



## GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE SPEAKER

Dr. Stafford Carson is Executive Director of Global Ministries and the Barker Professor of Missions and Evangelism at Westminster Theological Seminary. He is a graduate of the University of Ulster, Queen's University, Belfast, and Westminster Theological Seminary.

He served in pastoral ministry in Ireland for over 30 years and is a former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland. From 2013-2020 he was Principal of Union Theological College in Belfast.

Dr. Carson is married to Patricia, and they have three grown children and two grandchildren.



*Briarwood*  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# GLOBAL MINISTRIES CONFERENCE

Dear Briarwood Family,

I am confident as we enter the 2025 Global Ministries Conference that the Briarwood family is both thankful and amazed at our church's deep and enduring commitment to missions. Our ministry theme this year is "Our Strong Foundation" and the conference verse is 1 Corinthians 3:11:

*"For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."*

We praise the Lord for the extraordinary commitment, sacrificial giving, and world mission initiatives we were able to accomplish last year as the Lord worked through you. Through your significant Faith Promise commitment, it was possible for us to expand the number of new missionaries and further our focus on church planting, church revitalization, evangelism, and discipleship globally. In all of this, we give praise to the Lord! Now, let's press on this year and ask our Lord to keep expanding what He wants to do in us and through us.

Through the Gospel, we are justified, we have peace with God, and we are reconciled to Him. Then He gave the church the ministry of reconciliation. He has made us His Gospel ambassadors (Rom. 5:1-11, 2 Cor. 5:17-20). We can act like ambassadors and actively join the Global Ministries Conference in three ways:

1. Pray for the 2025 Conference and how the Lord will use it to impact you, your family, our church family, and the world for Christ.
2. Prioritize your participation in the Conference. The schedule provides opportunities to spend time with our missionaries, learn from the Global Glimpses, and benefit from Dr. Stafford Carson, who will be our keynote speaker.
3. Prayerfully consider how the Lord will use your life and ministry through Briarwood's mission to "equip Christians to worship God and to reach Birmingham to reach the world for Christ." Consider also how you might creatively engage your children to participate in the Biblical call to world evangelism and the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

Finally, will you prayerfully consider what you believe (FAITH) the Lord is going to give you this year beyond your regular giving for the purpose of sending the Gospel through these missionaries to the world? Then, prayerfully ask the Lord for a joyful heart as we commit (PROMISE) what we believe the Lord will send to us. FAITH PROMISE giving is what we believe the Lord will get to us as we commit to Him that it will get through us.

I look forward to the Lord's blessing through this year's Conference because of the great need which is before us. Let us continually move forward in our desire to fulfill the Great Commission in our lifetime and extend the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

For the joy of the Gospel and our call to proclaim it,  
- Dr. Dan Doriani

## FEATURED EVENTS

### **Our Strong Foundation — Global Ministries Conference | February 23 – March 2 \***

This year's 60th Annual Global Ministries Conference will focus on "Our Strong Foundation" in the Lord. Our speaker will be Dr. Stafford Carson, and we will hear and learn from our supported global ministry partners. We need your help hosting missionary families! Find additional information at [briarwood.org/gmc](http://briarwood.org/gmc).

### **GLOW — Children's Global Ministries Conference | February 23–26**

During the Global Ministries Conference, children will have the opportunity to hear from Ministry Partners from all around the world. There will be plenty of fun, games, trivia and music each night along with great missions teaching. Bring your child to the Children's Auditorium Sunday night through Wednesday night. No registrations are required.

### **Faith Promise Sunday — Global Ministries Conference | March 2 \***

During the Morning Worship Services, we will have the opportunity to place our Faith Promise Pledges at the feet of our ministry partners as they prepare to go back out into the world to spread the gospel and make disciples. Be in prayer, asking the Lord what He would have you pledge by faith to the Global Missions Fund. Return Sunday evening as we close out the conference in worship and hear the report of our Faith Promise giving.

\* Nursery is available for select events upon reservation at [briarwood.org/nursery](http://briarwood.org/nursery).  
Stay up-to-date with upcoming events on the Briarwood App.

