



# MC<sup>2</sup>

Midwest Conference on Missionary Care

February 17 – 18, 2023

## **Schedule At-A-Glance**

\*Explore exhibitor tables during breaks and lunch

### **Friday**

4:30 pm	Doors Open: Registration & Exhibitor Tables
5:30 – 6:45 pm	Plenary Session #1
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Workshop Session #1

### **Saturday**

7:30 am	Doors Open: Light Breakfast & Exhibitor Tables
8:30 – 10:00 am	Plenary Session #2
10:30 – 11:30 am	Workshop Session #2
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Lunch & Exhibitor Tables
12:30 – 1:30 pm	Plenary Session #3
2:00 – 3:00 pm	Workshop Session #3
3:15 – 4:30 pm	Plenary Session #4

Speaker Biographies: Visit our Schedule & Speakers page at <https://mc2.global> or scan the QR code.



## Detailed Schedule & Descriptions

### **Friday 4:30 - 8:00 pm**

4:30 pm                      Doors Open: Registration & Exhibitor Tables

5:30 – 6:45 pm            Plenary Session #1

### **Connecting - Circa 2023**

*Dr. Jolene Erlacher, Leading Tomorrow*

How do people communicate today, and what tools do we use? What does it mean to be connected to an individual or an institution, and what is the pathway to get there? What shifts must we make to find a healthy place of multigenerational connection? Caring can't happen without connection, so these questions should weigh heavy for us.

6:45 – 7:00 pm            Break & Exhibitor Tables

7:00 – 8:00 pm            Workshop Session #1

### **Understanding, Equipping and Mobilizing Gen Z**

*Dr. Jolene Erlacher, Leading Tomorrow – Worship Center*

Anxious, addicted to technology, and lacking in interpersonal skills are a few of the descriptors used to describe youth and young adults today. Generation Z (b. 1996-2010) is also incredibly creative, pragmatic and diverse. This session will provide practical strategies for mobilizing the next generation and equipping them to thrive in ministry.

### **Missional Resilience**

*Geoff Whiteman, Valeo Research Institute – Atrium (Room 112)*

This workshop was developed specifically to bridge the gap from sound knowledge based on [stories of nearly 900 global workers](#) to best practice for experienced member-care workers (from organizations and sending churches), global workers in Christ, and field leaders. Participants will be introduced to the Missional Resilience Framework and three pathways that can equip this generation to persevere with joy. Expect the workshop to be interactive, with personal and professional applications.

## **Sabbath Rest**

*Mike Gaston, Converge International Ministries – Kids' Center (Room 22)*

When Jesus said “Come to Me... and I will give you rest,” did He intend to include missionaries in that offer? And if so, what might that look like, and what difference might it make in their lives and ministries? How can churches and agency leaders encourage their missionaries to incorporate regular Sabbath rest into their lives? This workshop will address all of those questions and more, using the definition of Sabbath as “regular, intentional, contemplative, Christ-centered rest.” God’s plan for the rhythms of work and rest can address many of the felt needs of the missionaries, revitalize their spiritual lives, and avoid some of the pitfalls of cross-cultural ministry that can result in burnout and attrition. Sabbath rest is a gift that we would do well to accept and enjoy! (Member Care 101 workshop)

## **The Essential Support Team: Caring for Missionaries Through Each Stage of Ministry**

*Heidi Tunberg, ReachGlobal – Fusion (Room 24)*

Effective support for your church’s missionaries involves a lot more than sending them money each month. In this session, we will consider the non-financial needs missionaries have at various stages of ministry. We will also discuss practical ways churches can walk alongside them, from pre-field preparations through re-entry to the U.S., and every stage in between.

## **Past, Present, Future: The brokenness of a holy mission**

*Marcus Dip Silas, KODA Aid International – Splash Rooms (Rooms 1-3)*

In most non-Western nations of the world, the introduction of the Gospel was accompanied by Western colonization. For many of these people groups, Christianity is still considered a Western cultural religion that symbolizes a history of violence. This violence has often overshadowed the good that missions from the West has accomplished. How has the brokenness of humanity impacted God’s holy mission? How can we work through the baggage of the past to ensure that we can continue reaching our world for Jesus? Let us examine our connection with the past in earnest and learn with humility how missions can progress through reconciliation.

