

Track Sessions REACH 2026 by SESSION LIST

Session #2: Tuesday, 3/17 1:45 pm

Track: Administration & Organization (Co-listed with Leadership Track)

Host: Nick Demos

Room: 100

Convener: Nick Demos

Panelists: Alberto Santiago, Jed Roberts and Kyle Cox

Bios:

- Alberto Santiago served for 13 years as a County Deputy Sheriff and then combined his passion for sports with his calling to ministry and joined the team at Westover Hills Church in San Antonio. Albert carries a contagious enthusiasm for reaching those who are far from Jesus and is deeply committed to teaching integrity, courage, teamwork, and Christ-centered values to children, teens, and adults through the Westover Sports program. Over the past nine years, he has helped lead significant growth within the ministry and currently serves as the Sports & Outreach Director, impacting more than 3,000 youth and adults annually through soccer, basketball, volleyball, and flag football leagues. In addition to his leadership role, Santiago serves with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a licensed Chaplain, and leads worship at his church.
- Jed Roberts is in his 9th year with CCV Stars and has been an integral leader at the multi-sport youth sports program serving the Greater Phoenix Area. Throughout his tenure, he has helped grow an exploding youth sports ministry now serving over 22,000 participants at 16 different locations. Roberts ran facilities/operations for CCV Stars and also the football program before joining the development team, a central/headquarters group leading, supporting, and training up all of the sports pastors while also guiding program creation & strategy. Jed recently celebrated 15 years of marriage with his wife and has 4 children.
- Kyle Cox is in his 12th year with Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler TX, a multisite recreation ministry that serves the Tyler, Whitehouse, and Flint area. Green Acres Recreation consists of fitness ministry in the Family Life Center; sports ministry at the ROC outdoor sports facility; camp ministry at the Retreat Center on Lake Tyler; and the kids sports ministry called Impact Sports. Prior to coming to Green Acres, Cox served as Minister of Recreation at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Grenada, MS and worked for Upward Sports as a campus liaison for New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Kyle has been married for 23 years to his wife and has 2 boys.

Presentation Title: Intentional Integration: How to move sports families into your local church.

Presentation Description: Unless *Evangelistic-Discipling* is intentional, it will be accidental at best! SR&F outreach has the potential to be your congregation's most strategic and effective outreach, but unless there is a well envisioned plan to overcome the *2nd Dysconnect* (moving people from the gym/field to the pew), true discipling is unlikely to occur. This panel will include leaders from multiple churches that are committed to making their SR&F ministries "More Than a Game". They will discuss intentional ways to bridge the *Dysconnect* that exists between sports fields and the broader church. Topics will include:

- Leadership requirements
- Volunteer and parent training
- Communication strategies
- Curriculum
- Strategic invitations
- Outreach events

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theology, Philosophy or Methodology

Picture:



Track: Adult Sports

Room: Student

Host: Don Weyrick

Presentation Title: Adult SR&F: Creating Gospel-centric, Local Church *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* Opportunities That Are Intentional and Relational

Presentation Description: This workshop will empower local church SR&F leaders to ask and answer the question, “Why should their SR&F ministries offer opportunities for adults?” This will be done by:

- Examining different models of SR&F for adults
- Creating a five-part strategy for implementing adult SR&F ministries that are intentional and relational

This strategy will include discussion on pre-game spiritual challenges, captain expectations and potential issues to be mindful of, all with the goal of creating *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* opportunities.

Presenter: Danny Downing & Jordan Gibson

Presenter Bio:

- Danny Downing has been at JFBC since June of 2000 and really enjoys leading the Sports & Fitness Ministry! Downing played a key role in opening the Activities Center and The Fields at JFBC and has implemented many sports and fitness programs for people of all ages. Downing earned a Bachelor of Arts in Health/Physical Education and Christianity at Mercer University in 1985 and his Master of Arts in Religious Education in 1988 from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Downing was ordained to the Ministry by the First Baptist Church in Gainesville, Georgia in 1989. An author, Downing has written for Church Recreation Magazine, TeamKID, TM412, and 252 Basics. Danny and his wife have been married since 1985 and have four children and two grandchildren.
- Jordan Gibson has served in ministry for five years and has been a member of the Sports & Fitness team at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church for nearly three years. He holds a Master of Divinity and a Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Southeastern Baptist

Theological Seminary (2021). Jordan has been involved in some more non-traditional sports , including cricket and track, and now enjoys playing recreational disc golf and pickleball. He is passionate about leveraging sports as a bridge for the gospel and helping leaders develop into their potential.

