Session Descriptions

General Sessions:

1. The Missions Dilemma – Steve Saint will join us via live feed to discuss the paradigm shift that needs to occur in the Western church. Sometimes our efforts have done harm, though we intended good. We need to approach our missions efforts in a wise way that will avoid the mistakes of the past.

2. The Genesis of God’s Mission to Nations – The Scattering (Genesis 11) Dave Ridder will lead us in exploring the consequences of Babel and the necessity of God’s mission to the nations.

3. The Genesis of God’s Mission to Nations – The Blessing (Genesis 12) Dave Ridder will walk us through the initiation of God’s plan to bless all peoples of the world.

4. Native America – Closing the Gap – Josh Charette is full of hope for native ministry. He’ll help us understand and appreciate the “invisibility” of Native America and to find fresh impetus for pursuit of healthy gospel ministry alongside our Native brothers and sisters.

5. Muslims Worldview – Muslims are about 1.6 billion in the world. It will not be long before they become a quarter of humanity. We in the West tend to wear "brown" sunglasses, and we assume that what we see is the real color. Muslims on the other hand wear “green” sunglasses and assume that what they see is the real color. To become cross cultural, we need to take off our lenses, stand in their shoes and try to see the world through their eyes. In this session Nabeel Jabbour will give us a cross cultural experience.

6. Great Omission: With the constant barrage of news about ISIS, Boko Haram and al-Qaeda, it is very easy for us to demonize Muslims, dehumanize them and make it justifiable to hate them. If we consciously or unconsciously omit Muslims from the Great Commission, it will be no longer the Great Commission; it will become the Great Omission. In this session Nabeel Jabbour will help us to look at our broken world through God's eyes and to ask God to help us see Muslims through his eyes.

7. The Revelation of God’s Mission to Nations – The Answer (John 1) Dave Ridder will focus our hearts on the revelation of God’s answer for the world’s greatest problem.

8. The Revelation of God’s Mission to Nations – The Celebration (Revelation 4-5) Dave Ridder will lead us to exult in the culmination of God’s mission to the nations.
Breakout Sessions:

- **Native Ministry – The Challenge** – Josh Charette and Scott Morningstar will shoot straight about the challenges that exist in engaging Native people with the gospel in a cross cultural context. And they’ll root us in Scripture to find the way forward with a sure step.

- **Transforming Encounters – Acts 10 and Today** – Acts 10 is a record of a transformational encounter that took place between Peter and Cornelius. Not only Cornelius (the Receiver) was transformed in that encounter, but also Peter (the Messenger). In this session **Nabeel Jabbour** will help us see the gradual transformation of both the Muslim and the Christian as they interact over the gospel. Modern day examples will be presented.

- **Missions Challenges in the Local Church** – You don’t find the right answers until you’ve asked the right questions. Our aim in this session is to build from “The Missions Dilemma”, raising the right questions in order to frame the practical portions of the conference within the real world of our local churches and their struggles with issues like time, money, apathy, and competing philosophies of ministry.

- **Native Ministry – The Way** – Josh and Scott will help us envision where healthy gospel ministry starts and how it is carried forward. Both sad and shining moments of the past can guide us toward the right path for the future.

- **Worst of Times and Best of Times** – Nabeel Jabbour says, “When we were living in Egypt as missionaries I used to plead to God to allow me before I die to see a crack in the huge dam of Islam. Although it is the worst of times for Christianity or Christendom in many parts of the world, especially in Syria and Iraq. Yet, it is the best of times for the kingdom of God and for the expansion of the gospel in all the nine main regions of the Muslim world. In this session we will be reminded of the fact that it is the worst of times, but we will focus on God and the expansion of the gospel in the Muslim world.”

- **International Student Ministries** – Joel Carlson serves on staff with International Students Incorporated (ISI) on the Montana State University campus. Joel will help us understand the strategic nature of this gospel opportunity. He’ll also help our churches see how they can play a role of great significance by partnering with (or starting new) ISI groups on their nearest university campus. International students are eager to see American culture, but they rarely get invited into American homes. Our churches can play a major role in reaching these students for Christ by simply hosting them for meals and cultural events - whether a high school ball game, a rodeo, or a branding day at the ranch. Joel will give practical guidance and contact information for help getting involved.

- **Ministry to Migrants** – Your church has a heart to reach the lost, and you recognize that God has placed migrant workers right in your community. You desire to bring them to faith in Christ, but how? **T.C. Richardson and Pedro Sanchez** will address a number of critical issues such as involvement in the H2-A agriculture visa process, connecting with migrants in their homes, assisting with English Language Learning, earning a GED, driver’s licensing, Spanish disciple-making resources, etc. They’ll leave us with specific strategy and contact information.

- **Foreign exchange students** – Larry and Carol Fechter have hosted more than 30 foreign exchange high school students in their home over the decades, and they serve as regional coordinators in the exchange program. The goals of this session are to help us see the opportunity for the gospel that comes with hosting foreign exchange students, to describe how any church could purpose together as a body to host foreign exchange students, make us aware of the various exchange programs out there with their pros and cons, and to leave us with specific contact information for those who are interested.

- **Establishing a Healthy Missions Philosophy in Your Church** – Dave Barnhart will focus this session on the five (5) components of a healthy missions philosophy: the biblical mandate for missions, the biblical roles in the missionary call, knowing you church’s DNA, knowing the world, and a comprehensive missions support ministry. Handouts will be provided and discussion is welcomed!