

October 8, 2023

NATIONAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE 2023

BRING HIM TO THEM

BIRMINGHAM - ALABAMA - THE NATION



CONFERENCE
SPEAKER:

**DR. ERIC
WATKINS**

HARVEST ORTHODOX
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SAN MARCOS, CA

Dr. Eric Watkins is the pastor of Harvest Orthodox Presbyterian Church in San Marcos, CA, and part-time Director for the Center for Missions and Evangelism at Mid-America Reformed Seminary. He has been a minister in the OPC since 2001 and has planted two churches.

His degrees include an A.A., B.S., M.Div. and ThM. In 2016, he completed his PhD from the Theological University in Kampen, the Netherlands. His dissertation was on preaching Christ from the Old Testament in a postmodern context and was published as *The Drama of Preaching: Participating With God in the History of Redemption* by Wipf and Stock. Dr. Watkins has taught at Reformation Bible College in Sanford, FL, Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL, Gordon Conwell Seminary in Jacksonville, FL, Mid-America Reformed Seminary in Dyer, IN, Westminster Theological Seminary in Glenside, PA and Westminster Seminary California.

He is happily married to Heather; the two of them have four beautiful, adopted children. His pastimes include surfing, beach volleyball and playing guitar.

For more information, go to briarwood.org/nmc.



Briarwood
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OUR SEASON OF PRAYER

Monday, October 9 | Congregation — Worship

Father, we love You and we worship You with all our heart. We worship You each day with our life and we long to worship You with our Church Family this Lord's Day. *"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand."* Psalm 95:6-7

Tuesday, October 10 | Interim Pastor Search — Servant-Leader

Pray for the search committee as they seek to find the candidate who our Lord has prepared to shepherd and lead our Church as our Interim Senior Pastor. We pray that God will use him to feed our souls with the preaching of God's Word. *"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding."* Jeremiah 3:15

Wednesday, October 11 | Leadership — Children and Youth Leaders

Heavenly Father, strengthen those who faithfully teach our covenantal children each week, longing to see the character of Christ formed in them. *"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."* 2 Timothy 2:2

Thursday, October 12 | On Mission — Gospel Deeds of Mercy

Father, thank You for lavishing Your mercy on us. Please use us now to serve others around us with deeds of mercy that spring forth from the Gospel of Christ in our lives. *"But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere."* James 3:17

Friday, October 13 | Thanksgiving — Each Other

Father, we thank You for the body of Christ, as we need each other to grow in Christ. Guide us as we help each other develop in the unity of the faith, in the knowledge of Christ and to spiritual maturity. *"until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."* Ephesians 4:13

Saturday, October 14 | Personal — Dying to Self

Father, empower us to follow Christ daily in our surrendering to Your will and Your way. Help us put down the things that hinder a Christ-centered mindset. *"And he said to all, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.'" Luke 9:23*

Sunday, October 15 | Lord's Day Worship

Lord, we praise You and thank You with all our heart for who You are and for all You have done for us. Please bless us today as we worship You and speak to us through Your servant, Rev. Randy Thompson as he preaches Your Word. *"Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever."* Psalm 111:1-3

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.

For additional information, go to briarwood.org/seasonofprayer.

FEATURED EVENTS

IMPACT Birmingham — Church Mobilization | October 21 *

Saturday, October 21 we kick-off our 2023 National Ministries Conference with IMPACT Birmingham. We are trusting the Lord that over 500 Briarwood members will volunteer to be mobilized in the Birmingham area. Sign up at briarwood.org/impactbirmingham.

National Ministries Conference 2023 — Briarwood Missions | October 21–23 *

Join us Sunday, October 22 and Monday, October 23 to hear our guest speaker Dr. Eric Watkins from San Marcos, California, and from various ministry partners during the Sunday School hour and breakout sessions on Sunday and Monday night. For details on the conference, go to briarwood.org/nmc.

Reformation Sunday — Worship Services | October 29

Celebrate the tradition that grounds our Presbyterian faith on Reformation Sunday. This last Sunday in October marks when Martin Luther posted his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany in 1517.

EMC Convocation Sunday — Every Member Commitment | October 29

Join us Sunday, October 29 at 9:30 a.m. for a joint Sunday School for all adults. The Every Member Commitment is an annual event that allows church members to declare their support for the work of the Lord. For details, go to briarwood.org/emc.

* Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation

by Daniel Doriani | Adult Book

The product of twenty years of thought, *Work: Its Purpose, Dignity, and Transformation* ennobles and motivates men and women in their labors. Providing historical background and inspiring stories of God-honoring workers, Daniel Doriani explains the Bible's teaching on the nature, glory, misery, and eventual restoration of work. You will learn what it means to be faithful at work, even in risky places, and what steps you can take to transform your workplace and the world through the reformation of work. Price: \$13

Teach Them To Work: Building a Positive Work Ethic in Our Children

by Mary Beeke | Adult Book

Do your children exhaust you? Have you found yourself finishing their chores because it's, well, easier than getting them to do them? If so, this book will give you new energy, and your household new harmony. This book will help your children develop a good work ethic. Mary Beeke helps you absorb parenting principles and then gives you practical principles to bring clarity to roles in your home. She breaks them down into manageable chunks so whether you want a reflective study to bring radical change in your life, or just need a shot in the arm, she has you covered. Price: \$13

Featured books are available to purchase online at briarwood.org/bookstore.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pathway to Preparation Training — October 13–14. Join us for a hands-on workshop for women who are interested in growing their skills as Bible teachers, small group leaders and/or individuals just interested in enhancing their understanding of how to rightly understand the Word of God in their personal study. Register at briarwood.org/women.

