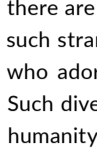


April 2016

INTERCESSOR

A MONTHLY PRAYER NEWSLETTER OF THE NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

Every Tribe & Tongue



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NAB Communications Writer



Most symphony orchestras contain at least seventy musicians on various instruments, generally woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. However, a unique orchestra in India in 2013 broke with convention; rather than simply being composed of a handful of different types of instruments, this orchestra contained a total of 370 instruments, 315 of which were unique and not duplicated. Listening to the recording of this concert, you can't help but be astounded by the beauty of the music that comes from such a diverse selection of instruments and musicians.

Our God loves diversity. There is no denying it. The fact that there are such diverse ecosystems on our planet and creatures of such strange variety practically screams out that we serve a God who adores the multifaceted. It is a testament to His creativity. Such diversity is not found only within our world, but also within humanity. We are a ragtag collection of individuals, and the only thing that every single person throughout history shares in common is that we were all created to worship and serve our Maker.

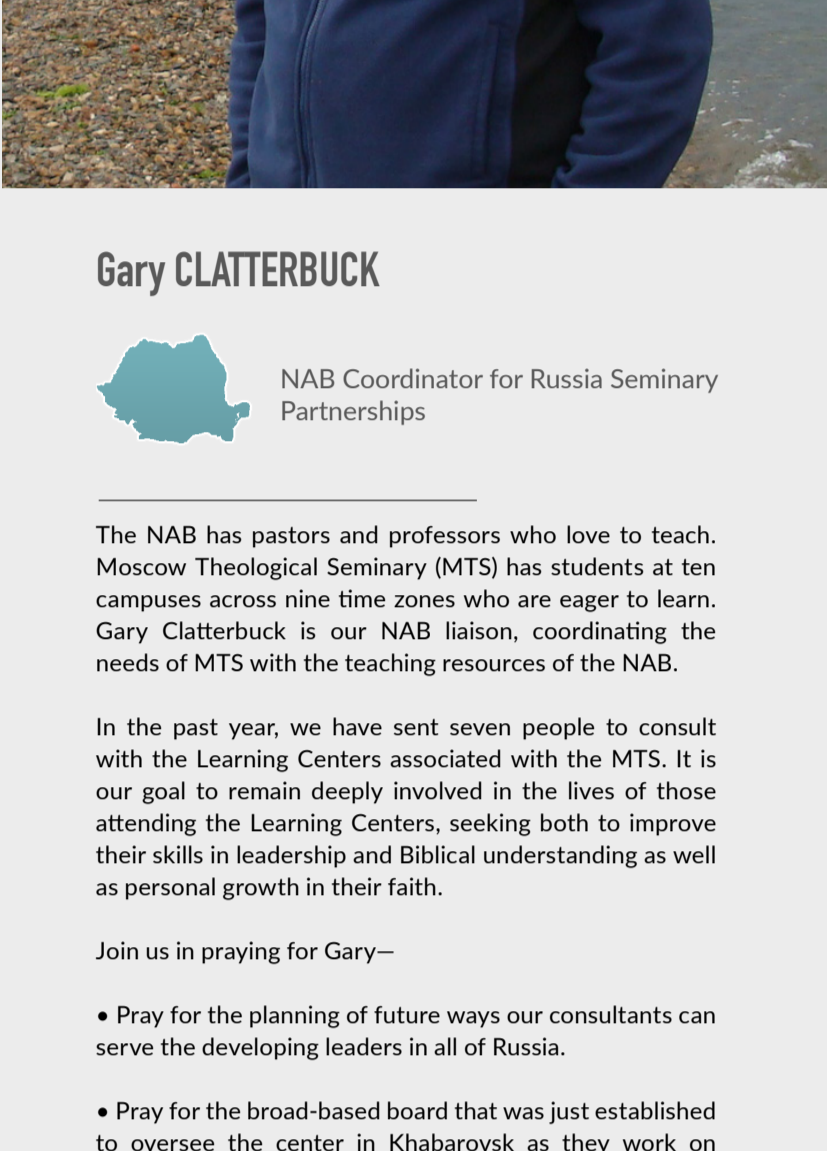
We find this very truth in John's letter to the seven churches in Asia. Set in God's throne room, we are given a glimpse of the greatest vocal chorus ever seen: "After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, 'Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!'" (Revelation 7:9-10 ESV).