Presentation Format: Workshop

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Fitness

Room: Gym

Host: Debbie Brown

Presentation Title: Stronger Together

Presentation Description: This interactive round-table workshop brings together faith, fitness, and fellowship in a welcoming space for conversation. Together, we will explore ministry challenges, ideas and practical insights. Come ready to listen, share, and grow stronger together in purpose and passion!

Convener: Debbie Brown;

Panelist: Debbie Brown, Asa Bjork, Adam Dunlap

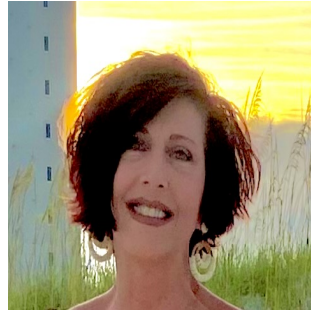
Panelist Bio:

- Adam Dunlap has served as the Minister of the Fitness & Recreation Ministry at Houston's First Baptist Church since 2017. The Fitness and Recreation Ministry consists of a fully functioning fitness gym, various rec sports and partnership programming, a summer day camp ministry, and the church's retreat property. In overseeing these ministries, Dunlap feels blessed to be able to integrate faith and personal wellness together in a variety of ways for the glory of God and the benefit of all who participate. With over 16 years in the fitness and wellness world, Dunlap is able to combine the best of the church and secular approach to sport, recreation and fitness outreach ministry. Dunlap loves to work out and watch a variety of sports including Houston's professional teams along with his alma mater, Texas Tech. Adam is passionate about being a husband to his wife of 11 years, and father to two children. He and his family faithfully attend and serve Houston's First Baptist Church Cypress campus each week.
- Asa Bjork is currently the Health and Fitness pastor of Kungsporten Church of Sweden and is part of the convening team of European Christian Sports Union. Bjork previously served in the Middle East for 8 years as a sports missionary and is a much loved and appreciated leader within the local church Sports Outreach Community. Bjork is repeat presenter at REACH. Asa resides in Sweden and likes to run long and slow (Ultra marathons) and take a cold bath afterwards. At Houston's First Baptist Church
- Debbie Brown has led the Fitness Ministry with energy, compassion and faith for 25 years. Brown has a passion to see her team use their spiritual gifts to build and serve the thriving fitness community and her greatest joy is to see others fall in love with Jesus and then to get strong and balanced through their commitment to live the healthiest life possible while growing closer to God. Brown's ministry has become a place of encouragement, connection, accountability, and spiritual renewal through movement and fellowship. Debbie and her late husband have a daughter and a granddaughter.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Fitness Outreach

Presenter Photo:



Track: General Interest

Room: Chapel Lobby

Host: Bill Love

Presentation Title: Devotion Builder: A Primer for training coaches in how to lead *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* Devotions

Presentation Description: The purpose of this Workshop is to provide local Church SR&F outreach ministers with a tool and strategy that will empower, enable and inform *Local Church Missionaries* (volunteers) on how to lead *Efficiently-Effective* postgame or fitness class devotions. Devotion Builder is a training program that is targeted to challenge coaches to do more than teach sport fundamentals and manage their team. It is designed to enable coaches to meet players' spiritual needs through Christo/Gospel-centric postgame devotionals. The end goal of Devotion Builder is reaching and discipling those who are far from Jesus with the Gospel. This Workshop will provide an initial devotion builder training session but ongoing training can occur through post-REACH zoom sessions with the presenter that are designed to assist sports ministers and their coaches throughout the year.

Presenter: Bill Love

Presenter Bio: William Love is an instructional designer and teacher/trainer with 23 years of experience as an adjunct faculty instructor at Stark State College, 15 years of designing training materials for Customer Service staff at Medical Mutual of Ohio, and 7 years as a CSRM Associate Director. Love also continues to serve at First Friends Church where he was a Director of three sports outreaches (Volleyball, Table Tennis, and Tennis), and he also helped to produce the church's sports outreach manuals. Love has a B.A. Interdisciplinary in Ancient Language (Hebrew/Greek), Archaeology, and Ancient Middle East History from The Ohio State University, where he also engaged in an additional 4 years of Graduate work in Islamic and Judaic studies. Love also received a M.S. in Technical Education from the University of Akron. Bill and his wife are the proud parents of 2 grown and married children.

