



FAQs

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GENERAL QUESTIONS

Who is Missions College designed for?

Missions College is for US churches engaged in short-term, mid-term, and long-term missions. The event is designed for pastors, other church leaders, mission trip members, and lay people.

What is Missions College?

Missions College is an intensive, three-day seminar designed around multiple tracks. Each participant will choose *one* of the following tracks:

- Strategy Plan Coaching
- Missions Scope: Broad Spectrum Missions Overview
- Making Disciples of Oral Learners 1
- Making Disciples of Oral Learners 2
- Community Development Strategies
- Missions Intensive
- Cross-Cultural Connections: From Good Intentions to Good Missions

Along with a chosen track, participants can also attend a variety of breakout sessions and daily plenary sessions with keynote speakers.

Can you provide a description of the different tracks and breakouts?

Missions College 2020 Tracks

Missions Intensive

This track is designed specifically for pastors and church leaders as a launching point for involvement in cross-cultural missions. Learn how cultivating a culture of discipleship in your congregation results in the sending of disciples who make healthy disciples in other contexts. Join us to blend the theology of missions with practical steps your church can take as a sending church

Missions Scope

Members of mission teams will want to begin with this track. Experienced field missionaries will guide you in the basics of the missionary task: understanding culture, cross-cultural evangelism, discipleship, church planting, leadership development, and transition when the task is done. While a broad spectrum of practical topics and tools will be discussed, there will also be opportunities to address application for specific peoples and places, including urban and indigenous perspectives.

Making Disciples of Oral Learners I

Millions of people in the world are oral learners who need the gospel shared in their context and learning style. This track provides an overview of the difference between oral and literate styles of learning, examining a continuum from highly literate, semi-literate, to highly oral. We provide specific tools to aid the development of biblical oral strategies for church planting and discipleship. You will gain a better understanding of oral learning and be able to apply basic evangelism and discipleship strategies in the US and abroad. Sample oral-based curriculum will be presented for different worldviews, including urban and indigenous.

Making Disciples of Oral Learners II

This track is the next step in making disciples of oral learners. Go deeper in story crafting and story-set selection with a strong focus on developing national church leaders who are equipped to train others. *Previous experience required.*

Cross-Cultural Connections: From Good Intentions to Good Missions

The people we serve have radically different takes on the world—what it is, how people should behave, and what ideas are important or worthless. One word communicates different meanings depending on who is speaking or who is listening. The same action brings different consequences depending on where you are and who you're with. In this track, learn to think like those you want to reach so you can share the gospel in a way that really sinks in, and employ strategies for ministry that lasts longer than the plane ride home.

Community Development Strategies

Learn to effectively integrate human needs ministries as a part of your overall church-planting strategy. Using case studies, you will be able to distinguish best practices from helping that hurts.

Strategy Plan Coaching

This track is for leaders who are already involved in a church-planting strategy. Get the opportunity to network with leaders from other churches and to learn from their experiences. Field missionaries will facilitate conversation and provide coaching according to the needs of the group, with a focus on how to train others. Previous Missions College attendance and current field engagement are required.

Breakout Sessions *(These are tentative and will be based on interest during registration when participants will each select two options from the list below.)*

Mapping in Missions

An introduction to how spatial data is used in missions. You'll learn how IMB develops and uses spatial data to interpret where God is at work and where the gospel has yet to take root among the world's peoples. You'll also be introduced to how your church can map out communities by using mapping tools and concepts to understand spiritual activities that impact church-planting strategies.

Characteristics of a Healthy Church

Discover what the Bible says about church health and what you can intentionally teach to ensure the health of the church you are planting.

Missions in Urban Centers

Explore the importance of cities in the task of making Christ known globally. Consider how your church might join the strategies of city teams and urban partners. Topics include developing urban prayer strategies, building relationships with national partners, understanding city/neighborhood, making urban disciples, starting city churches, and mobilizing disciples from the city to the world.

Students

Get ideas for how to creatively incorporate students as valuable co-laborers in your mission strategy.

Baptist Global Response

Get an overview of what BGR is and how you can be a part of it.

Trauma Healing and Refugee Ministries

Learn ways to minister to those who have experienced great suffering and loss and how you can present the gospel of hope to them.

The Sending Church

Learn methods for selecting and preparing short-term, mid-term and long-term missionaries from your home church.

IMB Pathways

Understand the different pathways and the three-step process for your church members to go to the mission field with the IMB for a short-term, mid-term, and/or long-term opportunities.

Orality Overview

Learn the basics of using oral communication methods to communicate the gospel.

Security for Short-term Teams

Understand basic guidelines and practices in order to maintain the safety of a church mission team and the security of the local believers in lower-risk areas.

Trip Logistics

Learn how to efficiently plan your trips, plus tips to stay organized and on budget

Developing a Strategy Plan

Learn the steps and fundamental elements for developing a plan to reach your unreached people/place.

