

**Missionfest Manitoba 2025**  
**Breakout Sessions - Saturday, February 8, 2025**

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**1. Session Title:** *Jesus Changing Lives in the Buddhist World*

**11:45 a.m. (60 minutes) - Chapel**

**Session Description:** Jesus is reaching Buddhists in powerful ways, through telephones, radio broadcasts, and people like you! Could God be calling you to the ends of the earth to be part of his transformation work? Come find out how you can get involved in the Holy Spirit's work in South East Asia and hear Andrew Goodman share about his experience serving God among unreached Buddhists.

**Presenter name:** Andrew Goodman

**Presenter organization:** OMF International

**Presenter Biography:** Andrew Goodman is from the U.K. and is married to Shona, with whom he's been serving in Southeast Asia, among transnational, unreached Buddhist peoples for more than 25 years. He has a passion to see God's glory in places where conflict, darkness, and instability are daily realities for millions of people. Andrew has seen people who were previously lost, catch the vision for their own people and even for people who were once enemies.

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**2. Session Title:** *Equipping Your Church to Build a Strong Marriage Ministry*

**11:45 a.m. (30 minutes) - Theatre**

**Session Description:** We will discuss the essential elements of building a thriving and holistic marriage ministry that aligns with your church's vision. You will come away with ideas and resources to start a marriage ministry or lead the one you have to greater fruitfulness, so that more families in your community are strengthened and living on mission for Jesus.

**Presenter name:** Brent Trickett

**Presenter organization:** Family Life Canada

**Presenter Biography:** Brent Trickett and his wife Céleste are the National Directors of FamilyLife Canada. Their vision is to bring help and hope to every marriage and family in Canada by helping flourishing families live on mission and by equipping churches to reach their communities. They have been married and doing ministry together since 2000 while also raising 4 kids. One of Brent's core beliefs is that a strong marriage and a strong family is one of this generation's best apologetics.

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**3. Session Title:** *Reaching Kazakhstan for Christ*

**11:45 a.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1**

**Session Description:** Join us as we explore the unique challenges and opportunities for service in Kazakhstan. This seminar will cover topics such as church planting, effective Gospel sharing, discipling and the spiritual formation of the Kazakh people. We'll also discuss how to approach and serve the

Muslim community, the need for outreach in Northern Kazakhstan (the least reached area), and strategies for developing strong local church leadership.

**Presenter names:** “Y” (and Liz M.)

**Presenter organization:** People International

**Presenter Biography:** “Y,” born and raised in Kazakhstan, immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, in 2004, where he met Jesus. He and his wife spent over a decade there, raising three children. In 2016, they felt called to return to Kazakhstan, where they engaged in various ministries, including serving in a Christian orphanage, empowering orphanage graduates for independent living, and leading financial, family, and marriage seminars. Having planted a church in Astana, “Y” is passionate about sharing the Gospel with Muslims, leadership, and discipleship.

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#### **4. Session Title:** *Mission from everyone to everywhere: the new Reality in Mission*

**11:45 a.m. (30 minutes). Youth Room**

**Session Description:** The world of missions has changed dramatically, and it keeps changing. We as Western missionaries have to work out what our new role will be going forward. Among young people a new mission movement is already growing, and the global South (southern hemisphere nations) are sending out many new workers into all the world. So where does this leave US? What can and will Canadian churches and believers do to play a part in reaching God’s changing world?

**Presenter name:** Dieter Trefz

**Presenter organization:** Kontakt Mission Canada

**Presenter Biography:** Dieter Trefz serves as International Director of Kontaktmission, a European and global networked missions movement. He has also recently completed service as leader of the largest association of German missions, the AEM. Dieter is a keen observer and student of worldwide mission trends and ideas. He lives in Wüstenrot, Germany.

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#### **5. Session Title:** *Human Trafficking in our Christian Community*

**12:30 p.m. (30 minutes)- Theatre.**

**Session Description:** To explain how human trafficking occurs in our Christian community and how to prevent it from happening. Biblical principles will be inserted in the presentation to show how God works to help prevent human trafficking from occurring. Testimonies of how Christian youth have recovered from their ordeal because of God’s grace and the Holy Spirit’s working will be shared. A victim of human trafficking may accompany the presentation.

**Presenter names:** Joy Smith, Janet Campbell

**Presenter organization:** Joy Smith Foundation

**Presenter Biography:** Joy Smith, a former teacher, former Member of the Manitoba Legislature and former Member of Parliament, now volunteers her time at The Joy Smith Foundation, a registered non-profit charity to combat human trafficking in Canada. In Parliament, she made Canadian history by passing two private members bills (Bill C-268 and Bill C-310) to bring perpetrators to justice in Canada. Mrs. Smith is recognized as a leading advocate against human trafficking worldwide and she attributes her successes on the issue to Christ.

