



LEADING WITH BEAUTY

STORYTELLING FOUNDATIONS

GRANT KLINEFELTER - GREATER EUROPE MISSION

GEM STORYTELLING TEAM

*Working to tell
the story of
Europe so
Europeans can
know the story of
Jesus.*

"Then we went to Constantinople, and they led us to the place where they worship their God, and we knew not whether we were in heaven or earth, for on earth there is not such vision nor beauty, and we do not know how to describe it; we only know that God dwells among men. We cannot forget that beauty."

Primary Chronicle of the Sent by Prince Vladimir of Kiev- Rus to Constantinople as quoted in The Story of Christianity by David Bentley Hart p.125

"Thus we might say it was beauty that brought salvation to the Russian people."

Beauty Will Save the World by Brian Zahnd p. xiv



DECLINE OF THE CHURCH IN THE UK

LESS THAN 50% IDENTIFY AS CHRISTIAN FOR THE FIRST TIME



CASTLE CHURCH IN
WITTENBERG, GERMANY

Europe's Empty Churches Go on Sale

Hundreds of Churches Have Closed or Are Threatened by Plunging Membership, Posing Question: What to Do With Unused Buildings?

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Jan. 5 2015 (newspaper)



The former Roman Catholic Church of St. Joseph in Arnhem, Netherlands, one of hundreds of decommissioned churches, was turned into a skate park.

MERLIJN DOOMERNIK FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By [NAFTALI BENDAVID](#)

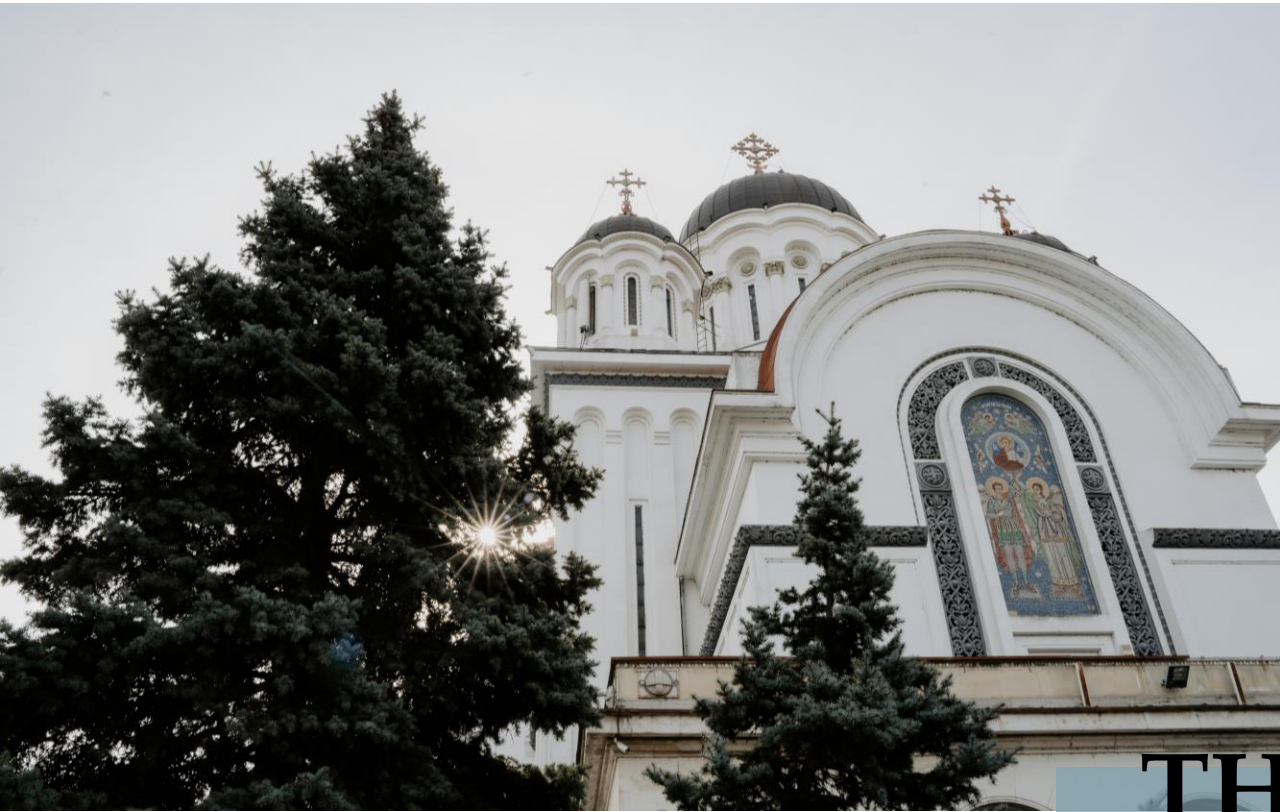
U.S. Church Membership Falls Below Majority for First Time