Trailblazers Coffee and Learn — October 17 at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come hear Registered Dietitian Amanda Bronner share about “Heart Healthy Eating.” Contact sjohnston@briarwood.org to sign up or for questions.

Working Women’s Dinner — October 17 from 6:00–7:30 p.m. You are invited to join us for dinner and an evening of fellowship, engagement and encouragement from those with shared experiences. Register at briarwood.org/women.

Operation Christmas Child Boxes — Start collecting your items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes. Pack a shoe box with small toys, hygiene items, and prayers to touch a needy child’s life with the love of Jesus! Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes will be available in the ministries lobby beginning October 29.

Trailblazer OCC Packing Party — Tuesday, November 7 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. You can drop donations at the Membership Office or bring them with you to the Trailblazer Packing Party. Email sjohnston@briarwood.org for information.

Christmas at the Caroline House “Portraits of Hope”— Tuesday, November 14 and Wednesday, November 15 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Come prepare your heart for Christmas as you hear the gospel, see beauty, and fellowship. Tickets at briarwood.org/cch.

“I Cared Enough” Thanksgiving Meal — November 21. Donate and help distribute food to the needy in downtown Birmingham with Daniel Cason KIDS Ministry. For information contact Daniel Cason at 205-365-1800 or go to danielcason.org.

Thrift Store Volunteers Needed — New Direction Thrift Store in Fairfield is open for business and seeking volunteers. Store hours are Tuesday–Friday from 9:30 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Call store manager Alan Russell at 205-915-7095 to get involved.

Our Season of Prayer Meetings — Sundays at 5:15 p.m. in A-105. Our Church Family gathers weekly to pray together as we seek the Lord to lead us during this intermediate phase we are in. Email pclaud@briarwood.org with any questions.

Women’s Fall Studies — Women, pick from eight available classes meeting Monday–Thursday. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/women. Nursery is available upon reservation at briarwood.org/nursery.

Men’s Fall Studies — Mondays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, Tuesdays at 11:45 a.m. at Cajun Seafood House, and Fridays at 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. See class topics, teachers, and additional information at briarwood.org/men.

MidWeek at Briarwood — Wednesday night dinners, classes and activities for the entire family. Dinner is from 5:15–6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Classes and activities start at 6:30 p.m. Register for dinners and nursery at briarwood.org/midweek.

WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

Briarwood Prayer Focus — Pray for many to come to Jesus as our teams share the Gospel throughout the community.

Birmingham Prayer Focus — Pray for Grace House as they host their 10th Annual Grace House Pumpkin Festival! Pray this will be their biggest fundraiser to date and help grow their ministry for girls in foster care. Visit grace-house.org for more information.

Missions Prayer Focus — Pray for the National Ministries Conference October 21–23. May the Lord guide all the details in preparing for the conference. Pray for Dr. Eric Watkins as he travels to serve as the keynote speaker, as well as all the missionaries who have committed to attend the conference to share their ministry.

Global Ministry Partners — Pray for Thilini with Asian Access in Sri Lanka, Josip and Kelly Debeljuh with Global Outreach International in Croatia, Demps and Kristy Dempsey with Campus Outreach SERVE to Internationals, and Michael with Partners International in Southeast Asia.

National Ministry Partners — Pray for Jeff and Ann Nelson with Children's Bible Mission in Alabama, Doug and Pam Nuenke with Navigators in Colorado, Shane and Vickie O'Hara with Team 5:18 in Louisiana, Phil and Amy Pippenger with Crossroads in East Tennessee, and the staff of Urban Hope Community Church.

Briarwood Officers and Staff — Pray for elders Chung-How Kau, Bryant Moore, David Moore; deacons David Duffee, John Livingston, Fred Holladay; and Executive Pastor Bruce Stallings and wife, Sonya.

CHURCH RESOURCES

Mobilization Opportunity — Want the opportunity to work with your hands and help improve someone's quality of life? Hearts in Hands has ongoing construction projects every week to help those in the community. Visit heartsinhands.org for more information.

Hispanic Pastor — Briarwood Presbyterian Church is seeking a bilingual pastor to shepherd our Hispanic congregation. Candidate must be ordained or ordainable in the PCA. Send resume to hmcdougall@briarwood.org or call 205-776-5404.

Nursery Administrative Supervisor — Full-time position supporting the nursery director with day-to-day needs, interacting with parents, and supporting nursery staff in the rooms. Contact Alison at acraig@briarwood.org or 205-776-5214 for more information.

Administrative Assistants & Part-time Staff — There are a number of full and part-time ministry positions open: Church Library, Children's and Graduate and Career, Special Connections Ministry, Briarwood Christian School and Church Facilities.

See all employment and job openings at briarwood.org/employment.

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THIS LORD'S DAY

Sunday Morning Worship Services:

“Life As Trial”

James 1:1-12

Dr. Daniel Doriani

Covenant Theological Seminary, Professor of Theology and Vice President

Dan Doriani founded and leads the Center for Faith and Work Saint Louis, and is the host of *Working with Dan Doriani*, a faith and work focused podcast. In his principal calling, he has pastored churches, served as faculty in colleges and seminaries, and authored and edited a number of books. Dan holds degrees from Geneva College, Westminster Theological Seminary, Yale Divinity School, and also currently serves as vice president at large and professor of biblical and systematic theology at Covenant Theological Seminary.

Sunday Evening Worship:

III. Philippians: *Rejoicing in the Advancement of the Gospel*

“Unity for the Sake of the Gospel”

Philippians 2:1-11

Jay Shaw

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook or briarwood.org.

Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.