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**6. Session Title:** *Knocking on Closed Doors: Bringing the Gospel to Russia*

**12:30 p.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1.**

**Session Description:** How can a country that claims to be 66% Christian Orthodox start an aggressive war? Why do we need to share the Gospel with Russian people? How can we bring Christ into countries with closed doors?

Let's discuss how we can preach to Russian and Ukrainian speaking people around the world and even in your neighbourhood. From our experiences producing a Russian-language apologetic vlog for kids and teens, we hope to use this seminar to inspire the church to share the Gospel even with skeptics and those who claim atheism.

**Presenter name:** Albina Nikitina

**Presenter organization:** Square One World Media

**Presenter Biography:** Albina Nikitina is a Russian Media Producer at Square One World Media, leading the Russian-language YouTube project "Ella's Backyard." Her role extends beyond the video production; together with her husband they lead a Slavic community outreach in Winnipeg. At the heart of her work is a deep passion for serving God and communicating the Good News of the Gospel. Albina excels in using storytelling as a fun and creative medium to reach and inspire people.

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**7. Session Title:** *International Church Mobilization and Community Transformation*

**12:30 p.m. (30 minutes) - Youth**

**Session Description:** We believe that the local church has the potential, capacity, and desire to be the driver of community change around the world. Church Based Community Transformation helps to equip and mobilize pastors and churches to live out the integral mission of the church. The training integrates Scriptural teachings with principles of sustainable development to inspire and equip pastors and church leaders to be the catalysts for change in their communities.

**Presenter name:** Roberta Pronteau

**Presenter organization:** TearFund

**Presenter Biography:** Roberta Pronteau is passionate about the local church and how it can bring transformative change to communities. A nonprofit leader with over 20 years of experience, she

currently serves as the national director of development with Tearfund Canada – an organization that partners with and equips local churches to end extreme poverty. With a long history serving underserved people and communities, Roberta has witnessed first-hand the power God has to transform lives in the most desperate of circumstances and how we have been invited to play a part.

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**8. Session Title:** *UNENGAGED: The Task Not Yet Started*

**1:15 p.m. (60 minutes) - Chapel.**

**Session Description:**

Two millennia after the Great Commission was given by Jesus, too many distinct nations have yet to be even engaged with the Good News, let alone reached. We will look at:

- 1) What it means to be Unengaged
- 2) Existing lists of Unengaged People Groups
- 3) Projects to engage this UPGs and empty the list
- 4) A bite-sized piece of this task participants can take on

**Presenter name:** Brian Hogan

**Presenter organization:** Disciple Making Mentors

**Presenter Biography:** Brian Hogan and his wife, Louise, have served in missions since 1987. From the Navajo Tribe to Outer Mongolia, their passion has been to see Jesus glorified and lifted up among those who have never known Him.

From 1993-1996 their team pioneered a church planting movement in Erdenet, Mongolia that continues to grow under fully indigenous leadership to this day. Their Mongolian disciples are now training and sending out their own missionaries to other unreached people groups.

Brian Hogan is a Church Planting Coach and Frontier Mission leader with Youth with A Mission (YWAM). He also is a major mobilizer of this work force through his yearly teaching in over 50 Perspectives On the World Christian Movement classes across North America.

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**9. Session Title:** *The Suffering but Advancing Church in Nigeria*

**1:15 p.m. (60 minutes) - Theatre.**

**Session Description:** Christians have been singled out for violence for many years by terrorist groups and each year thousands of believers are killed for their faith in Nigeria. The Voice of the Martyrs Greg Musselman will bring on location interviews with powerful stories from our brothers and sisters in Christ

who have suffered incredible loss but haven't lost their relationship with Jesus! Be prepared to be challenged and encouraged.

**Presenter name:** Greg Musselman

**Presenter organization:** Voice of the Martyrs

**Presenter Biography:** Rev. Greg Musselman is the Minister at Large for The Voice of the Martyrs Canada. He has reported from dozens of restricted and hostile nations and has interviewed hundreds of persecuted Christians. Greg actively shares the message of the persecuted church across Canada and worldwide. He teaches a course on the Biblical Theology of Persecution and Discipleship in Canada and overseas. Greg has written a book, "Closer to the Fire, Lessons from the Persecuted Church," and hosts a podcast.

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**10. Session Title:** *Don't change the message. Change the methods!*

**1:15 p.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1**

**Session Description:** Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada will discuss a wide range of approaches they have used over their 55 years to give Canada's First Nations access to the Gospel. NEFC has helped not-only Native people overcome their resistance to the "Whiteman's Gospel," heal from the past and find hope for the future, but NEFC pastors, missionaries and outreaches have transformed the lives of non-Native people across Canada and beyond as well.

