THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
SUMMIT 2026

August 6-7, 2026
SUMMIT NOTEBOOK

You have influence

Create your cover here.

COVER
LEADER: JEWL
PHOTOGRAPHER: JEREMY COWART

Dear Leader,

Welcome to the 2026 Global Leadership Summit. We are so glad you're here.

Influence isn't reserved for a few. It isn't limited by title, platform or position. Everyone has influence.

That includes you.

Over the next two days, you'll hear ideas that challenge you and stories that remind you why your influence matters.

Listen well, reflect deeply and get ready to step forward — into the purpose you were made for.

David Ashcraft
President and CEO
Global Leadership Network

As you enter this space, ask yourself:
What was I made for —
and am I living like I believe it?

THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

Speaker Schedule

HOSTED BY PAULA FARIS & TREY MCKNIGHT

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. CT
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. MT
7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. PT

Session 1 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. ET

Craig Groeschel

Vanessa Van Edwards

Break | 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. ET

Session 2 | 12:45 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

Julio García

Jim Collins

Break | 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Session 3 | 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ET

Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten

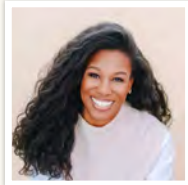
Kwame Christian

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

10:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET
9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m. CT
8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. MT
7:00 a.m. – 1:45 p.m. PT

Session 4 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

David Ashcraft



Priscilla Shirer

Arthur C. Brooks

Break | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. ET

Session 5 | 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET

Alison Levine

Andy Stanley

Break | 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. ET

Session 6 | 3:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. ET

Candace Cameron Bure

Ryan Leak

CRAIG GROESCHEL

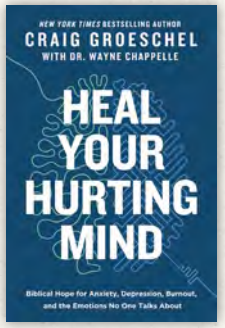
Founding and Senior Pastor, Life.Church; Bestselling Author

Globally recognized as a leader of leaders, Craig Groeschel is the founding and senior pastor of Life.Church, a three-time Gallup Exceptional Workplace Award recipient. Known for its missional approach to leveraging the latest technology, Life.Church is the creator of the YouVersion Family of Bible Apps — installed on over a billion unique devices worldwide. He hosts the top-ranked "Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast" and is a New York Times bestselling author.

GO DEEPER

"Heal Your Hurting Mind: Biblical Hope for Anxiety, Depression, Burnout, and the Emotions No One Talks About"

Get your copy and find other resources from Craig Groeschel!



GRANDER VISION

Megan Katerjian

CEO, Door of Hope,
Pasadena, CA

When the Pasadena wildfires broke out, Megan Katerjian was working to keep homeless families safe at Door of Hope. She didn't yet know the fires had taken her own home.

The moment Megan heard from a neighbor that their whole neighborhood had been destroyed, she knew that being a leader meant stepping back and letting her team lead.

"I'm proud... because when I had to let go, they were ready."

Is there a place in your life you need to step back and let others lead? What would letting go require from you?

SHARE YOUR SUMMIT STORY!

Your story matters — not just to you, but to leaders around the world who are still searching for theirs.

The Global Leadership Summit meets us right where we are:

- A stay-at-home parent who discovers they've been leading all along.
- A manager who finds the courage to step back and let others lead.
- A community leader who realizes the change they've been waiting for starts with them.

That's the kind of story we want to hear from you.

How has the Summit shaped the way you lead?

Your experience could be exactly what another leader needs to hear to take their next step.

Share your Summit story with us:

Social media:
@GLNSUMMIT
#GLS26 #myGLSstory

Email:
Story@GlobalLeadership.org

VANESSA VAN EDWARDS

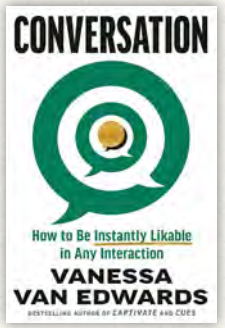
Behavioral Researcher; Instructor, Harvard; Bestselling Author

Vanessa Van Edwards is a renowned behavioral researcher, international bestselling author and instructor at Harvard University. Her books "Captivate: The Science of Succeeding with People" and "Cues: Master the Secret Language of Charismatic Communication" have been translated into over 18 languages. As founder of Science of People, Van Edwards' YouTube videos have been seen by over 100 million people. She has worked with top brands, universities, government entities, nonprofits and companies to increase their effectiveness by improving their communication.

GO DEEPER

"Conversation: How to Be Instantly Likable in Any Interaction"

Get your copy and find other resources from Vanessa Van Edwards!



JULIO GARCÍA

Cofounder and CEO, Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen

Julio García, cofounder and CEO of Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen, is a visionary entrepreneur committed to creating opportunity. Born in Mexico City, he came to the U.S. with no English — but with big dreams. Today, Ambriza Kitchen is a recognized name in Houston's culinary scene, with three locations and three more underway. García, who holds a degree in economics and finance, is passionate about developing future leaders within his company, helping them become franchisees and business owners.

GO DEEPER

Ambriza.com

Learn more about Ambriza and find other resources from Julio García!

Global Leadership Network

Turn Summit inspiration into everyday action.

Growth doesn't happen in a moment or by accident.
It happens through consistent intention.

Make leadership growth part of your culture.

When you join the Global Leadership Network, you'll keep leadership growth in front of your team — daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annually.

Over time, your team will develop an unconscious competence that makes strong leadership habits second nature — strengthening your team and helping your organization thrive.