This glimpse of the great multitude shares a lot about the heart of who God is. They are clothed in white robes, signifying they have been washed clean by the blood of the Lamb, and they are praising God in one voice, showing a unity of mind and purpose that is rarely, if ever, seen on Earth. What seems remarkable on this side of eternity is that this multitude is from every nation, tribe, people, and language. This is the most ethnically diverse group ever assembled, and they are more unified in their worship than most churches are on a Sunday morning.

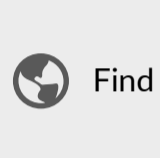
Despite this wonderful image of Heaven, we still live in the shadow of Babel, where God caused man to split into disparate languages and set in motion the establishment of various cultures and people groups. Because of this, we often find ourselves in the midst of confusion as we attempt to relate to people who come from cultures other than our own or those who speak a different language than ourselves, even when these interactions occur within our own neighborhoods. Yet we are still called to preach the Gospel to all peoples, even in the midst of the clash of cultures.

Thankfully, there are Christ followers who are well-versed in stepping across cultural lines in a way that does not lead to offense or confusion. One of them is Bud Fuchs, recently appointed as the Cross-Cultural Equiper for the NAB. This means he will develop practices and create resources to assist churches across all regions to reach out to the ethnic communities that are the minority in the midst of the community at large.

Assistance from people like Bud who are better equipped to navigate the nuances of different cultures can mitigate the misunderstandings and confusion inherent in such interactions as we act out the Gospel and be Jesus to people groups different from our own. Imagine if our churches better reflected the diversity in God's Kingdom, mirroring John's vision of the multitude before the Throne. What a grand symphony that will be. ■



Gary CLATTERBUCK



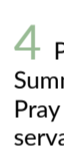
NAB Coordinator for Russia Seminary Partnerships

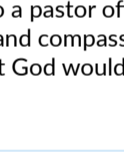
The NAB has pastors and professors who love to teach. Moscow Theological Seminary (MTS) has students at ten campuses across nine time zones who are eager to learn. Gary Clatterback is our NAB liaison, coordinating the needs of MTS with the teaching resources of the NAB.

In the past year, we have sent seven people to consult with the Learning Centers associated with the MTS. It is our goal to remain deeply involved in the lives of those attending the Learning Centers, seeking both to improve their skills in leadership and Biblical understanding as well as personal growth in their faith.

Join us in praying for Gary—

- Pray for the planning of future ways our consultants can serve the developing leaders in all of Russia.
- Pray for the broad-based board that was just established to oversee the center in Khabarovsk as they work on recruitment of new students in addition to bringing in more local and regional Baptist leaders to get involved in the school.
- Praise God for the recent consultants in Russia and for the topics they've been able to cover—Spiritual Formation, Counseling, and Leadership.

 Find out more about Gary [here](#).



APRIL 2016

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.

Psalm 67: 1-2

1 Continue praying for the Cameroon Baptist Convention General Session today and tomorrow. Executive director, Dan Hamil, is there and participating in this powerful gathering of our Cameroon partners. Pray for God's perfect will in the election of leaders during the sessions.

2 Pray for the pressing need for Paul and Melissa Ewing, NAB missionaries in Japan, as they search for a couple to cover for them at Komyo Christian Church while on a year-long home assignment starting in July.

3 Pray for those who were guests in your church on Easter. Pray the Holy Spirit continues to stir in them a desire to know God and to seek His presence in their lives.

4 Pray for the women and men who were part of The Summit (YMLT's Youth Workers' Retreat) this past week. Pray for encouragement and strength in these amazing servants of the Gospel.

5 Pray for the spouses of the ministry leaders in your church. Being married to a pastor often requires an outpouring of patience and compassion that is not always easy to provide. Ask that God would fill them with the fruit of the Spirit.

6 Pray for small group leaders and/or Sunday school teachers who serve your church. Pray that God would use them in powerful ways to teach His word with accuracy and integrity as they seek to transform lives.

