



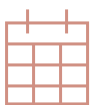
**MISSION
LEADERS
CONF 2026**

Deep

SHAPING GLOBAL DISCIPLES

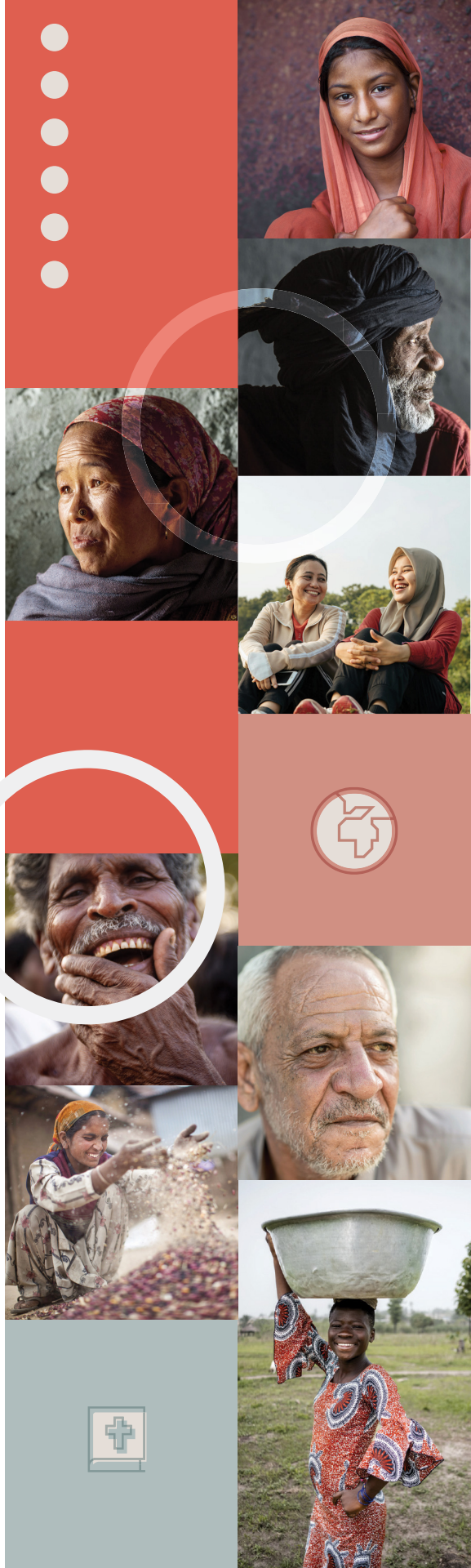


Orlando, Florida
USA



September 23-25,
2026

MissionLeadersConference.org



About Missio Nexus

OUR VISION AND CONTRIBUTION

We are an association of Great Commission churches and organizations in North America that focuses on the global Great Commission. We represent over 53,000 mission staff and workers around the globe. We desire that each member learn, meet, and engage with others who are working toward a similar goal.

Each member of Missio Nexus has something to offer to others. Together, we know much more than we do alone. Missio Nexus is a catalyst for broadly and generously sharing ideas about the Great Commission.

Through Missio Nexus you will be exposed to new ideas, out-of-the-box thought leaders, and unique solutions faced by others pursuing the Great Commission.

The gathering of mission focused churches and organizations gives Missio Nexus a body of subject matter experts who can advocate within the North American Church for a proper emphasis on the Great Commission. Together we can do more in emphasizing God's love for all peoples.





OUR MISSION

Catalyzing relationships, ideas,
and collaboration within the
Great Commission community.





MISSION LEADERS CONFERENCE

The Mission Leaders Conference is Missio Nexus' flagship gathering for leaders committed to advancing the Great Commission through collaboration, learning, and shared practice.

This conference convenes mission agency executives, church mission leaders, and specialized practitioners—including communications and marketing leaders, development professionals, finance and operations leaders, field staff, and mission educators—into one shared space. We bring them together because the most pressing challenges in missions today are solved together, not in silos.

The Mission Leaders Conference is a place to learn, meet, and engage. It is a catalytic gathering where relationships are formed, ideas are tested, and leaders return home better prepared to serve Jesus' mission.