JOIN THE NETWORK
GlobalLeadership.org/Join

Lead like Jesus:

Discover the power of **the Beatitudes**

In the Beatitudes, Jesus flips worldly values on their heads— offering a radical new vision of what it really means to live a blessed life. World Vision and Danielle Strickland created the Right Side Up Curriculum to equip you, leaders and pastors, to live out the Beatitudes in tangible ways.

This FREE 11-part series features video interviews, reflections, and prayers designed specifically for leaders like you. Hear from Summit Faculty equipping you to build God's kingdom in even the most challenging circumstances.

Download the Right Side Up Curriculum now by scanning the QR code!

SCAN TO DOWNLOAD *Right Side Up Curriculum*

Danielle Strickland

Bob Goff

Jo Saxton

Krish Kandiah

Edgar Sandoval Sr.

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, we work alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for all people.

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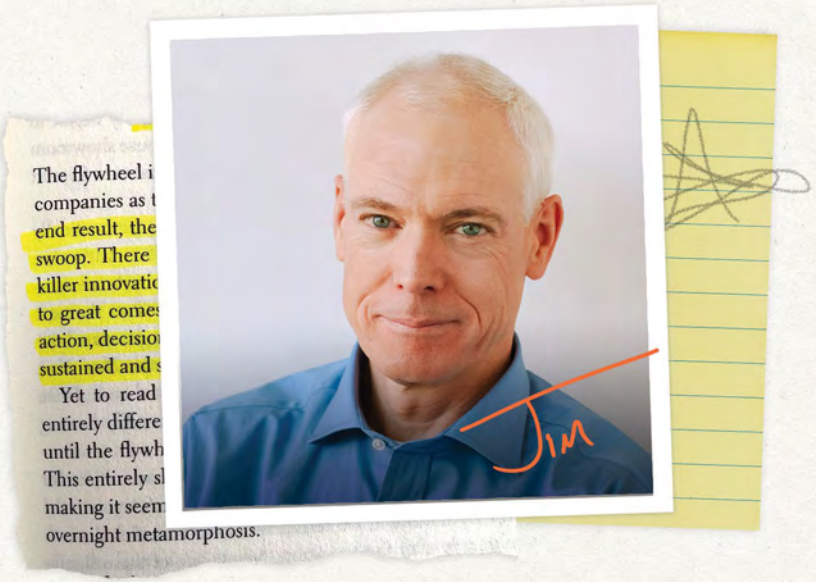
World Vision®



JIM COLLINS

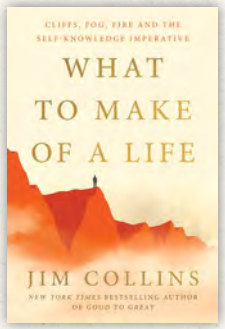
Management Educator; Bestselling Author

Jim Collins is a student and teacher of exceptional human endeavor. Having invested more than three decades in rigorous research, his books have sold 11 million copies, including the #1 bestseller "Good to Great" and the enduring classic "Built to Last." Concepts from his work have become part of the leadership lexicon, such as Level 5 Leadership, the right people on the bus and Big Hairy Audacious Goals. In 2017, Forbes named him one of the 100 Greatest Living Business Minds.

GO DEEPER

"What to Make of a Life: Cliffs, Fog, Fire and the Self-Knowledge Imperative"

Get your copy and find other resources from Jim Collins!



You've been told humans have a shorter attention span than a goldfish.

That's a myth.

Attention isn't short.
It's just become more selective.

Your audience is fully capable of being moved — if your message is ***worth moving them***.

Don't just capture attention.

Transform it.

PullSpark designs events, activations and campaigns that move audiences from inspired to invested. We turn **memorable** into ***momentum***.

PULLSPARK

The ***Official Creative Partner*** of GLS.
Videos, On-Stage Moments, Event Services.

ANDREW STANLEY

Comedian

Growing up as a homeschooled preacher's kid, it was unlikely that Andrew Stanley would find love, become a comedian or contribute to society in a meaningful way. Two out of three is not bad! Now a husband and fast-rising stand-up comedian, Stanley has performed all over the country. You can hear him regularly on Sirius XM radio, see him on the road headlining his own shows, or catch him touring with comedians like Nate Bargatze, Leanne Morgan and Colin Jost.

GO DEEPER

AndrewStanleyComedy.com

Learn more and find other resources from Andrew Stanley!

KELLY MERRYMAN HOOGSTRATEN

CEO, Wonder Project

Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten is the CEO of Wonder Project, an entertainment brand that produces and curates premium films and series for the global faith and values audience. Under her leadership, the company has raised more than $100 million, launched a subscription service on Prime Video and released original programming, including "House of David" and "It's Not Like That." Hoogstraten brings 20 years of senior leadership experience from Netflix and YouTube, where she helped drive international growth and launched YouTube TV.

GO DEEPER

WatchWonderProject.com

Learn more about Wonder Project and find other resources from Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten!

GRANDER VISION

Troy Murphy

Lead Vision and Teaching Pastor, Green Bay Community Church, Wisconsin

When Troy Murphy first invited his entire staff to the Summit, three people showed up. But the event had unlocked something in him. He kept going back, then signed the church up as a partner site. Each year he set out more chairs, hoping they would be filled.

Then one year, a local superintendent brought 100 of his staff to Troy's site. Teachers had first changed Troy's life. Now, because of an invitation he'd refused to stop extending, educators from across the school district were sitting in seats he'd been praying would be filled.

"The Summit has been the fastest, most expansive way for me to use my influence for good."

Who in your life is waiting for an invitation you haven't extended yet?

Global Leadership Network

Create a culture where leaders grow.

Leaders don't drift into growth.
They choose it — every day.

