

what is the  
alliance?



# 60 years of reformed resources





From the desk of  
J. Ligon Duncan III, Ph.D, M.Div.

Dear Friends,

This report is designed to provide an overview of what the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals has accomplished. While it is encouraging to look back at the ways God has provided, we are also looking forward.

The Alliance continues to provide strong biblical teaching through broadcasting, publishing, events, and reformed resources. We are continually looking for new methods to provide this teaching to encourage you and others to stay strong in the faith.

One way in which we do this is through publishing. The Alliance has published five Donald Barnhouse titles, updated and packaged for a new generation. Dr. Barnhouse's timeless teaching remains accessible. We look forward to printing even more titles in the future.

Through a committed partner we have produced an online tool to Puritan author Matthew Henry's *A Method for Prayer*. At its heart the project produces a first person edition of the book for personal devotions. It is available in multiple Bible translations and languages, as well as both print and on the web. At the website you can sign up for daily devotional emails. The godly wisdom and instruction of Matthew Henry will now be available to a whole new generation of readers. The Alliance is thrilled to be a part of this historic project.

*God's Word Today*, the devotional companion to *The Bible Study Hour*, has been available online for several years. We are working to make it more accessible to more people by building a dedicated website to feature Dr. Boice's sermon manuscripts. It will also be tied to the weekly radio broadcast allowing a study of the sermon you hear. *God's Word Today* features the same verse-by-verse exegesis that makes James Boice's sermons so compelling. We are looking forward to the completion of this great new resource.

As this is just a few of the exciting events on the horizon; the Alliance has a lot to look forward to. We hope that you will continue to share in the work and excitement with us.

In Christ,



Ligon Duncan  
President, Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals





# what is the alliance?

## 60 years of reformed resources



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## who we are

The Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals is a broad coalition of evangelical Christians from various denominations including Baptist, Congregational (Independent), Anglican (Episcopal), Presbyterian, Reformed, and Lutheran. The purpose of the Alliance's existence is to call the Church, amidst a dying culture, to repent of its worldliness, to recover and confess the truth of God's Word as did the reformers, and to see that truth embodied in doctrine, worship, and life.

The organization's formal name is Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals. In regard to its name, Dr. Ligon Duncan, President, says the following:

What do we mean by the name the "Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals"?

- ◆ First, we are "evangelicals," because of the priority we place on the biblical *evangel* (or "good news"), and because "evangelical" was the first nickname used by the Protestant reformers of the sixteenth century to describe their commitments to recovering the Gospel in the Church and proclaiming it to the world.
- ◆ Second, we are "confessing" because we warmly embrace the rich biblical teaching articulated in both great ecumenical creeds of the Church, and reformed confessions and catechisms. Further, we believe the Church must not only assent to her confessions but confess the Gospel afresh in protest against the spirit of this age. Like the Lutheran and Reformed evangelicals who formed the Confessing Movement against the Nazi party in the 1920s and '30s, we recognize that we must be in a "state of confession"—especially because accommodation to the spirit of the age has sapped the Church of her strength and caused her to divide her loyalties between the lordship of Christ and the lordship of this age's "principalities and powers."
- ◆ Third, we are an "alliance" because we have banded together to further this, our common cause.



Ligon Duncan

To elaborate, consider the three constituent parts of the organization's name.

## Timeline of Events

1945

The Alliance's predecessor, Evangelical Foundation, asks Dr. C. Everett Koop to chair the Board of Directors.

1949

Donald Barnhouse forms Evangelical Ministries, the producer of *The Bible Study Hour* broadcast and publisher of *Eternity* magazine.



# what is the alliance?

## We Are an Alliance.

Since 1994, the Alliance has been an association of evangelical pastors, teachers, leaders, and Christians committed to the great evangelical consensus arising from the Protestant reformation, working together for the recovery of the biblical, apostolic witness of the Church. It fosters a collaborative movement of reformed evangelical Christians, to promote robust, biblical, historic, confessional Christianity through media, events, publications, networking, and more. It has encouraged the Church to evaluate its message and methods, according to Scripture. It has warned the Church against false doctrine, advocated for sound doctrine, warm piety, catechetical instruction, biblical worship, faithful cultural engagement, and scriptural methods of evangelism and church growth.