BY [JEFFREY M. JONES](#)



*THE REALITY:
WE ARE LIVING IN A
POST- CHRISTIAN
WORLD*

*WHAT DOES THAT
HAVE TO DO WITH
STORYTELLING?*



"All the treasures
of wisdom and
knowledge are
hidden in Him."

Colossians 2:3

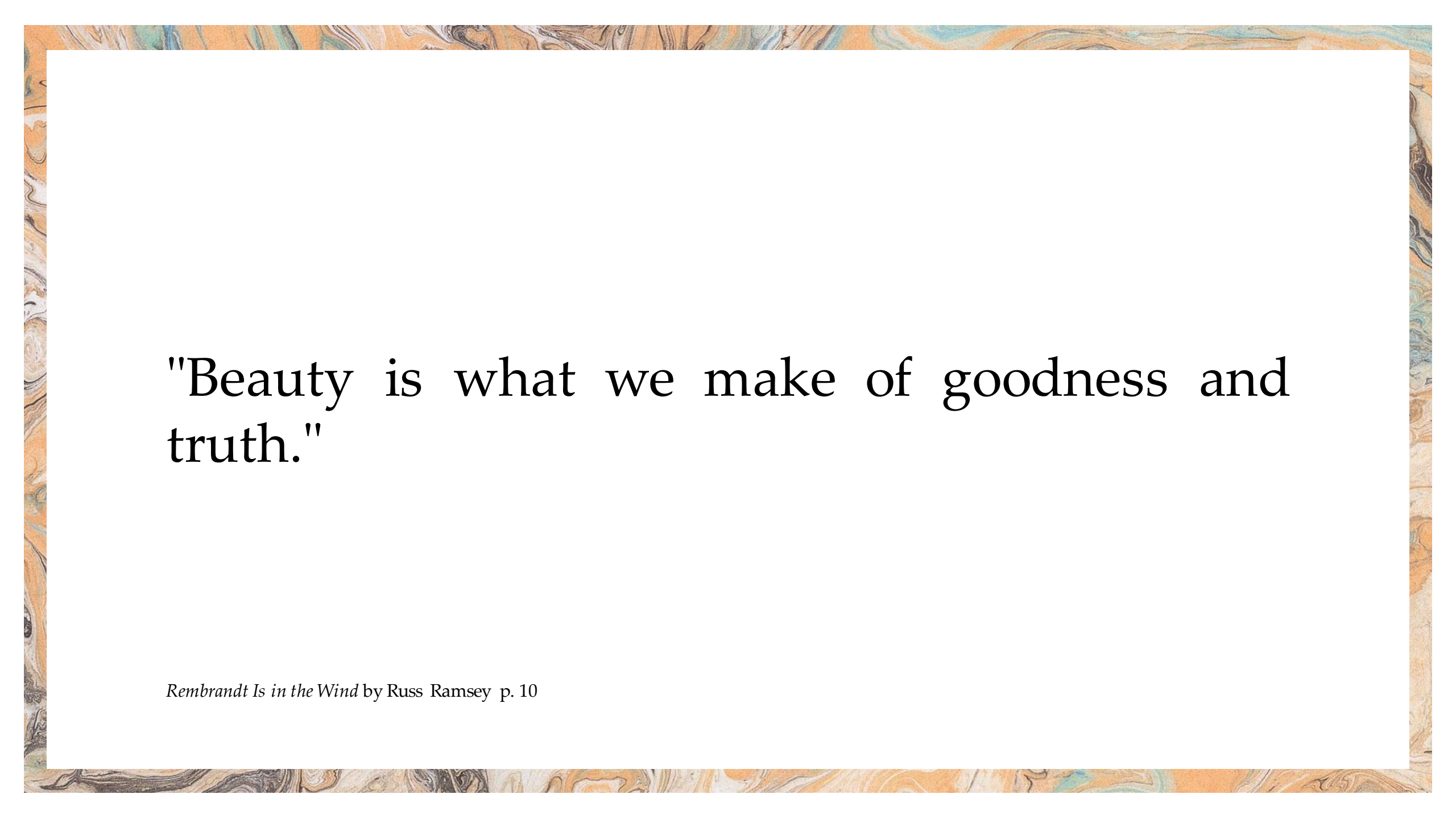
THE TRANSCENDENTALS

GOODNESS, BEAUTY, AND TRUTH



"To a generation suspicious of truth claims and unconvinced
by moral assertions, **beauty has a surprising allure.**"

