

THE GATHERING 2017

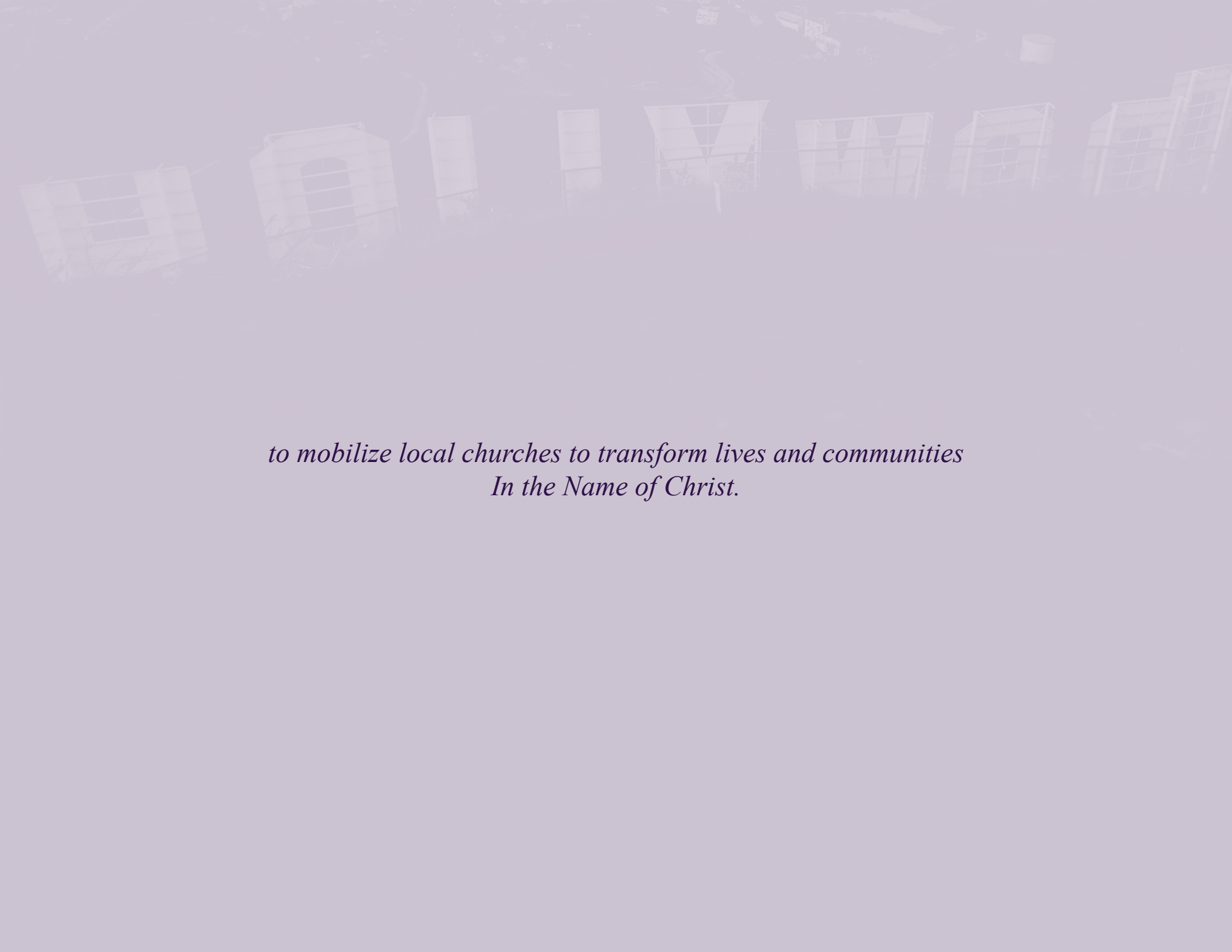
PUTTING GOD ON DISPLAY

THE PROPHETIC CALL OF THE CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 27-29, 2017
GURNEE, ILLINOIS



Love In the Name of Christ • PO Box 127, Jenison, Michigan 49429 • www.loveinc.org/2017-gathering/

An aerial, high-angle photograph of a city, likely New Orleans, showing a grid of buildings and a winding river. The image is faded and serves as a background for the text.