John Piper

## We Are a Confessing Alliance.

In the *Cambridge Declaration*, the Alliance declares its theological commitments, confesses its faith and calls the Church back to the biblical principles of doctrine. While the Alliance strongly emphasizes Scripture alone as the only and final rule of faith and practice, it recognizes the importance of creeds and confessions as testimonies to biblical truth. The Alliance believes that it is not only appropriate but imperative for the Church to publicly declare its understanding and embrace of biblical truth, both for edification and protection of the Church. The Alliance, thus, does not achieve alliance by reducing our beliefs to the bare minimum (reductionism), but by making a full confession of our common evangelical and reformational faith (catholic-spirited confessionalism).

## We Are an Evangelical Alliance.

The name "evangelical" is a time-honored designation. It was the earliest self-designation used by the Protestant reformers of the sixteenth-century church and its doctrine. In fact, the term was in common use before the term "protestant" became popular. Another term the reformers used to describe their theology and worship was "reformed." They often spoke of recovering the original, divinely appointed doctrine, order, and life of the Church—of being a church "reformed," "corrected," or "cleansed." The Alliance takes up the name "evangelical" drawing on this rich tradition. The evangelical church and movement has been at its healthiest in history in days when it is characterized by the leadership of strong, sound, godly, reformation-rooted pastor-theologians. In more current usage, "evangelical" has come to signify a passion for the Gospel witness of the Church. The Alliance finds this to be the natural and necessary response to the good news we have received and thus aims for a vigorous commitment to evangelizing by means of the *evangel* itself — the good news of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1969

James Boice becomes the speaker on *The Bible Study Hour* and goes on to become a leading evangelical spokesman.

1974

Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology is launched to encourage theological study by lay people across the Continent.



## council



Jerry Bridges

A council of respected leaders from the Baptist, Presbyterian, Reformed, Anglican (Episcopal), Congregational (Independent), and Lutheran church communities, chosen by the Board of Directors, serves as the strategic network and public face of the Alliance. Together they serve as an alliance of godly, sound, committed pastor-theologians who (1) reach out into the evangelical community with the message of the Alliance; (2) provide much of the content for the Alliance's efforts in audio, print, and electronic media; (3) band together to present a unified front in addressing critical issues in the Church and in our culture; (4) by their lives and ministries exhibit the ideals of the Alliance; (5) work behind the scenes with the Alliance's executive staff to promote the mission of the Alliance; and (6) bring to bear their intellectual, spiritual, and moral powers in the work of the kingdom, compounding their effectiveness through cooperation in the Alliance.

- Eric Alexander, St. George's Tron Church
- Alistair Begg, Parkside Church
- Gerald Bray, Beeson Divinity School
- Jerry Bridges, Navigators
- Donald Carson, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School
- Sinclair Ferguson, First Presbyterian Church
- Robert Godfrey, Westminster Seminary California
- John Hannah, Dallas Theological Seminary
- Paul Jones, Tenth Presbyterian Church
- John MacArthur, Grace Community Church
- C. J. Mahaney, Sovereign Grace Ministries
- Albert Mohler, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary
- John Piper, Bethlehem Baptist Church
- R. C. Sproul, Saint Andrew's Chapel
- Carl Trueman, Westminster Theological Seminary
- Gene Veith, Patrick Henry College
- David Wells, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary



Albert Mohler

## executive staff

- Mark Dever, Capitol Hill Baptist Church
- Ligon Duncan, First Presbyterian Church
- Richard Phillips, Second Presbyterian Church
- Philip Ryken, Tenth Presbyterian Church
- Derek Thomas, Reformed Theological Seminary
- Robert Brady, Executive Vice President



Philip Ryken

1978

The first summit of the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy was held, led by James Boice.

1994

James Boice gathers leaders to respond to David Wells' influential book *No Place for Truth*. This group forms a council of evangelical leaders called the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals.



# what is the alliance?

## broadcasting

Broadcasting is the best means to acquaint a wide and varied audience with the Alliance's message and goals. Listening to it requires no initial commitment, providing a risk-free way for almost anyone to be introduced to reformed theology and consider its implications. The Alliance currently produces four broadcasts:

**The Bible Study Hour** — *Preparing you to think and act biblically.* This broadcast has been on the air for over a half-century. Week after week, listeners come into contact with clear biblical preaching that serves as a model for pastors and a stabilizing source of biblical truth for lay people. The Bible Study Hour broadcast airs on 500 outlets as well as the Internet and XM Satellite radio and features the teaching of James Boice.



