



WINTER 2024

# Impact Report

**NAE** | National Association of

**Evangelicals**

# Building Bridges

*Demonstrating God's Love to a Broken World*



*NAE Denominational Executives and Friends Retreat*

The National Association of Evangelicals uniquely serves the Church by **building bridges** — between denominations, Christian ministries, educational institutions and society. As a bridge-builder, the NAE nurtures the unity of the Church while equipping followers of Christ to engage in gracious and loving ways with wider society. **Your generous support is vital to the success of this bridge-building work.**

Support for a well-constructed physical bridge is largely hidden from view. In the same way, the NAE's work of bridge-building is often a behind-the-scenes effort. And yet, bridges reflect the heart of Christ and his mission. As the apostle Paul declares, "For [Christ] himself is our peace, who has ... destroyed the dividing wall of hostility" (Ephesians 2:14).

## Across Denominations

The NAE fosters relationships between the leaders of our nearly 40 member denominations in order to build up the unity of the Church. One example is our annual retreat for denominational executives and their spouses. This is a unique opportunity for leaders to come together in a confidential setting to share openly with and pray for one another.

Additionally, the NAE created a new staff position, Ambassador to Denominations, filled by Randall Bach, to deepen denominational connections and support denominational executives. Bach served

for many years as a denominational executive and understands the challenges and burdens these leaders face.

## Global Collaboration

The NAE is one of 143 national alliances that comprise the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA). This global body represents 600+ million evangelical Christians, and it helps the NAE connect with what God is doing around the world.

This is particularly important given that Christianity is growing fastest in the Global South. As Ed Stetzer noted in a recent NAE podcast, **American evangelicals have an opportunity to be a "voice in the chorus and not the choir director."** Stetzer is the North America regional director for the Lausanne Movement, which will convene 5,000 evangelicals in September 2024 in Seoul Korea for its conference on world evangelization.

Last year, Terri Miller, the NAE's global church representative, attended the Future of the Gospel Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, followed by meetings with WEA regional bodies. She reported that the trip was "invaluable for building bridges and strengthening ties" with evangelicals around the world.

Listen to our podcast with Ed Stetzer on Participating in God's Global Mission at [NAE.org/edstetzerpodcast](https://nae.org/edstetzerpodcast).



## Coalitions for Freedom and Justice

As articulated in our publication, “For the Health of the Nation,” evangelical Christians are called to engage in the public square — **“not for our own sake but for the health of the nation and world.”**

The first of eight principles that the NAE advances is “protecting religious freedom and liberty of conscience.” We do not do this work alone. The NAE advocates for those who are marginalized for their faith through participation in the Coalition to Preserve Religious Freedom, the Religious Liberty Committee and the International Religious Freedom Roundtable.

Another principle the NAE promotes is “seeking justice and compassion for the poor and vulnerable.” The NAE participates in several coalitions toward this end as well, including the Evangelical Immigration Table, Alliance for a New Immigration Consensus, and the Circle of Protection. These coalitions help our team stay updated on policy changes that impact the most vulnerable.

God has given the NAE unique opportunities to partner within and outside of the Christian family. As part of these coalitions, our voice is strengthened. In all our collaborations, we seek to elevate the gospel. **Through your generous support, you help us build bridges into strong testaments of God’s love for a broken world.**

“**The NAE has provided us with a community and a network of relationships that otherwise would have been inaccessible to us. And because the NAE is in the business of building unity across denominational and theological lines, these relationships have broadened our horizons in important ways.**”

John and Joanna Stumbo, The Alliance



## Racial Justice & Reconciliation

One of the ways the National Association of Evangelicals manifests the truth that Jesus “has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility” is through our Racial Justice and Reconciliation Collaborative. This initiative builds bridges between Christians of different ethnicities and races.

In 2023, the NAE sponsored Living UNDIVIDED, a 7-week cohort for evangelical leaders to grow in racial justice and reconciliation. The program offered participants a biblically based and historically informed interactive learning environment designed to equip them in leading their organizations to pursue justice and reconciliation.

Randy Davis, executive director and CEO of National Network of Youth Ministries, observes that the cohort was a unique opportunity to hear others’ stories. **“When I hear the pain in others’ voices, it should pain me. Even though there are things that separate us — our histories and racial identities — we’re still a community, and we need to figure out how to do community better,”** he said.

The NAE also hosted its first retreat for leaders of color who seek to help their respective organizations move toward greater clarity and commitment in pursuing racial justice. Many of these leaders have experienced hurt, frustration and burnout. This retreat provided a spiritual oasis for leaders to be refreshed and renewed.

Monica Mitchell, board chair for William Carey International University, attests to the impact of the retreat: “God reminded me that I’m not alone in this work. He has called others to this work as well. I was reenergized, affirmed and refreshed.”

# Thank You!

Your commitment to the gospel and its reconciling power inspires us to keep moving forward in the work to which God has called us. Thank you for standing with the NAE and for empowering us to be a bridge-builder in Jesus' name.

**You are a vital partner in this ministry, and we could not do this work without you. Thank you for investing your financial resources to advance God's kingdom.**



*Walter Kim*

WALTER KIM  
President

## Your generous support has enabled us to:



Equip **300 Christian communicators** in digital media best practices (including artificial intelligence) through the Digital Media Con, which the NAE co-sponsored.



Lay the groundwork for a **board certification agency for evangelical chaplains**.



Host a retreat for executive leaders and spouses representing **20 denominations**.



Mobilize **3,000 churches** to give more than **\$1.8 million since 2019** in **pastor appreciation offerings** through the Bless Your Pastor initiative.



Co-host a delegation of Vietnamese government officials and church leaders to talk about **religious freedom** and the role it can play in a prosperous society.



Give presentations on **gospel-centered transformational leadership** in tumultuous times for the Board of Directors of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship.



Provide a 3-day training for **34 chaplains** from a variety of evangelical backgrounds, with a particular focus on ministering to the Gen Z population.

"Following the God Who Transforms," a new 10-day devotional from the NAE, is designed to encourage and refresh believers in who God is and his heart for our nation and world. Download here: [NAE.org/following-god-devo](https://nae.org/following-god-devo).



# Prayer Requests

**PRAY** for followers of Jesus in this election year to be rooted deeply in Scripture and to faithfully love others well regardless of political party affiliation.

**PRAY** that the NAE would continue to exercise influence with government and civic leaders so that the gospel will be made known as we seek to honor God and contribute to a flourishing society.

**PRAY** that Christian leaders would actively work toward reconciliation and building bridges, and would resist the temptation to demonize communities different from their own.

**PRAY** for all those involved in the Lausanne Conference for World Evangelization (September 2024) in Seoul, Korea, that God would lead them in unity and with a clear purpose for faithful gospel proclamation in every aspect of society.

**PRAY** for an end to violence and for meaningful steps toward lasting peace in the war-torn areas of our world.