

One Hope Tulsa's Urban Ministry Conference

BLESS the BLOCK

Friday

EVENING SESSION

6:15 PM: Doors open, Prayer Stations

6:30 PM: Main Session

- Worship
- Bless the Block | Thabiti Anyabwile

7:40 PM: Breakout Sessions, Set 1

- Kristie Anyabwile | Everyday Faithfulness on the Block
- Joe Blankenship | Leadership that Blesses the Block
- Tarell Earl | Listening Before Leading: Building Trust with Teens

8:35 PM: Breakout Sessions, Set 2

- Miriam Blankenship-Boone | When Tragedy Comes to the Neighborhood
- Jordan Allison | Partnering with God
- Caleb Walter | Crunching the Numbers for Your Block

9:20 PM: Evening Wrap-Up

9:30 PM: After Hours Prayer Set



Keynote Speaker:

Thabiti Anyabwile is one of the pastors for ARC. He has served as an elder and pastor in churches in NC, DC and the Cayman Islands. After a few years as a practicing Muslim, Thabiti was converted under the preaching of the gospel in the Washington DC area. He and his wife, Kristie, have three children. Thabiti is the author of several books, including *The Life of God in the Soul of the Church*; *The Gospel for Muslims*; *What Is a Healthy Church Member?*; *The Decline of African-American Theology*; and *The Faithful Preacher*.

Saturday

MORNING SESSION

10:00 AM: Breakfast, Prayer Stations

10:30 AM: Main Session

- Bless the Block | Thabiti Anyabwile
- Worship
- Q&A with Thabiti & Kristie Anyabwile

12:00 PM: Breakout Sessions, Set 3

- Dr. Barbara Sorrels | Running With Endurance
- Peter White | Finding an Imagination for Hope
- Deni Fholer & Nolan Jones | From Pew-Sitters to Ordinary Radicals

12:50 PM: Morning Wrap-Up

1:00 PM: Afternoon Break

EVENING SESSION

6:15 PM: Doors open, Prayer Stations

6:30 PM: Main Session

- Worship
- Bless the Block | Thabiti Anyabwile

7:40 PM: Breakout Sessions, Set 4

- Marcus Bell | Pursuing Ethnic Unity
- Myles Roberts | Reading the Bible Poorly
- Kristie Anyabwile | Everyday Faithfulness on the Block
- Wes Addington | The Story's Not Done

8:30 PM: Evening Wrap-Up

8:45 PM: After Hours Concert & Spoken Word Set

Have a question for the Anyabwiles?
Text (918) 300-4468.

Speaker Information

Kristie Anyabwile: Everyday Faithfulness on the Block

Kristie is the author of *Delighting in God's Law: Old Testament Commands and Why They Matter Today* (2024), *Literarily: How Understanding Bible Genres Transforms Bible Study* (2022), and editor of *His Testimonies, My Heritage: Women of Color on the Word of God* (2019). This week, she released her first children's book, *Busy Bodies, Busy Brains: Learning to Love How God Made You*. She is passionate about Bible literacy, and uses her gifts to train women in studying and teaching God's Word. Kristie and Thabiti have been married almost 35 years. They have 3 adult children and 2 sons-in-law, and live in Washington, DC.



Everyday Faithfulness on the Block

We often want to make a big impact, but God frequently works through small, consistent acts of love. This workshop explores how ordinary acts of neighborly love can grow into friendships, trust, community leadership, and advocacy. You'll leave with practical ideas and fresh encouragement to faithfully love your neighbors and seek the flourishing of the block God has given you.

Miriam Blankenship-Boone: When Tragedy Comes to the Neighborhood

Miriam Blankenship Boone is a community developer, a chaplain, and an adoptive mom. Miriam has spent her professional life centering the marginalized and learning from her relationships with her neighbors. She earned her Master's degree in practical theology from The University of St. Andrews. She currently serves as the Executive Director at One Hope Tulsa, where she has developed and directed a variety of programs and community projects over the past decades. Miriam and her husband Nate are parenting four amazing kids and have spent fifteen years living on the same block and being a part of God's family at their local church, Springs of Grace.

