



NEW FRONTIERS IN MISSIOLOGY

Evangelical
Missiological
Society
2024

EMS Canada 2024 Regional Conference

April 5 (Friday), 2024

8:30 AM – 3:30 PM (PDT)

Canada Institute of Linguistics (Langley, BC Venue)



Centre for
Pastoral
Imagination



Steinbach Bible College



“New Frontiers in Missiology” Program & Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM	Registration
8:45 AM - 10:00 AM	Plenary Session #1 (Michael Goheen) Livestreamed from BC Venue Response: Michael Krause, Livestreamed from ON Venue Q&A/Discussion
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break/Snack
10:15 AM - 11:10 AM	Paper Presentation #1 (2 papers) “God’s Call, Mentoring, & Oral Bible Translation in Mission” Track God Is Still Calling: To Whom Are You Sending? (Greg Laing) “Contemporary Issues in Mission” Track The World Seems to Be Getting Darker: The Shadow of War and Christian Mission (Phil Wagler)
11:15 AM - 12:10 PM	Paper Presentation #2 (2 papers) “God’s Call, Mentoring, & Oral Bible Translation in Mission” Track Empowering Movement Catalysts from the Other Side of the World: Personal Reflections on Mentoring Through the Internet (Mark Naylor, Richard Flemming, and Kumar Das) “Contemporary Issues in Mission” Track From Canaan to Babylon: Crafting a Relevant Gospel Narrative for the 21st Century Workforce (James Bruyn)



“New Frontiers in Missiology” Program & Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Program</u>
12:30 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:20 PM	Paper Presentation #3 (2 papers) “God’s Call, Mentoring, & Oral Bible Translation in Mission” Track Artificial Intelligence in Oral Bible Translation: Bridging the Consultant Gap (Marcia Suzuki) “Contemporary Issues in Mission” Track The Groaning of Creation: The Untapped Potential of Creation Care to Revitalize Christian Mission (Rick Faw)
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM	Plenary Session #2 (Anna Robbins) Recorded from Atlantic Canada Response: Xenia Chan (Recorded) Discussion/Conclusion

Plenary Speakers



Michael Goheen

“New Frontiers in Missiology: Whose Mission? Which Frontiers?”

Michael Goheen is Professor of Missional Theology and Director of Theological Education for the Missional Training Center, Phoenix, AZ. He is married to Marnie for 45 years and has four married children and eleven grandchildren. He is a Canadian who splits his time between Vancouver and Phoenix each year while also spending several months teaching in Brazil and Chile. He has authored, coauthored, or edited thirteen books. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on the missionary ecclesiology of Lesslie Newbigin at Utrecht University.



Responder

Michael Krause

Dr. Michael Krause has a broad range of ministerial experience in an urban context in churches, social service agencies and educational institutions. He was the director of Evergreen, Yonge Street Mission’s outreach to street-involved youth, supervising 20 staff overseeing a thriving menu of programs including health care, housing support, employment training, drop-in and meal programs, and a broad range of advocacy support.

He was the youth pastor at Flemingdon Park Church, the assistant pastor at the Stone Church in downtown Toronto and the senior pastor at Church on the Street, an experimental church reaching out to street youth in the urban core. He has been active as a church planter in other contexts, pioneering Hills Church, an innovative, house church network based in Thornhill.

Before joining the faculty of Tyndale in 2014, he functioned as the Staff Care director at Yonge Street Mission where he provided leadership development, ministry coaching and counselling to staff members working with the urban poor. He has been teaching courses with the TIM Centre Diploma program since its inception in 2010. He also has a private practice as a leadership coach and church consultant. Michael is ordained with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada.

Plenary Speakers



Anna Robbins

“Dynamischen: Recognizing New Intersections for Mission in Canada”

Anna M. Robbins is President of Acadia Divinity College and Dean of Theology for Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada. She earned BA, MRE and MA degrees, and completed her PhD in Wales before being appointed to the faculty of the London School of Theology in the UK where she served for 12 years as a teacher and academic leader. She speaks and writes on the engagement of faith and culture, adaptive and innovative leadership, and the future of the church. She lives in Wolfville, Nova Scotia with her husband Peter, son David, and goldendoodle Gatsby.



