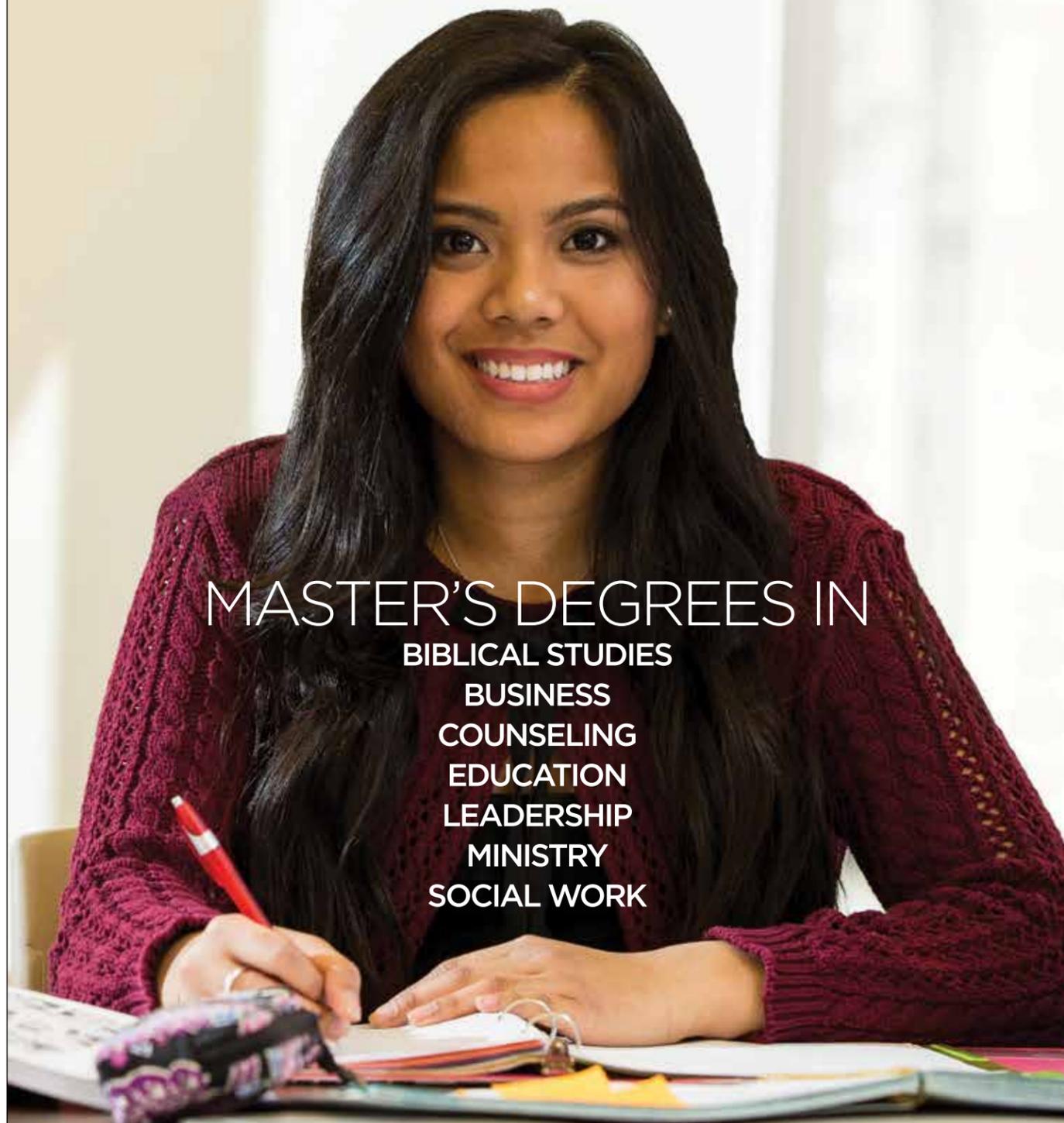
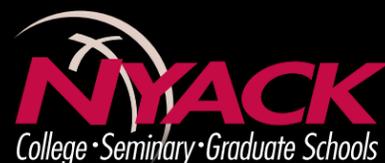


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Wednesday  
MAY 31, 2017

# THE BANNER

## Quotable Quotes

from Tuesday seminars



**"I had to create characters that were bald, naked, and limbless, that could somehow be sold in Christian bookstores."**

—Phil Vischer, founder of *VeggieTales* and Jellyfish Labs, on the limitations of computer animation in the *VeggieTales* era

**"We need to develop a new vocabulary of prayer that is going to help people engage their hearts and not just approach God with their mouths."**



—Ty King, author of the *Pray the Word* book series and seminar leader of "Hindrances and Highways for Becoming a Praying Church"

**"The Alliance is known throughout the world as a family God has used—and is using—to do missions and do it well."**

—John Corby, director, Global Link



## FORGIVEN

"You mean this story is about me?"

The final line of a dramatic portrayal of Matthew 18:21-35 at opening night of Alliance Council 2017 quickly personalized the evening's theme. U.S. C&MA President John Stumbo drew three lessons from the parable of the unmerciful servant, beginning with a call to "celebrate the extravagance of the King."

Writing "paid in full" on our accounts is a "jaw-dropping offer," John said. "That's who our King is and who He's always been."

To illustrate his second point, "obey the exhortation of our King," John welcomed to the stage Saul Ebema, senior pastor of Lombard (Ill.) Bible Church. Saul gave his testimony of forgiving as he has been forgiven.

When Saul was 12 years old, the militia in South Sudan murdered his parents and burned down his family's hut. He and his brother fled to a refugee camp where they were kidnapped as child soldiers. After six years, the boys tried to escape. Saul's brother was shot dead.