## **An Overlooked Element of Care: Vocational Discernment for Global Workers**

*Sara Simons, The Way Between – Rooms 12-15*

This session will include interactive learning about vocational discernment, including using one of the many tools that we walk people through in The Art of Transition workshops. We’ll discuss the three developmental transitions in every adult life cycle; why vocational discernment looks different for global workers; how integrative work aids creativity and decision-making; and what resources are available for this crucial time of development and care.

## **Saturday 7:30 am - 4:30 pm**

7:30 am                      Doors Open: Light Breakfast & Exhibitor Tables

8:30 – 10:00 am        Plenary Session #2

### **A Clash of Convictions: Conflict Between Christians**

*Dr. Janeen Davis, Peace Pursuit International*

The distinct expectations, social norms and priorities associated with generational groups of missionaries can contribute to *us versus them* divisions, feelings of being misunderstood, accusations of sin, and claims of harmful leadership practices. Dr. Davis will discuss individualized and patterned factors that foster conflict on the field and important considerations to help sending churches respond effectively.

*AND*

### **The Power of Coaching for Empowering and Encouraging Today's Missionaries**

*Dr. Jolene Erlacher, Leading Tomorrow*

Giving individual attention to missionaries in their growth, planning and implementation processes is becoming a core service that churches and missions organizations provide to their missionaries. How important is this? How can you become involved if you are not already?

10:00 – 10:30 am        Break & Exhibitor Tables

10:30 – 11:30 am        Workshop Session #2

### **How to be an Effective Sending Church**

*Amy Young, Global Trellis – Worship Center*

In this workshop, we will explore four key areas for your church to think through, assess how you're doing, and then walk away with a plan for how to engage your missionaries. While you'll never be perfect, you can grow in being effective in sending and supporting people. They will thank you for attending this workshop. (Member Care 101 workshop)

### **Child Safety and Missions – Training, Preventing and Coming Alongside**

*Jodi Revell, ReachGlobal – Atrium (Room 112)*

This is a workshop for anyone interested in child safety - whether church leaders or missions leaders. Today's world is full of news regarding child abuse and exploitation. Unfortunately, this is true even in the church and missions organizations around the world. What can we do to prevent child abuse, know how to watch for signs of abuse, properly screen staff and volunteers who serve children, and come alongside missionary kids and missionary families who are

affected by abuse? In this workshop, we will explore a wide range of child safety issues, and ways to help prevent it and come alongside those affected by it.

### **How Churches Can Care for Missionary Kids**

*Ali Jackson, ReachGlobal – Kids' Center (Room 22)*

Missionary kids (MKs) face unique challenges and enjoy unique benefits from their globally mobile lives. Growing up under the spotlight can affect their relationships with God and with the church, as many feel pressure to look good for their parents' supporters. In this workshop, we'll talk about the differing experiences of MKs with the American church and how churches can make a real impact for good in the lives of MKs. (Member Care 101 workshop)

### **Prayer Practices to Equip Ministry**

*Reina Brekke, Christos Center for Spiritual Formation – Fusion (Room 24)*

This workshop will explore prayer practices that support others and ourselves in ministry. We will consider how to stay connected to those in ministry, including those who serve in controlled environments. Together, we will explore what constrains us in our prayer life. Finally, we will discuss creative approaches to prayer that can expand our experience with God as we pray for others. (Member Care 101 workshop)

### **Flying Solo**

*Hannah Rasmussen, Oasis International – Splash Rooms (Rooms 1-3)*

Today's generation of 20- and 30-somethings are excited about travel, have big hearts for doing good, and can move internationally much easier than in previous generations. While some go with traditional mission agencies, others minister under local partners, work for small nonprofits where they are the only one on the ground, or trailblaze supported by an informal network of family and friends. These new "goers" may not consider themselves missionaries or have the same training and support structures as traditional missionaries. Already part of a generation that struggles with mental health challenges, they confront the additional stress of the mission field and sometimes traumatic events. This workshop will raise awareness about the changing landscape and the challenges 20- and 30-somethings face internationally. It will help churches and organizations to consider what kinds of support systems they offer, and young missionaries or potential missionaries consider how they can strengthen their support systems.

## **What's Different About Gen Z, Evangelism & Missions**

*Gary and Valerie Maloney, Youth for Christ Ireland – Rooms 12-15*

How does Gen Z define evangelism? How do they approach sharing their faith with non-Christians? What makes them unique to previous generations? Here's what the church needs to know about Gen Z and evangelism, and how to nurture the missionary call.

