

SALT & *Light* CHARLOTTE | 2022



Join us at the 5th annual Salt & Light Conference on September 23-24 in the Northeast suburbs of Charlotte for North Carolina's Largest Faith-Based Policy Conference featuring your favorite faith and prominent community leaders from around our state and across the nation. The Conference will be located on the beautiful campus of Freedom House Church which is located just off I-1485 near Concord Mills Mall in Northeast suburban Charlotte.

The North Carolina Faith & Freedom Coalition Salt & Light 2022 Conference welcomes leaders to the platform who are declaring the TRUTH of God's Word to the cultural issues of the day. This year's event brings those who are engaged on the front-lines of the cultural battle to educate, equip, and encourage attendees to stand up and become part of the cultural conversation, encouraging attendees to follow the biblical mandate of being Salt & Light.

Speaker Bios



Trey Allen | Hillsborough, NC

Trey began his legal career as a judge advocate in the United States Marine Corps. His military service included a deployment to Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Prior to being named partner at Tharrington Smith LLP in Raleigh, Trey completed a clerkship with Justice Paul Newby in the NC Supreme Court and practiced education law.

Trey has served as an Associate Professor of Public Law and Government at UNC Chapel Hill and currently serves as the General Counsel for the NC Administrative Office of the Courts. In that capacity, he provides legal guidance on a broad range of subjects to court officials across the state. Trey is married to Teryn and they have five children.



Dr. Ron Archer | Shaker Heights, OH

Ron has been connecting with audiences ever since he started preaching Sunday nights in a Cleveland church when he was sixteen years old. The issue of pro-life is personal to him because his mother was a victim of sex trafficking as a young teenager. His personal story of surviving three abortion attempts is a relevant testimony of the miraculous mercy of God.

Archer now travels the globe with a message that remains the same: that God can use anyone, including someone like him—the unwanted child of a seventeen-year-old call girl—to share the hope that comes from believing in Jesus Christ, who came to this earth to redeem our sins and give us eternal life with Him.



Lauren Boebert | Rifle, CO

U.S. Congresswoman Lauren Boebert is serving her first term as the Representative for Colorado's Third Congressional District. She is a 36-year-old citizen-legislator who never held public office prior to her 2020 victory. She is the first woman, first mother, and youngest ever to represent the District.

Congresswoman Boebert is active in her church and spent years as a volunteer, counseling and assisting at-risk women at the local jail. She has worked as a natural gas product technician, GIS technician, and pipeline integrity coordinator. Lauren is married and a mother of four boys, ages 9-17.



Dr. Paul Brintley | Kings Mountain, NC

Paul Brintley is a successful entrepreneur, pastor and NC Faith & Freedom Ambassador. He is committed to engaging with minorities and pastors to encourage them to lead by promoting a biblical worldview in their church, community and culture.

Dr. Paul is currently the Senior Pastor and founder of the Christian Fellowship Assembly in Dallas, NC. He has ministered in South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Canada, Haiti, Israel, Germany, India, Poland, El Salvador, London, Zimbabwe, and 30 states in the USA. Paul attended Duke University School of Divinity and received a Doctor of Ministry from Piedmont College of Theology.



Ted Budd | Advance, NC

Rep. Ted Budd is in his third term as U.S. Representative for North Carolina's current 13th Congressional District and is the Republican candidate for US Senate to replace retiring Republican Senator Richard Burr. Ted currently sits on the Financial Services Committee, where he uses his real-world experience to roll back the restrictive regulations that strangle job creation in our nation. He holds an MBA from Wake Forest University and a Masters of Theology and Educational Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary. Ted and his wife Amy live in Davie County.



Leah Church | Purlear, NC

Leah Church is a former UNC Women's Basketball player and current three-point world-record holder. She has been featured on the Today Show, ESPN, Sports Center and more for viral trick shots and is privileged to have her name inscribed in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Leah is a 2020 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with a degree in Exercise and Sport Science and a minor in coaching. She is presently coaching, training, and telling her incredible testimony of how she was offered a full scholarship to her dream school, but later had to choose her faith over basketball. Leah is passionate about sharing her story of God's faithfulness and His miracle-working hand.



Corey DeAngelis | Washington, DC

As a national leader on school choice, his published research primarily focuses on the benefits & effects of school choice programs on non-academic outcomes such as criminal activity, character skills, mental health, political participation, and schooling supply.