Responder

Xenia Ling-Yee Chan

Xenia Ling-Yee Chan is a doctoral student at Wycliffe College (Toronto School of Theology), specializing in Old Testament/ Hebrew Bible. A graduate of Tyndale Seminary and the University of Ottawa, she has worked in government and journalism and has ministered in a variety of settings, including university and diaspora church contexts. In the time of the pandemic, she and a few friends planted a new church (Selah) in the Greater Toronto Area. Xenia also recently joined as a co-host on the Canadian Asian Missional Podcast.

God is still calling: To whom are you sending?

One of the most pressing challenges in global missions is how local churches can afford to send out workers. The Great Commission has not been canceled: God is still calling. But how can a local church find the way forward to send people within these unsettled times? Specifically, how can a church best decide how to invest precious funds for global outreach?

Each local church is, in many ways, quite similar in their Great Commission understanding of their call to participate in the mission of God. At the same time, they can be very different in how they go about pursuing this participation, even in the same denomination within the same city.

How should a local church pray for and consider their specific call of God? What guiding principles or common ground does a local church already have that will orient this process? I believe that a simple and effective solution for many churches would be to identify, understand, and then extend their missional activity from a well articulated philosophy of mission.

The paper will introduce the idea of how discernment and deployment are enhanced by a local church having a clear philosophy of mission (POM). First, the idea and value of a POM will be introduced. Then, from my work as a Mission Mobilizer, I will introduce ten distinct POMs that I have discovered. The paper will close with several questions for application.



Greg Laing

Greg Laing is a Regional Mobilizer with Multiply (MB Mission) for Western Canada. Previous to this, he was a Regional Director of Church Planting (Ontario), a global worker (Bangkok) and a local church pastor (Vancouver). He is married to Andrea and they have two young adult children. Greg holds a Masters in Christian Study from Regent College (Vancouver), and a B.A. in Business (Houghton College, NY)

The World Seems to be Getting Darker: The Shadow of War and Christian Mission

“What are the rapid advances that will most impact missiology and what should be our response as evangelical missiologists to these new frontiers?” This is the question posed by the Evangelical Missiological Society at a time when a cavalcade of what at first glance seem to be regionalized conflicts appear to be dragging the world toward globalized war, with potentially catastrophic consequences that have not been seen before.

In this paper we will explore the way in which the specter of war has shaped Christian mission in the past and what the new age of war means for Christian mission in the twenty-first century. We will explore how war intersected with the mission of God in scripture and seek a foundation from which to think biblically about war. We will identify pitfalls and opportunities times like these present Christians who are called to be ambassadors of reconciliation in an unreconciled world. And, we will seek to propose ways in which times like these, that seem to be getting darker, are seeds for spiritual awakening and mission advance. singleness, and gender roles in ministry contexts. This paper will interact with findings from the EFC’s recent study with evangelical parents in Canada, and converse with conservative and feminist theologians and bioethicists to argue for teleologically fitting approaches to childbearing and artificial reproductive technologies to address contemporary ministry concerns.



Phil Wagler

Phil Wagler serves as Global Director of the World Evangelical Alliance’s Peace & Reconciliation Network and Global Liaison for the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada. He is author of the Kingdom Culture and the recently released, Live Your Assignment: Being Christ’s Ambassador in 7 Spheres of Life and Ambassadors of Reconciliation. Phil lives in Kelowna, British Columbia.

Empowering Movement Catalysts from the other side of the World: Personal Reflections on Mentoring Through the Internet

Since the imposition of global restrictions based on Covid fears in 2020, the importance of internet interactions via platforms such as “Zoom” have increased dramatically. In one middle eastern country located 12 hours distant from my residence, I have had the privilege of providing mentoring to four national workers, two former Muslims and two believers from a Hindu background. Using Disciple Making Movements (DMM) principles and practices, I have sought – with mixed results – to empower these men with the goal of establishing multiplying and reproducing local churches. This paper recounts both challenges and encouragements through these four case studies with an analysis of both the weaknesses and strengths of the long distant mentoring approach.

