

**2025 Missions Get-Together Breakout Session Descriptions (subject to change)
updated 2/19/25**

Missionary Breakout Sessions

Chai, Chilis, and Gospel Conversations, led by Michelle & Jonathon Swafford. Drinking tea and eating meals (Caution: spicy!) brings opportunities to share the Gospel and start Chronological Bible-Storying groups. South Asia has the greatest concentration of lostness in the world. But God is opening doors and doing great things! Come and hear what God is doing and how you can be involved!

Compassion Ministry in Your Local Context, led by Ryann French. Together, we'll explore how the Church can strengthen communities, care for refugees, fight human trafficking, protect vulnerable children, and respond to crises with the hands and heart of Jesus. We'll discover how to be the salt and light in a broken world—living out God's love through action and compassion.

Learning to Laugh, led by Courtney Robertson. Missionary to Latin America will share how to find joy in times of grief, hardship, and disbelief as well as in God's timing, blessings, and goodness.

Radical Collaboration in Kingdom Advancement, led by Blake Burget. The advancement of Christ's kingdom was meant to be a collaborative effort. We invite you to come and hear about, learn from, and pray for a network of church planters, re-planters, and revitalizers who are radically working together to advance the kingdom in communities around the country and beyond.

Why a Deaf Affinity? led by Hannah Yount. Are the Deaf really their own people group? Why? What is the biblical basis for this? Can't we just hand them a Bible to read? Hannah will discuss this and more as we explore one of the largest unreached, and mostly unengaged, people groups in the world.

Missions Awareness & Involvement Opportunities Breakout Sessions

Missional Small Groups for Adults, led by Stephanie Newton. Looking for ways for your church to get started in missions or deepen its missional focus? Look no further than your small groups. Join Stephanie Newton, lead strategist for adults at WMU, SBC, for easy, practical ways for your small group to live on mission.

Missions is More Than a Mission Trip, led by Heather Keller. Make missions come alive for your church as you empower them to fulfill the Great Commission every day in their own community. Be equipped with project ideas and scriptural insights to help all ages share Jesus.

How Pregnancy Centers are Impacting Tennessee, Panel: Beth Moore, Margaret Cole, Janet Dewitt, Kathleen Cherry. This panel of women have direct access in how pregnancy centers, our 2025 ministry project recipients, are impacting Tennessee with the gospel of Jesus. Hear their God-stories, learn resources, and realize ways you and your church can serve families in crisis and need.

WMU/Women On Mission: How to Begin or Grow a Group! Panel: Stephanie Newton, Renee Mathis. Learn from seasoned leaders as they answer various questions such as: how to talk to your pastor about beginning a women's missions group, next steps in beginning a group, ideas for growing an existing group, insight into integrating it into programs the church is already doing, resources for you/your church, and a Q&A time to answer questions you may have!

Mental Health Breakout Sessions (Current WMU Critical Issue)

Embracing and Sprinkling Some Joy, led by Tony Rankin. Our world needs persons who will live out loud, speak words of hope, and be willing to jump for joy. Share your life with others.

Joy and Mental Health, led by Tony Rankin. Every day you encounter friends and strangers (and maybe yourself) who are struggling emotionally- some from isolated situations and others through years of heart-wrenching confusion. Care for others and yourself.

Self-care Without Feeling Selfish, led by Heather Keller. Hear from someone who struggles with taking care of herself, why she is learning to stop and breathe, and how you, too, can take steps to be your best self without some of the guilt.

When Life and Death Steal Your Joy, led by Tony Rankin. Most everybody would like to escape pain, loss, and disappointment. Parenting, marriage, and death can rob us of our joy from the middle of nowhere and even when its predictable. Let others love you with all their hearts.

Personal Spiritual Development Breakout Sessions

Why Evangelism? led by Stephanie Newton. Let's talk about why: why do evangelism, why evangelism is inseparably tied to missions, and why knowing the 3 Circles can impact our willingness to share Jesus.

Fearless Praying, led by Leslie Hudson. Do you feel like you don't pray enough? Or maybe you're not doing it right? Do you wonder if the promises of prayer really apply to you? Come to this breakout and invigorate your prayer life!