*to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities
In the Name of Christ.*

Message from the Board Chair

Greetings Love INC Affiliates,

The Church has a prophetic calling to be the hands and feet of Christ to those in spiritual, physical, emotional, relational, and material need. When churches serve people in communities, they in effect put God on display within that community, showcasing God's loving and redemptive nature. It is Love INC's mission to help the Church live out this life transforming, community transforming calling.

However, while our mission is "simple," it can be a challenge to live out!

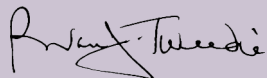
The most common result of not living out our mission well is an under-mobilized Church, and without a mobilized Church, true transformation cannot happen. The 2017 Gathering will help us sift through the challenges of mobilizing the Church, reaffirm the mission of Love INC, and re-ignite passion for the Church – and at the same time, inspire you for the work God has laid out for your affiliate.

We welcome Ray Vander Laan of That the World May Know Ministry as our primary speaker. Ray will help clarify how to help the Church put God on display. Ray's Bible teaching is delivered powerfully, with expert knowledge of the cultural context. In between sessions, you will be provided opportunities to process and make application connections to your calling, the Love INC mission, your local affiliate, messaging, church mobilization, and more!

We also look forward to celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Love INC Movement at the Gathering. During the past 40 years, God has worked through Love INC's commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ, allowing millions of lives and hundreds of communities to experience genuine transformation. Join us as we take time to praise God for what He has done, is doing, and will do through Love In the Name of Christ.

As a reminder: Love INC National received designated funding to provide each affiliate one free registration for the Gathering (at early bird pricing). We would like to have every affiliate in attendance! Finally, make sure to take a look at our special pre-Gathering offerings on Wednesday afternoon!

In Christ,



Brian Tweedie

Register here: <http://bit.ly/2qPcj6Y>



Putting God on Display!

The Prophetic Call of the Church

From the time creation began its descent into brokenness – God had a plan.

His plan was to call a community of people to Himself who would, by God's grace, bring healing to a broken world. Redeemed through the blood of His Son, empowered by His Spirit, directed by His text, encouraged by His community... they would put God on display.

The local Church...is...God's plan. There is no alternative.

Today, however, the Church is being increasingly marginalized (even among believers). Which makes the calling of Love INC affiliates to mobilize local churches to transform lives and communities increasingly important.

To put it another way – Love INC is to the local Church what Aaron was to Moses, Jonathan was to David, and bridesmaids are to the bride. Love INC lifts up the arms of the Church as she endeavors to live out her calling from God, offers the warm embrace of friendship as she encounters hardship, and prepares the bride for her heavenly Groom.

Be part of the plan. There is no alternative.

Register here: <http://bit.ly/2qPcj6Y>

What You'll Learn from Ray

Ray's preaching and teaching ministry is focused on understanding the Bible in light of the historical and cultural context in which God placed it. This perspective on the Bible highlights God's call for His people to be a transforming influence on their culture. He uses research of the top scholars in the fields of archaeology, history, and Biblical study as tools to explore the Biblical text ever more deeply. His gifts, expertise, and calling are to link that cultural information and the Bible so that its message applies to our lives today in very practical ways.

During the 2017 Gathering, Ray will teach on the following topics to help us effectively encourage the Church to live out their prophetic call:

The Grand Narrative

The world plunged into chaos. But God had a redemptive plan to overpower the chaos with shalom. His plan included enlisting partners to live and work on his behalf. The end result? God's glory, put on display.

The Word in Flesh

The biblical theme of "stranger" played out in the lives of Abraham and Jesus provide us with the basis for the ministry of Love INC. Based on their examples how should we interact with people outside of the church walls?