In God's providence, Saul made his way to Kampala, Uganda, then



Johannesburg, South Africa, and finally to Lombard, Illinois, where he forgave the religious group that had taken so much from him.

"That spirit of unforgiveness was holding me back," Saul said. "The moment I let go, I stopped having nightmares, and God started using me in ways He never had before."

John's final point was to "welcome encounters of our King"—those head-snap moments of wondering, *What just happened?* "For those who know who [our King] is, we welcome these encounters," John said. "His mercy interrupts the trajectory we were on."

Attendees then took communion, remembering the forgiveness Jesus provides. "I long for the [Alliance] family to walk lighter this week because we lay down some things at the cross tonight," John said.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Alliance Perspective on Law and Culture—Colorado Springs, September 22-23, 2017** For the first time, the Alliance legal counsel is bringing together the best thinkers and communicators to provide an Alliance perspective on the latest legal, political, and cultural issues in the United States. This information will be presented in a way that will be immediately applicable for church leaders. Register through Events at [www.cmalliance.org](http://www.cmalliance.org). Early bird registration is \$99; cost is \$119 after July 31.

**Multicultural Ministries' FREE Ice Cream Reception** will be held Wednesday, May 31, Hyatt Regency, Franklin B & C, immediately following the Evening Worship Service. All are invited to meet our ethnic leaders and preview our new Council seminars! Space is limited, so please plan to arrive early.

International workers: **Visit booth 172, MERCY MARKET**, and tell us how we can partner with you in bringing help to your community's impoverished and exploited residents.

**You Never Know Until You Get There: A History of CAMA Services** by Andy & Bev Bishop. Available on Amazon as an E-book.

**Attention Crown College alumni: we would love to greet you!** Stop by Booth

158 during Council to be "Crowned."

**The Corporate Secretary's Office**, in the Champaign Room, will be open 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Tuesday–Friday, and will close for lunch daily, 12:00–12:30 p.m. The office may close at other times without prior notice.

**Seeking an Alliance missions project for your VBS/children's ministry this year?** Stop by the Children's Disciplemaking Ministry booth (#134) to pick up a packet of sample materials.

**Want to meet our ethnic pastors? Have questions about how to witness to an ethnic friend?** Stop by Booth 166, 8:30–10 p.m., to meet and greet Arabic-speaking pastors on Thursday; Haitian pastors on Friday; and African pastors on Saturday. Don't miss this time to be encouraged and to encourage them!

**For the third time in recent years ADF** is sending interest rebate checks to its loan customers totaling \$1,000,000.

**Looking for curriculum?** Stop by the [cmalliancekids](http://www.cmalliancekids.org) booth (#134) for our recommendations.

**Got luggage? We have beautiful luggage tags!** Stop by Booth 166, Multicultural Ministries, with your coupon to receive a FREE, COLORFUL ALLIANCE

LUGGAGE TAG. You must present the coupon because quantities are limited.

**Interested in assisting your "newest neighbors" with learning English or completing their immigration paperwork?** Stop by Booth 166, Multicultural Ministries, to pick up a schedule of special Council seminars designed to help you or your church begin this journey.

**How do indigenous believers** process their animistic cultures in light of God's Word? C&MA evangelist, Craig Stephen Smith (Ojibwe), brings biblical answers in his new six-part DVD and audio CD teaching series titled *Indigenous Faith*. Great for missionaries to help equip indigenous churches worldwide. Now available at Council Bookstore.

**At Faith Investment Services**, we see the Holy Spirit as *Parakletos*, "One called alongside to help." We want to assist with your retirement planning and needs. Stop by Booth 4 to talk or pray. While there, sign up to win Google Home or Fitbit prizes.

**Church Ministries will have a drawing for a book, *A Practical Theology of Assessment***, Tuesday–Saturday. To enter, fill out your coupon and bring it to Booth 162.

# Firm Foundation

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VISIT BOOTH #144

### RETIRING C&MA SERVANTS 2016-2017

**Douglas and Karen Conkle**—Senegal/Burkina Faso (40 years)  
**Judy Gaskin**—Indonesia (46 years)  
**James and Sharon Kendall**—Indonesia (43 years)  
**Ken and Kathy Young**—Japan (39 years)  
**Douglas and Naomi Ord**—Columbia/Italy (37 years)  
**Bruce and Rebekah Dyke**—Dominican Republic (40 years)  
**Valerie Stellrecht**—Ecuador/Dominican Republic (40 years)  
**Brad and Dorothy Wood**—Dominican Republic (29 years)  
**Steve and Debbie Zopfi**—Spain/Mexico (38 years)  
**Teyet Moy**—Taiwan/China (41 years)  
**TRIBUTE: Timothy Greenfield**—Chile/Mexico (38 years)

### ALLIANCETRIVIA

**Question:** I have been an Alliance college student, a C&MA pastor, a C&MA church-planting missionary in a Muslim nation, a National Office director, a professor at Toccoa Falls College, and a C&MA church liaison; but the greatest impact I have had in The C&MA was as a floor-polishing janitor in Shuman Hall at Nyack College, where I may have single-handedly saved The Alliance.

#### Who am I?

The first three people to bring the correct answer to Development Booth 138 will win a prize. (Answer in tomorrow's BANNER)

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"The Command to begin at Jerusalem passes on to us the obligation to reach God's chosen people."

—A. B. Simpson,  
*Days of Heaven on Earth*

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the United States' LARGEST  
Unreached People Group

AND

Equipping YOU

to reach them too!

- AJM Seminars still have ROOM! (register at the AJM booth #101)
- Talk to AJM workers at the AJM booth
- Items to help you KNOW Yeshua/Jesus and share HIM available at the AJM booth