**REGISTER
AND SAVE**

**EARLY BIRD PRICING THROUGH
JUNE 19, 2026**

GROUP DISCOUNT

SAVE 15%

**WHEN YOU REGISTER A GROUP
OF FIVE PEOPLE TOGETHER**

VISIT MissionLeadersConference.org

Deep

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mission lab



Brotherhood
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OUR PARTNERS

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Mission Network News

4 FEATURE KEYNOTES

on topics related to our theme

13 WORKSHOP TRACKS

for your roles and interests

60+ BREAKOUT SESSIONS

to offer learning experiences

1,000+ LEADERS

to meet and engage with

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS*

for additional learning options

LUNCH AND DINNERS

included in general admission

NETWORKING COFFEES

for connecting with peers

NETWORKING MEALS*

for various roles and interests

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

focused on specific issues

EVENING RECEPTIONS

for gaining new perspectives

NETWORKING FORUMS

for special group experiences

CORPORATE HEADSHOTS

to elevate your professional profile

60 EXHIBITORS

offering products and services

RECORDINGS

available after the conference

HANDOUTS & SLIDES

made available by presenters

* Requires an additional fee

LEARN, MEET, ENGAGE!

**All the ways to experience
Deep 2026 in Orlando**



Our Theme

DEEP: SHAPING GLOBAL DISCIPLES

After a year devoted to the topic of evangelism, our journey brings us to the heart of what truly sustains faith: deep discipleship. Evangelism ignites the spark but it is deep discipleship that fans that spark into a lasting flame, nurturing believers to grow roots and bear fruit in every season of life.

Deep discipleship calls us beyond the surface into a relationship with Jesus that is rich, authentic, and ever-growing. It is a commitment to spiritual maturity, where questions are welcomed, doubts explored, and faith becomes a living, breathing reality. This pursuit is not just about learning more, but about becoming more—more loving, more courageous, more like Christ.

NEW (OLD) IDEAS SHAPING DISCIPLESHIP

WHAT'S WORKING

Relational mentoring: People flourish when they have guides who walk alongside them, offering wisdom and support.

Interactive studies: Engaging with scripture through discussion and application helps faith become practical and real.

Serving together: Mission and service projects build bonds and reinforce

Vulnerable community: Deep discipleship thrives in spaces where authenticity and grace are the norm.

WHAT'S NOT WORKING

One-size-fits-all programs: People disengage when discipleship feels impersonal or irrelevant to their season of life.

Overloaded schedules: When discipleship becomes just another obligation, it loses its transformative power.

Lack of follow-through: Initiatives fizzle when there's no clear pathway for ongoing growth and involvement.

Information without application: Knowledge alone doesn't change lives; action and reflection must follow learning.

As we embark on this next chapter, let us remember: Deep discipleship is not a destination, but a lifelong pursuit. It's about walking daily with Jesus, learning from Him, and helping one another grow in faith. Let's dare to try new things, learn from our failures, and celebrate every step forward. The journey of faith is best traveled together—and with Christ at the center, every disciple can go deeper and shine brighter.

How do we, as those leading the missions efforts from the US and Canada, impact **Deep Discipleship**?

Network with Peers Who Shape Global Mission

CONNECT WITH THOSE LEADERS WHO ARE ACTIVELY SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GLOBAL MISSION

The Mission Leaders Conference creates intentional space to connect with agency, church, and organizational leaders who share a commitment to the Great Commission. Through structured and informal interactions, you'll build relationships, exchange ideas, and gain practical insight you can carry back to your organization. These connections often become catalysts for collaboration long after the conference concludes.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

NETWORKING COFFEE TIMES Meet colleagues and form new connections with other mission pastors and leaders.

NETWORKING MEALS Share a meal while learning from other's triumphs and challenges, exchanging ideas that strengthen your organization and ministry.

ASSIGNED PEER SEATING Connect over dinner through focused conversations on issues directly relevant to your role, responsibilities, or area of influence.

NETWORKING FORUMS Engage in guided group experiences that address current challenges, emerging ideas, and practical strategies shaping mission today.

EVENING RECEPTIONS Gain fresh perspectives through conversations with ministry staff, missionaries, and workers engaged in evangelism, discipleship, and church planting around the world.