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## IN THE BRIARWOOD BOOKSTORE

### ***Side by Side: Walking with Others in Wisdom and Love***

**by Edward T. Welch | Adult Book**

Everyone needs help from time to time, especially in the midst of painful circumstances and difficult trials. In this short book, Welch offers practical guidance for all Christians who want to develop their "helping skills" when it comes to walking alongside hurting people. Written out of the conviction that friends are the best helpers, this accessible introduction to biblical counseling will equip believers to share their burdens with one another through gentle words of wisdom and kind acts of love. This book is written for those eager to see God use ordinary relationships and conversations between ordinary Christians to work extraordinary miracles in the lives of His people. Price: \$8.49

### ***Meg Is Not Alone***

**by Megan Hill | Children's Book**

God lovingly gathers His people into a wonderful community—the church. The local church is made up of individuals who respond to God's love by worshiping Him together and caring for one another. In this picture book, Meg's parents accidentally leave her at church after the morning service, which makes her feel scared. But Meg is not alone. Various people in the church stay with her until her dad returns. With easy-to-understand language and colorful illustrations, this children's book highlights Jesus' command to "love one another," showing children that God has provided the local church to be their loving community. Price: \$10.99

Featured books are available to purchase online at [briarwood.org/bookstore](http://briarwood.org/bookstore).

# MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Briarwood Soccer** — It's time to register for spring soccer for boys and girls age 5–15! Register through February 7 at [briarwoodsoccer.com](http://briarwoodsoccer.com) or 205-776-5114.

**Foundations Early Learning Lunch & Learn** — Tuesday, February 4 at 11:30 a.m.–1:00p.m. Come rejoice as Foundations “shows off” the new building the Lord provided. RSVP to Pat Goff by Sunday, February 2 at 205-823-5552. Carpool from Briarwood is available.

**Restoration Academy Luncheon** — Thursday, February 6 at noon. Join R.A. for a special luncheon as the students present their Black History Living Museum. It's a great opportunity to learn more about the ministry. Go to [restorationacademy.org](http://restorationacademy.org) to register.

**YBL Winter Breakfast** — Friday, February 7 from 6:30–7:45 a.m. at the Harbert Center. Guest speaker is Bill Job, an international businessman. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$240 for a table of 8. Register at [ybl.org/events](http://ybl.org/events).

**Chainsaw Training** — Saturday, February 8 from 8:00 a.m.–noon in Fellowship Hall-A. Chainsaw safety training is being offered to anyone willing to help MNA Disaster Response with tree removal services. Sign up at [briarwood.org/events](http://briarwood.org/events).

**Trailblazers Valentine Dinner** — Thursday February 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come dine with friends and enjoy music from Jay and the Elders. Purchase your tickets (\$12) at [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers) or contact Sharon at [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org).

**WBL Working Singles Event** — Rescheduled for February 13 at 6:00 p.m. at the Caroline House. Learn how Betsy Childs Howard, Summer Smith Lee, and Amy McMullen tackle the tough issues of life as single women, while seeking Christ and embracing the joys of each day. Register at [wblbirmingham.org](http://wblbirmingham.org).

**Trailblazer Travel** — March 24–28. Come travel with friends to Savannah, Jekyll Island, and Beaufort, South Carolina. Go online to [briarwood.org/trailblazers](http://briarwood.org/trailblazers) or contact Sharon at [sjohnston@briarwood.org](mailto:sjohnston@briarwood.org) for more information.

**Join a Winter/Spring Study** — It is not too late to join a men's or women's study! See Men's class information at [briarwood.org/men](http://briarwood.org/men). Women class details and registration at [briarwood.org/women](http://briarwood.org/women).

**MidWeek at Briarwood** — Through April 9. Join us for Wednesday dinner in the Fellowship Hall from 5:15–6:30 p.m. then attend a class or activity for the entire family. Find information and register for dinners at [briarwood.org/midweek](http://briarwood.org/midweek).

