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2021 Highlight

Numbers

53,000+
STAFF MEMBERS OF MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

A total 52,309 staff members were reported among 190 of 314 member organizations in our “2021 Missions Data Report” (see page 27).

6,411
EVENT PARTICIPANTS

Over six thousand people registered for events hosted by Missio Nexus in 2021, including in-person gatherings and virtual events.
100+

CONTRIBUTED WEB ARTICLES

Our members contributed over one hundred articles on a variety of topics discussed and shared in the Great Commission community.

82

NEW GROUP MEMBERSHIPS

Eighty-two new organizations and churches joined in 2021 to help us fulfill our mission of catalyzing relationships, ideas, and collaboration within the Great Commission community.

36

EVENTS HOSTED

Missio Nexus hosted thirty-six events in 2021. Many of these would not be possible without the contributions of our many ministry partners (learn more on page 13).
Dear Friend,

In 2021 our community focused its attention on the topic of innovation. In my six years with Missio Nexus I don’t believe there has been a year in which our theme has been so well received. This is no doubt due to the many changes in our world today, but I also believe that the Holy Spirit has been working in the hearts and minds of ministry leaders to bring about this eagerness for innovation.

Ministry leaders face a different set of innovation challenges than their counterparts in the business world. While business leaders compete with each other, ministry leaders compete against what Scripture calls “the world.” This includes contemporary culture, which is in incredible flux. Churches, mission agencies, and other ministries have been hard pressed to keep up with these changes, resulting in stagnation and irrelevancy.

I think we are turning a corner. From the use of new innovation tools like Design Thinking to the willingness to question the very foundations of why we work the way we do, ministry leaders are embracing innovation. I believe that Missio Nexus has played some role in that change.

It has been a hard year as well. The global pandemic has become endemic, with effects that will be felt for decades to come. Some missionaries wait to deploy while others are facing new mandates and border closures. With the end of Missio Nexus’ shared health program, Missio Benefits, our small staff has struggled to keep up with the workload. Yet, through it all, God has been faithful.

Let me thank the many missionary agencies and churches that are members of Missio Nexus. A community can only exist with active members, and we are blessed by having each other.

Lord bless,

J. Ted Esler, PhD
President
Missio Nexus
About Us

Who We Are

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

OUR CONTRIBUTION

We are an association of Great Commission churches and organizations in North America that focuses on the global Great Commission. As a member of Missio Nexus, we desire that each member meets peers, colleagues and mentors who are working toward similar goals.

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.

Unlike industry trade associations, Missio Nexus members are cooperative, not competitive. Missio Nexus creates opportunities for launching joint solutions to problems faced by our members who are often facing the same set of issues.
Membership Figures

314 Organizations (58 New)
91 Churches (24 New)
184 Individuals
14 Kingdom Businesses
2 Libraries/Institutions
53K+ Staff Members Reported (by 190 Orgs.)

NEW MEMBER GROWTH BY MONTH IN 2021

- 58 new organizations
- 24 new churches
Our Team

Staff and Contributors

TED ESLER
President
Serves our members by focusing on vision, innovation, strategic direction, and execution.

ANNETTE ESLER
Director of Event Services
Manages sponsorships, advertising, events, and our annual Mission Leaders Conference.

MICHAEL VANHUIS
Vice President
Advises mission organizations and churches, leads research, and produces On Mission.

KURTIS AMUNDSON
Director of Communications
Coordinates production of marketing, publications, and digital media content.

BRYAN WILLIAMSON
Director of Administration
Oversees administrative areas, manages operational functions, and assists with strategic planning.

MARY KAY PALGUTA
Director of Member Services
Onboards new members, assists with membership benefits, programs, and services.
Striving to produce increased effectiveness in the Great Commission community.

**HANNAH LOCOP GUINTO**
*Administrative Assistant*
Helps everything runs smoothly, manages schedules, assists with member needs, and more!

**MARV NEWELL**
*Ambassador at Large*
Promotes missiological awareness and contributes to Leader’s Edge book summaries.

**WENDY WILSON**
*Executive Director of Women’s Development Track*
Encourages and equips women in the church and on the field.

**CORWIN MACKLIN**
*CEO Onboard Coach*
Coaches organization CEOs in the OnBoard program helping them develop leadership skills.

**ED SCHEUERMAN**
*Webinar Host*
Moderates our interactive learning webinars with thought leaders and attendees.

**HEATHER PUBOLS**
*Incoming EMQ Editorial Director*
Keeping the journal relevant and advancing the cause of missions around the globe.

**NARRY SANTOS**
*Leader’s Edge Editor*
Contributes to the Leader’s Edge learning program, including conducting author interviews.

