

Introducing Michael Slaughter

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Mike Slaughter, Chief Dreamer of Ginghamburg Church, is a catalyst for change in the worldwide church. His dynamic teaching, heart for the lost and innovative approach to ministry has led Ginghamburg Church to outgrow all paradigms for a church in a cornfield. Mike's call to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted will challenge attendees to wrestle with God and their God-destinies.

LONG BIOGRAPHY

Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, is the **three-decade dreamer** of Ginghamburg and the **spiritual entrepreneur** of ministry marketplace innovations. His life-long passion to reach the lost and set the oppressed free has now made him a tireless and leading advocate for **the children, women and men of Darfur, Sudan**, named by the U.N. as the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today. Mike's call to afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted will challenge attendees to wrestle with God and their God-destinies.

When Mike arrived at Ginghamburg Church in 1979, worship attendance hovered at 90 with 118 members and an annual budget of \$27,000. As of 2008, 4000 attendees on average worship weekly at Ginghamburg and the multi-million dollar budget helps resource a faith community committed to serving the poor, lost and disenfranchised.

Under Mike's leadership, Ginghamburg Church has become known as an **early innovator** of **small group ministry**, the **Church "media reformation"** and **cyberministry**, with the Ginghamburg web site averaging 50,000 visits monthly from around the world. Since initiating **The Sudan Project** in January 2005, Ginghamburg has invested nearly \$5.6 million into humanitarian relief in Darfur. The resultant agricultural project, child development program and safe water initiative are expanding to reach a **quarter of a million Sudanese** refugees and villagers. Mike has visited (three times) the internally displaced persons camps and villages in South Darfur served through The Sudan Project to witness firsthand God's "loaves and fishes" miracle and to reconfirm for the Sudanese people Ginghamburg's determined commitment toward completing the mission that has been placed before it. Locally, the **New Path outreach arm** of Ginghamburg Church annually serves more than **40,000 people** in surrounding communities via its food pantry, car, clothing and furniture ministries.

In 2005 and 2006, Ginghamburg was named as one of the **top 50 churches** in the U.S. by *The Church Report* magazine. In 2007, *The Church Report* listed Mike as one of the **top 50 most influential Christians** in America. As a mentor, Mike travels globally to speak and uses his "gift of irritation" to equip ministry leaders to minimize brick and maximize mission so that they may fully deploy the mission of Jesus into the world. He is also the author of multiple books with the most recent being *Hijacked Responding to the Partisan Church Divide* (Abingdon Press); *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday Experience the Joy of Living* (Abingdon Press) and *Giving Like Jesus and Change The World: Recovering The Message and Mission of Jesus* (Abingdon Press).

Mike is an ordained Elder within the United Methodist Church (UMC) and holds a Doctorate of Ministry. He was named the Foundation for Evangelism's **"Distinguished Evangelist"** in 2003 and has twice received the **Denman Evangelism Award** from the Foundation in recognition of demonstrated leadership in promoting the United Methodist Church's historic commitment to evangelism. In 2007, Olivet Nazarene University granted Mike the **Reed Institute Lifetime Achievement Award**, given in recognition of outstanding leadership.

Mike lives in Tipp City, Ohio, with his wife Carolyn. Their children are daughter Kristen (Slaughter) Leavitt with husband Brendan, as well as son Jonathan with wife Stacy. Mike and Carolyn have three granddaughters, Ellie, Addison and Anna. For more information or to catch up with Mike, check out his weekly blog: <http://mikeslaughter.com/blog>.