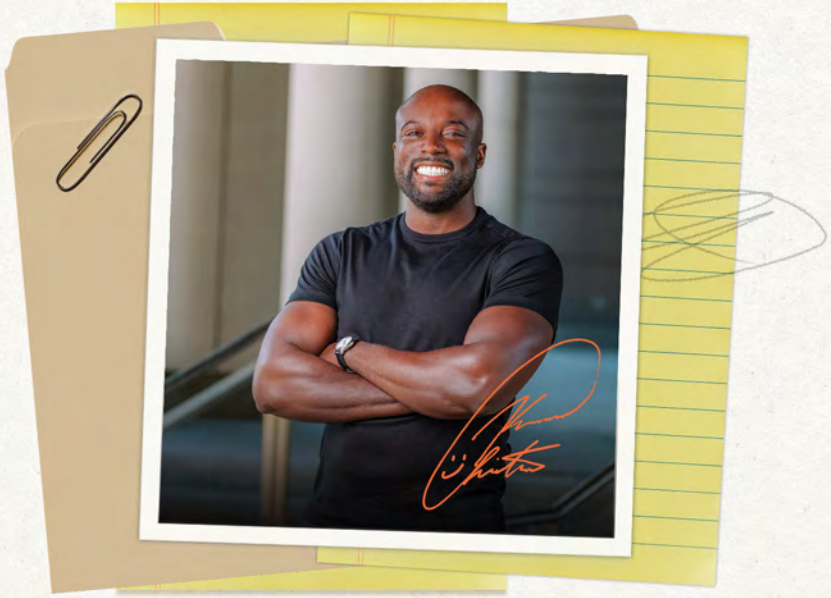
The Global Leadership Network helps you

turn Summit inspiration into everyday practice by creating a leadership development culture in your organization — through intentional opportunities for growth, simple cadences and shared experiences.

- ✓ Daily Leadership Tips
- ✓ Weekly Podcast
- ✓ Monthly Ready-to-Run Meeting
- ✓ Monthly Learning Lab
- ✓ Quarterly Master Class
- ✓ Annual Leadership Growth Assessment
- ✓ On-Demand Summit Video Library

Over time, your team will develop the unconscious leadership competence that helps people and organizations thrive.

JOIN THE NETWORK
GlobalLeadership.org/Join



KWAME CHRISTIAN

CEO, American Negotiation Institute; Bestselling Author

Kwame Christian is a bestselling author and CEO of the American Negotiation Institute. His top negotiation podcast, "Negotiate Anything," has over 15 million downloads in 180+ countries. As a LinkedIn Top Voice, Christian partnered with LinkedIn to create the platform's only negotiation certificate program — a certificate that has been earned by more than 30,000 negotiators worldwide to date. Featured in Forbes, NPR, USA Today and CNBC, Christian has collaborated with Fortune 500 companies like Google, Apple and NASA.

GO DEEPER

"Finding Confidence in Conflict: How to Negotiate Anything and Live Your Best Life"

Get your copy and find other resources from Kwame Christian!

We see a leader in you … we hope you see it too.

Jeremy Cowart is a world-renowned artist and creative pioneer who has photographed some of the world's most recognizable names – from presidents to pop stars.

Recently, he joined us to capture everyday leaders. Stay-at-home parents and CEOs. Entrepreneurs and managers. Interns and executives.

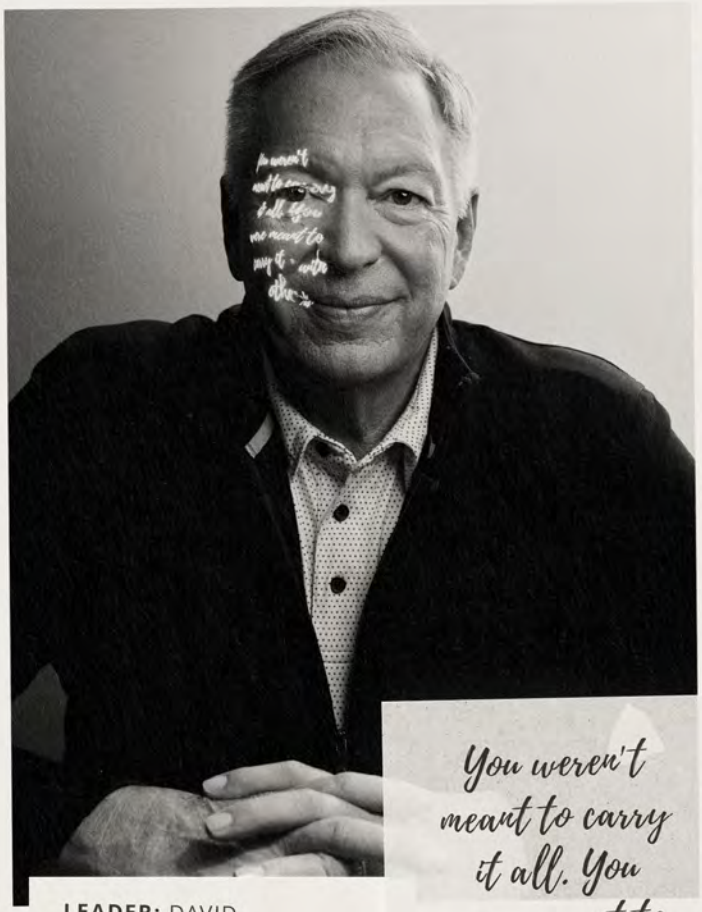
People leading right where they are — in their homes, churches, communities and organizations.

Can you see yourself in them?

Because we can.

Khristopher
Freelance musici

Truth has power. In this portrait series, Jeremy Cowart projected simple but profound truths onto the faces of everyday leaders. Which of these reminders about identity, courage and purpose do you most need to hear?



LEADER: DAVID
LOCATION: PENNSYLVANIA

You weren't meant to carry it all. You were meant to carry it with others.

LEADER: SAVANNAH
LOCATION: VIRGINIA

You'll soon get the chance to rewrite the story you've believed for too long.