**TOM LOWDER**
*Leader’s Edge Editor*
Contributes to Missio Nexus learning programs, including editing book summaries.

**DAVID DUNAETZ**
*EMQ Book Review Editor*
Provides editorial oversight of book reviews published in each issue of the journal.
ALIGNED

to support and protect mission organizations, globally and at home.

brotherhoodmutual.com/global
Partnerships

BROTHERHOOD MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
Annual Sponsor

Brotherhood Mutual provides innovative insurance coverage and risk management resources specifically designed for churches and ministries.

Missio Nexus partnered with Brotherhood Mutual to support and protect mission organizations, globally and at home.

EVANGELICAL COUNCIL FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY
Annual Sponsor

ECFA enhances trust in Christ-centered churches and ministries by establishing and applying Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship™ to accredited organizations.

Their financial partnership helps Missio Nexus effectively serve members while fulfilling our mission objectives.
Cooperation

SIXTEEN:FIFTEEN
Church Missions Coaching, Events, Podcast

Sixteen:Fifteen and Missio Nexus have joined forces in order to strengthen and expand the ways we serve the Great Commission community. Together we produce The Mission Matters podcast and host events for church mission leaders.

BIBLE MESH
Bible Certificate Program

Missio Nexus has partnered with Bible Mesh to create a new certificate program designed to meet the requirements for theological preparation. These courses will give you a strong biblical foundation for continued ministry effectiveness.

THE MISSION APP
Missions Candidate Placement

The Mission App helps new potential missions candidates find an agency to serve with. Missio Nexus is excited to partner with The Mission App to offer their innovative service as a member benefit (for organizations), bringing collaborative action to pursuing the Great Commission.
**WHEATON COLLEGE**  
*M.A. in Ministry Leadership*

The Missio Nexus partnership with the Wheaton College Graduate School and the Wheaton College School of Mission Ministry and Leadership offers Missio Nexus members the chance to pursue a flexible and discounted M.A. in Ministry Leadership.

**GLOBAL GATES**  
*North America Diaspora Missiographics*

We partnered with Global Gates and Global Gates Canada to develop a series of diaspora-focused missiographics to highlight the need of gospel transformation among the world’s most unevangelized people groups who have come to global gateway cities.

**RIGHTNOW MEDIA**  
*Faith-Based Video Library*

As a staff, we’re always looking for ways to help you develop and strengthen your faith. RightNow Media is a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work, and in your neighborhood. RightNow Media has videos for everyone – kids, youth, parents, married couples, students, single adults – all aimed at helping you grow.
Benefits

Learning Programs

Interactive learning opportunities for personal and professional development.

PUBLICATIONS

Missio Nexus members have access to resources from workers in the field, plus insight into issues currently facing workers in global missions through our digital media content.

EMQ
Missions Journal

Evangelical Missions Quarterly covered a diversity of topics in 2021 (47 articles, 59 book reviews) in four issues:

- January: Finishing the Task
- April: Disciple Making
- July: Daughters of the Great Commission Speak Out
- October: Innovation in Missions

MISSIOGRAPHICS
Missions-Focused Infographics

This year we continued the series of diaspora-focused missiographics in partnership with Global Gates and Global Gates Canada. These three missiographics related to the following gateway cities: Toronto, Los Angeles, and Chicago. Each highlighted significantly unreached communities, regional data, and gospel needs.
Benefits

ONLINE PROGRAMS

Missio Nexus provides a forum for learning from subject matter experts on timely missions topics in a variety of formats.

LEADER’S EDGE
Book Summaries and Author Interviews

Leader’s Edge book summaries and candid author interviews help thought leaders gain a better understanding of topics related to leadership, spirituality, and missions/ministry.

- 36 book summaries
- 12 author interviews

THE MISSION MATTERS
Podcast Series

A place to talk about the importance of our Mission as Christians, The Mission Matters podcast is published monthly as a partnership of Missio Nexus and Sixteen:Fifteen. An excerpt of this year’s most popular episode, a special report titled, “Afghanistan: What’s Happening and What’s Next?,” follows on page 18.

WEBINARS
Interactive Learning Platform

Throughout 2021 Missio Nexus produced 27 webinars, attended by over 1,900 people. These online presentations provide a way for the Great Commission community to interact on many timely missions topics in a shared learning environment. You will find highlights from the 2021 webinar line-up on page 22.

PUBLISH
Stories from Our Members

This year, over 100 articles and stories were shared through our publishing option for Missio Nexus members. This benefit showcases the unique voice of our member churches and organizations. The platform allows their stories to be told and highlights how missions is being carried out around the world in readable and intriguing ways.
Podcast

Afghanistan: A Special Report

An excerpt from The Mission Matters Podcast featuring special guest Bob Blincoe
Ted Esler  Bob, just tell us a little bit about what your thoughts have been as you’ve been thinking about what’s happening today in Afghanistan.
Bob Blincoe  I’m thinking of the cross of Christ. This great person, his great love, and his great salvation, greater than anything we can do to rescue people. I’m thinking about the martyrs and the fellowship known only to those who suffer, and those who might give the full measure of devotion today to their Lord and Savior. “Whoever would save his life would lose it, but whoever would lose his life for my sake,” Jesus Christ said, “he will keep it to the day of salvation.”

