

# Citywide worship service 'The Gathering' set for May 18

'The Gathering,' an annual citywide interdenominational Christian worship service, will take place May 18 from 5-7 pm at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville.

Admission is free, and the event will be interpreted for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Renowned speaker and author Dr. Tony Evans is the keynote speaker. Joining him

will be featured artists Jeff Deyo; the Katinas; Nicole C. Mullen; and Sheila Walsh -- along with Sherman Smith of the Tennessee Titans.

There also will be a thousand-voice choir and a hundred-piece orchestra.

"We're very excited about the program we have this year and are expecting to have a full house at the Gaylord Entertain-

ment Center on May 18," said Howard Harvey, chairman of the Operation Andrew Group, which organizes and sponsors The Gathering.

"We have a wonderful array of uplifting music representative of the diversity and unity for which The Gathering is known. Dr. Evans, who speaks throughout the world, will share how people can get out of the per-

formance trap and enjoy the freedom they've always wanted," he added.

Evans is co-founder and serves as senior pastor of the 5,000-member Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, Texas. He also is founder and president of The Urban Alternative, a national organization that seeks to bring about spiritual renewal in urban America through the

church.

The Urban Alternative radio broadcast *The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans* can be heard over 500 stations daily throughout the U.S. and in more than 40 countries worldwide. He is a speaker on the Promise Keepers' platform, in crusades and at Bible conferences in the United

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Tony Evans

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States and abroad.

For more information about Dr. Evans, visit his website at [www.tonyevans.org](http://www.tonyevans.org).

Many of the same leaders responsible for bringing Billy Graham to Nashville in June 2000 helped form the Operation Andrew Group to ensure that momentum from the crusade was not diminished in the years that followed.

Their vision was to create an organization that builds a better community by partner-

ing with diverse Christian churches and ethnic groups, uniting them under the common bond of Jesus Christ.

The first Gathering was held in January 2000, six months prior to the Graham crusade. Thousands of Middle Tennessee Christians joined together to celebrate the dawn of the Year 2000 and to proclaim an unchanging Savior for an ever-changing world.

Last year, the event drew more than 13,000 attendees to

the Gaylord Entertainment Center for a time of prayer, worship and inspirational preaching.

The Operation Andrew Group exists to build a better community by partnering with diverse Christian churches and ethnic groups.

More than 180 Middle Tennessee churches are involved in its work. OAG's office is located at 2000 Glen Echo Road, Suite 210, in Nashville. Its Web site is: [www.operationandrew.org](http://www.operationandrew.org).

# More than 20 county churches to participate in The Gathering

More than 20 Williamson County churches are participating in The Gathering, an annual Middle Tennessee interdenominational Christian worship service. This year's Gathering will take place from 5-7 p.m. Sunday, May 18, at the Gaylord Entertainment Center in Nashville. Admission is free, and the event will be interpreted for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Renowned speaker and author Dr. Tony Evans is the keynote speaker. Joining him will be featured artists Jeff Deyo, the Katinas, Nicole C. Mullen and Sheila Walsh, along with Sherman Smith of the Tennessee Titans. There also will be a thousand-voice choir and a hundred-piece orchestra.

"The Billy Graham Crusade really moved our city and drew churches together," said Bret Robbe, senior pastor of ClearView Baptist

Church. "The Gathering builds on that unity and gives us a wonderful opportunity to be involved with so many other churches throughout Middle Tennessee."

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### Williamson County churches involved in The Gathering 2003:

Bethel World Outreach Center, Brentwood  
Brentwood Baptist Church, Brentwood  
Brentwood Church of the Nazarene, Franklin  
Calvary Christian Fellowship, Franklin  
Calvary Christian Fellowship, Franklin  
Christ Community Church, Franklin  
ClearView Baptist Church, Franklin  
Concord-Grandview Baptist Church, Brentwood  
Cool Springs Church, Brentwood  
CrossRoads Community Church, Franklin

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The first Gathering was held in

Fourth Avenue Church of Christ, Franklin  
Franklin First Assembly, Franklin  
Grassland Heights Baptist Church, Franklin  
Harpeth Community Church, Franklin  
Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, Brentwood  
Iglesia New Song Hispana, Brentwood  
Mission Evangelism, Brentwood  
Oasis Community Church, Franklin  
Son Rise Baptist, Franklin  
The Living Word Community Church, Brentwood  
The People's Church, Franklin  
Thompson's Station Church, Thompson's Station  
Unity Baptist Church, Franklin

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