**Presenter name:** Kene Jackson

**Presenter organization:** Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada

**Presenter Biography:** Kene Jackson is the Executive Director for the Native Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. He brings a lot of experience with him, having worked extensively in Ministry Leadership, Administration, and Gospel Music. Kene and his wife Milly are Gospel Musicians and Recording Artists, with 16 recordings together. They are Plains Cree members from the Whitefish Lake Band #128 in Northern Alberta. They have 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

NEFC is active in Church Planting & Development, Gospel Radio (CJTL-30 stations), Counselling, Christian Publications, Marriage Retreats and other Christian outreaches

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**11. Session Title:** *Coming Alongside: How to do Short-term Missions with Long-term Impact*

**1:15 p.m. (30 minutes) - Youth Room**

**Session Description:** If you have led many short-term mission teams or are a first-time short-term mission leader....this session is for you. You will be given pointers and resources that will help you prepare and equip you to move ahead with faith and confidence.

A missionary with more than 25 years of experience working with hundreds of mission teams will present this seminar. Come with your questions. Come prepared to be encouraged and motivated.

**Presenter name:** Les Peters

**Presenter organization:** Impact Ministries

**Presenter Biography:** For 25 years, Les and his wife have been serving as missionaries in the central highlands of Guatemala. They are the founders and field directors of Impact Ministries Canada and they have hosted and led over 300 short-term missions teams. With the goal of reaching people for Jesus, Les and Rita have opened 11 Christian schools, a medical clinic, three churches, and an orphanage. They love what the Lord does when hearts connect cross-culturally to nurture the growth of God's Kingdom.

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## **12. Session Title:** *Reflecting on Reconciliation: the past 10 years and the future*

**2:00 p.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1**

**Session Description:** Before Reconciliation was a buzzword, it was and always will be God's divine plan for humanity. With 2025 marking the 10-year anniversary since the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, this session will look at how the faith community has responded to calls to reconcile with Indigenous people and how we can look at the biblical principles to guide our next 10.

**Presenter name:** Christine Vanagas

**Presenter organization:** Siloam Mission

**Presenter Biography:** Christine Vanagas (Anishinaabe) is from Long Plain First Nation in Manitoba. Christine serves as the Director of Community Wellness at Siloam Mission. Previous to this role, she was the Governance Secretary at the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation where she was blessed to work closely with residential school Survivors and Indigenous Knowledge Holders from across Canada. As a granddaughter, daughter and niece of residential school Survivors, Christine comes with lived experience of the impact this system had on Indigenous people. Christine holds closely her Christian faith and believes building awareness and understanding around Indigenous worldviews is part of her truth and reconciliation work.

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## **13. Session Title:** *7 Attitudes of Effective Short-Termers*

**2:00 p.m. (30 minutes) - Youth Room**

**Session Description:** Being effective on a short-term ministry trip requires more than fundraising, planning programs, and learning how to share one's testimony in a cross-cultural setting. It also requires preparing one's heart to serve. Discover seven attitudes that make short-termers most effective among nationals, the missionaries with whom the team partners, and fellow team members.

**Presenter name:** Grace Fox

**Presenter organization:** International Messengers Canada

**Presenter Biography:** Grace Fox has been a career missionary for more than 30 years. She and her husband Gene currently co-direct International Messengers, a missionary sending agency with 300 staff in 25 countries. They've trained and led short-term ministry teams annually since 2008. Grace is also the award-winning author of 14 books, a popular Bible teacher at international women's events, and a member of the "First 5" Bible study writing team (Proverbs 31 Ministries). She lives fulltime aboard a sailboat near Vancouver.

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**14. Session Title:** *Enabling Others to Hear Using Your Skills*

**4:45 p.m. (60 minutes) - Chapel**

**Session Description:** Encouraging others to use their skills/talents/passions to impact others as they engage with God's Word in their heart language. Nard can speak of aviation and Paul can speak of teaching, as examples of the importance of all of us using our skills to see that God's Word does its work.

**Presenter names:** Nard Puygao, Paul Meisner

**Presenter organization:** Wycliffe

**Presenter Biography:** Nard Puygao was seven years old in 1956 when a Wycliffe Bible translator arrived in his mountain village of Dibagat in the Philippines. Before long, Nard felt God's call to Bible translation and aviation. He studied Bible and aviation at LeTourneau College and Moody Bible Institute, then served as a JAARS airplane and helicopter pilot/mechanic.

Nard's dream was fulfilled on June 24, 1982, when he landed in Dibagat with the first 500 copies of the Isnag New Testament. As God and health allow, he continues to share the transforming power of God's Word in the heart language. His passion is to challenge believers everywhere to join him in giving God's Word to those still waiting.