Some believers are called to leave Afghanistan and we give thanks to God that they will be among us in the free world, but some evidently are called to stay to an ending. And, for them, we want to give them – so far as we can from this, far way in our safety – a theology of suffering and martyrdom that would carry them through. Psalm 63:3, “Thy loving kindness is better than life.” And the great revelation from Romans, chapter 8: “We are like sheep being led to the slaughter all day long and nothing can separate us from the love of Christ.”

It is a sacred moment to imagine a blindfolded believer being taken from his house and brought to a courtyard and forced to kneel on the ground – and we can only hope that he might have the last word: Father, forgive them, they don’t know what they do. No murderer has eternal life; gather in and forgive them, Father. God has seen fit to bring some to faith who would prepare for the future day of the church of Afghanistan. “Because unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone, but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” These great texts which we think about in theory this far away, now must become precious to the people of believing in God and Afghanistan.

There is a greater salvation than this world can provide. There is a homecoming for the believers. And there is a greater damnation and judgment upon the Afghans who are not believers yet. So let’s not expend all of our energy and efforts on the Christians to get them out. Let’s pray and believe that there will be another day for the word of God to go forth in Afghanistan, not only in words, but in power and in the Holy Spirit with full conviction.

Matthew Elison  Thank you, brother for provoking our hearts. Something that you’ve already mentioned is that our military presence afforded some security to missionaries serving in Afghanistan. Now that the military presence has been withdrawn, should we no longer be sending missionaries to Afghanistan?

BB  We are in a grave, precarious place as Christian leaders. We have just seen a lot of people get on the planes and help them get on the helicopters to leave. But if our total witness in the world is based upon cavalry making the way for us, this is not the way of the Lord, this is not the way of the gospel of Christ where we lay down our lives.

We must be very careful and I call upon the Christian leaders of our country to help us right this dangerous place of theological compromise, which would suppose that only with the gunboats will we be entering the countries of the world. This is quite a precarious moment and we can redeem the moment if our leaders, our pastors, will take to the pulpits and remind them of a great commission and the cost of discipleship that we don’t know so much about here. But let us not be daunted by that reality of our own safety. Let us be called to Christ: some to go and bear witness to Christ and call many others in the unreached parts of the world to Christ; the Christ that will save them into eternal life.

“These light and momentary afflictions are achieving for us an eternal glory, which far outweighs them all.” There has to be a more important worry for us in the developed world than whether it’s going to rain on our church picnic, next Sunday afternoon. The developing world (where Christ is
named only by a few) are suffering the realities of what it’s like there to live a Romans 8 world. “Shall nakedness and peril and sword and famine separate us from the love of Christ?” We have to bring them to these scriptures. And if we didn’t so far in Afghanistan, forgive us, Lord.

What shall we say to those Christians that remain? Sorry, we couldn’t get you out. We’d send you some money, but the Taliban is going to take it. So we’re just sorry. No, we are not sorry. Christ on the road to Calvary, he turned to the women, he said, “Daughters of Jerusalem, don’t weep for me.” This is a great text. Don’t weep for Jesus and don’t weep for those who are about to be glorified in their martyrdom. Yes, it’s a hard text, but it’s Christ who had the sense of his own father’s presence. He had been to Gethsemane to plead with his father, only to find that he wouldn’t be delivered from this trial. And so it will be with brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

I beg the pastors and the leaders who are listening, don’t think that this is the end of sending, not at all. It is the beginning of the need to deepen our understanding of Christ, the cross, and the wonderful calling to Christ in the no-matter-whats of our lives. We see this throughout the scriptures, but it’s very rarely that we dwell on those passages here in the Disneyland of the universe in America.

I can’t help but think a little bit about China when they went through this terrible purge of Christians. And missionaries were martyred, and the Chinese church was just squeezed down to nothingness. But it was that nothingness from which has grown arguably the largest movement in the history of Christianity in the nation of China.

You watch for that in the places where people think it’s over. We thought it was over in 1949 in China. We thought it was over. Well, when all the missionaries had to leave – just like now – it wasn’t over. And when the curtain rose again, what did we see but a virile church which would not be stamped out, even by threat. And so watch for it, watch for it. We saw it in Iran. Watch for it in Afghanistan.

