



THE RELAY

It's all about relationship

Have you heard that before? We hear it a lot as we work in missions. Our US culture is so different in this way from the rest of the world. We may be the most connected on social media, but we are not connected like other cultures are connected. And how much of social media is not relational but networking to get a job done? The US in general values time, money, and progress much more than relationship. Think about when we first meet people. We establish who they are by asking what they do. We tend to think we are relevant by what we do. Read on for a different perspective.

Every July, LBT and Mission of Christ Network (MCN) make an annual pilgrimage to Concordia, MO where our International Offices are located for the Concordia Mission Institute (CMI). This is a time to reconnect with colleagues and friends as we worship, pray, learn, and fellowship together. It is a time of relationship building and learning. While the speakers didn't collaborate beforehand, the relationship theme



Speaking schedule

- Sept 7: LWML, St. John's Woodbury, MN
- 8 Immanuel, Wahpeton, ND
- 11: Our Savior, Minot ND
- 11 Bethlehem-St. John, Newburg ND
- 14 St. Matthew, Hazen
- 15: Immanuel am and Redeemer pm, Grand Forks, ND
- 18 Grace Luth School
- 18: Immanuel, Fargo, ND evening Wed
- 20-21 LWML retreat
- 22: Trinity, LaMoure, ND
- 22 Concordia, Jamestown
- 25 Martin Luther School
- 25 Zion, Bismarck
- 29: St. Andrew's West Fargo, ND
- 29 eve Messiah, Mounds View MN
- Oct 11-17: BT conference Dallas, TX
- 20: St. Michaels, Richville MI
- 27 Community Church, Douglas, MI
- Nov 11: Faith, Mpls MN
- 18 Mt. Olive. Des Moines IA --dates pending

Many weekday evenings are available. Contact me to set up a time with your church or small group.

"No amount of scholarship or knowledge can take the place of passion for the lost."

PRAY

Praise: For the many missionaries with MCN and LBT serving around the world. Praise for growth and connectedness within our organizations. Praise for all the partners who are making God's word available to people in their heart language.

Pray: For continued safe travels. Pray for the teams as they continue to revise and check their work. Pray for the churches and communities to encourage literacy and invest time and resources to promote language use and Scripture use.

Who I am

Becky is YOUR HEART IN ACTION. She serves you as a consultant for translation teams in Liberia, West Africa by using your prayers and support to fulfill your desire to "TELL THEM." Becky rejoices that she is part of your Lutheran Bible Translators team and values this special relationship greatly.

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distribution (Bandi NT reprint)

was strong in each message. As we minister to other cultures, **they are not going to be looking at what we accomplish among them so much as how much we are among them.**

Here are some notable insights I took away from the sessions:

Speaking on evangelism Rev. Nadar Hanna said: God is the head of a family that is incomplete. He searches for them. **When we think of evangelism in terms of family, then they are not a project, or figures, they are His children, they just don't know it yet.** Then we can love them into his kingdom. He says the #1 reason Muslims do not believe in Jesus is that **NO ONE TOLD THEM.**

He also gave some kind counsel to missionaries. Sometimes in the places we go, people become the objects of great pictures and stories to tell back home. They are scenery and we forget they are people. Or, we find people to get a job done when what we need to do is engage with them—share life with them.

Rev. David Sternbeck shared from the perspective of First Nations people and their lost identity. There wasn't a dry eye in the room. He introduced himself to us by telling us who he is in relation to his father and grandfather. What we do is important, but the identity issue comes first. Perhaps we have to **start first with we are children of God.**

Rev. Bob Newton told us about the people he worked among. Their word for "to eat" means "gathering together around food". It is impossible to just say "I eat" in that culture. Other people are always included. He told us of a story where he needed forgiveness by someone in the village. When that person invited him to eat with him, he knew he was forgiven. Wow! What are the implications for Christians as we gather together around the Lord's supper, as Christ invites us to eat and drink?

In addition to these fantastic speakers, we as missionaries connected around the Word and worship, around the meal table and Creemee Freeze, and special events like going to the cheese factory, the fireworks display, a 5k race/walk, and the End-of-CMI party with games.

Thanks for connecting with me through your prayers and support,

Becky

