



SAVE  
THE  
DATE!

## RETREAT SPEAKER:

# MICHAEL SLAUGHTER

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 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 we invited Mike Slaughter to speak we confessed that United Methodists in Illinois are stretched thin to accomplish the many missions God puts in our path. When the General Church has a media blitz on 10-10-10 days we file it under "that's interesting" but we rarely can get anyone, sometimes even pastors, excited about new hands on missions.

"It's time we rethink mission, the how and the why."

## MORE ABOUT MIKE

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 \$7.2 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 contributed more than \$320,000 toward Imagine No Malaria, the initial installment on a \$1 million pledge. Locally, the New Path outreach arm of Ginghamburg Church annually serves more than 50,000 people in surrounding communities via its food pantry, car, clothing and furniture ministries.

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 *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. 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: <http://mikeslaughter.com/blog>.

# College of Christian Life RETREAT

August 15-17, 2016  
East Peoria, Illinois