### Every Last Word

**Every Last Word** — *Teaching the whole Bible to change your whole life.* This Alliance broadcast features the superb expository ministry of Philip Ryken, senior minister of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, PA, and an Alliance Council member.

**God's Living Word** — *Proclaiming, explaining, and applying God's Living Word.* The newest Alliance broadcast, launched in November of 2006, features the Bible teaching of Richard Phillips. Rev. Phillips is chair of the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology, senior minister of Second Presbyterian Church in Greenville, SC, and an Alliance Council member.



**Dr. Barnhouse & the Bible** — *Making God's Word plain.* The longest running of all Alliance broadcasts, Dr. Barnhouse & the Bible originally started as The Bible Study Hour with the teaching of Donald Barnhouse. Once James Boice took over the ministry, Dr. Barnhouse's messages continued to air under this new name. This broadcast features both a weekly and daily program. Donald Barnhouse was the founder of Evangelical Ministries.

1996

The Alliance holds the Cambridge (Massachusetts) meetings that result in the Cambridge Declaration. Consequently, the Alliance directed its focus to broadcasting, publishing, and events in order to call the Church to a modern reformation.

1997

*The Bible Study Hour* broadcast begins airing via the Internet and develops an online presence as AllianceNet.org.



# publishing

Publishing offers the Alliance a deeper, more reflective way to address the concerns that led Alliance members to form the ministry. Because it allows people to stop and think about what they are considering, the printed page enables and encourages them to think critically in a way that audio and visual media might not. Internet and print periodicals are generally a gateway to more serious reading.

- ◆ **reformation21** — The online magazine of the Alliance, [reformation21.org](http://reformation21.org), is a free resource that seeks to encourage biblical thinking, living, worship, ministry, and constructive cultural engagement. Though the tone of *reformation21* is positive and pastoral, we are unafraid to touch on the controversial and to provide well-balanced criticism when necessary. The magazine is geared toward laypeople, we often engage cutting-edge subject matter and hope to help pastors lead their congregations through these important issues.



James Boice

- ◆ **God's Word Today** — This entry-level daily devotional is most closely associated with *The Bible Study Hour* and is posted daily on the Internet. A dedicated website with email updates is planned. Each week a new theme is explored through an expository look at Scripture, a brief lesson, and study questions.
- ◆ **Alliance Booklets** — The Alliance produces hundreds of booklets by James Boice, Philip Ryken, Richard Phillips, Donald Barnhouse, and many more. These low-cost, short booklets provide access to outstanding presentations of doctrine usually found only in larger, more expensive volumes.

1998

The Alliance leads a new effort to foster theological discussion and debate among confessing evangelical scholars with the Alliance Scholars' Colloquium.

2000

James Boice, founder of the Alliance, dies of cancer. Michael Horton is chosen as new president. Emphasis on pastoral development results in the Pastors' Conference, first held in Atlanta, followed in 2001 with an African American Pastors' Conference.



# what is the alliance?

- ◆ **Publishing Partnerships** — The Alliance has partnered with publishers to produce many books. *Here We Stand* is an outworking of the Cambridge meetings. *The Church, Only One Way?*, *Precious Blood*, and *Atonement* – an upcoming collection of excellent PCRT messages – stem from PCRTs. We have also partnered with Crossway Publishing to produce Today's Issues booklets. These include titles such as *Justified by Faith Alone* by R. C. Sproul, *Is Jesus the Only Way?* by Philip Ryken, and *What Makes a Church Evangelical?* by James Boice.
- ◆ **Alliance Books** — The Alliance has published five Donald Barnhouse titles. We are proud to offer not only *God's Method for Holy Living*, but also *Mark: The Servant Gospel*, *Life by the Son*, *Teaching the Word of Truth*, and *Thessalonians*. We aren't stopping there. We will also publish a work by *God's Living Word Bible* teacher Richard Phillips. And a title on practical biblical application by Dennis Prutrow, Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We look forward to sharing these great new resources.
- ◆ **Matthew Henry Project** — Through a committed partner we have produced an online tool to Puritan author Matthew Henry's *A Method for Prayer*. At its heart the project offers a first person edition of the book for personal devotions. It will be produced in multiple Bible translations, and languages, made available in both print and on the web. Visitors may also sign up for daily devotional emails. The godly wisdom and instruction of Matthew Henry will now be available to a whole new generation of readers. The Alliance is thrilled to be a part of this historic project.