Some issues that will be addressed:

- Developing clarity of communication,
- Discerning the accuracy of reports,
- Establishing accountability,
- Facilitating synergistic relationships between those engaged in ministry,
- Understanding, explaining, and encouraging paradigm shifts,
- Contextualizing “church” as small believing communities that exist for the multiplication of disciple-making (rather than viewing disciple-making as one dimension of church life).
- Providing financial support that does not undermine multiplication.



Mark Naylor

Mark and his wife, Karen, served 14 years in Pakistan and is currently Coordinator of International Leadership Development (CILD) with Northwest Baptist Seminary and Fellowship International responsible for the training and development of intercultural disciple makers. Mark oversees an Master’s program focused on disciple making principles and practices. He does online mentoring of disciple makers in Pakistan and headsup work on Sindhi Bible translation projects. <https://impact.nbseminary.com/>



Richard Flemming

In 1985, Richard, along with his wife Brenda and their two young children departed for France where they served for 15 years as church planters in the suburbs of Paris. There they saw two new churches started with French leadership in place before returning to Canada in 2000 so Richard could give leadership to Fellowship International. Then in 2010, Richard and Brenda moved to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to work with church associations as mission coaches. Having moved back to Canada in 2015, Richard and Brenda continue to serve as non-residential missionaries taking several trips each year to Africa. Their vision is to assist church associations in Francophone Africa reach unreached people groups in West and North Africa. For the last four years Richard has been coaching several Congolese leaders in DMM. The Flemmings have three adult children and four grandchildren all of whom live in Canada.

From Canaan to Babylon: Crafting a Relevant Gospel Narrative for the 21st Century Workforce

Today we have been blessed with a unique, unprecedented opportunity for vocational disciple makers which includes business leaders, pastors, missionaries, mentors, faith and work organizations, seminary faculty, and Christian Liberal Arts faculty to collaboratively bring the hope of the Gospel to people whose work experiences are being transformed by the fourth industrial revolution and Artificial Intelligence. This paper explores how the evolving socio-cultural settings of the dynamic and technologically influenced contemporary workplace is a new context for the Gospel.

Workplaces of the 21st century are exciting new cultures for the Gospel to penetrate. "If we take the incarnation seriously, the Word has to become flesh in every new context" (Bosch 2011, 153). When the Gospel becomes understandable and meaningful within new socio-cultural settings [such as the workplace], the Church grows in its understanding and application of the gospel, and the Kingdom of God is expanded to include many who could not embrace a foreign gospel (Plake n.d., ii).

This paper describes some of the ways people in this new context are shaping their identity, discerning their purpose, defining their values, and finding community. This lays the ground work for missiologists, pastors, and lay people, to engage in a thoughtful, collaborative dialog on how to bridge the gap between the language of Caanan, representing traditional religious contexts, and the language of Babylon symbolizing the contemporary, diverse, and potentially challenging cultures of 21st-century workers.

Bibliography

Bosch, David J., *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*, vol. Twentieth anniversary edition, American Society of Missiology Series. New York: Orbis, 2011.

Plake, John Farquhar. "Contextualization and Methodology: The Praxis of Gospel Communication," n.d., ii.



James Bruyn

James Bruyn is an Assistant Professor at the Leder School of Business, at The King's University and the Director of Faith At Work Network Canada. James has over thirty years of leadership experience in the telecommunications, oil and gas and railroad industry. A recurring theme in James' ministry leadership is his passion to connect the rich promises of God with the joys and challenges of living out faith in the Marketplace.

AI in OBT: Bridging the Consultant Gap

The current study assesses the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance quality assurance mechanisms in Oral Bible Translation (OBT) projects by evaluating the 'OBT Helper.' This AI-powered tool is designed to bridge a critical gap—the global scarcity of trained consultants. This scarcity represents a significant bottleneck in the rapidly growing OBT movement and is exacerbated by the inadequacy of many consultants to operate within the unique dynamics of orality, particularly in projects involving oral communities and adults with limited formal education.