Joyful Jars, led by Ann Davenport & Carolyn Outland. Can a Christian have joy in the secular world today? YES! God puts His presence into fragile vessels. His people carry the message of hope and share His joy with a lost, searching world. Turn your weaknesses into a witness. Claim your inheritance of joy in the midst of brokenness.

Practical Ways to Know and Love God's Word, led by Mary Margaret West. When you understand the importance of knowing God's Word, it changes everything! The Bible is foundational to your life, but are you living in a way where you want to know and understand it? Life is busy, and it's not slowing down anytime soon. Let's talk about some intentional and practical ways to engage in the Word of God

Top Ten Ways to Cultivate Joy, led by Andrea Lennon. Join Andrea for this interactive breakout as we discuss practical ways to live out of the overflow of our relationship with Jesus. Andrea will share personal stories and practical ways to cultivate joy in the everyday aspects of life. Come and learn rhythms that result in joy!

Leading Well Breakout Sessions

Letting Go: Walking Boldly into Your Calling, led by Mary Margaret West. What has God called me to do? It's a question we ask more often than we'd like to admit. As followers of Christ, we have to step boldly into the calling that God has placed on our lives, being obedient to Him as we take each step.

Run the Race, led by Mary Margaret West. Many of us struggle in the in-between of knowing the call God has put on our lives and running our race well. We often get distracted and lose sight of the unique race God has called us to run. Our race is the same - we're running towards Jesus and Christlikeness.

Loving & Leading NextGen, Panel: Mary Margaret West, Heather Kellar, Kim Cruse, Brian Holt, Rhonda Poore. Engaging with the younger generations can be tough; yet we are all called to tell of God's faithfulness from one generation to another! So, we want to equip you for telling them about Him! This panel, full of experienced ministry leaders, will guide you on how to communicate with Gen Z and Gen Alpha; stories of how God is using these kids, youth and college students; and will encourage you in your parenting/grandparenting of them, teaching them, or simply befriending them! He is working in and through these generations, and He is inviting YOU to be a part of the work He's doing in their lives!

NETWORK GATHERINGS

NEW this year! Network groups are extremely interactive and discussion-based groups for women (and a few men!) who are leading/teaching specific ministries in their churches or communities. The purpose is to connect with others from across the state who are serving in a similar way, to encourage you to faithfully serve where God has you, and to discuss leadership topics according to the group's needs. The facilitators will be guiding

discussion, assisting with answering questions, etc., unlike breakout teachers who are typically more lecture based.

Because these are intended as small groups, please only attend a network group if it fits your current role OR if you are wondering if the Lord may be calling you to that ministry.

WMU/Women on Mission Leaders, facilitated by Vickie Anderson. Are you the leader of your church's WMU or Women on Mission group? Gather with other leaders in this group to discuss growth, share ideas, and pray for each other. This will be a great opportunity to connect with and learn from one another.

Children Missions Leaders, facilitated by Brian Holt. Description.

Christian Job Corps, facilitated by Becky Sumrall. Description.

Ministers' Wives, facilitated by Tracey Gholson. Description.

Student Missions Leaders, facilitated by Kim Cruse. Are you leading or serving 6th thru 12th grade in your local church? Would you like to meet other youth leaders to gain insight, share ideas, and maybe even find a new friend or prayer partner? Join this network group to discuss those wonderful middle and high schoolers you love.

Sisters Who Care, facilitated by Sharon Smith. Gather with other Sisters Who Care, the African-American expression of Women on Mission, from other churches and learn from one another on how to grow your ministry, gain some ideas, and pray for one another! This is for participants and/or the church leader to network in this group.

Women's Ministry Leaders, facilitated by Tika Scoles. Do you currently lead the women's ministry in your church and want to meet and learn from other women's ministry leaders? Engage with others in this networking group! You will come away from this network group with new friends.

PRAYER ROOM

Do you need some time away with just you and the Lord? Has He worked in your heart this weekend and you need time to process? The prayer room is open and available for you to quietly pray during all session times. A prayer guide is available in the room for you to walk through, as well as a place to leave your prayer requests and take someone else's request.