## 2003

The first annual Princeton Regional Conference on Reformed Theology is held on the campus of Princeton Seminary. This regional event helps lay the ground-work for future partnerships similar events across the country. The conference continues to be held at the historic Miller Chapel on Princeton's campus.

## 2004

The Alliance restructures to reenergize the Alliance's mission and vision. Dr. C. Everett Koop serves as President Emeritus and Ligon Duncan as President. The Alliance establishes the broadcast of *Every Last Word* featuring Philip Ryken.



## events

As crucial as broadcasting is to the Alliance's mission, it can never substitute for the person-to-person contact that events provide. They encourage Alliance members by assuring them that they are not alone and by allowing contact with other conference goers and speakers. These contacts often bear unexpected fruit. Consequently, the Alliance is committed to a variety of national and regional gatherings, including:

- ◆ **The Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology** — PCRT brings a slate of noted pastors and teachers to churches across the country. We purposefully hold our conference in churches to encourage a worshipful and intimate setting where attendees can fellowship with one another and the speakers. Since its inauguration in 1974, it has attracted overflow audiences to its biblical-expository approach to Christian doctrine. PCRT is the nation's oldest, continually operating, reformed conference. It remains the most potent of all such conferences, lacking the air of a convention but instead cultivating an intense combination of worship and Word. While PCRT is grateful to have inspired many imitators, it remains the original and authentic reformed conference.



- ◆ **Regional Events** — The Alliance partners with churches and ministries to promote and execute local events such as the Princeton Regional Conference on Reformed Theology, OKC Conference on Reformed Theology, and the Quakertown Regional Conference on Reformed Theology. The Alliance supplies organizational skills these smaller groups might not possess, such as marketing, promotions, registration, and bookstores. The Alliance actively seeks new partnerships, looking forward to conferences developing nationwide.



PCRT Grand Rapids, MI

- ◆ **Reformation Societies** — Through local and regional societies, believers meet and work together for biblical reformation in Christ's Church. They are informal, voluntary gatherings, where Christians meet for the joining of hearts and minds in pursuit of actual and practical reformation in the Church relying fully upon the Gospel as the particular means given by God for the building of Christ's Church.

2005  
The Alliance launches the free online magazine *reformation21.org*

2006  
The Alliance begins producing, syndicating, and promoting the broadcast of *God's Living Word* with Richard Phillips.



# what is the alliance?

## history



Donald Barnhouse

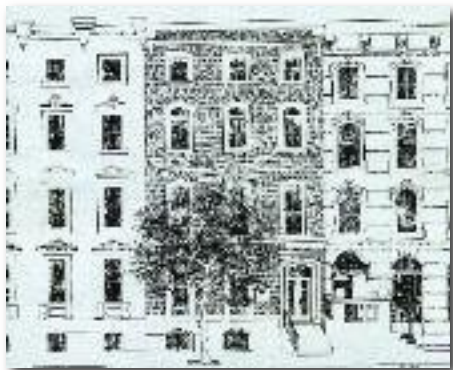
In 2009 the Alliance celebrates 60 years of ministry. The Alliance began as Evangelical Foundation in 1949, broadcasting Donald Grey Barnhouse via *The Bible Study Hour* and publishing *Eternity* magazine. In 1969, James Boice left his work at *Christianity Today* and became the speaker for *The Bible Study Hour*.

Subsequently Evangelical Ministries played a strategic role in the International Council on Biblical Inerrancy and in the establishment of the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology. These efforts had a massive impact upon evangelicalism in North America and around the world.

Evangelical Ministries began a new era in 1994, when James Boice later invited a number of key Christian leaders to meet in Cambridge, MA. Concerned that North American Christianity had yielded to the spirit of the age, especially in terms of Christianity's consumerism, pragmatism, politicization, and disregard for theological clarity, these leaders lamented that many churches had become very unbiblical—including some churches that loudly affirmed their belief in biblical authority.



James Boice



1716 Spruce Street

Consequently, the Alliance was formed to constructively address these concerns within the wider Christian community. Thus, Evangelical Ministries reconstituted in 1996 to create the Alliance, remaining a Section 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation under the Internal Revenue Code and under the laws of the state of Delaware. Other important and interesting points in our history are shared on the timeline throughout.

2008

The Alliance partners in Quakertown, PA to hold the first annual Quakertown Regional Conference on Reformed Theology. A record turnout and excellent teaching marked the inaugural conference.