He is a senior fellow at the American Federation for Children. He is also the executive director at Educational Freedom Institute, an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, a senior fellow at Reason Foundation, and a board member at Liberty Justice Center. He was named on the Forbes 30 under 30 list for his work on education policy and received the Buckley Award from America's Future in 2020.



Jeremy Dys | Dallas, TX

Jeremy Dys, Esq., is Special Counsel for Litigation and Communications for First Liberty and host of the First Liberty Briefing. He earned his law degree from West Virginia University College of Law in 2005. After law school, Dys clerked for the Hon. Russell M. Clawges, Jr., chief judge of the Circuit Court of Monongalia County in Morgantown, West Virginia. For six years prior to joining First Liberty Institute, Dys led a public policy organization where he led research and advocacy efforts on matters of life, marriage, and religious freedom.

In support of his clients, Dys has made numerous appearances in local, state, and national television, print, and radio outlets. His written commentaries have been featured in the Wall Street Journal, New York Daily News, The Hill, Daily Signal, Washington Examiner, The Federalist, and others.



Brian Echeverria | Harrisburg, NC

Brian Echevarria was born in Miami, Florida. His career experience includes working as a financial advisor, missionary, local business owner, and building contractor. While being a committed and successful husband and father; nothing short of the grace of God can be credited for Brian's successes as he works across the nations. His focus areas include churches, mentoring groups, feeding operations, conferences, and seminars and building valued relationships. Brian and his wife, Cynthia has three children. Brian is a candidate for the North Carolina State House in District 73.



Larry Elder | Los Angeles, CA

A "firebrand" according to "Daily Variety," Elder is an American libertarian talk radio host, author, attorney, and documentary filmmaker who hosts The Larry Elder Show. The show began as a local program on Los Angeles radio station KABC in 1993 and is now nationally syndicated.

Larry Elder has a take-no-prisoners style, using such old-fashioned things as evidence and logic. Larry shines the bright light of reasoned analysis on many of the myths and hypocrisies apparent in our system of government, our society, and the media itself. He slays dragons and topples sacred cows using facts, common sense and a ready wit. He was most recently a gubernatorial candidate in California's recall election.

Trey Gowdy | Spartanburg, SC



Trey Gowdy is an attorney, television news personality, politician and former federal prosecutor who served as the U.S. Representative for South Carolina's 4th congressional district from 2011 to 2019. His district included much of the Upstate region of South Carolina, including Greenville and Spartanburg. He served on the Judiciary Committee and chaired the two and half year select committee investigation into the Benghazi attack.

Trey is currently a Fox News Contributor and host of Sunday Night in America on the network. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in History from Baylor University and received his Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina. In 2019, Gowdy returned to South Carolina to practice law and teach classes. He is a #1 NY Times bestselling author of *Doesn't Hurt to Ask* and co-author of *Unified*, with Senator Tim Scott. Trey Gowdy is married to Terri Gowdy, a first-grade teacher in the Spartanburg School District.

Mark Harris | Mooresville, NC



Mark Harris serves as the Senior Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church. Mark has served as Senior Pastor of three other Southern Baptist churches over the last 30 years and in many leadership roles at the NC Baptist State Convention and the Southern Baptist Convention. He currently serves as the Vice President at Family Research Council. Mark and his wife Beth have served in ministry for 32 years.

DR Harrison | Kingsport, TN



DR and his wife Laura have been married for 17 years and have one daughter. In May of 2016, God gloriously saved DR & Laura from a life of alcohol and drugs. Over the last 5 1/2 years God has truly transformed their lives from the inside out; DR has preached to millions of people around the world and has seen nearly 118,000 people trust Christ as their personal Savior! This is the vision and driving force behind the Voice of Hope ministry he leads.

Pete Hegseth | Holmdel, NJ



Pete Hegseth currently serves as a co-host of FOX & Friends Weekend on Fox News. He joined the network as a contributor in 2014. At Fox, Hegseth provides analysis and commentary across the network's daytime and primetime programming. His recent book, *Battle for the American Mind: Uprooting a Century of Miseducation* was released in June as a #1 NY Times Bestseller. His FOX Nation companion special, *The Miseducation of America* is a series examining the current state of the classroom and the shift to more progressive content in today's curriculum. He studies how the American education system has evolved over the last hundred years.

Prior to his broadcast career, Hegseth held the position of CEO for Concerned Veterans for America. He was an infantry Captain in the Army National Guard, and has served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Guantanamo Bay. He holds two Bronze Stars and a Combat Infantryman Badge for his time in Iraq and Afghanistan.



