

Bios for Platform Speakers

Dorena Williamson

Twitter: @dorenawill // Instagram: @Dorena Williamson

Dorena Williamson is a Preacher's kid, First Lady, and veteran of cross-cultural ministry. In 1995 she and her husband planted Strong Tower Bible Church, a faith community in Nashville that celebrates the beauty of God's diverse kingdom. Whether it's in the Bible, books, or on the big screen, Dorena loves the power of a good story. Her children's books feature diverse ethnicity and help shape perspective on race, disability and homelessness. She has four teenage and adult children. Visit her at dorenawilliamson.com.

Kadi Cole

Twitter // Instagram: @kadicole

Kadi Cole has spent the last twenty-five years studying leadership and organizational development, most recently serving as an Executive Director at one of America's largest and fastest growing multi-site churches, a Director of Multisite and Female Leader Groups at Leadership Network, and a founding member of the Women's Executive Pastor Network. She is passionate about helping local churches thrive and equipping faith-based leaders to fulfill their calling through her leadership consulting practice.

Ahead of her time in teaching churches to harness the diversity of God-given talents within their congregations, Kadi is a refreshingly balanced and sensible voice. She is the author of the bestseller, *Developing Female Leaders*, founder of MinistryChick.com, and host of *The Together Project Podcast*, where Kadi helps men and women navigate the unique challenges that may arise in pursuit of that call together.

Jamie Ivey

Twitter: @jamie_ivey // Instagram: @jamiievey

Jamie Ivey is passionate about following wherever Jesus takes her, loving her husband, and trying to be the best mom she can be to the four cutest kids in the world. She loves reading great books, vacationing at the beach, speaking to women, date nights, and could easily eat TexMex three times a day. She lives in Austin Texas with her husband Aaron (worship pastor at The Austin Stone) and their crazy kids. You can find her blogging about parenting, marriage, adoption & faith at her website Jamielvey.com. Jamie also hosts a weekly podcast, *The Happy Hour with Jamie Ivey*, where she chats with a new guest each week about the big things in life, the small things in life, and everything in between. You can find that show at Jamielvey.com/iTunes.

Ben Mandrell

Twitter // Instagram: @benmandrell

Ben Mandrell is the 10th president of LifeWay Christian Resources, one of the world's largest providers of Christian resources headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Prior to joining LifeWay, Ben pastored churches in Colorado and Tennessee. Ben and his family moved to the Denver area in 2014 to plant Storyline Fellowship in partnership with the North American Mission Board and First Baptist Church in Orlando, Fla. The church launched in February 2015 and grew to 1,600 in weekly attendance in four years.

In its third year, Storyline voted to quadruple its giving through the Cooperative Program, becoming one of the top 10 churches in the state giving through the Cooperative Program. Before planting Storyline

Fellowship, Ben served as senior pastor of Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, Tenn., from 2006-2013, leading the church to grow from 1,800 to 2,600 in weekly attendance.

A native of Tampico, Illinois, Mandrell graduated from Anderson (Indiana) University in 1998. He also holds a Master of Divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. Mandrell and his wife, Lynley, have been married since 2001. The couple has four children: Ava, Max, Miles and Jack.

Ruth Chou Simons

Twitter: @gracelaced // Instagram: @ruthchousimons

Ruth Chou Simons is a bestselling author, entrepreneur, and speaker. She shares her journey of God's grace intersecting daily life with word and paintbrush through an online shoppe at GraceLaced.com and her Instagram community of more than a hundred thousand. Ruth and her husband, Troy, are grateful parents to six boys—their greatest adventure. Ruth's first book, *GraceLaced*, won a 2018 Christian Book Award.

Lisa Harper

Twitter // Instagram: @lisadharper

Lisa Harper is anything but stereotypical! She has been lauded as a gifted communicator, whose writing and speaking overflow with colorful pop culture references that connect the dots between the Bible era and modern life. Her latest book is *The Sacrament of Happy* and her new Bible study published through LifeWay is *Job: A Story of Unlikely Joy*. She describes her greatest accomplishment to date as getting to be Missy's mama. In April 2014, after a difficult two-year journey, Lisa finally got to bring her adopted daughter home from Haiti and she hasn't stopped grinning since.

Travis Cottrell

Twitter: @cottrelltravis // Instagram: @travcott

Travis Cottrell is no stranger to the LifeWay Women's Leadership Forum. For the last twenty years Travis has served as worship leader at LifeWay's Living Proof Live conferences with Beth Moore. He's produced several albums for Living Proof and counts his involvement with Beth's ministry as one of the greatest joys of his life. In addition to his writing, arranging, leading and singing, Travis has recorded several solo projects. Embracing the rich traditional hymns of his childhood, along with modern music of today, Travis uses a blended style of worship to help lead people from all generations and backgrounds into worship. His ministry is fueled by his desire to see this generation of the body of Christ come together for a place of unity in worship...using all of what God has ordained for His praise. And truth be told, there's nothing that would make Travis happier than if you left an event where he led worship and couldn't remember his name. Because more than anything, Travis longs for people to know, love and worship the Maker and Lover of our souls. That's his passion, and ministering to God's people is his great privilege. Travis serves as Worship Pastor at Englewood Baptist Church in Jackson, TN. He and his wife, Angela, have been married for 25 years, and have 3 children – Jack, Lily Kate, and Levi. When he's not writing music or leading worship, Travis likes to dance in the kitchen with his wife, sing in the car with his kids, laugh like crazy with his friends – and marvel that God would be so gracious to use a boy from Boone to help make His name famous.

Joining Travis at the LifeWay Women's Leadership Forum are the most talented vocalists and musicians that choose daily to use their gifts to glorify God.

Angie Smith

Twitter // Instagram: @angiesmith19

Angie is married to Todd Smith, lead singer of the Dove Award winning group Selah. She is mom to Ellie, Abby, Kate, Audrey and Charlotte. Angie desires to walk with Jesus authentically through the inevitable joys and sorrows of this life in a way that reflects his faithfulness to never leave us and never forsake us, and to encourage other believers to do the same. This passion, along with a deep desire to understand and help others to understand the Bible, has fueled her writing since 2008. She is the best-selling author of the bible study Seamless: Understanding the Bible as One Complete Story, as well as two children's books and several books for adults including Chasing God and What Women Fear. She holds a Master's degree in Developmental Psychology from Vanderbilt University. Angie and Todd live in Nashville with their girls, their dog Finley and their cat Oliver.