The great text of Paul, Colossians 1:24, it informs me, “I rejoice in my afflictions.” Who talked like this? “I rejoice in my afflictions, for by them, they compensate, (they make up for) what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ, for the sake of his body.” What could possibly be lacking in the sufferings of Christ, one drop of whose blood is enough to pay for the sins of the whole world? I think what Paul said was “lacking in the sufferings of Christ” was that some people can’t believe that you are a messenger from this great God, unless there is a fundamental proof that nothing separates you from the love of God, and that may be the last full measure of devotion. Paul talked about that. Finally, he gave the last full measure of devotion, his life. But many times, he had to think, “I die daily,” and “for me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” This sense of living in the hostile world, informed Paul and deepened his theology. We could do well to be ready for that in our lives and for the lives of our missionaries.

Bob, maybe you’ve heard a story that Oswald Sanders used to tell about an itinerant missionary in India. He was on foot, sharing the gospel in various villages, and when he went to a particular village they derided him, they wanted to kill him, and they chased him out of town. They later found him some miles away under a tree and his feet were blistered. They stopped and said, “This man must have a message worth telling us if he was willing to suffer to bring the message to our village.” And Sanders says, “The whole village was saved!”

This itinerant missionary suffered...
to bring the message to the village and it created a testimony. Bob, I fear we do not have a theology of suffering. How do we cultivate a theology of risk and suffering?

**BB** I think it’s going to take a second conversion: Once to Christ our Lord; and, second to Christ who calls us to the special fellowship of his sufferings. We need it in our time like we’ve never needed it before. Christ himself took on this mission and came to earth from the place of safety, and there was not that sense of any hesitation on his part, though he must have known where it would end.

And so it ends with, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” And that is not the end, right? It ends in triumph! All of us love the text of Revelations 5:9, “Every tribe and nation around the throne,” and 7:9, “All the multitudes dressed in white around the throne.” But in between is 6:9, “And I looked and the angel opened the fifth scroll and in it were the martyrs who had been slain for the Word of God. And they asked, ‘How long until our blood is avenged?’” Which is to say there’s a future justice and denouement of this story. And the Lord God gave them each a white robe and said, “wait a little while until the number I have to be killed has been complete.” If we want the great multitudes coming, we have to see what’s right there in the center: God’s way. It’s not the end to be martyred – “to be absent from the bodies is to be present with the Lord.” The seed falls into the earth and dies, and there it bears much fruit.

**TE** Do we run the risk of glorifying martyrdom or glorifying risk-taking for the Great Commission in an inappropriate way?

**BB** Yes, we run the risk. Sometimes we do the thing in spite of the risk. Certainly, we don’t want to glamorize risk-taking. You get over there, this romantic stuff ends pretty quick when you see the oppression around you.

When Jesus died, it was political, it was convenient, he was in the way – all these different things that happened when you or I face death in that part of the world. Yes, there is a risk. We talk about it and then we try to get our hearts back to where Christ was: obedient to his Father. What he has for us is going to be a better future that far outweighs the others.

**ME** We’re watching the media, our hearts are breaking, we want to engage. Can you give some insights as to how we should respond? What questions we should be asking when we’re giving finances right now?

**BB** There is a real way, a valid way to give to help people in Afghanistan – Christians or non-Christians – and those ways are known and vetted. What I think we need is for our Christian leaders to get more savvy and sensible about which organizations are real and which are not. We’re going to need each other’s help on this.

This is going to be very complex and very difficult to get money where it’s supposed to go to in that great need. But let’s give. Let’s give until we can’t give.

Presently there is nothing in Afghanistan that’s producing a dollar or a dinar or a bale of wheat. There’s no bank accounts. We are only days away from a catastrophic need of intervention, the kind that only governments could give in that country. So watch for it. We’re going to be back just because we are caring for the human soul and we’re going to help people in a big way very soon.

**TE** Amen. That last word is very important; a time for us to look forward to see what God is about to do, and to be expectant of that which right now seems perhaps impossible for us to dream about or perceive in the future.

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**The Mission Matters is a partnership between Sixteen:Fifteen and Missio Nexus who have a shared passion to mobilize God’s people to be a part of His mission. The Mission Matters is hosted by Matthew Elison, President of Sixteen:Fifteen, and Ted Esler, President of Mission Nexus.**

Watch or listen to the complete podcast episode online by visiting: MissioNexus.org/afghanistan.
Interactive Webinars

From member care and educational support, to leadership principles, diversity, and marketing, we provided learning opportunities on a broad range of topics to the Great Commission community.

Most Popular Webinar
Based on attendance

Attended by 236 people, this webinar explored how culture affects the way people learn. In “Teaching and Learning Across Cultures,” Craig Ott, teacher at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, used his experience gained from teaching in over forty countries to illustrate when to adapt to cultural expectations and preferences of learners in another culture.