Peoples Next Door and Abroad

Get to know your unreached people/place by learning their worldview. Discover the purpose, strategies, and tools for engaging peoples—whether they are next door or overseas—and get practical tips for engaging them.

REGISTRATION

What is the cost?

\$225 per person until October 1. After October 1, it will be \$249 per person.

When does the early registration discount end?

The early registration cost is \$225. After October 1, the price will go up to \$249.

How do I get the 6th person free?

After you register 5 attendees, the 6th attendee you register is FREE. Finish the registration for the 5 attendees, then go back to the link and select the option for the 6th attendee for FREE.

What does the cost cover?

Price includes training, materials, lodging (Tuesday night through Saturday morning and meals (Tuesday supper through Saturday breakfast).

Is there any charge for airport transportation?

No, there will be shuttles scheduled around common arrival/departure times coordinated through local churches. Please make sure your flight information is filled in and up-to-date in the registration.

How do I register a group?

You will have the opportunity to add additional group members later in the registration process. If there are fees associated with this event, the total fees for all registrants in the group will be charged to the first person in the group. If members of the group are paying individually (for example, with different credit cards), you must create separate registrations for each member.

What if I don't know my flight information when I register?

You can come back later and edit this part of your registration. Please add this information ASAP to help us with the coordination of shuttles.

If my flight info changes, who do I contact?

Missionscollege@imb.org

PROGRAM

What is the schedule?

Registration begins at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020. The first session begins at 3 p.m. The last session ends at 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 10, but you are welcome to stay overnight through Saturday morning. A detailed schedule is coming soon.

What is a plenary session?

These are large group times when everyone is together. These times will typically include corporate worship followed by presentations or preaching.

What are the different tracks?

See above [or click here](#)

Which track should I choose?

If you are not currently in a long-term partnership (committed to repeatedly coming back to one location) overseas with the IMB, the *Missions Intensive* track is for you!

If you are in a long-term partnership but this is your first Missions College, *Missions Scope* is the best starting place. It provides an excellent, broad-spectrum overview of fundamental but deep topics.

If you've been to the other Missions Scope or have others in your church attending one of those, please consider one of the other more specialized tracks. Please consult your field missionary that you are currently working with to see what they think would be the best fit for you. If more information or advice is needed, contact David Olson at dolson1@imb.org.

Can I change tracks?

You can change your track by logging back into the registration page and editing your selection. However, by mid-December these need to be finalized so appropriate classroom arrangements and instructor preparations can be made based on the final numbers. We need to strive to keep last minute changes to a minimum, so please ask as many questions as you can to understand the different tracks before finalizing your selection.

What are breakouts?

These are 90-minute sessions with a broad variety of topics that may be of interest to you (like electives) that are not covered in your main track. It is an opportunity to expose yourself to different subjects. For instance, if you are in the Orality track, do not go to the Orality breakout; choose a different topic of interest.

Which breakouts should I choose?

Look through the descriptions and choose those of greatest interest. Try to find topics not covered in your main track.

Can I change breakouts?

In the registration, you will mark your top three options. However, this is just to help us gauge interest. You can make your final selection right up to the start time of the breakout, i.e. you are not locked into a selection beforehand.

If I arrive late/leave early, will I miss anything important?

YES! We've selected the title "Missions College" to portray an ethos of intensive learning. We hope that it is very practical and dynamic with tremendous relationship building opportunities. However, the days are long and we strive to pack them full. We understand that flight times into/out of Richmond can sometimes make this difficult, which is why we offer the extra night of lodging at no extra charge. Please avoid the temptation to leave early on Friday. We will stay busy up until supper time and try our best to make your time and money worthwhile!

Will there be much free time?

There will be some, but in reality, this is designed to be an intensive time. We've listened to feedback from the past and are always striving to find the best balance. There is a slightly longer supper-time to allow some free time before the evening session. After the evening session, the time is free, and participants are encouraged to use that for continued relationship building and specific discussions or added rest and reflection when needed. Meals are good times to set up specific appointments for intentional conversations with churches or missionaries you've met throughout the training.

Will I be able to leave campus?

Yes, we won't lock you in (: However, there will not be a lot of free-time so try to bring snacks and essentials with you. There are a couple of convenience stores within a five-minute drive, but the campus is located in a rural area, so it's about a 15+ minute drive to any real centers of

commerce (restaurants, pharmacies, shopping stores, etc.) A list of places close-by will be available on campus, and Google is great! If you need to get off campus for some reason and don't have a car, please make a friend who does or ask us for help if you need it.

LOGISTICS

What is the schedule?

See above - [Click here](#)

What if I get there early?

You are welcome to arrive on campus early. Registration will not be open until noon, but you are welcome to hang out in the main building. Lunch will not be served on campus for early arrivals unless specifically coordinated in advance. If you need to arrive before Tuesday, please send a special request to Missionscollege@imb.org and an additional night may be possible for a small extra fee based on availability.