Presentation Format: Workshop

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Philosophical or Methodological

Presenter Photo:

Bio of Presenter: **Presentation Title:** Devotion Builder: Empowering coaches to lead Christo-centric devotions

Description of Presentation:

Presentation Pedagogy: Workshop

Presentation 3-Tier Paradigm: Methodological, Theological

Track: *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* (Co-listed with *Theological-Truths*)

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: The Saving of Church Sports: The Soteriology of the Sports Outreach Community

Presentation Description:

The theology of Sports Outreach Track is **designed to enlighten both local church sports ministry leaders and all sports-related para-ministry leaders on how to truly accomplish their Great Commission goals.** The sad reality is that even though leagues, tournaments, fitness classes, camps and outreaches are well organized and attract hundreds (or more) people, most sports ministers report their ministry is not effective in meeting their *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goals of reaching all who are far from Jesus and His Church. Many sports ministers even report that their outreaches sometimes get a few of their sports participants to make a *Day's-Decision* ("raise their hand" or "pray a prayer") when given the opportunity to: "accept Jesus," but rarely do these "conversions" lead to anyone joining the church and becoming life-long *Dedicated-Disciples* of Jesus. The theology of Sports Outreach Track provides a step-by-step approach to knowing how to lay the foundational *Level #1 Theological-Truths* that will catalytically transform a local church and/or a sports-related, para-ministry into a truly Gospel-centric powerhouse. This second Key Note Address discusses the theology of salvation (soteriology) including the following specific points...

Discussion points will include:

- 1) What does it mean to be Gospel-centric
- 2) Is your congregation's SR&F outreach ministry really fulfilling the Great Commission
- 3) What does it mean to make a disciple
- 4) What does it mean to "get someone saved"
- 5) What is your ministry's *Success-Statistics*
- 6) How to seamlessly transfer people from your sports ministry to the full church participation
- 7) How to effectively reach those who are far from Jesus and His Church

This Keynote Address will bring clarity to these questions as it discusses the following

- What's the difference between a *Days-Decision & Dedicated-Disciple*
- Are you *Counting-Conversions* or *Convincing the Confusing / Conflicted*
- Do we proclaim or affirm the Gospel verbally
- Is our *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* based on *Mega-Models Outreach Model* (*Mass-Media / Mega-Events*) or on the *3-R Outreach Model* (*Repetitive; Relational; Redemptive*)

Unless a church understands the theology of salvation (soteriology), it will struggle to empower its people to reach those who are far from Jesus and His Church!

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presenter Bio: In his current role with CSRM, Dr. Linville serves as the General Editor/Publisher of CSRM's Publishing House (Overwhelming Victory Press - OVP); and as a Professor in CSRM's AGON Institute of Sports Ministry that offers a Master of Arts in Sports Outreach. Linville's Sports Ministry career began as an Urban Director for the YMCA and Urban Young Life ministries where he mobilized Sports Outreach Ministries to center-city kids, gangs and other disenfranchised people. His Sports Ministry continued as a highly successful Basketball Coach in the state of Ohio where he received two District 4 High School Coach of the year awards (one awarded as an assistant coach). He also coached collegiately at Geneva College and was inducted into the Stark County Amateur Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 and also the Babe Stearn Boy's Club Hall of Fame in 2016. Linville's local church Sports Ministry included 15 years as the Director of Sports & Recreation Outreach at an Evangelical Friends Church. There, he supervised the efforts of over 500 volunteers and a dozen staff and interns, whose efforts to reach over 2,000 people per week resulted in increasing church attendance from 250 to 2,500. Dr. Linville was awarded the world's first Honorary Doctorate in Sports Ministry, has an earned Doctorate in Sports Outreach Ministry and serves as the Dean and a Professor of The AGON Institute of Sports Ministry. Dr. Linville Ministerial credentials are

through the Evangelical Friends – Eastern Region. Married since 1982 he and his wife reside in Ohio, have two married children and enjoy a growing number of Grandchildren.

Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Gospel Centricity

Room: Chapel

Host: Bob Schindler

Presentation Title: God's Design for Sports, Rec and Fitness Ministry After The Fall

Presentation Description: The presentation is designed to further empower gospel-centric, local church sports ministers to further envision God's purposes for their church sports ministries. It is generally true that sports in church sports ministries are all broken and this seminar will seek to provide effective models for how to heal, correct and redeem the brokenness in both the church athletes and the church athletics. The goal for this seminar is to enlighten the church and the sports minister to see the purpose of sport to help redeem everything back to God's original design.

