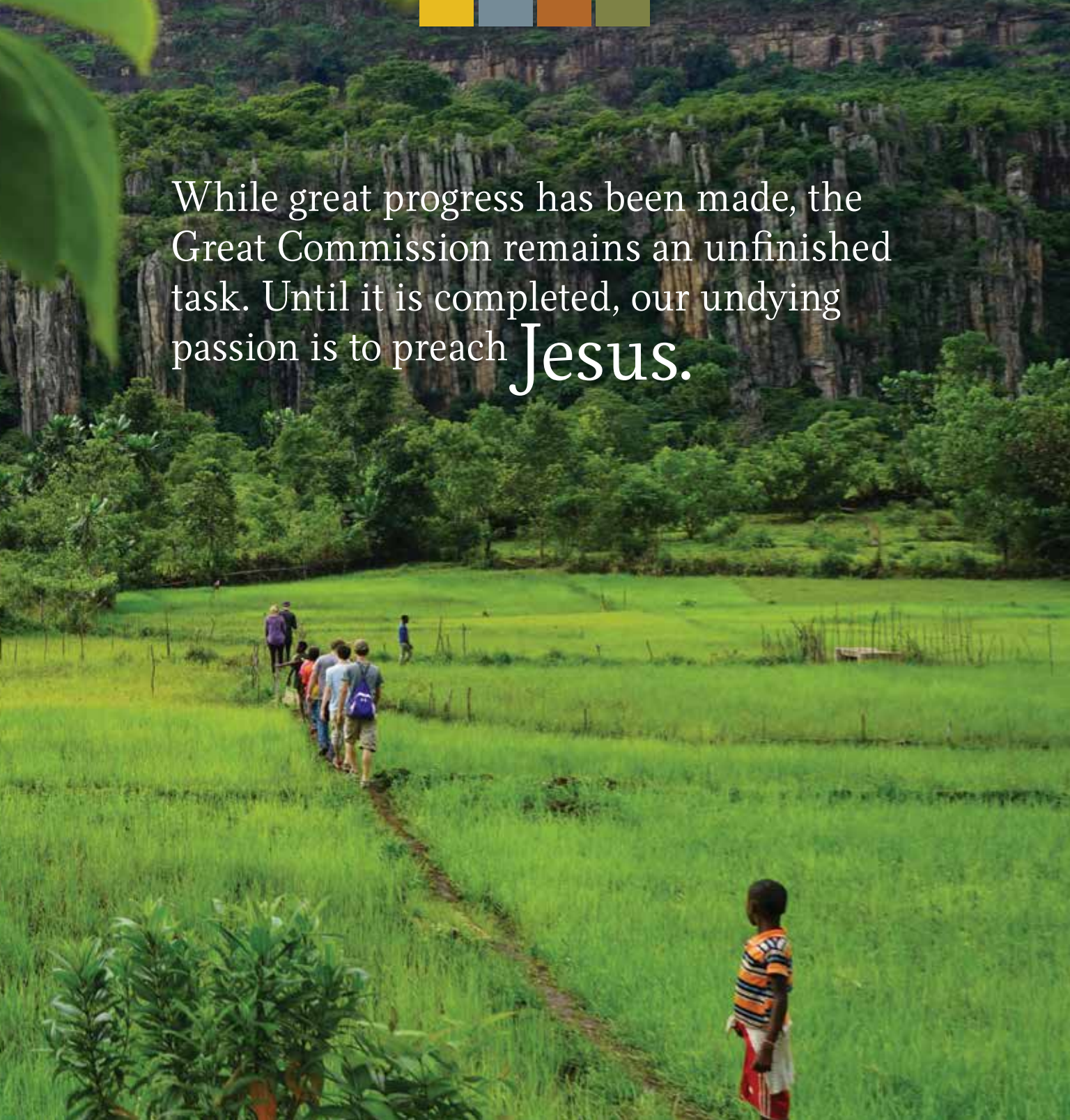
All that to say that the National Association of Evangelicals is celebrating our Diamond Anniversary. So much has changed since 1943. Take five minutes to Google the year and read about atrocities of World War II, race riots in Detroit, rationing of food and gasoline, and families divided by wars from Europe to Asia. Those were hard times that make many of today’s challenges seem like we are in the best of times.

Diamonds can cut through just about anything, but there are not many ways to cut up a diamond.

What has not changed is the central bedrock core of the NAE — the Statement of Faith. Like a diamond birthed centuries ago, our faith in God, the centrality of Jesus as our Savior and the veracity of the Bible are extraordinarily hard yet with eternal conductivity to bring sinners to salvation. Not that evangelical beliefs are new because they are as old as Christianity and before. The founding of the NAE brought together a family bond of those who already were evangelicals and wanted to more effectively represent Jesus in our world.

Will NAE and evangelicalism celebrate Double Diamond in another 75 years and beyond? The “Yes!” answer

is not in the perpetuation of an organization or the preservation of a term, it is in diamond-like faithfulness that shines in beauty and endures in difficulty. It is in our diamond-like faith in Jesus Christ who is “the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). **E**



While great progress has been made, the Great Commission remains an unfinished task. Until it is completed, our undying passion is to preach **Jesus.**



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- Preserving human rights
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- Promoting just peace and restraining violence
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