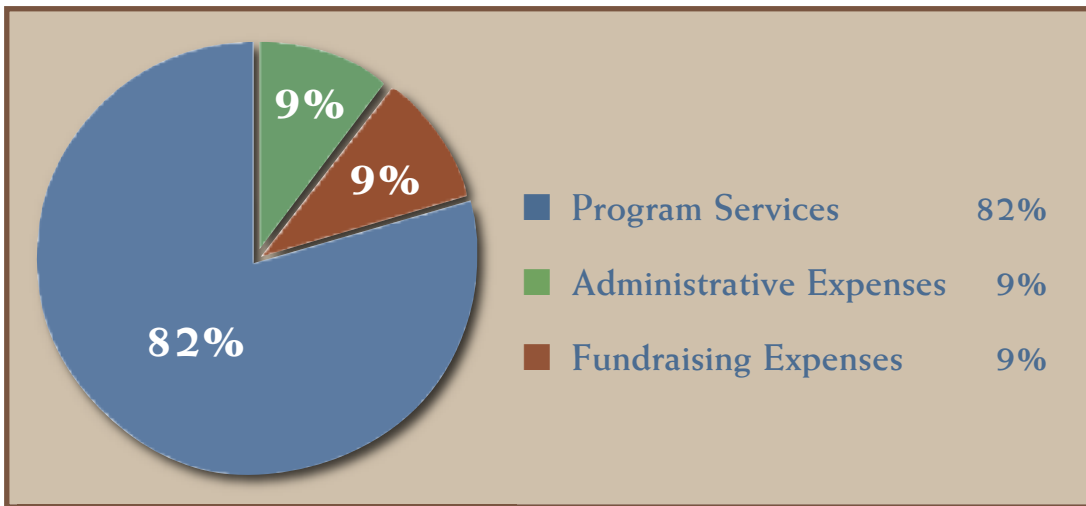
2009

The Alliance's newest website MatthewHenry.org is launched. This site features an in-depth look at Matthew Henry's classic *A Method for Prayer* and helps one pray through Scripture with many interactive options.



# numbers

## behind our pledge to supporters of the alliance



Promises, promises. Sometimes we're tempted to be cynical about promises because they seem to be made so casually. Promises today are often accompanied by "fine print" that essentially nullifies any obligation to honor them. Sadly, many of us have even come to expect that "promises are made to be broken."

As an organization committed to serving and honoring Jesus Christ, we have promised to operate in a manner reflecting integrity, honesty, excellence, and faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. This is our pledge to Friends and supporters like you. However, we know our pledge can only take on credibility when it is fortified by our actions. We want to prove ourselves faithful to our promises. This is why the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability seal means so much to us—and to you.

ECFA was founded in 1979 to help ensure the integrity of Christ-centered organizations that are qualified for non-profit, tax-exempt status. We submit ourselves to an annual evaluation and approval process established by ECFA—resulting in a powerful testimony of accountability before God and man.

Through faithful accreditation and review by ECFA, we demonstrate our commitment to biblical excellence and accountability. As a charter member, we faithfully adhere to ECFA Standards and have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. This seal tells our friends and supporters that our ministry upholds high standards—not only in word, but also in deed. The ECFA seal means that our organization:

- ◆ Has a clear and strong commitment to evangelical Christianity
- ◆ Has an independent Board of Directors that governs our activities
- ◆ Submits to an annual independent audit
- ◆ Manages and applies funds with appropriate controls
- ◆ Believes in and practices financial disclosure
- ◆ Follows strict standards for fundraising and stewardship





# what is the alliance?

## 2008–2009 Expenses

Staffing	828,938
Broadcasting	539,509
Promotions	178,345
Building	160,513
Products	129,118
Administration	123,854
Events	80,608
Publishing	43,843
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,084,728</b>

God. From the list below you can see the concrete ways in which the gifts that you give are used and the many ways that Friends and donors take advantage of Alliance resources.

## quick facts for 2009

- ◆ 4,511 Alliance donors
- ◆ 1,377 Friends of the Alliance
- ◆ Over 700 broadcasts
- ◆ 60,000 CDs manufactured and distributed
- ◆ 2,549 bought resources
- ◆ 3,708 attended Alliance events
- ◆ 479,659 visitors to Alliance websites
- ◆ 19 active Reformation Societies; several more forming

The ECFA membership is an outward expression of our inner resolve to represent truth and integrity in all aspects of our ministry: our fund-raising, financial accounting and reporting, our governance, the stewardship of God's resources, and in our valued relationship with you, our supporters and Friends.