Watch online at MissioNexus.org/across-cultures.

Best Content
Based on engagement

Our webinar titled, “The Role of Mission Organizations in Missionary Well-Being,” presented by Kimberly Drage with SentWell, received the most audience engagement this year. She drew on current research to discuss the influential role organizations play in helping workers thrive.

Watch online at MissioNexus.org/well-being.
Women in Leadership

Wendy Wilson leads the Women’s Development Track to serve as a collaborative platform for the development of Great Commission women.

DEVELOPMENT WEEKS
In 2021, we gained more normal rhythm for our in-person mentoring events and even made up some of the time lost in 2020 due to COVID-19 interruptions. We held 7 in-person Women’s Development Weeks:

- The Leadership Pathways cohorts for 2020/2021 were both full and moved strongly forward in the Parts 1 & 2 experiences, and the cohort for 2022 filled up before the end of 2021!

- The General Ministry Growth options brought more new women into our discovery and development peer-learning weeks.

THE BLESSED ALLIANCE
Our article series, “Pursuing Partnership,” keeps important conversations moving forward, highlighting issues that help us embrace robust ministry partnerships as men and women serving together in the Great Commission:

Winter/Spring: we explored the interpretive challenges surrounding several main contested Scripture passages on women.

Summer: profiles of women leaders in the Missio Nexus community.

Autumn: a compelling vision for the men and women serving fully together – The Blessed Alliance!

FORMING RELATIONSHIPS
During the year, 4 online coaching circles met monthly as well as 4 online book discussion groups. Our hope is that these experiences offer vision and relationship around some important topics that affect how we carry out the Great Commission.

Besides a webinar on “History of Women in the Mission of the Church,” we held 2 in-person workshops to unpack the variety of views on women in leadership so more of us are fluent in the conversation. In the battle for God’s kingdom we need all hands on deck, bringing together the full vision and giftedness of every man and woman for our task.
Member Article

How to Tell a Dangerous Story

By Heather Pubols, Founder of le Motif

Photo courtesy of Wycliflife.net
“I know how you can tell this story,” I said to a colleague with a smile. “Someone did something that made a positive change among some group of people in some country, and it’s so amazing everyone needs to know about it!”

We were talking about how to tell stories from “sensitive” or high-risk contexts, and I said this jokingly as we considered what could and could not be said in stories. We had a good laugh and proceeded to find a solution.

While I said this in jest, this is a basic formula for telling impact stories. Of course, when applied, it usually includes some real information – not just “something” or “someone.” Yet, what do you do if putting these key details into your story threatens the project you want to write about or risks the lives of your subjects? Should these stories be left untold?

In 2015 the refugee crisis in Europe exploded. I was living in Germany and began research for potential articles that would link the work of several organizations to that topic. I learned about a man working for one of these organizations who came to Europe as a refugee more than a decade before the crisis. Fearing for his life, he fled from his home country in West Asia and entered Europe illegally. His story echoed current refugees’ experiences. On top of that, his refugee journey included a significant encounter with one of these organizations. It changed the direction of his life and engaged him in work that connected him with current refugees. It was a perfect story! However, even though he was a legal German resident now, the kind of work he did carried risk. We could say he was in Germany, but his identity and country of origin needed to be concealed.

So what could we do to tell this story and mitigate the risk? Was it even possible? YES! I use a principle I call framing to work through sensitivities like this. Here’s how it works: Start with what you can’t say or show and then keep zooming in or out until you find an acceptable frame to tell and show the story.

With personal names, start with using a part of a personal name, like a first name rather than their full name. If that’s not enough to maintain security, zoom out a little more and try a pseudonym from their ethnic community or home region. If that’s not enough, zoom out again and try a more generic name as a pseudonym. With places, if a country can’t be mentioned, zoom out to a geographic region. If that’s not enough, zoom out to the continent.

With photographs, follow a similar process. When photographing a person, start with making sure their face and any identifying markers (like tattoos or noticeable scars) are not revealed. Often photos from behind, above, or closeups of hands work well. If that still presents a problem, then talk with the subject about showing them from a distance. Neutral clothing also helps. Another method is to use photographs of a representative person (be sure to include a note indicating this).

For visuals of the landscape, it’s important to ensure that no landmarks which identify the place you are trying to keep concealed are in view. Sometimes showing images from neighboring countries or from other places which have a similar look can offer a visual feel for the location you can’t show. Finally, photos of illustrative objects that don’t give away key details can provide visual elements that can add to your story without causing problems.

In videos, you may consider using actors. In audio formats, if you can’t use a person’s voice, a voice actor may be sufficient. Or think about telling the story through a narrator. Again, always indicate if the voice you use isn’t the real person in the story.