God's Partner

Israel is reflective of the first Love INC affiliate. Learn about the Love INC DNA through the study of the following Old Testament concepts: the kingdom of priests, city gates, bearers of God's presence, and shade and water in the desert.

Love Your Neighbor

Love your neighbor. He is like you. You have the same aches, pains, sorrows, joys, triumphs, and hopes. Get ready to let the simple biblical concept of "Love Your Neighbor" change your heart toward ministry – forever.



Biography

Since receiving his Master's of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1976, Ray Vander Laan has been actively involved in studying and teaching Jewish culture using the methods of Jewish education.

He has continued graduate studies in Jewish Studies in the United States, Israel, Turkey and Egypt. He has been a teacher for 35 years and is an ordained minister with the Christian Reformed Church. He has also authored a book entitled *Echoes of His Presence*, published by Focus on the Family. Vander Laan founded *That the World May Know Ministries* in 1998. Ray has taken over 10,000 people with him on his study tours of Israel, Turkey and Egypt.

2017 Gathering Schedule

Wednesday Afternoon – Day Zero

Day Zero is an optional value-add to the 2017 Gathering and is a time devoted to the spreading of ideas. You can participate by attending a series of five talks (attend 1 or all 5) or by meeting with other participants in the open Networking room.

Both opportunities are available at the Holiday Inn Gurnee Convention Center.

- 1:00 – 4:30 PM** – Open Networking Room
- 1:00 – 1:40 PM** – Sharing Christ in Ministry
- 1:50 – 2:30 PM** – Donor Relations
- 2:40 – 3:20 PM** – Church Relationships
- 3:30 – 3:55 PM** – Affirming Potential Panel
- 4:00 – 4:30 PM** – Faith & Finances Panel

Wednesday Evening – Day 1

Day One officially starts at the Village Church of Gurnee just a short jog from the Holiday Inn.

- 5:00 – 5:50 PM** – Gathering Registration
- 6:00 – 7:00 PM** – Welcome Reception with Dinner
- 7:00 – 8:00 PM** – Welcome, Praise & Worship, & Conference Kick-off

Thursday – Day 2

Roll out of bed, enjoy breakfast at the Holiday Inn, and then grab your notebook and pen before heading over to the Village Church of Gurnee!

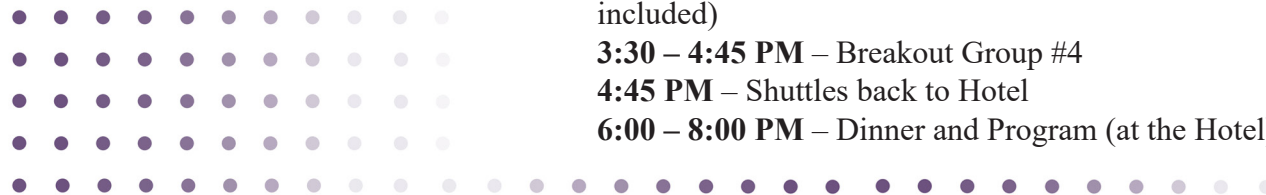
- 8:00 – 8:30 AM** – Registration & Coffee
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM** – Welcome & Announcements
- 9:00 – 11:00 AM** – Session #1 with Ray Vander Laan (intermission included)
- 11:15 – 12:00 PM** – Breakout Group #1
- 12:15 – 1:00 PM** – Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:15 PM** – Session #2 with Ray Vander Laan (intermission included)
- 3:30 – 4:45 PM** – Breakout Group #2
- Free Evening** – Dinner on your own

Friday – Day 3

Once again we will meet at the Village Church of Gurnee. We'll have the coffee on!