What if I stay late?

If you need to stay an extra day, contact Missionscollege@imb.org. An additional night may be possible for a small extra fee based on availability. Meals will not be provided on campus beyond Saturday breakfast.

What are the rooms like?

We will be utilizing all of the dorms and quads (apartment style rooms) on campus. Most rooms will have two single beds and a private bathroom.

What do I need to bring?

The campus is in a rural setting, so make sure to bring all personal items you will need. Your meals are provided in the cafeteria as part of the conference, but make sure to bring your own personal snacks for between meal times. You will also need to bring toiletry items, including hair dryers, etc. Sheets, blankets, towels, soap, and shampoo will be provided.

How do I get from the airport to the ILC?

We are arranging periodic shuttles with local churches. Shuttle times will be sent out a couple of weeks before the event.

Will I be able to purchase things like toiletries, snacks, etc.?

Some of these items are available but in limited supply. Please bring your toiletries and snack items. All meals are included in your registration, but snacks will not be provided. There are coffee dispensers on campus free of charge.

What is the attire?

Casual, but dress warm! Expect cold weather and come prepared. The campus is spread out and there will be significant walking to and from the different buildings. With this large of a group we will be utilizing nearly all of the buildings. Umbrellas or raincoats may be needed.

Will there be Internet?

Yes. There is Wi-Fi throughout the majority of the campus. Login instructions will included in your welcome package.

Can I have a private room?

We are expecting a full campus and will need to maximize rooms. If you would like a private room, there is a place to note that on the registration. You may also request a specific roommate on the registration site. Otherwise, a roommate will be assigned to you.

I have special dietary requirements.

All meals will be cafeteria style. However, our staff does a great job of offering a couple of different options with each meal. Please prepare and take precautions for any significant food allergies. If you have specific concerns, you can email Missionscollege@imb.org.

I am unable to climb stairs or walk across campus.

Please contact Missionscollege@imb.org and we will make sure you get a first-floor room. At registration, we will explain how to call a campus worker to come pick you up in one of the golf carts to help transport you across campus. The campus is spread out, so if there are health concerns please don't hesitate to let us know and we will gladly assist in any way possible.

Where is the closest pharmacy/convenience store to the ILC campus?

There are a couple of convenience stores within a 5-minute drive. However, the campus is located in a rural area. The nearest pharmacies, restaurants, and shopping centers are about a 15-minute drive (Short Pump or Centerville). Information and maps will be provided at registration.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS**Who are the keynote speakers?**

Training will be facilitated by several IMB field personnel from the America Peoples Affinity, Sub-Saharan Africa Peoples Affinity and the East Asia Peoples Affinity. In addition, keynote speakers will include the following:



Dr. Paul Chitwood

Dr. Chitwood was elected president of the IMB in November 2018. He previously served as executive director of the Kentucky Baptist Convention since 2011. For 18 years, Chitwood served as the pastor of local churches of varying sizes in Kentucky. During his pastorates, he served as chairman of the International Mission Board's trustees from 2008–10, part of his tenure as an IMB trustee from 2002–10. His overseas short-term mission involvement includes work in South America, Asia, Europe and Africa. A native of Jellico, Tenn., Chitwood is a 1992 graduate of Cumberland College (now University of the Cumberlands), where he has served as a trustee. He earned a master of divinity degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1995 and a PhD from the seminary in 2001. He currently is pursuing a master's degree in nonprofit administration from the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame.



John Brady

John Brady is the vice president for global engagement. He previously served as regional leader for mission work in Northern Africa and the Middle East, where he led Southern Baptist workers to spread the gospel. John grew up in Guyana as the son of Southern Baptist missionaries. He earned a bachelor's degree from Furman University and a master's degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Jenny, have been with the IMB for over two decades.



Dr. Gordon Fort

Dr. Fort is the senior ambassador for the IMB president. He received the bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M University, College Station, and the master of divinity and doctor of ministry degrees from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, TX. Gordon grew up in Zimbabwe, one of 5 boys born to medical doctor missionary parents. Gordon, and his wife, Leigh Ann, have served with the IMB since their appointment in 1985, in Botswana as associate to area director for Southern Africa; as regional leader for Southern Africa; as vice president for the Office of Overseas Operations; as senior vice president of Prayer Mobilization, and most recently as senior ambassador for IMB. Gordon and Leigh Ann have 4 children, and 3 grandchildren.



Dr. Rick Hedger

Dr. Hedger serves the Missouri Baptist Convention as the Multiplying Churches Director and Partnership Missions Strategist. Born and raised in De Soto, MO, Rick became a follower of Christ in January 1978 at the age of 20 and sensed the call to ministry shortly thereafter. He married Sandra D. Ferguson in June 1979. They have two adult married children and four grandchildren. Rick holds a bachelor of Bible from Missouri Baptist College and both a MDiv and DMin degree from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary in Memphis, TN.