Back to our European refugee profile story. By applying the principle of framing we found an acceptable way to give important storytelling details that enhance the narrative without compromising security.

A few stories still may be too risky to tell. However, using framing, I think you’ll find there are many more stories that can be told than not.

Learn more about framing in Heather’s Missio Nexus webinar on this topic at MissioNexus.org/framing.
Reports

2021 MISSIONS ORGANIZATION SENIOR LEADER COMPENSATION STUDY – REPORT
This report examines the revenue, salaries, and compensation of senior leaders in missions organizations and compares it to regional and national data from non-profits. Data from 102 organizations.

View the report at MissioNexus.org/2021-compensation-report.

2021 MISSIONS DATA REPORT
Representing data on 367 mission organization from the United States and Canada, this report highlights staffing, attrition, diversity, finances, activity, and regional data on where people are serving.

View the report at MissioNexus.org/2021-missions-data.

NORTH AMERICA DIASPORA SERIES – MISSIOGRAPHICS
People of many nations have landed on the shores of North America looking for refuge, community, a new home, and hope. We partnered with Global Gates and Global Gates Canada to create a series of infographics that highlight these diaspora people groups. This year we released 3 missiographics in the series:

- Diaspora in Greater Toronto Area
- Diaspora in Greater Los Angeles
- Diaspora in Greater Chicago

View the series at MissioNexus.org/missiographics/diaspora.

ONGOING RESEARCH
Missio Nexus has current surveys examining the training of mission mobilizers and how mission agencies approach fundraising.

View current research projects at MissioNexus.org/research.
Special Topic: Fundraising

We produced 3 strategic resources for fundraising and development to help get ministries funded and flourishing.
As Missio Nexus engages with mission agency leaders, one of their greatest expressed needs is for fundraising and development training and tools. Edited by Michael R. VanHuis and Heather Pubols, *Essentials for Fundraising and Development: A Collection of Best Practices, Ideas, and Strategies*, provides practical insights and activities to get ministries funded and flourishing.

This collaboration between 9 fundraising experts is designed to help both ministries and their leaders no matter what their knowledge or skill.

*Read at MissioNexus.org/essentials.*

As a supplement to the book *Essentials for Fundraising and Development*, we created 9 topic-focused videos (total 40 minutes). This member-only benefit explores a topic with each author:

- Barbara Shantz
- Barbara Bowman
- Chris Winkler
- David Broussard
- Keith Sparzak
- Kristen Shuler
- Nathan Burns
- Robert Wassel
- Steve Kaloper

*Watch at MissioNexus.org/essentials.*

This January we launched our free Fundraising and Development 101 course. Presented by our Development Consultant Corwin Macklin, this resource is designed for small to mid-sized organizations trying to enhance their corporate fundraising abilities or organizations that are new to fundraising and development.

Through 5 modules, this self-paced program teaches about key terminology, defining organizational culture, and building a practical framework for an effective team and strategy.

*Find it at MissioNexus.org/improve.*
Event Recap
Events

Overview

With 36 events on our calendar this year, Missio Nexus provided a diverse range of opportunities to meet and engage with other thought leaders. From intimate leadership summits to global virtual forums, these events helped catalyze relationships, ideas, and collaboration within the Great Commission community.

- **36** Events Hosted
- **6,411** Total Participants
- **133** Speakers and Presenters
- **6** In-Person Gatherings
Event Name
DESIGN THINKING FOR INNOVATION
(4-WEEK COURSE)

Partner
SEEDS GLOBAL INNOVATION LABS

Date
MARCH 2–APRIL 27, 2021

Event Name
PIPELINE CONSULTATION
(75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)

Partner
BIBLE MESH

Date
AUGUST 5, 2021
Attendees
40

Event Name
2021 GLOBAL DIASTRORA WORKERS
VIRTUAL FORUM (4-HOUR VIRTUAL EVENT)

Hosted By
JOHN BAXTER, SUNNY HONG, RICH
MENDOLA, DON ALLSMAN, RICKIE
BRADSHAW, AND OTHERS

Date
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021
Attendees
223
Events

Development Events

In partnership with DickersonBakker we hosted a 3-part webinar series on growing fundraising effectiveness, eligible for CFRE credit.