While looking at the straight forward numbers of our budget is a helpful way to gain more information about the Alliance and how we use the funds you entrust to us, it is also helpful to look at all the different ways in which the Alliance is blessed to be used by

## board of directors

CHAIRMAN  
Elmer Snethen

PRESIDENT EMERITUS  
C. Everett Koop

PRESIDENT  
Ligon Duncan

ALLIANCE BOARD  
Edgar Barnhill

Robert Doll

Dennis Hogge

Joe Kempf

Thomas Martin

Wendell McBurney

Doug Roossien

Philip Ryken

Sebastian Traeger

Jay Volk



## how to give

Those who give to the Alliance will be joining the organization in working to reform today's Church. Supporters of the Alliance are the cornerstone of the ministry, providing the faithful prayer and financial support necessary to keep the organization teaching solid biblical truths.



- ◆ Join the Alliance Friends — Become a Friend of the Alliance with a monthly gift of \$25 or more. Friends receive a free book when they join, discounted registration to Alliance events, free shipping on orders and other gifts, and each month receive the Message of the Month CD with three messages.

- ◆ Join the Alliance Churches — Churches join the Alliance by becoming a subscribing and/or supporting church. Supporting churches receive their choice of audio commentary as well as a copy of *Here We Stand*. Both receive a link to their church website and monthly letters keeping you informed.



- ◆ One-time gifts — These may be designated to support a particular ministry or to wherever most needed.



- ◆ Project of the Month — Donors can designate their gift to special projects. Projects range from new video equipment for our events to new paint for our historic building in Philadelphia.

- ◆ Estate Planning — Donors who desire to return some of their remaining assets to the Lord through charitable gifts to the Alliance in their wills.

- ◆ Charitable Gift Annuities — Charitable gift annuities provide guaranteed income for life for the donor while allowing the Alliance to better plan for its financial future.



- ◆ Gifts in Kind — Donors may also donate gifts of stock or in-kind gifts to the Alliance. Instructions for gifts of stock can be found on our website. Call the Alliance for information on Gifts in Kind.



# what is the alliance?



ALLIANCE®  
OF CONFESSING EVANGELICALS

Dear Friend,

As you can see in these pages, the Alliance of Confessing Evangelicals works hard to call the twenty-first century church to a reformation that recovers clarity and conviction about the great evangelical truths of the Gospel. We are doing this in concrete, life-changing ways.

Alliance broadcasting, events, and publishing are tangible ways in which we impact individuals and churches. They are encouraged to powerfully proclaim the truths of the Gospel in their own contexts. By equipping our Friends and supporters with strong biblical teaching, we are equipping them to live out the Gospel in their lives.

The important work we do of impacting our culture for Christ cannot be done without your help. The Alliance is a donor-supported ministry. We rely on fewer than 5,000 donors to help us continue our ministry. Please join us as we strive to change people's lives through the power of Gospel preaching and teaching.

You can join us on a monthly basis by becoming a Friend of the Alliance. Friends receive several benefits for their faithful support, including a Message of the Month CD featuring messages from *The Bible Study Hour*, *Every Last Word*, and *Dr. Barnhouse & the Bible*; discounts on Alliance resources and events such as the Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology; free shipping, and more.

If you are unable to join us on a monthly basis, we still need your help. Your gift will be put to great use. And as members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), you can trust the Alliance to be a good steward of all that you entrust to us.

Please make a gift to the Alliance today.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace,

Robert Brady  
Executive Vice President

P. S. If you have questions about including the Alliance in your will or charitable gift annuities, or any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 215-546-3696 or [RBrady@AllianceNet.org](mailto:RBrady@AllianceNet.org).

*The Bible Study Hour · Every Last Word · God's Living Word · Dr. Barnhouse & the Bible*  
Reformation Societies · Philadelphia Conference on Reformed Theology · reformation21

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what is the  
alliance?



## alliance council

Eric Alexander  
Alistair Begg  
Gerald Bray  
Jerry Bridges  
Donald Carson  
Mark Dever  
Ligon Duncan  
Sinclair Ferguson  
Robert Godfrey  
John Hannah  
Paul Jones

John MacArthur  
C. J. Mahaney  
Albert Mohler  
Richard Phillips  
John Piper  
Philip Ryken  
R. C. Sproul  
Derek Thomas  
Carl Trueman  
Gene Veith  
David Wells

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