Richard Hudson | Pinehurst, NC

Richard Hudson is serving his fifth term in Congress. He currently represents the 8th Congressional District and serves on the Energy and Commerce Committee and in House leadership as the Republican Conference Secretary. Richard is the Republican candidate for the newly formed 9th Congressional District.

Richard grew up in Charlotte, graduated from Myers Park High School and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History and Political Science from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, while serving as Student Body President. Richard, his wife Renee, and their son reside in Moore County.



Dr. Chris Hughes | Boone, NC

Chris is the founder and Chairman of Citizens for America, one of the nation's leading advocacy and grassroots public policy organizations. He hosts *The Christian Perspective with Chris Hughes*, a daily radio show and podcast that encourages Christ followers to live their lives and engage the culture through the lens of the Bible. Every week, he provides believers with content that cuts through the fog of our culture and the news cycle with truth and compassion.

Chris Hughes is a Fellow with The Colson Center and serves as member of the Board of Governors of the Council for National Policy and serves on the National Steering Council of the Conservative Baptist Network. He currently serves as the vice president of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors. In 2021, Chris Hughes was appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to serve as a commissioner for the North Carolina Soil and Water Conservation Commission.



Bishop E.W. Jackson | Suffolk, VA

Bishop Jackson is the founder of The Called Church, headquartered in Chesapeake, Virginia, and STAND—Staying True to America's National Destiny, a national nonprofit organization with a mission to bring Americans together across racial and cultural lines to preserve our Judeo-Christian values and heritage.

Jackson is the host of The Awakening, a national radio talk show on American Family Radio, with 200 radio stations and live streamed around the world. He is an author and frequent contributor on Fox & Friends, Neil Cavuto, ABC Radio Network, National Public Radio and other media. Bishop Jackson has been a candidate for the U.S. Senate and the Republican nominee for lieutenant governor of Virginia. He and his wife, Theodora, have been married for 50 years.

Neal Jackson | Bennett, NC



Neal Jackson was born in Pinehurst, North Carolina, as the son and grandson of Baptist preachers. Growing up in a pastor's home, he saw firsthand what life is about, serving people. Neal was taught from an early age that true greatness is not in having servants but in being a servant. He started an insurance and financial planning firm after college before becoming a pastor. He has led churches in both Florida and North Carolina. He is the current lead pastor at Beulah Baptist Church. In 2020, Neal and his wife Tracy founded Grace Haven, a residential group home for children in foster care. Their vision is to raise up 100 families in the community to be foster parents, serving those most in need. Neal is the Republican candidate for NC House, district 78.

Glenn Jacobs | Knoxville, TN



Glenn Jacobs, better known by the ring name Kane, is an American politician, actor and professional wrestler. Before becoming Knox County Mayor in 2018, Glenn Jacobs had a successful professional wrestling career that spanned nearly 25 years. He has performed in front of millions of fans across the United States and in over 40 countries around the world. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2021. He has been named a three-time 'World Champion,' 12-time 'Tag Team Champion,' two-time 'Intercontinental Champion,' and one-time 'Money in the Bank' champion.

He is a former elementary teacher and has served on the East Tennessee Children's Hospital advisory council and the board of the Halls/Powell Boys and Girls Club. Additionally, his small business, Jacobs Insurance Associates, became the local champion of the Kindness Revolution, a national anti-bullying initiative. He, along with his wife Crystal, founded Kane's Crusaders, a non-profit organization with the mission of bringing joy to chronically ill teenagers in East Tennessee.

Joe Kennedy | Pensacola, FL



Inspired by the film, *Facing the Giants*, Coach Joe Kennedy waited until the players cleared the field at Bremerton High School in Washington State, then took a knee in quiet prayer after coaching his very first football game in 2008. This continued after each game for seven years—and no students, coaches or parents ever complained. One-by-one some students joined him in prayer at the 50 yard line. Eventually his team invited the opposing team to pray after the game. It was just what he did.

After initially being told by a school administrator how grateful they were for his leadership and example, Coach Kennedy received an letter from the school district ordering him to stop praying on the field. After his request for religious accommodation was denied, the district ultimately suspended and then fired Kennedy. Although he won his religious freedom case at the US Supreme Court in June, he still has not returned to coaching football.

Nikita Koloff | Kannapolis NC



Born in the projects of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Nikita was the youngest of four and raised by a single mom. While training for a pro football tryout, he was introduced to professional wrestling in 1984. Known as "The Russian Nightmare" and "The Russian Road Warrior" in the ring, his Hall-of-Fame World Championship Professional Wrestling career would take him around the world for the next eight years. More than accolades on a football field or wrestling championship belts, he says his journey with Jesus is the true highlight of his life. Soon after he retired, he surrendered his life to Christ. His men's ministry has taken him to over 1200 churches in 28 different denominations in all 50 states and 30 countries.