Beauty Will Save the World, Brian Zahnd

A decorative border made of marbled paper with swirling patterns of orange, brown, and blue, framing the central white area.

"Beauty is what we make of goodness and truth."

Rembrandt Is in the Wind by Russ Ramsey p. 10



"Out of Zion, the
perfection of
beauty, God
shines forth."

Psalm 50:2

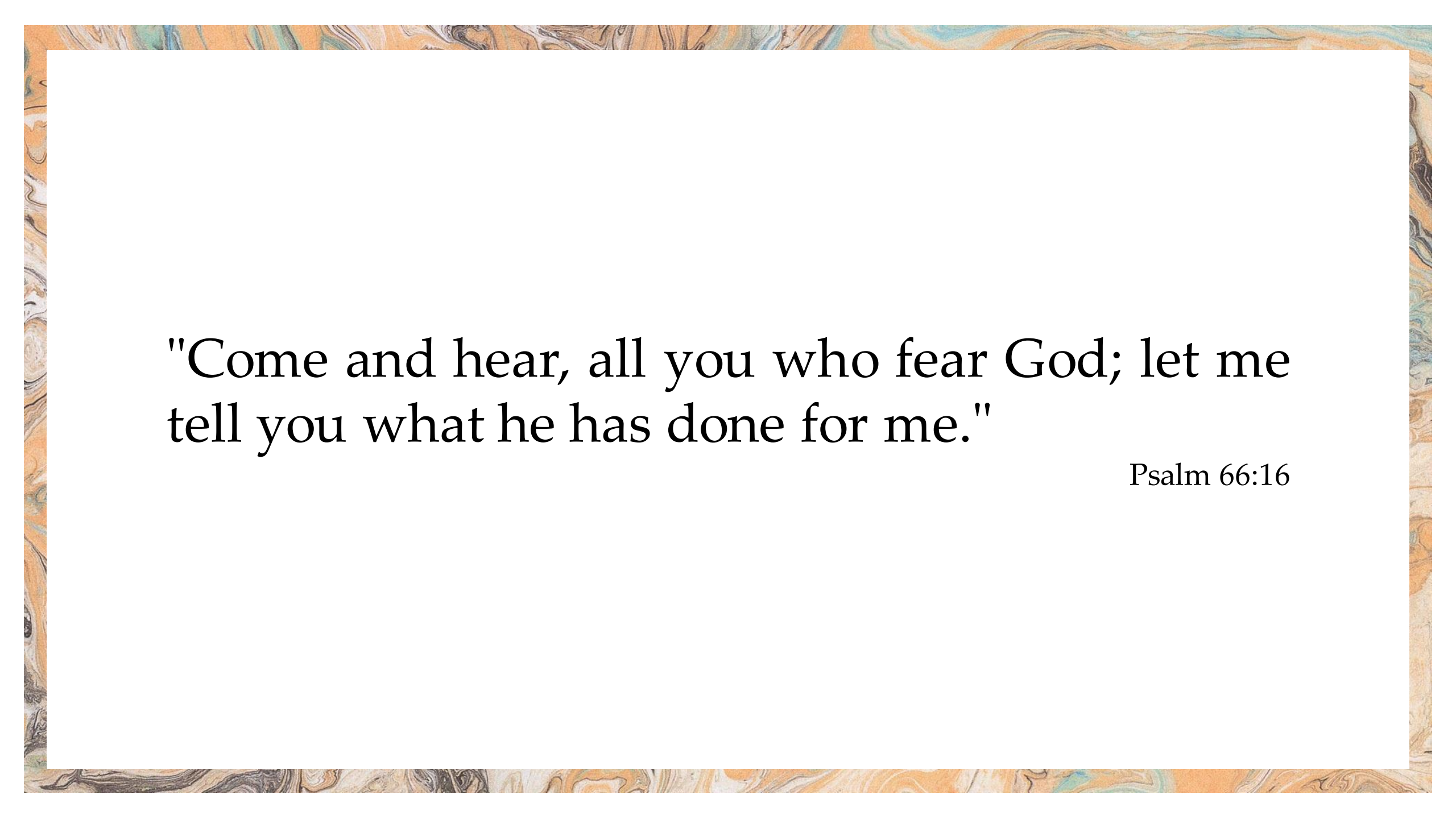
"God has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart."

