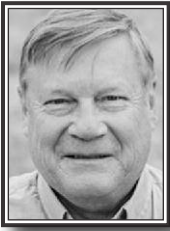


2023 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**RUSSELL
STENDAL**

At age four, while his family was living in Minneapolis, MN, Russell prayed and asked God to call his parents, Chad and Pat, to be missionaries. God answered that prayer and within just a few years the whole family was on the mission field in Colombia, South America. He became an accomplished jungle pilot and married a beautiful Colombian lady named Marina. They have four children, Lisa, Alethia, Russell Jr., and Dylan, and six grandchildren.

When he was 27 years old, Marxist guerrillas of the FARC kidnapped him for 142 days. The story of his kidnapping is told in his book *Rescue the Captors*. His reason for the title is because he realized that his captors were more captive than he was. There was a possibility he would be released, but most of his kidnapers were young people who had been taken from their families, given a weapon, and taught to kill. They had little hope of survival.

To reach all the actors of the armed conflict, including his former captors, Russell established a radio ministry to air programs into the dangerous war stricken areas of Colombia with messages of peace and hope. He has written more than 50 books in English and Spanish; he is the editor of the Jubilee Bible translation in both languages. Well over a million

copies have been donated and distributed into the most needy areas of Colombia and Venezuela.

Russell travels extensively as a speaker around the world. His speaking is unique, he is very sensitive to the Lord's voice and does not hesitate to deliver the message imparted to him, no matter how uncomfortable that may be to him or to others.



SHOAIB EBADI

Shoaib Ebadi is the President and Executive Director of Square One World Media.

He was born and raised in Kabul, Afghanistan. Shoaib was raised in a devout Muslim family. In 1999, when Shoaib was living in Pakistan, a missionary couple from North Carolina offered to teach him English, using the Bible as a textbook. Shoaib had no interest in Christianity, but was willing to read the Bible as a way to learn English. He believed it would be harmless. But along with the language, Shoaib learned the saving power of the Gospel. He accepted the invitation of Matthew 11:28 and became a follower of Jesus Christ.

Shoaib immigrated to Canada in 2000. He was instrumental in establishing the CHAI Immigrant Centre (Christians Helping All Immigrants) in 2007 to help refugees and other newcomers settle in Winnipeg.

He became a missionary with Pamir Productions, a division of Operation Mobilization that shares the Gospel with Afghans through media and discipleship, in 2009. Hosts a weekly live evangelical telecast that airs in Afghanistan, Iran and the

Middle East. Has been part of the effort to produce a Dari translation of the Bible.

In recent years: has spoken in many churches, partnered with "Voice of the Martyrs, USA" to work with persecuted Afghan Christians; hosted a live evangelical telecast for Afghan refugees living in Germany and Europe; was a keynote speaker at Missions Fest Alberta in 2018 and Missionfest Manitoba in 2022.



TED SERES

Ted Seres is an ordained minister, he is passionate about fulfilling the Great Commandment and the Great Commission, and seeing people connect with God in their own language. He has been involved with church planting and has served his denomination in the Mission Canada division. For seven years he was the National Director for the Canadian Bible Society and now serves as President/CEO of OneBook. Their Mission is to resource national partners, empowering them to effect spiritual and social transformation through Bible translation, literacy, and community development initiatives in their own languages. Ted is married to Sue and has two sons.



Refined/Undignified is a group of passionate people who love seeing teenagers set free from bondage in their lives. We accept groups of Briercrest students each year who desire to impact lives through the power of performing arts. We equip them to connect with this generation and address hard issues that teenagers are facing. They travel to schools, churches, camps and youth centers across Canada from BC to Ontario, they also have toured in England and Mexico.

Our desire is to reach the lost with the hope of Jesus Christ. Our ministry encompasses many aspects; from training in dance to mentoring relationships and developing young people to serve the Lord in everything they do.

WHAT THEIR NAME MEANS: REFINED "Refined by Fire" *"This third I will bring into the fire;*

I will refine them like silver and test them like gold. They will call on my name and I will answer them; I will say, 'They are my people,' and they will say, 'The LORD is our God.'" Zech.13:9 Suffering tries and tests people, purifies their faith, corrects their flaws, and refines their character. This suffering is an expression of grace and love because once people have come out of the refining fire and accepted correction, they will shine with a tested and confirmed faith and a splendid character. Jesus Christ died on the Cross so that we would be able to have a relationship with God again, and through His blood shed on the cross we are saved! It's not by what we can do, but what He has already done. If you want this relationship, you can have it! It is a free gift, but it will cost the surrendering of your life to Him.

UNDIGNIFIED "Fools for Christ" Not caring what the world says... *"I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes for my Lord."* 2 Sam.6:22 Whom are you trying to please? The world? Your friends? The reality is that God is the only One who can satisfy that deep desire for love and acceptance, God wants you! He wants you to want Him, because He knows that's the best thing for you and He loves you more than you can comprehend! When we are able to focus only on God and let Him determine who we are, there is freedom! Then and only then are you able to be UNDIGNIFIED for GOD and not care what people think because He is the only One who matters.