May your legacy be kindness, not control.

LEADER: PETER
LOCATION: TEXAS

LEADER: MEG
LOCATION: TENNESSEE

Your next chapter starts when you stop trying to prove and start trying to be.

They don't need you to be perfect. They need you to be present.

LEADER: ROBERT
LOCATION: GEORGIA

LEADER: BENNY
LOCATION: INDIANA

You can't shame yourself into being a better leader.

You're not here to prove your worth. You're here to live it.

LEADER: MARIANA
LOCATION: BRAZIL

thrivent®

Make your finances a force for good.

Thrivent combines holistic financial services with the spirit of generosity to help you support the people, causes and communities you love.

We bring this purpose to life in many ways, including:

- **Equipping leaders**
- **Resourcing communities**
- **Growing generosity**

Interested in a no-cost strategy session, money coaching or a purpose-driven career?
Scan the QR code now.

thrivent.com/gls

DAVID ASHCRAFT

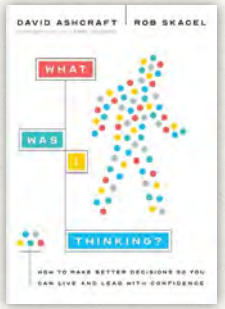
President and CEO, Global Leadership Network; Author

David Ashcraft is president and CEO of the Global Leadership Network. He is also the founder and president of The Advantage, a leadership collaborative that mentors and encourages pastors across Pennsylvania. As senior pastor of LCBC Church in Pennsylvania for 32 years, David helped grow weekly attendance from 150 people to a combined average of more than 22,000. He also hosts The Global Leadership Podcast, featuring conversations with leaders from diverse fields about their leadership journey.

GO DEEPER

"What Was I Thinking?: How to Make Better Decisions So You Can Live and Lead With Confidence"

Get your copy and find other resources from David Ashcraft!



Global Leadership Network

Where are you strong — and where is growth waiting?

In about 10 minutes, get a clear picture of where you land across six leadership pillars — and your path forward.

Be different in a year.

Gauge where you are and discover simple, meaningful next steps for you and your team — so that growth happens not just at the Summit, but all year long.

TAKE THE FREE ASSESSMENT
GlobalLeadership.org/Assessment

Pizza Ranch
Buffet
OUR VISION:
To glorify God by positively impacting the world
We strive daily to live out our mission of providing every guest a legendary experience. We love serving our communities, providing cravable food and being the place where family and friends gather. Discover more at PizzaRanch.com
For Franchising Opportunities visit
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BUFFET YOUR WAY
Pizza Ranch
Buffet
PIZZA RANCH
FUN ZONE
ARCADE

PRISCILLA SHIRER

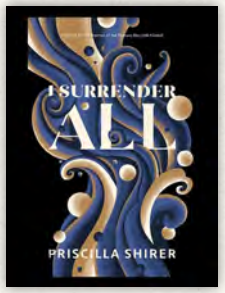
Cofounder, Going Beyond Ministries; Bestselling Author

Priscilla Shirer is the cofounder of Going Beyond Ministries, which creates books, Bible study resources, conferences and films such as "War Room," "I Can Only Imagine" and "The Forge." Shirer has authored more than two dozen books and two New York Times bestsellers, including "Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer," which was named the 2016 Christian Book of the Year. A graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Priscilla holds a master's degree in biblical studies.

GO DEEPER

"I Surrender All"

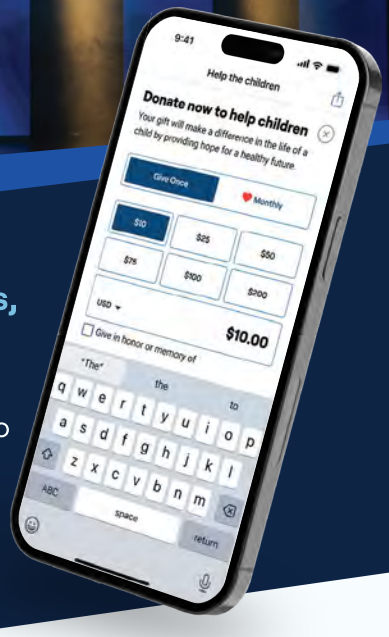
Get your copy and find other resources from Priscilla Shirer!



Experience iDonate—the optimized online giving form platform trusted by the Global Leadership Network.

Modern, fast, and built for nonprofits.

iDonate integrates quickly and improves online giving conversion rates immediately.



No clunky forms, no barriers, no heavy lift.

Just fast, seamless, mobile-first giving for your team—designed to capture generosity the moment inspiration strikes and turn faith-filled moments into immediate impact.

2.3x the industry average
Scan to see how iDonate's optimized giving forms convert more donors.

iDonate

GRANDER VISION

Julius Msheliza

Senior Pastor,
Foursquare Gospel Church,
Asokoro, Nigeria

For over 16 years, Rev. Julius and his community in northern Nigeria have endured Islamic insurgency — churches destroyed, families torn apart and more than 2 million displaced.

When he attended the Summit in Chicago, he came with one question: *How do you lead when everything feels like too much?* His church became a partner site the following year, and his passion for leadership proved contagious. Today, multiple GLS sites are active across Nigeria, each filled with leaders who choose courage one day at a time.

"I don't have to solve the whole problem. I need to start with one person."

Where in your life does leadership feel impossible?
How can you take it one day, one person, at a time?

BE THE REASON A LEADER GETS A SEAT

Somewhere in the world, someone is ready.

They don't yet know that the very thing that could change the trajectory of their life — their organization, their community, maybe even their country — is leadership.

Say to that leader:

You are not forgotten.
I believe your leadership matters.
There is a seat for you.

Your gift makes that seat possible.