The 'OBT Helper' is specifically designed to support mother tongue translators, irrespective of their literacy levels, facilitating a more comfortable and efficient workflow within their natural oral modality. It embraces the logic of orality by utilizing story-based explanations, discovery exegesis, conversational sense-making, video recommendations, and illustrative visuals to elucidate biblical historical contexts.

This study involved a diverse group of Bible translation consultants and mother tongue translators to evaluate the app's effectiveness and its impact on the quality of translations produced with its assistance. The evaluation aimed to determine whether the app can significantly support translators and streamline consultants' workflow, thereby addressing the critical resource shortage in the OBT movement.

The study demonstrated that the 'OBT Helper,' even at its initial stage of development, effectively aids the work of oral translators and enhances the efficiency of consultants. Future efforts should be directed toward enhancing the tool's training and/or developing additional apps and resources with aligned objectives. The broader impact of this study lies in its potential to expedite Bible translation efforts worldwide, providing a supportive tool for quality assurance and contributing to the alleviation of Bible poverty in oral communities.



Marcia Suzuki

Marcia Suzuki, born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has been deeply involved in language and linguistics, sparked by an early interest in a childhood Portuguese dictionary. Her engagement with YWAM began in 1982, focusing on Indigenous tribes in the Amazon, including significant work with the Sateré-Mawé tribe. Later, after marrying Edson Suzuki, she worked with the Suruwaha, one of the most isolated tribes of the Amazon. Their efforts included pioneering ministry and launching the first known oral Bible translation project in 2001. Marcia is fluent in eight languages, has published several articles on descriptive linguistics, and is currently a doctoral candidate at the Universidade Aberta de Portugal, focusing on Cognitive and Educational Linguistics.

Since 2018, Marcia has dedicated herself to training and developing curriculum for OBT trainers. She also represents YWAM at the ETEN OBT Affinity Table, contributing to the advancement of oral Bible translation efforts through partnerships with various Bible translation agencies.

Marcia serves as the International Dean of the College of Applied Linguistics & Languages at YWAM's University of the Nations. She resides in Los Angeles with her husband, Suzuki, and their daughter, Kanani, continuing her impactful work in linguistics, education, and indigenous rights.

The groaning of creation: The untapped potential of creation care to revitalize Christian mission

Missiology is premised on the conviction that, by the Spirit, everyone may be transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ. But in a world of ever-worsening biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, how will this good news earn a hearing if Christians routinely ignore these concerns? Will anyone listen to the gospel proclamation?

This paper contends that, arguably, the most serious threat to the credibility of the gospel message in our society and around the world is the failure of (too many) churches to recognize and embrace the biblical call to care for creation as a fundamental aspect of human vocation. We will discuss the results of a recent survey of young, Canadian Christians in which an overwhelming majority of respondents believe that addressing ecological concerns are part of discipleship and mission. However, despite the inexorable rise of eco-anxiety, particularly amongst younger people, few respondents said that the church influences their thinking on these crucial matters.

In addition, drawing on the work of A Rocha, an international Christian conservation organization and a novel manifestation of Christian mission, this paper will explore the remarkable (though mostly untapped) missiological potential of practical, earthkeeping projects. In a world rife with ever proliferating divisions, how might a shared commitment to the health of local green spaces provide opportunities for people to glimpse the breadth and depth of flourishing for which we are created? How might our neighbours be drawn into the gospel story as a result?



Rick Faw

Rick Faw has been a lead educator at A Rocha Canada since 2004. In 2014 he became the Vice President of Programming, and in 2022 moved into the role of Education Director. Rick combines academic backgrounds in science (BSc) and theology (MCS) with a love for the outdoors. His desire is for people to integrate their spiritual life with their experience of the created world. Rick, along with his wife Crista and children Jared and Zoë, lives and plays at Kingfisher Farm in Surrey, BC.