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**15. Session Title:** *Eight Powerful Methods of Successful Evangelism*

**4:45 p.m. (60 minutes) - Theatre**

**Session Description:** A spiritual revolution is sweeping across nations, drawing millions to Christ. Ron will unveil 8 key and diverse strategies that are used by local believers to share the Gospel in regions experiencing unprecedented revival. Through vivid stories, pictures and video from China, India, southeast Asia, and Israel, he will highlight how the Holy Spirit is empowering and motivating believers to evangelize their countries for Christ.

**Presenter name:** Ron Pearce

**Presenter organization:** Empower Ministries

**Presenter Biography:** Ron Pearce has a passion for the Global Church that is both inspiring and contagious. For over 30 years, he has followed God's call to various nations, discovering remarkable ways to grow His Kingdom. Ron relays back to the North American Church the most incredible stories from countries experiencing a spiritual revival, many in previously hard to reach nations. Empower Ministries strengthens expanding national churches worldwide, prioritizing the printing and distribution of Scripture. This mission was born from the urgent need for God's Word and remains central to their work.

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**16. Session Title:** *Rethinking the Church's Role in Child Welfare*

**4:45 p.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1**

**Session Description:** With over 50,000 children in the child welfare system and another 300,000 children at risk of abuse and neglect in Canada, something needs to be done. Learn how the Church can once again come alongside families in crisis to provide support and stabilization to parents and children who would otherwise be at increasing risk of abuse, neglect and apprehension. Together, we can keep children safe and families intact.

**Presenter name:** Jason Peters

**Presenter organization:** Safe Families

**Presenter Biography:** Jason Peters is the Director of Development with Safe Families Canada. He and his wife have been involved with Safe Families for six years. They have a four-year-old daughter and have had the privilege of fostering two teenage boys. In his free time, he serves as a paid-on-call firefighter and is an elder in his local church. Jason is passionate about equipping and empowering the local church to fulfill its call to the "least of these."

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**17. Session Title:** *How Technology Helps Them Hear*

**4:45 p.m. (30 minutes) - Youth Room**

**Session Description:** Throughout history, the Church has used technology to share the gospel and disciple believers – handwritten letters in the first century, mass production of Bibles with the printing press, modern media like radio, television, and internet. This session will explore opportunities for utilizing technology to speak hope into the hard, hidden, and hostile places of the world, and what forms of media may be best suited for the job.

**Presenter name:** Mark Kitzman

**Presenter organization:** Trans World Radio

**Presenter Biography:** Mark Kitzman currently serves as Director of Development and Communications for TWR Canada. With 15 years of pastoral experience and 6 more working with Christian ministries, he



is passionate about telling great stories of how God is at work in the world and developing strategies to fund high-impact kingdom work. Mark is currently completing a Master of Theology degree and writing his thesis on the function of Christian hope as a motivational power for participating in God's mission.

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**18. Session Title:** *Good News at your Doorstep*

**5:30 p.m. (30 minutes) - Room K1**

**Session Description:** If you don't bring good news to your community, who will? Join us as we share stories of Moveln's prayerfully pairing the message of Christ with hope, kindness, love and compassion. We hope you are inspired to consider your own context, and how you can do the same.

**Presenter name:** Shane Powell

**Presenter organization:** MoveIn

**Presenter Biography:** Shane Powell is MoveIn's Western Canada Representative, mobilizing Christians to share Christ's love where it's rarely heard. On MoveIn's communications team, he regularly collects stories from 85 teams in 15 countries. His wife Alana is also connected to Christar, promoting their vision to support Christ-centered transformation in unreached communities. Together, they live and pray in an urban poor neighborhood in Surrey, British Columbia, modeling compassion and inspiring others to bring the Good News to neighbours in their own contexts.

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**19. Session Title:** *How Shall They Know: A Missional Response to 21st Century Challenges*

**5:30 p.m. (30 minutes) - Youth Room**

**Session Description:** In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out his apostles to proclaim the Kingdom of Heaven, instructing them to be as shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves. This was a fitting description of how they were to navigate the hostile and diverse world of the first century, where they faced persecution, opposition, and deception. How can we, as modern-day followers of Christ, apply this wisdom to our own context, especially in the 21st century, where the world is more connected, complex, and challenging than ever before? How can we fulfill the Great Commission in a way that is faithful, effective, and relevant to the people and cultures we are called to reach? Howard Dueck will explore ways in which we can embrace new challenges and live out the Gospel with integrity.

**Presenter name:** Howard Dueck

**Presenter organization:** Teach Beyond

**Presenter Biography:** Howard Dueck (MA, Providence Theological Seminary) Upon concluding seminary, Howard and Eileen joined Janz Team (TeachBeyond) Brazil in 1988 where Howard taught at Gramado Bible College. In 1998 they moved with their daughters to Kandern, Germany, where they worked at Black Forest Academy and Janz Team / TeachBeyond.

Howard serves as Executive Vice President (Regions). He and Eileen currently live in St Pierre, south of Winnipeg. Their two daughters with their husbands also have roles with TeachBeyond.