Ecclesiastes 3:11



"Adorn the
gospel"
Titus 2:10

HOW
DO WE BEAUTIFY
THE GOSPEL?

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"Come and hear, all you who fear God; let me
tell you what he has done for me."

Psalm 66:16

"Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does."

Psalm 96:3



**STORIES
CAN DO WHAT
RULES NEVER CAN**

"Tell someone to
do something and
you can change
them for a day; tell
them a story and
you can change
them for life."

Tom Wright

A photograph of a church interior. The walls are wood-paneled, and three large, white, tiered speakers hang from the ceiling. In the center, a large, dark 'X' is mounted on the wall. A group of people is gathered in the foreground, some with their hands raised. A large black text box is overlaid on the image, containing the title and a quote. On the right wall, there is a sign that reads 'NOI PROPE HCEL RA' and 'I CO'.

1/3 OF JESUS' TEACHINGS ARE STORIES

"Jesus said, 'How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it?'" Mark 4:30



"THEOLOGY FOR THE MIDDLE"

LAUREN WINNER

We know how God
has worked in the
past and we have
hope for what He
will do in the **future**.

But do we really
know what God is
doing *here* and *now*
in the **present**?

A decorative border made of marbled paper with swirling patterns of orange, brown, and blue, framing the central white area.

"Story makes music out of noise."

Donald Miller

A video still showing two men in an interview. The man on the left, with grey hair and glasses, wears a light blue patterned shirt and is smiling while clapping his hands. The man on the right, also with grey hair and glasses, wears a blue and white plaid shirt and is seen from the side, looking towards the first man. They are seated at a wooden table. The background features a blue curtain and a wooden structure with vertical slats.

STORYTELLING COULD BE A
CATALYST FOR RENEWAL IN
WORLD MISSIONS

Blog

Explore our digital resource library & discover practical articles on ministry in Europe, stories from our global workers, & updates on all things GEM.

Article | April 6, 2023

Easter and Islam: When Ramadan and Lent Meet

As we approach the celebration of Christ's resurrection, I've been struck by the significance of the forty-day period preceding Easter Sunday: Lent. While some of us might give up coffee or sweets during this season, others might be unsure about the purpose of Lent or its significance in our Christian walk. This year, Lent also happens ...

READ MORE

Storytelling | April 5, 2023

Building Bridges for the Gospel Among Turks

Like many Muslims, a university student named Onur came to faith in Christ because of a dream. When he professed that faith to his Turkish family, they immediately kicked him out of the house and cut ties with him. His uncle, a resident of a large European city, even flew home to stage an intervention, ...

READ MORE

QUESTIONS,
THOUGHTS,
IDEAS?

To view the work we've created,
visit gemission.org/blog

To stay connected, find me on
the socials or email me at
grant.klinefelter@gemission.org

Thank you!

Resources:

Go Tell It: How – and Why – to Report God's Stories in Words, Photos and Videos by Jay Killam and Lincoln Brunner

Beauty Will Save the World by Brian Zahnd

Tell Me a Story by Scott McClellan

Art and Faith by Makoto Fujimura

Art and the Bible by Francis Schaeffer

Rembrandt Is in the Wind by Russ Ramsey

On Beauty and Being Just by Elaine Scarry