Presenter: ML Woodruff, Trevor Jackson and Ken Cross

Presenter Bio:

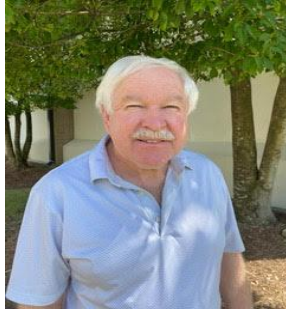
- ML Woodruff is a highly regarded sports ministry veteran who recently retired as the Minister of Sports Outreach at Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and currently is on staff with Cede Sports. Woodruff is a former high school football and basketball coach but his favorite sport to coach was baseball in which he won 11 State Baseball Championships, and was inducted into the Louisiana baseball HOF. Woodruff's lifelong mission is to integrate the Gospel in sport and seeing God transform his athletes for God's glory. Woodruff earned a B. S degree in Education from Louisiana State University. M.L. has been married 30 years and together with his wife have three children and four grandchildren.
- Trevor Jackson serves as the Associate Minister of Recreation at First Woodway Baptist Church in Waco, TX. Jackson has been involved in Recreation Ministry for over four years and has had the joy of witnessing the Lord grow the recreation ministry at First Woodway—otherwise known as “The MAC”—and transform lives within it. Jackson has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from the University of Houston and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Sports Ministry from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. Jackson is also a Certified Spiritual Director and a NASM Certified Personal Fitness Trainer. Over recent years, Jackson has greatly benefited from Cede Sports ministry coaching and has found tremendous value in Gospel Centered Sports Ministry. Trevor loves playing basketball and pickleball, and, as a native Oklahoman, is an avid fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder. He and his wife are recently married and currently are training for the 2026 Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.
- Ken Cross has nearly 50 years in ministry and often remarks, "Wisdom comes from learning from my many poor decisions." Starting as a janitor in a church and then moving to youth pastor, Cross has had the privilege to serve as a pastor in numerous churches, both large and small, in: CA, MS, GA and NC. God allowed him to start two

churches as a church planter, and serve his denomination as the chairman of the church planting committee that was instrumental in planting many more. Cross is currently working to train the next generation of Sports Chaplains and coaches local church, sports ministers through CEDE Sports.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological and Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: Leadership (Co-listed with Administration & Organization)

Host: Nick Demos

Room: 100

Convener: Nick Demos

Panelists: Alberto Santiago, Jed Roberts and Kyle Cox

Bios:

- Alberto Santiago served for 13 years as a County Deputy Sherriff and then combined his passion for sports with his calling to ministry and joined the team at Westover Hills Church in San Antonio. Albert carries a contagious enthusiasm for reaching those who are far from Jesus and is deeply committed to teaching integrity, courage, teamwork, and Christ-centered values to children, teens, and adults through the Westover Sports program. Over the past nine years, he has helped lead significant growth within the ministry and currently serves as the Sports & Outreach Director, impacting more than 3,000 youth and adults annually through soccer, basketball, volleyball, and flag football leagues. In addition to his leadership role, Santiago serves with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, is a licensed Chaplain, and leads worship at his church.
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- Leadership requirements
- Volunteer and parent training
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Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theology, Philosophy or Methodology

Picture:



Track: Personal & Professional Development

Room: Wiggle Giggle

Host: Jennifer Young

Presentation Title: Poured Out, Yet Renewed: Soul Care for Women Serving in SR&F Ministry

Presentation Description: Women in the SR&F movement share a deep calling to see how God uses sports, recreation, and fitness ministries for Gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* impact. This panel/roundtable creates intentional space to care for the hearts and souls of the women God is using in this work. In the first part of the session, panelists will share authentically from their own journeys—how God has met them in seasons of weariness, growth, and faithfulness, and what it looks like to remain spiritually healthy while continuing to serve others well. The second part of the session will create space to hear from other women as they share openly about the joys and challenges of being a woman in ministry. Together, attendees will listen to how God has walked with them through difficult seasons, how they have handled challenges with faith and wisdom, and how they have experienced joy, growth, and renewal along the way. This time will offer practical encouragement, shared understanding, and tangible takeaways for walking faithfully and sustainably in ministry.

