

Speaker Bios

Making Room

Vineyard Great Lakes Regional Conference 2012
May 15-17



Miroslav Volf

Miroslav Volf is an evangelical scholar, author, and much sought-after international speaker. As the son of a Pentecostal pastor, he suffered through the nightmare years of brutality in the persecuted church of the former Yugoslavia. His book *Exclusion and Embrace* was selected as one of the top 100 books of the 20th century by *Christianity Today* magazine. John Ortberg endorsed Volf's classic book *Free of Charge* as "honest...compassionate...deeply informed." His current controversial book *Allah: A Christian Response* attempts to understand and reconcile the theological and cultural gulf between Muslims and Christians. As Director of the Yale Center for Faith and Culture, Dr. Volf is a leading expert on religion and conflict. We're honored to have him as a plenary speaker.



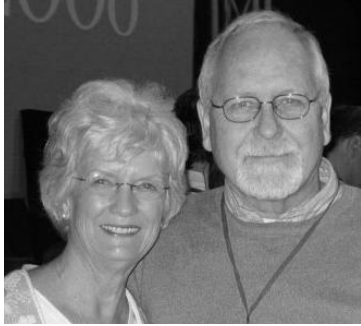
Emily Swan

After working in public relations at Borders, Inc. Emily served for four years as an International Pastor in Western China, with a special focus on the Tibetan people. She is now a pastor at the Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor and studying at Fuller Theological Seminary.



Rich Nathan

After teaching Business Law at The Ohio State University, Rich Nathan is now the Senior Pastor of the Columbus Vineyard and co-author of *Empowered Evangelicals and Who is My Enemy?* Rich is also active in bringing the values of the gospel to bear on matters of public policy in Washington D.C. and Columbus, Ohio.



Bert Waggoner

Berten met John Wimber in Anaheim, California in 1983. This was the beginning of a friendship which would eventually lead to Church in the City (Houston Vineyard) joining the Vineyard USA. Shortly after Berten entered the Vineyard movement, John Wimber asked him to serve as the Regional Overseer for the Southern Region and to serve on the National Board.

In 1994 Berten and Evelyn and 40 members of the Houston Vineyard were sent out to plant a Vineyard in Sugar Land, Texas which he pastored until 2009. This church remains a vibrant, healthy and growing church in the southwest quadrant of Houston. Berten has been serving as National Director of Vineyard USA since September of 2000 when the Board of Vineyard USA appointed him.

Phil Strout



From 2001-2003 Phil worked for Vineyard USA in the development of mission partnerships and taught "The Father's Heart for the Nations" workshops in local vineyard churches across the country. Phil completed his Masters in Ministry at St. Stephen's University in Canada in 2004. During that time, his book, "God's Relentless Pursuit, Discovering God's Heart for Humanity" was published. In 2004, Phil was asked to serve as Sr. Pastor of the Pathway Vineyard Church in Lewiston, Me. It is a church with a strong sense of mission with "A divine assignment to be a part of the redemptive history of the State of Maine".

From 2004-2011 Phil has served the Vineyard as the Regional Overseer for the Eastern Region and on the National Board. In the fall of 2011, Phil was appointed and confirmed as the new National Director of the Vineyard USA beginning January 2013.