14

REASONS TO ATTEND IN 2026

**PROFESSIONAL AND
PERSONAL BENEFITS OF
ATTENDING DEEP 2026**

CLARIFY YOUR ROLE IN
GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION

LEARN FROM
EXPERIENCED LEADERS

BUILD MEANINGFUL
RELATIONSHIPS

ENGAGE THE GLOBAL
MISSIONS COMMUNITY

SHARPEN YOUR
LEADERSHIP SKILLSET

CATALYZE RELATIONSHIPS
BEYOND THE EVENT

EXPLORE INNOVATIVE IDEAS
MODELS, AND SYSTEMS

TEST AND REFINE
YOUR THINKING

IDENTIFY MENTORS AND
COLLABORATORS

GAIN PERSPECTIVE
FROM LEADERS IN
DIFFERENT CONTEXTS

STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIPS
WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

EQUIP YOUR TEAM WITH
SHARED LANGUAGE
AND IDEAS

IMPROVE ORGANIZATIONAL
EFFECTIVENESS

DISCOVER TOOLS,
RESOURCES, AND SERVICES

Hosted in Orlando

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE BY BOOKING YOUR ROOM AT THE CARIBE ROYALE.

Join us at the Caribe Royale – just a 15-minute drive from the Orlando International Airport.

Lodging is not included with conference registration. We have secured a limited number of rooms at a discounted rate of \$169/night for conference attendees. This rate is good 3 days prior to and 3 days post conference.

Booking through Missio Nexus ensures the following benefits:



**Discounted
Room Rate**



**Waived
Resort Fee**



**Complimentary
Parking**

You can book online or you can reserve your room by calling the reservations line at (407) 238-8000. Be sure to mention the Missio Nexus discounted rate.





PLEASE NOTE Hotel rate ends August 19th or when room block is sold out!





ADD-ON SESSIONS

*Additional fees apply. For more details,
visit **MissionLeadersConference.org***



Pre-Conferences

ARRIVE EARLY FOR THESE ADD-ON SESSIONS

As an added benefit to this event, additional learning opportunities are provided before the event. These sessions are provided for various roles and interests. Add any of these to your registration to profit from these seminars.

BUILD YOUR MISSION'S HUMAN-CENTERED CONTENT

MARKETING ENGINE Turn your mission, message, and audience insights into a sustainable flow of meaningful content.

BUILDING A SHARED FOUNDATION FOR CARE & DEVELOPMENT Be part of an initiative to advance thriving among cross-cultural workers.

BUILDING AND GROWING A MAJOR GIFT PROGRAM Learn biblically grounded and relational approaches to cultivating donors.

CFO ROUNDTABLE Identify and apply financial best practices in your work responsibilities.

CIO ROUNDTABLE Network with other technology leaders to discuss best practices and latest technologies.

FINANCIAL BOOTCAMP FOR CONTROLLERS Dialogue with others about best practices impacting finances and accounting.

GETTING YOUR ORGANIZATION AI-READY Consider how to prepare, adapt and manage the disruptive nature of this change.

MARRIAGE, SINGLENES, & SEXUALITY Explore methods for empowering singles and marrieds serving together on ministry teams.

SEXUAL WHOLENESS INITIATIVES Discover how to address sexual brokenness with a posture of grace, healing, and restoration.

SHORT TERM MISSIONS Create a roadmap for planning and a standard by which to evaluate your mission trip.

SHAPING LEADERS WORTH FOLLOWING A practical, biblical framework to help leaders grow people, strengthen teams, and lead with greater intentionality.

SHEPHERDING IN MULTIETHNIC SPACES God calls every leader to be a shepherd—especially in the beautifully diverse, multiethnic communities He is forming today.



Expert-Led Workshops

LEARN WHAT YOU CAN'T
LEARN ANYWHERE ELSE

FOR A FULL AGENDA OUTLINING ALL WORKSHOP
SESSIONS, SEMINARS, AND PANELS, PLEASE VISIT
MISSIONLEADERSCONFERENCE.ORG



From executive leadership, development, and global strategies, to people care, mobilization, training, and church missions leadership, the Mission Leaders Conference offers workshop tracks designed for a wide range of roles and responsibilities. Choose to participate in a track based on your role, position, or areas of focus – or move between tracks to explore topics most relevant to you.

In each track you will find a varied selection of timely topics taught by qualified experts. Each track features a diverse set of timely sessions led by experienced practitioners and subject-matter experts. These distinct and engaging workshops are designed to help you:

- Learn new skills while exchanging insight with peers
- Meet other mission leaders working in similar and different contexts
- Engage in meaningful dialogue that catalyzes collaboration and partnership
- Discover resources and services to equip your team and organization.

Workshop Tracks

**INTENTIONAL CONVERGENCE.
CATALYTIC RELATIONSHIPS.
ACTIONABLE CLARITY.**

The Mission Leaders Conference brings together leaders from agencies, churches, and specialized roles for a unique learning environment where expertise converges and relationships are catalyzed. Our workshop tracks are intentionally designed to foster meaningful connections, spark collaboration, and equip you with practical tools and strategies you can apply immediately.