**Become a Friendship Partner** — Get involved with God's heart for the nations. An intentional friendship can have an eternal impact — share a meal, introduce them to places you frequent, or take them out for coffee. Contact Courtney at [cmcgregor@briarwood.org](mailto:cmcgregor@briarwood.org).

**Mission Trip Needs** — Christian Medical Ministry is collecting ibuprofen (200mg) and Tylenol (500mg) for March and May Mission Trips. Donations can be left in the CMMA box in the Mailroom. Email [cmmaadmin@briarwood.org](mailto:cmmaadmin@briarwood.org) for questions.

**Job Openings: Full-time & Part-time Staff** — There are a number of ministry positions open. See all employment and job openings at [briarwood.org/employment](http://briarwood.org/employment).

# WEEKLY PRAYER GUIDE

## **Sunday, February 2 — Briarwood Prayer Focus**

Pray for those who will attend the MNA's Disaster Relief Chainsaw Training this coming Saturday. Give thanks to the Lord for those with serving hearts who want to be able to help others in need after a disaster.

Pray for the Pulpit Search Committee as they call upon the Lord, who is their strength and is worthy to be praised. (Psalm 18:1-3)

## **Monday, February 3 — Birmingham Prayer Focus**

Pray for Briarwood's Foster Care Ministry to glorify God. Ask for wisdom and strength for those providing training, support, and encouragement to Christians serving children, parents, and social workers in the foster care system. Pray that God will bring healing, hope, and a deep assurance of His love to the children and young people in foster care.

## **Tuesday, February 4 — Missions Prayer Focus**

Pray for the new international students who have arrived in the U.S. over the past month to study at UAB. Pray for opportunities for you and other believers to interact with them and show them biblical hospitality through Briarwood's Friendship Partner program, One-on-One Bible Reading, and ESL ministries.

## **Wednesday, February 5 — Global Ministry Partners**

Pray for Jill Howard with Mission to the World in Asia; Clay and Merrell Hubbard with Campus Outreach SERVE in Australia; John and Melody Hunt with Campus Outreach SERVE in Thailand; and Lars and Kathryn Huttar with UFM Worldwide serving Internationals.

## **Thursday, February 6 — National Ministry Partners**

Pray for Dan and Peggy Ruppel with Mastermedia in California; Vicky Samaritano with Cru in New York; Matthew and Erica Schmidt with Engage 360 Ministries, Inc. in North Carolina; George and Jill Shamblin with Center for Executive Leadership in Alabama; and Christian Service Mission.

## **Friday, February 7 — Briarwood Officers and Staff**

Pray for our elders John Donaldson, Ken Blackmon, Dave Cooper, Jr.; deacons David Cahoon, Gordon Bellamy, Roger Bitteringer; and Interim Pastor Dan Doriani and his wife, Debbie.

## **Saturday, February 8 — Church Family**

Pray for our hospitalized members Gene Branham, Gralynn Branham, Don Davis, Michael Fontaine, Tony Olmedo, Shirley Turpin, Barry Wood, Al Black, Hadden Smith.

We offer our love and sympathy to Mark Sanda and family on the death of his father, Francis Sanda, on January 22; to Beth, William and Matthew Earnest on the death of their mother and grandmother, Faye Plummer Stewart, on January 25; to the family of member Margery Birdsong on her death on January 27; and to Sandy Fontaine and family on the death of her husband, Michael Fontaine, on January 28.

Receive each day's prayer as a notification through the Briarwood App.  
In your Briarwood App settings, enable "Weekly Prayer Guide" notifications.

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## THIS LORD'S DAY

**Sunday Morning Worship Services:**  
“The Marks and Benefits of True Faith”  
Romans 10:5–13  
Dr. Dan Doriani

**Sunday Evening Worship:**  
“God’s Callings and Our Work”  
1 Corinthians 7:17–24  
Dr. Dan Doriani

Watch our live-stream on the Briarwood App, Facebook, YouTube or [briarwood.org](http://briarwood.org).  
Watch or listen to previous sermons on the Briarwood App.