When Tragedy Comes to the Neighborhood

What does it mean to love our neighbors faithfully when a crisis puts us face-to-face with evil and refuses easy answers? When we move towards communities marked by violence, poverty, and loss, we will find ourselves walking alongside our neighbors in the valley. This session will invite us to resist despair and retaliation, and instead cultivate the habits and imagination needed to lead toward peace, even in the darkest moments.

Deni Fholer and Nolan Jones: How to go from Pew Sitter to Ordinary Radical

Deni Fholer is the Founder and Executive Director of Isaiah 58, In His Service, Inc. Isaiah's is a mile west of One Hope Tulsa.

Nolan Jones is the Safe Move Coordinator with the Tulsa Day Center and is the Parliamentarian for Isaiah 58, In His Service ministry.

How to go from Pew Sitter to Ordinary Radical

Join Deni and Nolan as they discuss the need for affordable housing and the prototype that Isaiah's is modeling for the church to rise up and help fill the gap and meet the needs for the sons and daughters of our neighborhoods! We pray this will be a time of encouragement and purpose-driven conversation, and that your heart and mind will be stirred to take a leap of faith.

Dr. Myles Roberts: Reading the Bible Poorly

Myles lives in Shreveport, LA with his wife Allie, a social-worker, and their son Jackie. He teaches literature at Louisiana Christian University and philosophy at Louisiana State University in Shreveport. Myles works with various community non-profits through his musical talents and by directing summer activities for kids in the Sunset Acres neighborhood.

Reading the Bible Poorly

Myles will share reading lessons learned over the years from studying the bible with people experiencing homelessness, extreme poverty, incarceration, and the shadow of sex trafficking.



Speaker Information

Dr. Barbara Sorrels: Run with Endurance

Dr. Barbara Sorrels is the CEO of the Institute for Childhood Education and the founder of Connected Kids, a non-profit agency dedicated to serving kids from hard places. She is the author of five books including the award-winning title *Reaching and Teaching Children Exposed to Trauma*. She has spent five decades in education as a classroom teacher, children's pastor, early childhood program director and university professor. Her heart is to educate those who minister to wounded children in how to create trauma responsive churches and ministries to bring hope and healing.

Run with Endurance: Finishing Well

Life is hard, but giving up is not an option. This session will share lessons learned on facing hard things and remaining faithful to the end.



Joe Blankenship: Leadership that Blesses the Block

Joe has been involved in urban ministry since 1983, mostly here in Tulsa. He loves serving as a part of the One Hope Tulsa Team, currently as the founder and board president. He has been the pastor at Springs of Grace Church since 2001. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Rosa, since 1983, and they have 11 children, 20 grandchildren, and others they count as family. Joe has 25 years of coaching experience, a Masters of Divinity degree, Masters certification in the Neurosequential Model in Sports, and has training certification in the Science of Hope.

Leadership that Blesses the Block

This session draws on biblical principles of leadership and insights from neuroscience to offer practical leadership strategies for leaders at every level.



Jordan Allison: Partnering with God

Jordan is the youth coordinator and lead recruiter for One Hope Tulsa. He is a proud Harding Bison alumni with a Major in Bible and Preaching. His work at the Rose Bowl includes directing youth programming, recruiting for leadership programs and mentoring vulnerable youth. Jordan has lived in the neighborhood for the last five years and was recently married. He and his wife enjoy walking in the neighborhood, making waffles for friends and reading and obeying the Word together.

Partnering with God

Through intercessory prayer we can partner with God to care for the vulnerable in the midst of evil. Jordan will be focusing on God searching for people to partner with him as seen in passages such as Ezekiel 22 and how Abraham partners with God in Genesis 18.