GIVE A LEADER A SEAT

$39 provides one seat

BECOME A SUMMIT CHAMPION
Give monthly to invite leaders into the room all year long.

GiveGLS.org

Your transaction is secure — powered by iDonate.

Global Leadership Network

Leadership Knows No Borders

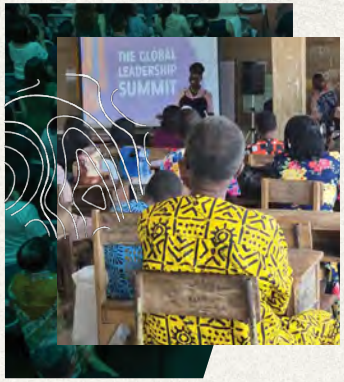
The Global Leadership Summit exists to equip leaders everywhere, not just those in the U.S. Each year, immediately following the Summit, content is translated and delivered so leaders worldwide can be inspired and equipped — no matter their context, language or circumstance.

Thanks to our supporters and international partners, GLS25 was experienced...

In 98 countries

In 41 languages

By 185,279 leaders worldwide



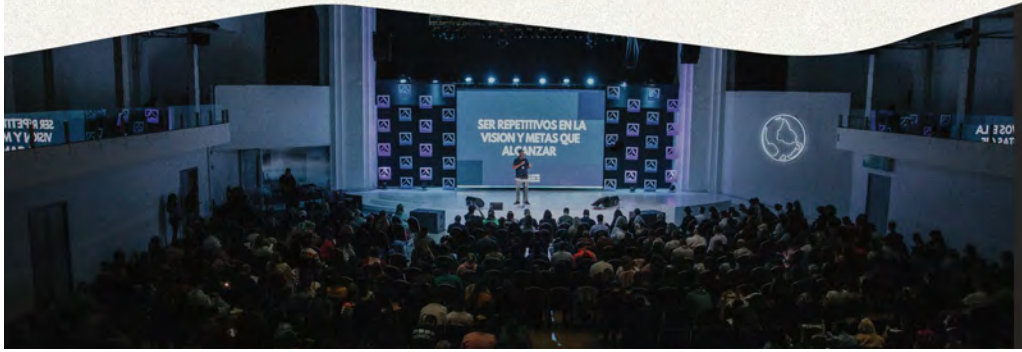
"[The Summit] was nothing short of transformational from the moment it began. I will lead with increased intentionality and consistency."

Carmen, South Africa

Your gift sends the Summit around the world. Leaders in places with few resources and little access are being transformed, and you can be the reason.

Join us in putting world-class leadership development in the hands of those who need it most.

GlobalLeadership.org/Give



EMPOWER LEADERS AROUND THE WORLD

Global Leadership Network

The Next Generation of Leaders Is Waiting to Be Unleashed

GLS Next Gen is a transformational leadership experience designed to **awaken** students' faith, purpose and leadership potential. Through dynamic, affordable programming built for schools, universities and youth groups, we're **activating** the next generation of global leaders and **connecting** them to a community that believes in and supports them.

In 2025 alone, GLS Next Gen reached...

82,845 students

322 sites

61 countries

"I used to struggle with self-confidence. I was always trying to prove I was a good leader. But what really matters is doing things for God and glorifying him."

Vitor, Age 22, Brazil

Your partnership can turn potential into purpose. Together, we are helping young people around the world discover their gifts, faith and capacity to lead.

Help us put transformational leadership tools in front of the next generation.

GlobalLeadership.org/Give

@GLSNextGen

EMPOWER LEADERS FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

Global Leadership Network

Transformation Happens Everywhere

Since 2014, the Global Leadership Summit has expanded into prisons. What started as a few sites has grown into a movement — because we believe every person deserves the opportunity to learn, grow and lead.

In 2025, the Global Leadership Summit in Prisons reached...

169 prisons

22,191 incarcerated persons

3 countries

"[The Summit reminded me that] who you are, your skills, your tools and life experiences can shine no matter your location."

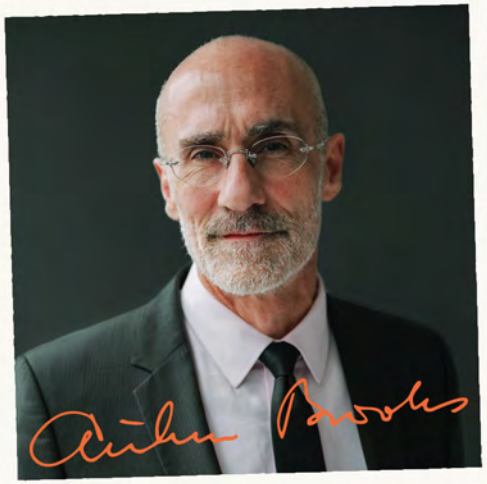
Michael, Cross City Correctional Institute, Florida

Your partnership helps bring world-class leadership to those who have too often been overlooked.

Every person has the potential to lead — help us make sure they have the chance.

GlobalLeadership.org/Give

CHAMPION LEADERSHIP FOR ALL



"What is the meaning of my life?" is not an answerable question, but rather the start of your pilgrimage into the unexplored corners of your consciousness."

ARTHUR C. BROOKS

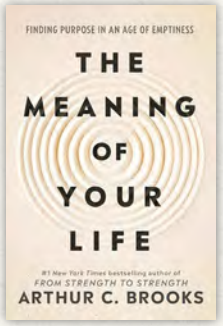
Vanderbilt University Professor; Bestselling Author

Arthur C. Brooks, Ph.D., is a social scientist and one of the world's leading authorities on human happiness. He is a university professor, columnist with The Free Press, podcast host, CBS News contributor and internationally-acclaimed public speaker. His previous books include the bestsellers "Build the Life You Want" (coauthored with Oprah Winfrey), "From Strength to Strength" and "Love Your Enemies." His most recent book is "The Meaning of Your Life: Finding Purpose in an Age of Emptiness."