Greg Locke | Mount Juliet, TN

Pastor Greg Locke is the Founding and Lead Pastor of Global Vision Bible Church in Mount Juliet, Tennessee, just outside Nashville. The social media firebrand is the author of the #1 Best Selling Spiritual Warfare Series and is the host of On Point with Pastor Greg Locke. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Biblical Studies, a Master's Degree in Revival History, and is a popular revivalist and speaker in churches and political circles alike. The Lord has blessed him with one of the largest social media platforms in the nation, and Global Vision has the most broad-reaching livestream ministry in the world. While raising six kids of their own, Pastor Locke and his wife Taisha work hand in hand in the ministry and have a heart to reach those who are broken and have been forgotten by the Church.



Penny & Troy Maxwell | Davidson, NC

As the Senior Pastors at Freedom House Church, they are not the sort of pastors who have a lineage of ministry. They both grew up in ungodly homes. God turned their pain and drama into a message and testimony of their tests. With only a word from God they packed up in the spring of 2002 and made Charlotte their new home after serving in a church in Richmond, VA. They knew no one. They had no jobs, no money and no church planting team. What they did have was a vision, and that vision was to equip people to experience Christ's freedom in their everyday lives. That is how they founded Freedom House.



Tim Moore | Kings Mountain, NC

First elected to the General Assembly in 2002, Speaker Tim Moore is currently serving his fourth term as the presiding officer of the North Carolina House of Representatives. He represents Cleveland County and is now the longest serving Republican House Speaker in North Carolina history. The Speaker is a lifelong resident of Kings Mountain where he currently practices as an attorney. He is a member of First Baptist Church.



James O'Keefe | Mamaroneck, NY

James O'Keefe founded Project Veritas and Project Veritas Action after he led some of the most consequential undercover journalism coups in a generation. His nonprofit news organizations are dedicated to reviving the craft of undercover journalism to investigate corruption, dishonesty, waste and fraud in public institutions and the private sector.

Working with Andrew Breitbart back in 2009, O'Keefe used a hidden camera and a disguise to topple ACORN, the 40-year community organizing group funded with federal dollars that focused on voter engagement in low-income communities responsible for driving millions of first-time voters to the polls for President Obama. The videos unleashed one of the biggest political scandals on Capitol Hill in 2010 and ultimately caused the ACORN to file bankruptcy.

Over the last twelve years James O'Keefe and his team of journalists at Project Veritas have exposed Google, Facebook, Pinterest, Big Tech, Public Funding of NPR, Obamacare, election fraud, corrupt politicians, the DNC, ABC News, CNN, The US Post Office and many more organizations.



Father Frank Pavone | Washington, DC

Father Frank Pavone is one of the most prominent Catholic pro-life leaders in the world. He currently serves as the National Director at Priests for Life, the largest pro-life ministry in the Catholic Church. He served on the Pro-life and Catholic advisory boards of both of President Trump's election campaigns and in 2020 was National Co-Chair of Pro-life Voices for Trump. He currently serves on former President Trump's National Faith Advisory Board. He is the author of four books including, *Ending Abortion, Not Just Fighting It*.



Tracy Philbeck | Bessemer City, NC

Tracy Philbeck is the chairman of the NC Faith and Freedom Coalition. He also serves as a Gaston County Commissioner and has served on numerous community boards including The Least of These of Gaston County, and The Dream Center of Gaston County, Gaston County Economic Development Commission, Children's Advocacy Center of Gaston County, National Association of Counties Community & Economic Development Steering Committee, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Public Education Steering Committee, as well as countless others. He is married to Rebecca, and God has blessed them with two beautiful children.



Dr. Ralph Reed | Atlanta, GA

Ralph Reed is the founder and chairman of the Faith & Freedom Coalition, a pro-family public policy organization with over 2 million members. He was Senior Advisor to the Bush-Cheney campaigns in both 2000 and 2004, and Chairman of the Southeast Region for BC04. Reed is Chairman and CEO of Century Strategies, LLC, a public relations and public affairs firm and head of Donald Trump's Evangelical Executive Advisory Board. As Executive Director of the Christian Coalition from 1989-1997, he built one of the most effective public policy organizations in recent political history. He is the best-selling author and editor of seven books. He and his wife, Jo Anne, have four children.



