

Mission **Connexion** Program 2025 Northwest



4 National Speakers • 90+ Workshops • 100 Exhibitors



Patrice Tsague



Randy Remington



Matthew Ellison



Michelle Atwell

Making Mission Trips Better

Short-Term Mission Connexion Focus Event

A conference where mission leaders – both new and experienced – can think deeply about the state of short-term missions and receive practical training for planning and leading their next mission trip.



Schedule

Friday, January 17

4:00 PM*

Registration Opens/Meet & Greet/
Dinner
Student Center

5:15 – 6:45 PM*

Focus Event - Session 1
“How are mission trips changing?”

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Main Keynote Session –
Patrice Tsague

**Registered attendees only*

Saturday, January 18

8:00 AM*

Coffee & Light Breakfast/Exhibits Open
Student Center

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Main Keynote Session –
Randy Remington

10:30 – 11:00 AM*

Snack Break & Networking

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Workshops 1
Open to all MCNW attendees

12:00 – 1:00 PM*

Lunch/Exhibits Open
Student Center

1:30 – 2:30 PM

Workshops 2
Open to all MCNW attendees

3:00 – 4:30 PM*

Focus Event - Session 2
“Inspiring globally-minded
Christians through family and
youth mission trips, internships,
and gap year experiences”

4:45 – 5:45 PM

Workshop 3
Open to all MCNW attendees

5:45 – 6:45 PM*

Dinner & Closing Time
Student Center

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Main Keynote Session –
Michelle Atwell

Post Conference Online Sessions: **Frequently Asked Questions**
Missions Resource Exchange

Registered attendees only will receive a link to join these sessions.

<p>Friday 5:15 - 6:45 PM Session 1 How Are Mission Trips Changing? The Student Center <i>only for registered Short-Term Mission Connexion attendees</i></p>	<p>Mission Trips as the Means, Not the Mission Nathan Nelson, Pastor of Mission & Outreach Bethany Community Church Our "why" behind our mission trips matter! It colors our relationships and can even create an unconscious agenda. Do you know your "why?"</p>	<p>Do Words Matter? Dale Lusk, International Director - Global Engagements Evangelical Covenant Church You'll be challenged to think about how your words and descriptions are perceived by others and set expectations--both good and bad. How can you honor God, your hosts, and those you serve even in the way you describe and talk about your trips?</p>	<p>4 Disastrous Pitfalls to Avoid in Short-Term Mission Partnerships Rob Thompson, Director of Ministry Development Reciprocal Ministries International For too long, most mission trips have been one way traffic from the sender to the receiver. You'll be challenged to engage in reciprocal relationships that result in mutually beneficial ministry plans.</p>
<p>Saturday 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Workshops 1 <i>open to all MCNW attendees</i></p>	<p>Room 212 6 Characteristics of Effective Short-Term Mission Partnerships Rob Thompson, Director of Ministry Development Reciprocal Ministries International God has not made us the same body part, but He has made us part of the same body! Too often what we say are relationships are really one-directional wish fulfillment interactions. We'll look at how to build meaning relationships with people who are different than us for the benefit of both of us.</p>	<p>Room 213 7 Dirty Words of Short-Term Missions Dale Lusk, International Director - Global Engagements Evangelical Covenant Church In the old days, people said, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." But the terms we use to describe our mission trips to our churches, teams and global partners reveal what we really think our trip is all about. Do we need to think and speak differently?</p>	
<p>Saturday 1:30 - 2:30 PM Workshops 2 <i>open to all MCNW attendees</i></p>	<p>Room 212 Global Safety & Security Bill Pope, President MissionSafe Mission trips come with inherent risk, but how do you take care of your people? We'll address the idea of "duty of care" for those going on mission trips and risk mitigation for those sending others on mission trips.</p>	<p>Room 213 Mission Makeover Nathan Nelson, Pastor of Mission & Outreach Bethany Community Church The church today needs to recenter the suffering of the most vulnerable near and far to be as core to its mission as it was for Jesus. If your church's mission identity has been reduced to a once a year trip or mere handouts, come to consider how kingdom flourishing can be at the heart of every facet of your ministry.</p>	
<p>Saturday 3:00 - 4:30 PM Session 2 Inspiring globally-minded Christians through family and youth mission trips, internships, and gap year experiences. The Student Center <i>only for registered Short-Term Mission Connexion attendees</i></p>	<p>Family Mission Trips Without Compromise Tory Ruark, MissionExcellence Director MissionWorks There is a place for families on mission trips, but it has to be done well so we don't compromise the ministry role of the parents or our host's ministry. This Ignite Talk will be the catalyst for a discussion on how to do family mission trips well.</p>	<p>Can Teenagers Really Be Missionaries? Ryan Hurlburt, Assistant Director CultureLink Are you afraid to take students on a mission trip? Not sure who would host them or what they could contribute? Let's think together about how everyone can benefit from getting youth actively involved in missions.</p>	<p>A Lesson to Live By: Why my 'gap year' nearly ended before it started Nathan Nelson, Pastor of Mission & Outreach Bethany Community Church A year is a precious investment! This Ignite Talk will set you up to take full advantage of the opportunity without compromising your host.</p>
<p>Saturday 4:45 - 5:45 PM Workshops 3 <i>open to all MCNW attendees</i></p>	<p>Room 212 Mission Trip Training for the Goer Kathy Mort, MissionExcellence Curriculum & Training Director MissionWorks This workshop outlines essential topics to be covered for a mission trip before you go and ways to make the training engaging, where your participants actually want to come!</p>	<p>Room 213 Purposefully Designing with Your Partner Ryan Hurlburt, CultureLink This workshop will help you work with your partner to design a trip based around a shared purpose rather than the agenda of one partner. When done well, your trips will be more creative and effective and your teams will be better prepared."</p>	
<p>Saturday 5:45 - 6:45 PM Dinner & Closing Time Student Center <i>only for registered Short-Term Mission Connexion attendees</i></p>			