GO DEEPER

"The Meaning of Your Life: Finding Purpose in an Age of Emptiness"

Get your copy and find other resources from Arthur C. Brooks!



Global Leadership Network

BASE CAMP

Pastors Event

FEBRUARY 23-24, 2027

Every year on Mt. Everest, a pop-up city is built — Everest Base Camp. At Base Camp, the world's most intrepid hikers gather to rest, acclimatize and prepare for the hike to the summit.

Like Everest's Base Camp, GLN's Base Camp is a pop-up pastoral city where you'll get:

- Community with pastors experiencing the same things you are
- Content designed exclusively to meet the needs of pastors today
- Innovative ideas and problem solving for your church

BASE CAMP HOSTS

DAVID ASHCRAFT
President & CEO, Global Leadership Network

CRAIG GROESCHEL
Founding and Senior Pastor, Life.Church; Bestselling Author

Learn More
GLNBasecamp.org
**This event is for pastors of U.S. churches.*

Global Leadership Network

Bring the Summit to Your Church

The Global Leadership Summit exists to help your church build a leadership development culture so you can have exponential impact.

Hosting the Summit will help your church:

- Develop confident, equipped leaders
- Grow engagement and momentum
- Serve your city in a tangible way

Become a Summit Partner
GlobalLeadership.org/GLN-Partner

museum of the Bible

LEAD FROM DEEPER ROOTS

One book has shaped leaders across every generation, outlasting every trend, every title, and every circumstance. Museum of the Bible exists to bring that book to life in ways that are meaningful and relevant for leaders today.

INVITING ALL PEOPLE TO ENGAGE WITH THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF THE BIBLE.

As a 2026 Global Leadership Summit attendee, you have exclusive access to a complimentary year-long membership — our way of investing in the foundation you lead from. With your membership, you'll receive:

- Free general admission for two adults and youth on every visit
- Discounts on additional guest tickets and live theater experiences
- Access to members-only digital content and programming
- Invitations to exclusive events and early access to new exhibitions
- Discounts at the Museum Shop and on-site dining

This is more than access — it's a way to stay grounded in what endures.

Your free membership is waiting.
Scan the QR to claim it now!

*This offer is only available to 2026 Global Leadership Summit attendees for a limited time.

400 4TH ST. SW, WASHINGTON, DC 20024
museumoftheBible.org

ALISON LEVINE

Polar Explorer; Mountaineer; Bestselling Author

Alison Levine has climbed the highest peak on every continent, served as the team captain of the first American Women's Everest Expedition and skied across the Arctic Circle to the geographic North Pole. In January 2008, she made history as the first American to follow a remote route across west Antarctica for 600 miles to the South Pole. Levine also spent four years as an adjunct professor at West Point, where she focused on leading teams in extreme environments.

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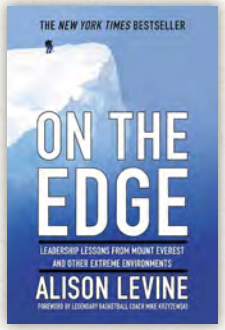

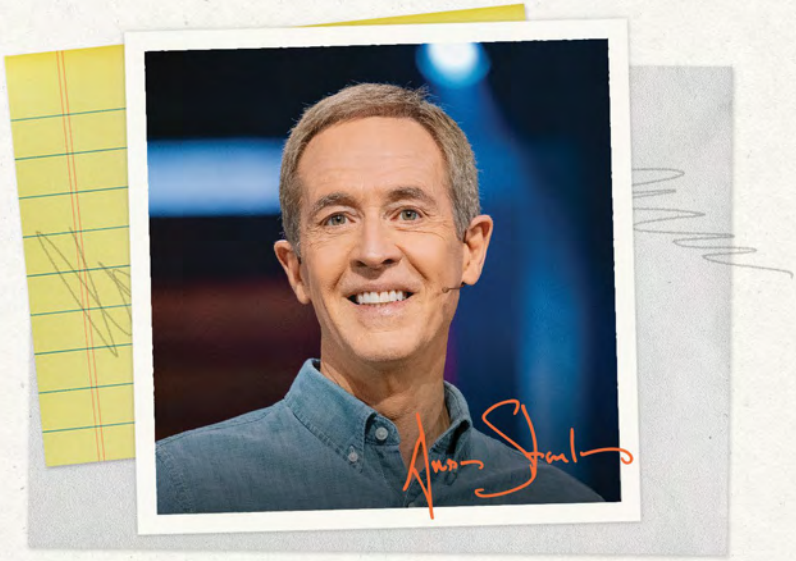

ANDY STANLEY

Founder, North Point Ministries; Communicator; Bestselling Author

Author, communicator and pastor Andy Stanley founded Atlanta-based North Point Ministries in 1995. Today, it consists of eight churches in the Atlanta area and a network of more than 210 churches globally that collectively serve hundreds of thousands of people each week. As the host of "The Andy Stanley Leadership Podcast" and "Your Move," Stanley's insights on life, leadership, faith and relationships are broadcast nationwide and available globally online. He is also the bestselling author of more than 20 books.

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CANDACE CAMERON BURE

Actress; Producer; CEO, Candy Rock Entertainment; Bestselling Author

Candace Cameron Bure is an actress, producer, entrepreneur and New York Times bestselling author. Known to millions as D.J. Tanner from "Full House" and "Fuller House," she has starred in more than 50 films across the Christmas, family and mystery genres and previously cohosted "The View." She is CEO of Candy Rock Entertainment and leads additional ventures including Candace Cameron Bure Clothing, Bure Family Wines and her self-titled podcast.