Whether you're an executive, pastor, practitioner, or emerging leader, you'll find sessions tailored to your context and challenges. Each track offers timely topics led by experienced experts, providing space to engage with peers, share insights, and discover new approaches that strengthen your ministry and organization.

CHURCH MISSION LEADERS – ESSENTIALS

Newer leaders, pastors, and ministry staff

Get your pastor on board with missions and raise up the next generation to hear God calling them to serve globally.

- Essential Skills for New Missions Leaders: What Actually Works
- Cultivating Great Commission Awareness in the Local Church
- Debriefing & Follow-Through: Making the Most of Your Mission Trip
- Spiritual Vitality: Are We and Our Sent Ones Becoming More Christ-Like?

CHURCH MISSION LEADERS – ADVANCED

Experienced leaders, pastors, and ministry staff

Equip your missions team to set goals, address cultural issues, and responsibly manage complex situations on the field.

- Engaging Your Lead Pastor
- Developing Disciple Makers of the Nations
- Building Strong Partnerships with Missions Agencies and National Churches
- Caring Well for Your Sent Ones
- Missionary Sending Begins with Discipleship

DEVELOPMENT

Fundraising leaders, executives and partnership builders

Provide wisdom and guidance in the area of fundraising and partnership development among churches and mission organizations.

- The Hidden Ceiling: Why Your Fundraising Model May Be Limiting Your Mission
- From Silos to Synergy: Missionaries and Organizational Fundraising
- The Quiet Multiplier: How Planned Giving Fuels the Future of Your Mission
- Smarter Tools, Deeper Relationships: The Real Promise of AI in Fundraising



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
SEE PAGE 15

Pre- Conference

Mission Leaders and Practitioners

As an added benefit to the Mission Leaders conference, we are providing additional learning opportunities before the event to those who want to make the most of their time. These 4-hour sessions are provided for various roles and interests. Add one of these to your registration to profit from these seminars.



EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Executives, senior leaders, and decision-makers

Inspire your team, lead with vision, and discover strategies and models to launch organization transformation.

- Convergence: How the Voice of God in Linchpin Moments Shapes Leaders
- Leading Through Change Fatigue: Stabilizing Your Team in Unstable Seasons
- How Missions Agencies Scale
- The Nets Are Breaking: Why Partnership Is Foundational to Kingdom Growth

FINANCE ADMIN & LEGAL

CFOs, administrators, and legal leadership

Advance your knowledge and ability to meet ever-changing strategic and financial issues affecting your organization.

- From Gift to General Ledger: Planned Giving Instruments, Donor Tax Benefits, and More
- Stop Blaming the Tools: Fixing the Real Cause of Reporting Problems
- Employment Law Compliance in a Distributed Workforce
- From Tools to Agents: What AI-Native Means for Mission Organizations (Joint AI Session with IT)
- Recent Developments from Capitol Hill, the Courts, and Beyond

GLOBAL STRATEGIES

Leaders, missionaries, pastors, and field workers

Enhance your effectiveness in cross-cultural ministry with strategies, key lessons, and updates on latest trends.

- Lessons Learned on Discipleship from the Global Church
- Partnering with Indigenous Ministries for Disciple Making Movements
- Faith in the Fire: Muslim Background Followers of Jesus
- What Research Tells Us About Multiplying Disciples
- Preparing Global Disciple-Makers



HUMAN RESOURCES

HR leaders, staff, and team developers

Support and lead well when recruiting, hiring, onboarding, training, and developing personnel and team members.

- A Seat at the Table
- Managing Multi-Generational Conflict with Relational Wisdom
- The Value of Audits for Organizational Development
- Legacy & Launch
- Rethinking HR in Your Ministry: Clarity Over Complexity

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

IT managers, digital strategists, and AI-adopters

Use technology to create solutions for churches and organizations in the Great Commission community.

- What Is AI Good For?
- Ministry Software Systems: Choosing the Right Tools in an AI-Changing Landscape
- The Upheaval of Mission Tech
- From Tools to Agents: What AI-Native Means for Mission Organizations
- Stewarding the Stack: Enterprise Roadmaps in an AI Moment

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Marketing leaders, storytellers, and digital strategists

Enhance your skills to boost your communication strategies, storytelling, branding, and general messaging.