- 8:00 – 8:30 AM** – Coffee at the Church
- 8:30 – 9:00 AM** – Praise & Worship / Announcements
- 9:00 – 10:30 AM** – Session #3 with Ray Vander Laan (no intermission)
- 10:45 – 12:00 PM** – Breakout Group #3
- 12:00 – 12:45 PM** – Lunch
- 1:00 – 3:15 PM** – Session #4 with Ray Vander Laan (intermission included)
- 3:30 – 4:45 PM** – Breakout Group #4
- 4:45 PM** – Shuttles back to Hotel
- 6:00 – 8:00 PM** – Dinner and Program (at the Hotel)

**PUTTING
GOD
ON DISPLAY**





Fly into **Chicago's O'Hare Airport** and hail a taxi, rent a car, or carpool with friends.

You may choose to fly into Midway. However, due to past experience – we wouldn't suggest it.

Love INC National does not coordinate transportation to and from the airport.



The hotel of choice is **Holiday Inn Gurnee Convention Center**.

Shuttle service to and from the hotel and church will be provided.

6161 W Grand Ave, Gurnee, IL
847-336-6300

\$91.00 per night plus tax

Make reservations here:
<http://bit.ly/2rZdyyi>

Use Code: LOV



Once again the **Village Church of Gurnee** is graciously hosting the Love INC Gathering.

Over the years they have become a strong partner and do a great job making sure all our needs are met.

Please give their staff and volunteers a warm Love INC greeting.

1319 N Hunt Club Rd, Gurnee, IL

Whether you fly, drive, hop a bus, or roar in on a Love INC branded Harley; Love INC National can't wait for you to join us in Gurnee, Illinois.

Attend the Gathering for the “ING” factor

NetworkING: A highlight for many each year is networking – conversations in the hallway, at lunch or on the shuttle. Who knows? That “one” conversation about that “one” thing could be that “one” reason it was worth attending.

SharpenING: A primary goal of this year’s Gathering is to equip affiliates to call out and mobilize the Church to respond to its biblical call to “Put God on Display”. Ray Vander Laan’s teaching will lay the foundation and the collaborative input from you and other attendees in break-out sessions will make the application.

EncouragING: The work of ministry is demanding. We’re torn in many directions and always giving. This year’s Gathering in particular is designed to reignite your call and refresh your spirit. How? By spending time in God’s word. We don’t know exactly how, but we hope and trust that God will meet you in a powerful way.

CelebratING: This year, the Love INC Movement celebrates its 40th anniversary. Join us to thank and praise God for His faithfulness, hear an update, and a vision for the future.

Be Part of the Plan ~ Register Now!

The Love INC National Staff is restless with excitement on your behalf. God has something in store for you, your affiliate, partner churches, and communities at the 2017 Gathering. We are praying for radical transformation that can only be accomplished by God.

Whether you are a Love INC Executive Director, Board Member, Staff Person, Donor, Volunteer, or Church Partner – you are part of the alternative God planned!

Register here: <http://bit.ly/2qPcj6Y>

Included in Cost:

- Optional Day Zero Idea Sharing Talks & Networking on Wednesday Afternoon (come & go)
- Meet-and-greet with Meal Wednesday Evening
- Opening Session on Wednesday Evening
- “Putting God on Display” Sessions with Ray Vander Laan on Thursday and Friday
- Breakout Sessions on Thursday and Friday
- Lunch on Thursday and Friday
- Coffee, Soft Drinks, and Snacks Each Day (morning and afternoon breaks)
- Dinner and program on Friday Evening
- Network and Fellowship with Other Love INC People from Around the Country

Early Bird Pricing: \$230.00 (Ends June 30)

Regular Pricing: \$255.00 (Ends September 1)

Non-Participant: \$30.00 (Friday Banquet and Program only)

Free Registration: Each affiliate may redeem 1 free registration with use of a special guest code (sent via email – check your inbox). Value of the registration is **\$230.00**. Affiliates registering after the Early Bird deadline will be required to pay the \$25.00 difference.

Cancellation Policy: Refund/cancellation date for all registrants is September 1, 2017. However, if you are unable to attend the Gathering and have already registered, you may substitute someone in your place. We strongly encourage as many people as possible from each affiliate to attend.