4 Virtual Events for Development
131 Total Event Participants
Events

Event Name
THREE STEPS TO KICKSTART YOUR FUND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)

Special Guest
BARB BOWMAN, DERRIC BAKKER

Date
FEBRUARY 16, 2021

Attendees
69

Event Name
FOUR THINGS EVERY CEO NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT FUNDRAISING (75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)

Special Guest
BARB BOWMAN, DERRIC BAKKER

Date
MARCH 16, 2021

Attendees
37

Event Name
OPTIMIZE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF YOUR BOARD (75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)

Special Guest
BARB BOWMAN, DERRIC BAKKER

Date
APRIL 13, 2021

Attendees
25

Find these webinars on-demand at MissioNexus.org/development-2021.
Events

CEO Events

We hosted 4 strategic leadership events for CEOs and ministry leaders which targeted their felt needs and those of their organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Total Event Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CEO PEER-2-PEER: RENEW – CEO AND SPOUSE RETREAT (COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO)</strong></td>
<td>213</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special Guest**

BILL & KRISTI GAULTIERE

**Date**

MAY 4–6, 2021

**Attendees**

24
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEO THOUGHT LEADER BRIEFING: NAVIGATING THE SHIFTING SEXUAL ETHIC</td>
<td>MARCH 24, 2021</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHIRLEY HOOGSTRA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CEO THOUGHT LEADER BRIEFING: MARKETPLACE MINISTRY STRATEGIES,</td>
<td>MAY 19, 2021</td>
<td>35</td>
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<tr>
<td>A LEADER’S PERSPECTIVE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Guest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TED VAIL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CEO THOUGHT LEADER BRIEFING: BECOMING BILINGUAL – COMMUNICATING</td>
<td>JUNE 23, 2021</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YOUR VALUE IN STORIES AND NUMBERS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(75-MINUTE VIRTUAL EVENT)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MATT BIRD</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In partnership with Sixteen:Fifteen we hosted 8 gatherings for church mission leaders, tailored for the unique needs of pastors and church staff.

### Event 1
**Event Name**: SHORT-TERM MISSIONS AND THE LOCAL CHURCH: COVID REALITIES – WHERE ARE WE NOW AND WHERE SHOULD WE GO?

**Special Guest**: BRIAN HEERWAGEN OF SOE

**Date**: APRIL 7, 2021

**Attendees**: 108

### Event 2
**Event Name**: CHURCH MISSION LEADERS PEER-2-PEER: DIASPORA MINISTRY AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

**Special Guest**: DAVID GARRISON OF GLOBAL GATE

**Date**: MAY 12, 2021

**Attendees**: 221
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Special Guest</th>
<th>Special Guest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>APOSTOLIC IMAGINATION:</strong> RECOVERING A BIBLICAL VISION FOR THE CHURCH’S MISSION TODAY</td>
<td><strong>CHURCH MISSION LEADER PEER-2-PEER:</strong> MISSIONARY CARE BEST PRACTICES</td>
<td>JD PAYNE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY</td>
<td>DAVID J. WILSON OF AVANT MINISTRIES; LORI ROGERS OF CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CHURCH AND AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS:</strong> INGREDIENTS FOR MEANINGFUL AND EFFECTIVE MINISTRY</td>
<td><strong>MOBILIZING GENERATION Z:</strong> OBSERVATIONS, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td>JOSIAH BELFLOWER OF DESSERT SPRINGS CHURCH; DENNY SPITTERS OF PIONEERS–USA</td>
<td>SAVANNAH KIMBERLIN OF BARNA; REBEKAH OF CAFE 1040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN WORKING WITH ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN</strong></td>
<td><strong>IS THIS THE END OF THE SEND?</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>BOB BLINCOE OF FRONTIERS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOBILIZING GENERATION Z:</strong> OBSERVATIONS, OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES</td>
<td><strong>THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN WORKING WITH ORPHANS AND VULNERABLE CHILDREN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>ELLI OSWALD OF FAITH TO ACTION INITIATIVE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 2, 2021</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AUGUST 4, 2021</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVEMBER 17, 2021</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JULY 7, 2021</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 6, 2021</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DECEMBER 1, 2021</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On Mission

FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
Innovation in Missions: A Global Perspective
March 10, 2021

OVERVIEW
This free, virtual conference is designed for those serving or interested in global missions. The content for this annual event is presented by non-North American practitioners, offering their global perspectives on current issues. This year our theme of focus was on innovation in missions, with 19 speakers sharing on topics ranging from gospel ecosystems to engaging with young people online.

2,823 Conference Participants
19 Speakers and Presenters
33 Total Countries with Participants
40 Total US States with Participants

Learn more about this virtual event at MissioNexus.org/on-mission-2021.
Highlights from On Mission 2021

**MULTIPLICATION AND PRAYER**

“My encouragement to you: cultivate and grow your prayer life. Your prayer lifestyle needs to be dynamic, vibrant! Pray passionately. Pray a lot. Ask God to create a movement and multiplication among the people groups that we serve.”

—Andrias Pantauw, serves with CMI

**REACHING ARAB WOMEN**

“There is a great need to empower and equip Arab women to become healthy leaders who will drive the wheel of change and promote inner peace and security among themselves and their communities.”