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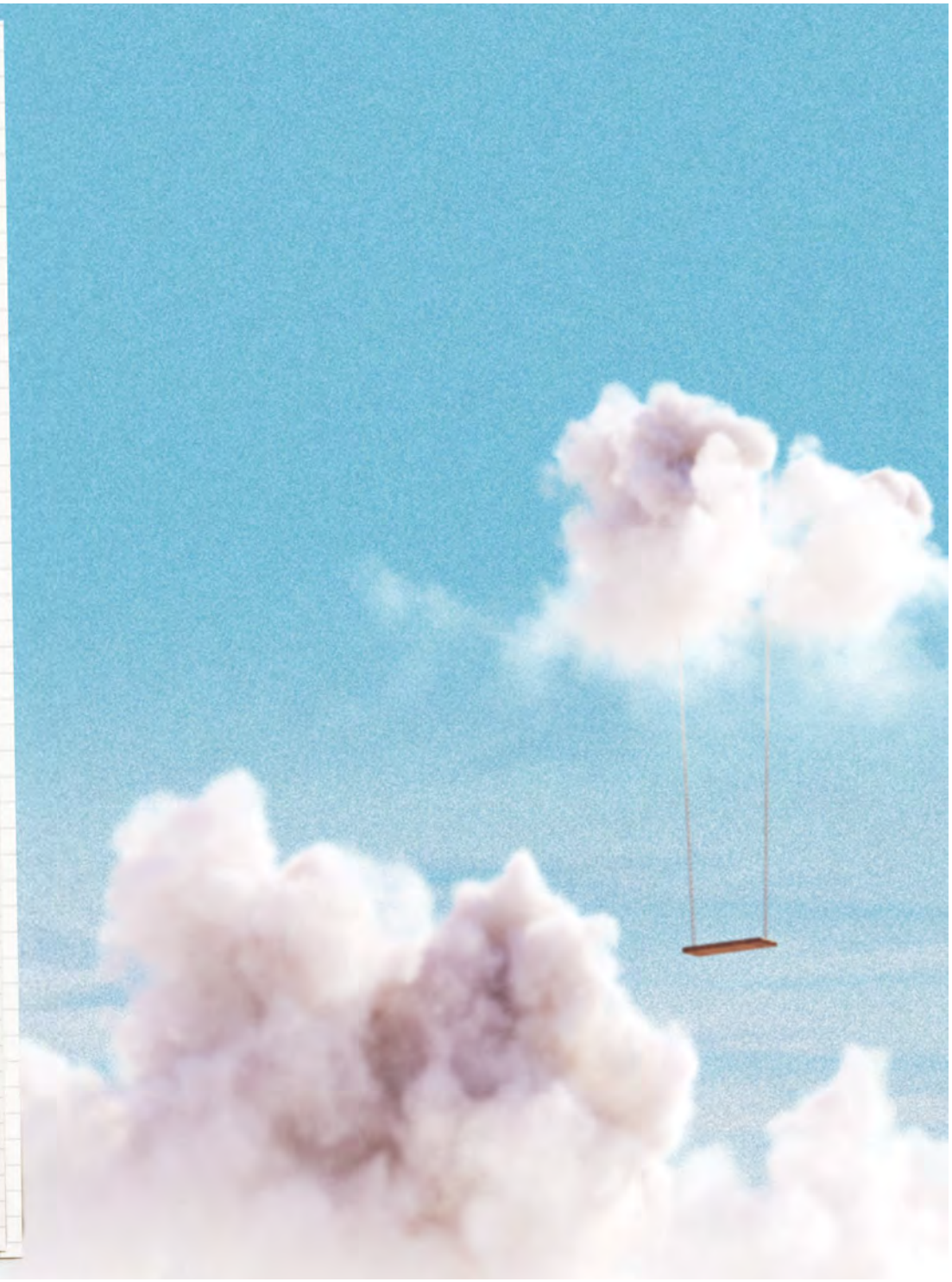

RYAN LEAK

CEO, The Ryan Leak Group; Bestselling Author

Ryan Leak is a New York Times bestselling author, podcast host and strategic advisor. As the CEO of a leadership development firm, Leak and his team train over 30,000 leaders annually — from Fortune 500 companies to professional sports teams. Leak also hosts "The Ryan Leak Podcast," where he shares short, impactful leadership insights drawn from his coaching, research and real-world experience. His work has been featured in numerous outlets, including "Good Morning America" and "The Today Show."

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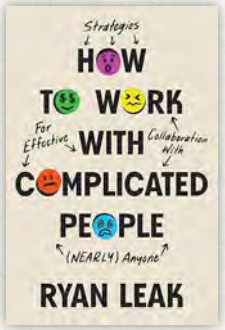

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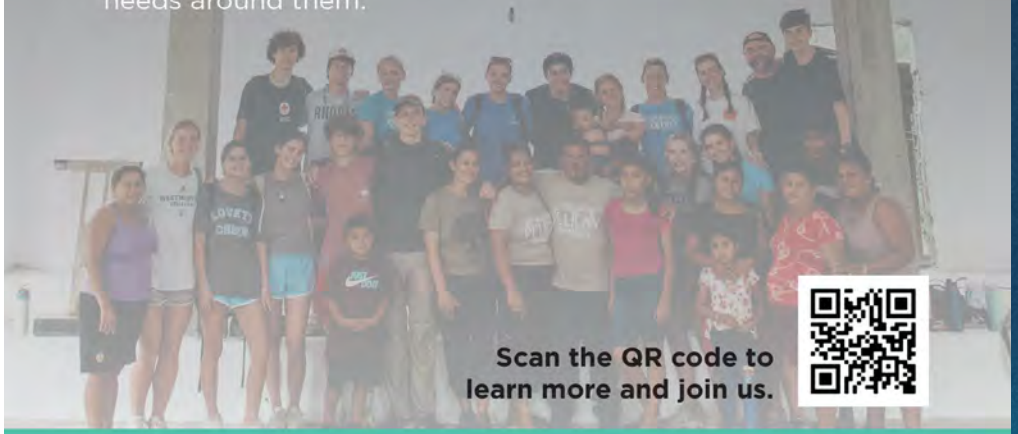