- From First Click to Life Transformation: Rethinking Discipleship in a Digital World
- Building Brands With Purpose
- Innovation in Ministry: Digital Tools for Real Discipleship
- Culture Is Communication
- Influence Without Ego: How to Grow and Audience That Serves Your Mission

PEOPLE CARE & DEVELOPMENT

Leaders and staff fostering healthy teams

Promote healthy organizations which enhance healthy relationships in member's personal, corporate, and spiritual lives.

- The Thrive Outcomes Project: Advancing People Care & Development Together
- From the Field to the Next Chapter: Caring for Returning Missionaries
- The Hidden Roots: Addressing the Heart Issues That Drive Missionary Struggles
- The R.E.S.T. You Need for the Life You Lead
- From Silos to Synergy: Reimagining Care for Cross-Cultural Workers

MOBILIZATION

Mobilizers and teams advancing global engagement

Focus on growing the great commission workforce and encouraging the next generation of global workers.

- Polycentric Mobilization – A Return to Antioch
- From Interested to Invested: Building a Discipleship-to-Mission Pipeline
- Optimizing Candidate Care Through Automation: Utilizing AI and Modern Tools
- Gen Z Panel Discussion: How Do Young Believers Want to Be Mobilized?
- Send Well to Serve Well: Long-Term Care Begins with Clear Deployment Processes

TRAINING

Trainers and educators developing global workers

Build a skilled and qualified missionary task force with proper missionary orientation, development, and oversight.

- Just-in-Time Learning and Today's Technology Gateways
- Training Hubs – Why? and How?
- Re-centering Spiritual Formation in How We Send
- How to Prove Your Training Is Valuable
- Intercultural Competence for Missions Organizations

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.

MATTHEW 28:19A



Featured Speakers

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS



OMID RAD

*Executive Director,
Cross to Persia Ministries*

Omid Rad is the Executive Director of Cross to Persia Ministries and has served Persian-speaking communities since 2018. Raised in a conservative Muslim family in Iran, he encountered Christ as a teenager after secretly reading a Bible he believed was simply a “blue book.” Following his conversion, he faced persecution and eventually continued his ministry outside Iran.

Omid now equips and mentors Persian leaders through discipleship, leadership training, and Business as Mission initiatives, helping build a sustainable and multiplying Persian Church.



BOB MCNABB

*Director of Mission Mentorship
with Missio Nexus*

Dr. Bob McNabb serves as the Director of Mission Mentorship with Missio Nexus, where he leads the association’s outreach and engagement with field leaders across member mission organizations. In this strategic role, he is launching a network for mission practitioners who mentor, care for, and oversee missionary team leaders, strengthening collaboration, shared learning, resourcing, and peer-to-peer support. Bob also provides direct mentorship to mission leaders involved in Missio Nexus leadership development cohorts. In addition to his mentoring work, he is an author; his book, *Spiritual Multiplication in the Real World: Why Some Disciple-Makers Reproduce When Others Fail*, explores the practical dynamics of effective disciple-making and has been used in leading churches and seminaries across the U.S.



ANNA LIU

Processional Counselor (LPC)

Chunli (Anna) Liu, LPC (Licensed Professional Counselor), is a counselor and educator with experience in family support, cross-cultural communication, and community care. She currently works part-time at a community counseling center in the Midwestern United States, where she provides counseling support to individuals and families from diverse cultural backgrounds. Anna has been involved in educational and community support initiatives for many years, focusing on strengthening families, mentoring individuals, and building supportive networks within communities. Her work integrates professional counseling practice with cross-cultural understanding to help individuals and families develop resilience, healthy relationships, and effective coping strategies. Anna currently resides in the United States with her family.



TED ESLER

President of Missio Nexus

Ted Esler is the President of Missio Nexus, an association of agencies and churches representing hundreds of mission agencies and churches. Ted worked in the computer industry before serving in the Balkans during the 1990's. In 2000, Ted became the Canadian director of Pioneers and three years later moved to Orlando to join Pioneers USA's leadership team. He was appointed the President of Missio Nexus in 2015. His most recent book is *The Innovation Crisis, Creating Disruptive Influence in the Ministry you Lead*. Ted has a PhD in Intercultural Studies (Fuller Theological Seminary, 2012). Annette and Ted have 5 adult children and 3 grandchildren. They reside in Bradenton, FL.



Deep

SHAPING GLOBAL DISCIPLES



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