7 Pray for the Great Lakes Association meeting this weekend and regional minister Terry Holley, as well as for NAB Foundation president, Ron Norman, and Advancement VP, Stu Streeter, who are attending. Pray for fruitful discussion and encouragement during this time.

8 Our conference vision is accomplished through missional engagement, international missions, leadership development and formation, as well as ethnic partnerships. Pray that God would bless these ends with fruit.

9 Ethos is a two-year journey for leaders and churches to be formed in the image of Christ and be sent into their neighborhoods. The NAB is currently working in three regions teaching churches. Please pray for this work of joining God on mission.

10 Pray for the general seminar Komyo Christian Church in Japan is having this month on the topic of biblical interpretation. Pray that this will help the lay leaders of the church, and other churches in that area, to grow in their walk and continue to lead well.

11 Pray for the various special projects on each of our international mission fields. These projects provide valuable resources to the ministries our missionaries are involved with. You can view this list at [nabconference.org](#)

12 Praise God for the new attendees and ministries at Heijo and Komyo Christian Churches in Japan. Pray for our NAB missionaries as they seek ways to meet the needs in these communities.

13 Pray for the patients and staff at both Mbingo and Bango Baptist Hospitals in Cameroon, that God would continue using the staff to share Christ's love. Pray for the different facility and staffing needs to be met.

14 Continue praying with NAB missionaries the Gerickes as they await the permits needed for further development on Camp Falcon Rock. Pray for wisdom as they prepare for their summer ministry plans. Pray for support for the Wagners so they can join the Gerickes soon.

15 Pray for Norm Poelkhe, VP of Ministry Outreach, as he prepares for the first ever Global Summit, a gathering in Budapest of missionaries from all NAB fields to strengthen leadership and further develop our work around the world.

16 Pray for our international workers in East Asia as they seek to encourage marriages as well as equip leaders on university campuses. Pray for the Father's protection as the air quality greatly affects their health.

17 Pray for regional ministers Dr. James Renke (Upper Mississippi Region), Pastor Larry Burd (Atlantic Association), and Dr. David Ewing (Eastern Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

18 Pray for NAB CFO Richard Brown and Controller Betty Buchholz as they travel to Dallas, TX, to attend the Christian Leadership Alliance Conference. Pray that this time would be an encouragement to them and that they would gain great insight to benefit the NAB.

19 NAB Vice Presidents Cam Roxburgh and Kent Carlson are working on writing various tools and resources for use by leaders and churches in the NAB regions. Please pray for this writing process to be inspired by the Holy Spirit so that we will see fruit come from these resources.

20 Pray for regional ministers Dr. Gordon Stork (Northern Plains Region) and Pastor Ken Solberg (Saskatchewan Baptist Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

21 Pray for regional ministers Dr. Jim Leverette and associate Dr. Terry Fossen (Alberta Baptist Association) and interim regional minister Dr. Phil Yntema (Northwest Region). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

22 Pray for regional ministers Rev. Dan Heringer (Central Plains Region), Rev. Terry Holley (Great Lakes Association), and Dr. Bob Krahn (British Columbia Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

23 Pray for regional ministers Rick King (Florida Association), Rev. Rick Weber (Northern California Association), and Rev. Bob Klein (Southern California Association). Ask God to continue to give them wisdom as they serve the pastors and churches in their area.

24 Pray for the White Cross ministry as they provide for direct and tangible participation in the Compassionate Care ministry of the North American Baptist Conference in Cameroon.

25 Pray for partner ministry Every Orphan's Hope and Tony Dunaway as they address the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the lives of orphans in Zambia.

26 Pray for the NAB partnerships in Theological Education with seminaries in Brazil, Cameroon, Moscow, and North America.

27 Pray for our national missionaries serving in local ministries throughout the Philippines, Serbia, Romania, and Hungary.

28 Pray for the Sioux Falls Seminary board meetings where Dan Hamil is attending. Pray for wisdom and guidance for president Greg Henson as he leads and continues advancing Theological Education.

29 Pray for the leaders of your country, both on the local and the national level. Ask that God, who established their authority, would guide them to lead justly.

30 Pray for the NAB pastors and leaders heading to Kansas City this week for training on missional leading in their communities.