11:30 am – 12:30 pm Lunch & Exhibitor Tables

12:30 – 1:30 pm Plenary Session #3

## **Challenging Today's Church Members to Involvement in Missions**

*Discussion with Dan Germs (Bethany International) and Jesse Johannesen (River Valley Church) and guests: Facilitated by Mark Morgenstern (Grow2Serve)*

What does it look like today as churches and missionary organizations challenge future missionaries to step up and serve? What are the messages that make sense and work? Are there some messages that work but are not healthy? When and where does the process of missionary mobilization begin, and what part does the church play?

1:30 – 2:00 pm Break & Exhibitor Tables

2:00 – 3:00 pm Workshop Session #3

## **The Process of Practical Peacemaking**

*Dr. Janeen Davis, Peace Pursuit International – Worship Center*

Dr. Davis will highlight key distinctions between the common methods of conflict resolution and those which have produced consistently positive outcomes for today's missionaries. Using the Peace Pursuit model as a template, you will gain a practical plan for clarifying the goal of peace during ministry conflicts, reframing each person's understanding of the conflict, and reordering the steps of confession and forgiveness within the peacemaking process. You will leave this workshop with free resources and a new strategy for helping believers resolve relational problems.

## **Missional Resilience**

*Geoff Whiteman, Valeo Research Institute – Atrium (Room 112)*

This workshop was developed specifically to bridge the gap from sound knowledge based on [stories of nearly 900 global workers](#) to best practice for experienced member-care workers (from organizations and sending churches), global workers in Christ, and field leaders.

Participants will be introduced to the Missional Resilience Framework and three pathways that

can equip this generation to persevere with joy. Expect the workshop to be interactive, with personal and professional applications.

### **Reinvigorating and Encouraging Missionaries on the Field**

*Barry Nelson, Barnabas International – Kids' Center (Room 22)*

We all hope to keep our missionaries healthy and hopefully not in need of crisis or trauma treatment. What steps can we take to rejuvenate, challenge and encourage missionaries to stay healthy and stay on the field? This workshop is designed to help you process through ways you can better serve your missionaries by nurturing them with a variety of beneficial activities. Lay people or professional caregivers, this workshop is for you. (Member Care 101 workshop)

### **Mental Health in Missions: How can I better understand and care for global workers?**

*Debbie Klaver and Laura Lee Finstrom, Minnesota Renewal Center – Fusion (Room 24)*

Global workers are faced with many stressors beyond what they have previously encountered due to transitions, losses, support needs and regular life tasks made difficult with cultural differences. Come to better understand the life of those you support and how you can better care for them so they can flourish where God has called them.

### **An Overlooked Element of Care: Vocational Discernment for Global Workers**

*Sara Simons, The Way Between – Splash Rooms (Rooms 1-3)*

This session will include interactive learning about vocational discernment, including using one of the many tools that we walk people through in The Art of Transition workshops. We'll discuss the three developmental transitions in every adult life cycle; why vocational discernment looks different for global workers; how integrative work aids creativity and decision-making; and what resources are available for this crucial time of development and care.

### **Practical Ways to Care for Your Missionary While on Home Assignment**

*Derek and Kristin Dearth, Action International Ministries – Rooms 12-15*

The local sending church is a significant resource and can make a big impact in the lives of their missionaries in five areas: pre-field preparation, serving on the field, during home assignment, transitioning to other ministry on the same field or a different field, and returning "home" after service. In this session, Derek and Kristin will explore practical ways a local sending church of any size can care for their missionaries while on home assignment. Sometimes home assignment can lead into other transitions in missionary service. They will also discuss how to be ready for that possibility and how to help.

3:00 – 3:15 pm      Break & Exhibitor Tables

3:15 – 4:30 pm      Plenary Session #4

**The Promise and Potential in Commissioning**

*Dr. Janeen Davis, Peace Pursuit International*

What does it mean to be sent out by a church, and what is the nature of that relationship before, during and after the sending? Today's cross-cultural workers may have different expectations than those who commission them to serve on the mission field. Dr. Davis will highlight ways to deepen the significance of commissioning in order to engage and encourage missionaries for a lasting partnership