

Introducing Michael Slaughter

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Mike Slaughter, lead pastor at Ginghamburg Church, is in his fourth decade as the chief dreamer of Ginghamburg Church 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 one of 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.

LONG BIOGRAPHY

When Mike arrived at Ginghamburg Church in 1979, worship attendance hovered at 90 with 118 members and an annual budget of \$27,000. Now, 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. Since initiating The Sudan Project in January 2005, Ginghamburg has invested nearly \$8 million into sustainable humanitarian relief projects in Darfur, Sudan and South Sudan. The resultant agricultural project, child development program, safe water and health care initiatives reach a quarter of a million Sudanese and South Sudanese refugees, returnees 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. Ginghamburg has also raised \$668,000 toward Imagine No Malaria, the first installments on a \$1 million pledge. Locally, the New Path outreach arm of Ginghamburg Church annually serves more than 58,000 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 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 including *The Passionate Church: Ignite Your Church and Change the World* (Abingdon Press); *The Christian Wallet: Spending, Giving & Living with a Conscience* (Westminster John Knox Press); *RENEGADE GOSPEL: Rebel Jesus* (Abingdon Press); *Dare to Dream* (Abingdon Press); *Shiny Gods* (Abingdon Press); *Christmas Is Not Your Birthday: Experience the Joy of Living and Giving Like Jesus* (Abingdon Press) 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 was recognized as the Outstanding Doctor of Ministry Alumnus in October 2014 by United Theological Seminary. In May 2016, United Theological Seminary awarded Mike an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree.

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, and two grandsons, Luke and Caleb. For more information or to catch up with Mike, check out his weekly blog: mikeslaughter.com/blog.