Peter White: Finding an Imagination for Hope from the Prophet Jeremiah

Peter White is a spiritual director and an Anglican priest. He is the founder of The Sabbath Life—a ministry of rest and soul care—and one of the hosts of the Abbey of the Heights, a retreat house in downtown Tulsa. He is passionate about urban ministry and spiritual practices that make it sustainable and delightful.

Finding an Imagination for Hope from the Prophet Jeremiah

The prophet Jeremiah lived through the end of the world. Or at least, that's what his community may have felt. They experienced extraordinary political and religious upheaval in a way that echoes our own experience today. What lessons can we learn from this lonely prophet's truth-telling about God's faithfulness in the middle of an unfaithful world? That's what we'll explore together.



Speaker Information

Caleb Walter: Crunching the Numbers for your Block

Caleb lives in the Rose Bowl neighborhood and has worked for One Hope since 2020 in a variety of roles. Throughout his time there, he has found many useful data resources to help the One Hope staff better advocate for and serve Northeast Tulsa neighborhoods. Caleb is married to Gabby and they are about to celebrate their 5th wedding anniversary.

Crunching the Numbers for your Block

Identifying data sources for your neighborhood is crucial for making strategic decisions, advocating for the vulnerable, or galvanizing your community to take action. This session is a data amateur's guide to some of the easily accessible data resources in Tulsa for identifying and taking action on issues affecting people in your neighborhood.



Marcus Bell-Winston: Practicing Presence and Pursuing Ethnic Unity

Marcus is a slave of Christ, husband to his beautiful wife Sarah (19 years), and father of four precious children: Trinity (13), Thaddeus (11), Titus (9), and Truly (7). He currently serves as the Associate Pastor at Springs of Grace Bible Church in Tulsa, and previously served as the Lead Pastor of 99.1 Church, an urban multi-ethnic church plant in Northeast Austin, Texas, from 2010–2017. Marcus holds an M.A. in Christian Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary.

Practicing Presence and Pursuing Ethnic Unity: Hope on the Block

In a culture marked by division, isolation, and distrust, the gospel calls believers to something radically different! Drawing from Scripture and practical ministry experience, participants in this breakout session will discover how the ministry of presence can build bridges, foster belonging, and reflect God's vision of a multi-ethnic family united in Christ. Together, we will examine how Christians and the local church can bring hope to the block by embodying the love of Jesus, pursuing meaningful relationships, and demonstrating the reconciling power of the gospel. Whether you are a pastor, ministry leader, community advocate, or church member, this session will equip you with biblical principles and practical tools for cultivating hope, strengthening neighborhoods, and pursuing ethnic unity where you live, work, worship, and serve.



Tarell Earl: Listening Before Leading

Tarell Earl is the Founder and Executive Director of Pursuit Of Prosperity Strategies (POPS), a nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering youth, strengthening families, and building healthier communities. As a Mental Health Specialist and youth advocate, he brings a trauma-informed approach to mentorship, life-skills development, emotional wellness, and leadership training. Tarell partners with schools, juvenile justice agencies, businesses, and community organizations to create opportunities that help young people reach their full potential.

Listening Before Leading: Building Trust with Teens Through Presence, Purpose, and Practical Love

Drawing from years of experience leading Pursuit Of Prosperity Strategies (POPS), a youth development and life-skills organization serving at-risk and justice-involved teens, Tarell Earl will share practical, Christ-centered approaches to building trust with young people. Participants will learn how intentional listening, trauma-responsive care, and authentic relationships can open the door to mentorship, accountability, and lasting transformation in the lives of teens and their communities.



Wes Addington: Documentary Viewing and Discussion

Wes Addington is the artist-in-residence at One Hope Tulsa. He is continually seeking opportunities to witness the horrors of our world, and asking our God what he has to say in response. In this talk, he will share some of the fruits of those conversations

The Story's Not Done; Is that a Comfort or a Curse?

Join Wes for a viewing of his documentary "You'll Be Alright in the End" followed by discussion on the themes of suffering, faith in the midst of desperation and grief, and Jesus's Kingdom of peace.