—Ruba Abbassi, serves with Arab Women Today Ministry

**INTERCULTURAL MUTUALITY**

“God’s people have to be empowered and equipped to serve God everywhere God has placed them. When we can engage one another in missional reflection from different parts of the world, it will help us understand God’s mission better.”

—Harvey Kwiyani, serves with Liverpool Hope University

Watch these presentations and more at MissioNexus.org/on-mission-2021.
We hosted 8 virtual events to help mission organizations understand their audiences, and share their stories more effectively.

Event Name
KNOW YOURSELF AND KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Special Guest
LIAM SAVAGE OF ONEHOPE

Date
MARCH 23, 2021

Attendees
45

Event Name
HOW TO TELL DANGEROUS STORIES

Special Guest
HEATHER PUBOLS OF LE MOTIF

Date
APRIL 6, 2021

Attendees
84
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Attendees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MAXIMIZING VIDEO AND PHOTOS TO TELL YOUR STORY</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 4, 2021</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest: DAVID JOHNSON OF SILENT IMAGES</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>DOES YOUR MARKETING MATTER?</td>
<td>JULY 29, 2021</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Guest: AUDREY REEVES OF KUMVEKA</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRISIS COMMUNICATIONS ESSENTIALS</td>
<td>OCTOBER 12, 2021</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Guest: PALMER HOLT OF INCHRIST COMMUNICATIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PODCASTING 101 FOR MISSIONS AND MINISTRIES</td>
<td>MAY 25, 2021</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest: BLESSING MPOFU OF ALPHA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEYOND BELIEF</td>
<td>JUNE 24, 2021</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest: KURIAN BABYKUTTY OF 40 PARABLES</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BRAND REFRESH: WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE MAKING YOUR MARK</td>
<td>AUGUST 31, 2021</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guest: SHERRI HEINTZ KERR OF CAHOOTS COMMUNICATIONS INC.</td>
<td>November 4, 2021</td>
<td>35</td>
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Innovate 2021

MISSION LEADERS CONFERENCE

September 22–24, 2021
Hyatt Regency, DFW Intl. Airport
Dallas, Texas / Broadcast Worldwide

OUR THEME

The ongoing challenge of the Great Commission requires creativity, imagination, and vision. Church and mission leaders should be on the front edge of the innovation explosion. Yet, legacy ministry models, financial pressures, the pace of change, and even success conspire against innovation. We seek to catalyze a movement of innovation and advance the gospel among the nations.

Learn more about this premiere event at MissioNexus.org/innovate-2021.
The annual Lifetime of Service Award affirms the value of finishing well. In presenting this award, the staff and board of Missio Nexus celebrate the faithfulness of God as evidenced in a life of service to the cause of global mission.

Carlisle Hanna received the 2021 Lifetime of Service Award.

One of the best ways to embed values into the culture of a community is to celebrate those members who exemplify key values. The Excelerate Award celebrates excellence, innovation, and partnership in the fulfillment of the Great Commission.

NAAMC received the 2021 Excelerate Award.

This year the Missio Nexus board and team presented Dr. Marvin J. Newell with an appreciation plaque for his years of dedicated service to the Great Commission community. We are honored to commemorate his work with TEAM, contributions as a professor at Moody Grad School, and his tireless service with IFMA / CrossGlobal Link, and Missio Nexus.

Watch the award presentations at MissioNexus.org/innovate-2021-media.
Events

Event Name
**CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION LEADERS MEETUP (WASHINGTON, D.C.)**

Date
**OCTOBER 12, 2021**

Attendees
6

Event Name
**THE INNOVATION CRISES: CREATING DISRUPTIVE INFLUENCE IN THE MINISTRY YOU LEAD (VIRTUAL EVENT)**

Special Guests
**TED ESLER**

Date
**OCTOBER 28, 2021**

Event Name
**THE DANGER OF SAFETY: HOW OUR LOVE AFFAIR WITH SAFETY KEEPS US FROM WORLD MISSIONS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT (VIRTUAL EVENT)**

Special Guest
**DICK BROGDEN**

Date
**NOVEMBER 3, 2021**
Events

Event Name
DENOMINATIONAL ROUNDTABLE
(FISHERS, INDIANA)

Hosted By
GLOBAL PARTNERS –
THE WESLEYAN CHURCH

Date
NOVEMBER 8–9, 2021
Attendees
12

Event Name
24 PLUS: FINDING AND FITTING A NEW
GENERATION OF GOERS
(ORLANDO, FLORIDA)

Special Guests
MARK STEBBINS,
DAVE & LORENE WILSON

Date
NOVEMBER 14–16, 2021
Attendees
45

Event Name
SECOND IN COMMAND
(ORLANDO, FLORIDA)

Special Guest
MICHAEL VANHUIS

Date
DECEMBER 7–8, 2021
Attendees
13