Presenters: Carolyn Ward, Jennifer Young & Sarah Trego

Presenter Bios:

- Carolyn Ward holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Ministry from Oklahoma Baptist University and a master's degree in Strategic Ministry from Johnson University. Ward has been involved in sports ministry for 10 years, with 6 of those years in full-time roles. Throughout her ministry calling, she has served as a Regional Director for Triumph Sports Camps in Dallas, TX, Sports Director at First Baptist Church at the Fields in

Carrollton, TX, and currently serves as a Sports Pastor at Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV Stars) in Phoenix, Arizona. In January 2025, Ward received CCV's Staff Culture Award in recognition of her commitment to serving families with care and excellence. Carolyn is married and has a daughter. When she isn't out on the fields, she enjoys hiking with her family or spending time cooking. A fun fact about Carolyn: she once received seven fouls in a middle school basketball game!

- Jennifer Young is a local church sports ministry veteran of 20 years and currently resides in Danville, Indiana. Young initially started as an intern and was greatly impacted by CEDE Sports and graduated from its leadership center in 2007. For the last four years, Young has been a church coach and in addition, works with the women in the SR&F community. Prior to coaching for CEDE SPORTS, she served as a local church SR&F Outreach Minister with SOAR sports in Charlotte, NC and Columbia, SC and Connection Pointe Christian Church in Brownsburg, IN. Jennifer is a Big Ten college sports fan (Ohio State...can you say OH...), loves being an aunt to 7 nieces and nephews, and enjoys working with her hands in creating DIY pieces out of barnwood from her family's farm.
- Sarah Trego holds a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership and Ministry degree from Ohio Christian University and a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counsel and Care from Ashland Theological Seminary. Trego is currently on track to being an Ordained Elder in the Church of the Nazarene. Since 2019, Trego has embraced sports ministry and currently serves as the Outreach and Sports Ministry Assistant Pastor at The Naz Church in Grove City, Ohio. When she is not out serving the community or playing some type of sport, you can find Sarah either outside kayaking, camping, watching the sunsets or hanging with friends and family. Sarah is an avid sports fan and from Columbus, Ohio so Scarlett and Grey run deep! Sarah is happily married and has a daughter.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion/Round Table

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: *Theological-Truths* (Co-listed with *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*)

Room: 3

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Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Youth Sports

Room: Aud - B

Host: Kristen Walbridge

Presentation Title: Elevating Your Youth Sports League Experience to more effectively reach those that are far From Jesus and his Church

Presentation Description: This Panel Discussion will share practical ideas to enable local church SR&F leaders to empower their sports ministry to go beyond just the basics of running a league to creating an environment in which the Gospel is fully experienced, seen, felt and heard. Topics that will include:

- Advertising
- Communication
- Game-day experience
- Ministry touchpoints

Convener: Kristen Walbridge

Panelists: Beth Orne, Davey Gibson and Mike Poelzer

Bios:

- Beth Orne is the Director of Children's Ministries at Gospel Way Baptist Church in Williamsburg, VA where she has served in this position for 21 years. Orne has served as commissioner of Upward Basketball at GWBC for 20 years. She coordinates Children's Sunday School, Awana Clubs, Vacation Bible School and many special events to reach the children of her community. She graduated from Christopher Newport College (now Christopher Newport University) with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education. Orne taught first grade for 13 years before being called to ministry at Gospel Way.
- Davey Gibson has served churches in Texas for over 25 years as minister of youth, young adults, adult education, and discipleship & pastoral care since he was an undergraduate at Baylor University where he earned his bachelor's in business administration. Gibson has served as a basketball coach, assistant coach, and officiated more basketball games than he can count while serving the Lord with the Sugar Land Baptist Church family which he has called home for over 15 years.
- Mike Poelzer has served as the Connection Pastor at Spring Creek Church in Pewaukee, WI for 18 years. Poelzer has a BA in Philosophy and a BA in History from Cedarville University, a MA in History of Philosophy from Marquette University and a MDiv from Liberty University. Poelzer has served as the league director for Spring Creek's Upward Basketball and Soccer leagues for the past 23 years. Poelzer has written articles and blogs for Upward Sports over the years and also presented numerous breakout sessions at past SR&F conferences.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Session: 3 Tuesday 3:15-4:15

Track: Administration (Co-listed with Personal/Professional Development)

Room: 100

Host: Pastor Nick Demos

Presentation Title: The Key to Balance: Schedule Management

Presentation Description: There are only 24 hours in a day. Unless a SR&F outreach minister takes control of how they spend their time, others will do it for them! Leaders are constantly being pulled in different directions, so this session will talk about how to be intentional with how to most wisely envision, plan for and spend your time. Topics will include how to:

- Strategically structure your workday
- Create margin
- Say yes to the most important priorities
- Integrate a healthy work/home rhythm.