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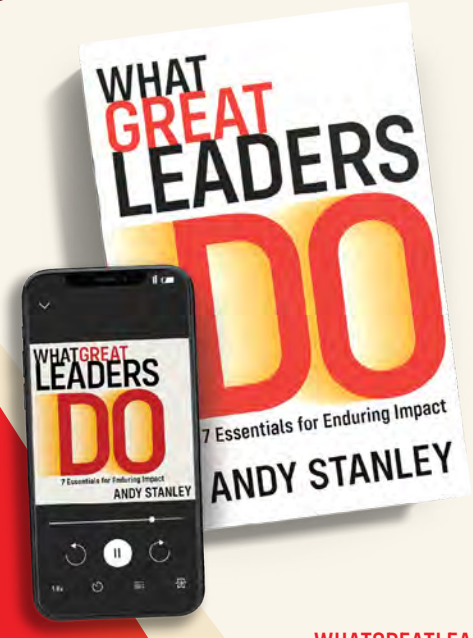

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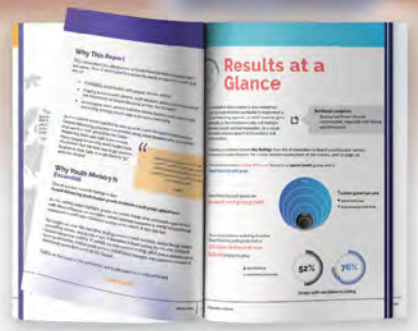

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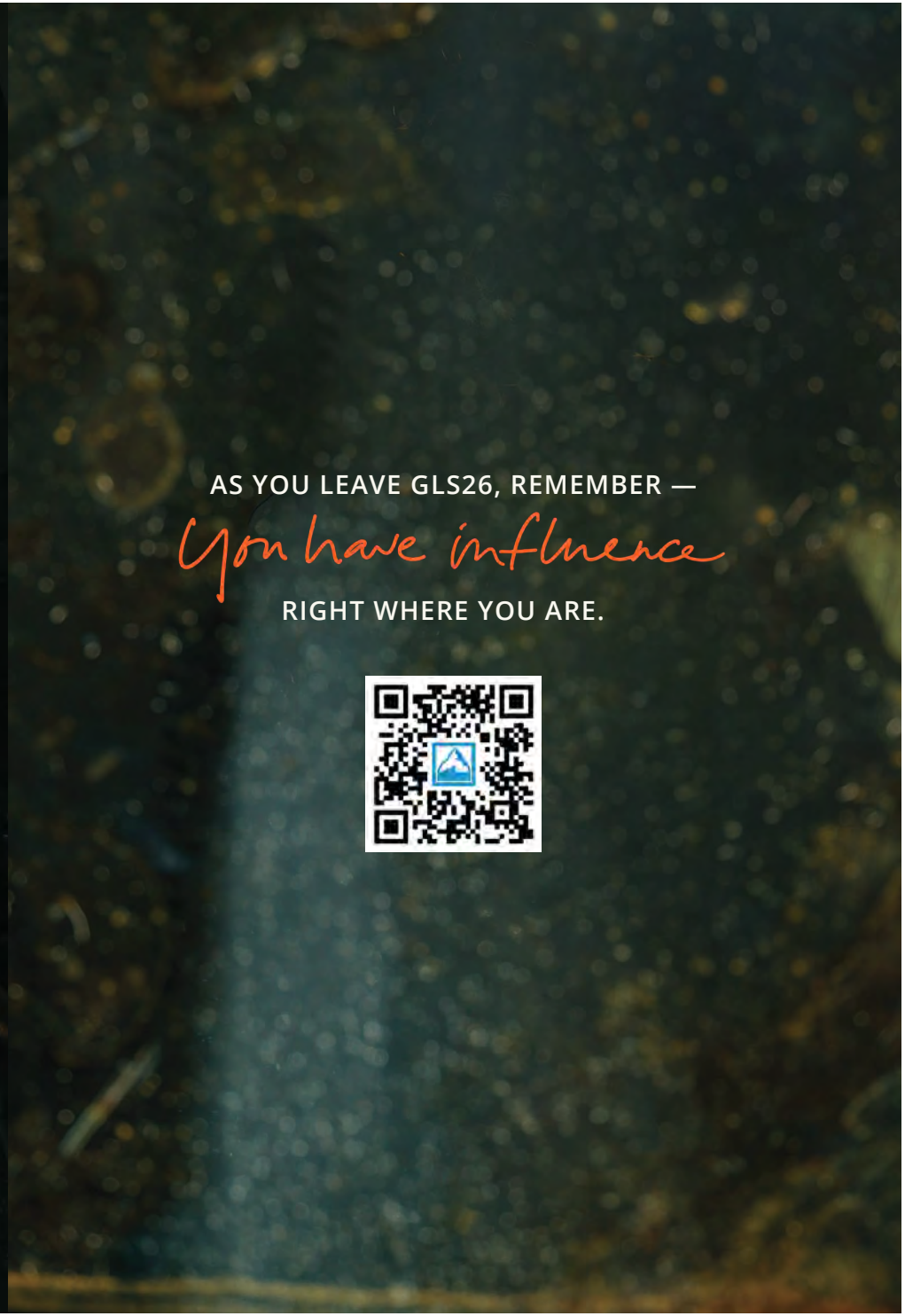
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