**What is home?**

Is home material, or is it difficult to pin down? Is home a place, or a concept? Is home safe, or are you unsure? Does home remain home when it’s been decimated, bombed, or robbed from you? Is home still home if the people who once lived there are no more? The question of home is one that we want to address at FIDC 2018.

God spoke a promise through the prophet Isaiah, saying “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.” God is not in the practice of falling short on promises such as this. He promises a home for His children that is “peaceful, secure, and quiet.” (Isaiah 32:18). But what happens when a rising wave of terror, war, racism, discrimination, and damage to the environment begin to threaten the only home you’ve ever known? How do you continue to hold on to the promise of your Creator in the midst of spiritual, emotional, or physical homelessness? The answer comes in Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. “For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (2 Corinthians 5:1).

Through the hope of Christ, and the promises of a God who loves us, we want to dig deeply into the concept of home, and find answers to these questions from worldwide perspectives. We see home as a complex concept that extends beyond the white picket fence. 2017 was a tumultuous year, both in the U.S. and abroad. This year, God’s calling to make home a place of peace, security, and quiet, is more pertinent than ever.

As directors, our dream is to have people walk away from this conference having heard the stories of many diverse, beautiful displays of home, from speakers who understand the Biblical mandate to “be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.” (Isaiah 58:12). We want those who attend FIDC 2018 to be encouraged to fearlessly apply themselves to being God’s homemakers on earth. This may require turning inward, and questioning your own presuppositions about home. It may be painful, difficult, and sobering. But as followers of Jesus, we are confident that when we fall short in our earthly calling to bring peace, security, and quiet to our homes, His Grace is ever-present, eager to pick us up, dust us off, and set us back on the long road toward a heavenly home on earth.