

FOR APPROVAL ONLY:

**LOS ANGELES' OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCH EXAMINES FAITH OF CALIFORNIA
FRINGE SOCIETIES IN CUTTING-EDGE PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT
BEGINNING SEPT. 23rd**

Free To the Public, Non-Denominational Multi-Media Exhibit by Local Photographer Rick Nahmias Showcases Marginalized Religious Communities With Photos, Music and Prayer, Shown in a Religious Space For the First Time

LOS ANGELES, CA – (September 12, 2011) First Congregational Church of Los Angeles (FCCLA) will host *Golden States of Grace: Prayers of the Disinherited*, a multimedia photo exhibit on September 23-November 13, 2011. This Los Angeles premiere event will also mark the first time the exhibit is shown in a sacred space, and will be the homecoming of the exhibit for photographer Rick Nahmias. In addition to the exhibit hours throughout the week, FCCLA will host a number of events, beginning with an opening reception on September 23rd and concluding with a Trilogue Service to close out the exhibit's stay.

"We are thrilled to bring the *Golden States of Grace* exhibit to Los Angeles," says Dr. R. Scott Colglazier, Senior Minister of FCCLA. "We are devoted to ensuring that all people have the opportunity to experience their own spiritual journey; and the images of this exhibit showcase that even those who are marginalized can find that which is most meaningful in life. Whether it be God, love, spirit, universe or grace, even those of us in the toughest of situations can open up our eyes to the world in which we live."

The multimedia photo exhibit consists of nearly 60 images - some of them life-size - paired with music, text and recorded prayers and interviews by the subjects highlighted in the exhibit. It also employs Guide-By-Cell, a service that allows attendees to listen to an audio guide through their cell phones while viewing the images. By giving image and voice to some of California's marginalized religious groups, *Golden States of Grace* seeks to make the invisible visible, shedding light on such groups as Zen Buddhists at San Quinton Prison, a San Francisco-based transgendered gospel choir, Muslims who escaped Khmer Rouge's Cambodian genocide, a Hindu ashram that cares for those with HIV/AIDS, a Jewish recovery house, and more. The message delivered through this exhibit demonstrates a bigger meaning through the collision of art, faith, culture and religion that FCCLA aims to instill within its congregation by opening its doors to the community.

"I could not be more excited to showcase *Golden States of Grace* at First Congregational Church of Los Angeles," said photographer Rick Nahmias. "From the beginning, we have shared the same belief that not only does the exhibit show the intersection of art, faith, culture and religion, but that all people should have the opportunity to practice faith without intolerance."

The exhibit will kick-off with a special Grand Opening reception at 7:30 on the evening of September 23 where patrons will have the opportunity to speak with Dr. Colglazier and photographer Nahmias about the exhibit, and will have the opportunity to meet some of the inspiring subjects showcased in *Golden States of Grace*. Daily exhibit hours and additional events are planned as follows:

September 23 – November 13

MULTIMEDIA PHOTO EXHIBIT "GOLDEN STATES OF GRACE: PRAYERS OF THE DISINHERITED"

Wednesdays and Fridays, 4 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays, 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Friday, September 23, 7:30 p.m.

Opening Reception

Opening reception and book signing with photographer Rick Nahmias

Sunday, September 25, 11 a.m.

God in the Margins

Senior Minister Dr. R. Scott Colglazier welcomes photographer Rick Nahmias in an exploration of "God in the Margins" as part of the morning worship

Wednesday, September 29, 7:30 p.m.

Conversations of Grace: Expanding the Image of God

Participants of *Golden States of Grace* to take part in an open conversation about faith. Led by Rev. Ryan Steitz.

Sunday, October 2, 12:30 p.m.

Film Talk

Following a showing of *The Soloist*, Dr. Colglazier leads an exploration into how the marginalization of a few impoverishes us all.

Wednesday, November 3, 7:30 p.m.

Conversations of Grace: Women and Wisdom

The conversation continues as participants of *Golden States of Grace* take part in an open forum about the importance of women's wisdom in our faith. Led by Rev. Shanna Steitz.

Sunday, November 13, 11 a.m.

Trilogue Service

Dr. Colglazier welcomes an Imam and a Rabbi in this special Interfaith service that seeks to dispel misconceptions that each of these religions holds about the others, and explores our commonalities.

For more information about the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles and the *Golden States of Grace*, please visit www.fccla.org/goldenstatesofgrace.

About The First Congregational Church of Los Angeles

Built in 1931 the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles.....

About Rick Nahmias

Rick Nahmias is a photographer, writer and visual storyteller whose work has been shown across North America, Europe, and Asia who is best known for documenting the lives and struggles of numerous marginalized communities including Golden States of Grace: Prayers of the Disinherited and the Migrant Project: Contemporary California Farm Workers. His images and writing have been profiled and published in national newspapers, journals, blogs and news weeklies and his work has been presented on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives, is part of the permanent collection of the National

Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, and resides in several private and public collections across the country.

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jessica Erskine/ Rogers & Cowan/ 310.854.8129/ jerskine@rogersandcowan.com

Heather Lewandoski/ Rogers & Cowan/ 310.854.8147/ hlewandoski@rogersandcowan.com