Lt. Governor Mark Robinson | Colfax, NC

No elected official has driven more miles and connected with more North Carolinians over the last year than our Lt. Governor Mark Robinson. Mark Robinson is a native of Greensboro and a proud Army veteran. He and his wife Yolanda are blessed to have two children, and two grandchildren. Mark became a household name in 2018 when he delivered an incredibly strong address to the Greensboro City Council defending the 2nd Amendment. This speech went viral and to date has been viewed over 200 million times online.

It's a remarkable journey of faith, grit, clear-thinking, and powerful expression that has propelled Robinson to become the first black Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina. His book, *We Are the Majority* will be available on Saturday afternoon at the conclusion of the Conference. The book is filled with lessons and inspiration, as well as stories from his childhood to his work in the manufacturing sector that was dismantled by NAFTA and globalism.



Sandy Smith | Winterville, NC

Sandy Smith is a successful business executive, entrepreneur, and real estate investor. Sandy and her husband William happily reside in Nash County. While raising a family, Sandy finished her education and graduated from East Carolina University. She is now a proud USMC military mom and the Republican candidate for North Carolina's newly formed 1st Congressional District.



Ryan Stevenson | Boise, ID

A Pacific Northwest native, Ryan Stevenson, was once a paramedic and worship minister at Vertical Church. He captured the attention of TobyMac by co-writing the Number one and GRAMMY® nominated single *Speak Life* in 2013. Since then he has distinguished himself as a talented Christian artist. He is best known for some of your favorite songs on Christian radio including *Eye of the Storm*, *With Lifted Hands*, *The Gospel* and his new single, *I Cry Jesus*. K-Love Fan nominee, Billboard Music Award and Dove Award winner, Ryan Stevenson will be leading us in praise & worship to kick off the 2022 Salt & Light Conference on Friday night.



Michael Whatley | Gastonia, NC

Originally from Watauga County, Michael Whatley has served as the Chairman of the North Carolina Republican Party since 2019. He earned a History degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Masters in Religion from Wake Forest University before graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1997 with both a Law Degree and Masters in Theology. Whatley was a member of George W. Bush's Florida Recount Team in 2000 and went on to serve in Bush's Energy Department. He worked in the Senate, including a year as former U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Dole's Chief of Staff. Since 2007, he's been a partner in the energy consulting firm HBW Resources. In 2016 he helped organize rallies in North Carolina for Donald Trump.



Jason Williams | Gastonia, NC

Jason Williams is the Executive Director of the North Carolina Faith and Freedom Coalition. He has worked to organize canvassing efforts in NC with Faith and Freedom since 2016. During the presidential election of 2020, he led the largest faith based get-out-the-vote effort in the history of North Carolina.

Jason is dedicated to promoting a Biblical worldview in the political arena. As a former county commissioner, he led the charge to help defund the morning after pill, supported funding for the local Crisis Pregnancy Center, sponsored a resolution supporting marriage between a man and a woman, and put our national motto, "In God We Trust" on the county courthouse. He and his wife, Shannon have been blessed with six children.



Brett Winterble | Fort Mill, SC

Brett Winterble is a veteran radio and television broadcaster. He can be heard daily on the Brett Winterble Show broadcast weekdays on WBT Radio in Charlotte (1110AM & 99.3 FM). After spending nearly a decade as a producer on the Rush Limbaugh Show, Brett began his own show back in 2008 on Sirius XM. He has been a drivetime on-air personality at The Beast 980 in Los Angeles, KFMB television in San Diego and an on-air Host at Newsmax Media.

He is a graduate of Emerson College and American Military University with degrees in Political Communication and Homeland Security/Intelligence Studies.



Chelsey Youman | Dallas, TX

Chelsey Youman, Esq., serves as the Texas State Director & National Legislative Advisor at Human Coalition Action. Chelsey's professional experience includes working as Senior Counsel and Chief of Staff for First Liberty Institute and worked in private practice, where she successfully litigated corporate fraud and consumer rights issues in both federal and state jurisdictions. She played an active role in drafting the Texas Heartbeat Bill with Texas State Senator Bryan Hughes. Chelsey is happily married with three children. Her family is active in their church, serving in the premarital and pro-life ministries there.

Human Coalition Action is the public policy advocacy arm of Human Coalition, advocating for preborn children by assisting governing officials in advancing pro-life policies, informing voters about pro-life candidates, and supporting pro-life legal arguments in the Courts.