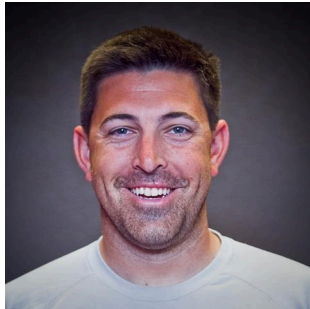
Presenter: Nick Demos

Presenter Bio: Pastor Demos has spent the last 17+ years with CCV Stars, a multi-site, multi-sport, youth sports outreach of Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) in the Phoenix area. In his time at CCV, he has seen the program grow from 2,400 annual youth participants at one campus to the country's largest local church sports outreach serving over 28,000 participants at 18 campuses. Following this year's Reach Gathering, Pastor Demos will be passing the baton to a new leader at CCV and joining the staff at Momentum Ministry Partners whose vision is to empower local congregations to embrace sports ministry as a mission that is essential to reaching their community for Jesus. Educationally, Demos received his Bachelor's in Secondary Education from Arizona State University and his Masters in Sports Leadership from Northeastern University in Boston. He has represented CCV Stars as part of the Mega Church Recreator's Association (MCRA) and has a huge passion for connecting with and helping support other sports ministries. Nick and his wife have been married for nearly 18 years together they are raising four children. Nick's family calendar fills up quickly with church and sports commitments, and he says that being able to coach his kids has been one of the great joys of his time at CCV. Nick is a long-suffering Dallas Cowboys fan and has become a diehard supporter of Wrexham AFC of the English Football League.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: Day Camps

Room: Wiggle Giggle

Host: Jason Ritch

Presenter Name: Liz Ramey

Presentation Title: Local Church *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* Through a Strategic Day Camp

Presentation Description: Local Church day camps are a strategic and excellent way for local churches to reach those who are far from Jesus and the Church. Day camps meet the felt need that many families have for quality summer childcare but more importantly, they provide a way for a congregation to have an eternal impact. This presentation will explore how to:

- Envision and plan for the camp
- Market and advertise the camp
- Organize and administrate the camp

- Effectively engage in *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* through camp activities and curriculum
- Intentionally integrate camper's families into the broader church

Presenter Bio: Liz Ramey has been engaged in camp ministry for 10 years. While Ramey has always had a heart for reaching kids and for worship ministry, she has more recently experienced how a local church day camp can open an avenue to minister to young adults as well! Prior to being full time in camp ministry, Ramey was an elementary teacher for 6 years while helping to lead and plant her former church in Houston. Ramey has now led her congregation's Daycation Summer Camp for over 16 years, where the church employs and empowers 70 college aged young adults to reach hundreds of families every summer. Ramey has overseen the camp's *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goal and mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ by teaching the Gospel and representing Jesus through a fun, creative and encouraging camp experience that eventually results in participants and their families becoming engaged in their church.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* (Co-listed with *Theological-Truths*)

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: SENT: The Missiology of the *Sports Outreach Community*

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Description:

The theology of Sports Outreach Track is **designed to enlighten both local church sports ministry leaders and all sports-related para-ministry leaders on how to truly accomplish their Great Commission goals.** The sad reality is that even though leagues, tournaments, fitness classes, camps and outreaches are well organized and attract hundreds (or more) people, most sports ministers report that their ministry is not effective in meeting their gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goals of reaching all who are far from Jesus and His Church. Many sports ministers even report that their outreaches sometimes get a few of their sports participants to make a *Day's-Decision* ("raise their hand" or "pray a prayer") when given the opportunity to: "accept Jesus," but rarely do these "conversions" lead to anyone joining the church and becoming life-long *Dedicated-Disciples* of Jesus. The theology of Sports Outreach Track provides a step-by-step approach to knowing how to lay the foundational *Level #1 Theological-Truths* that will catalytically transform a local church and/or a sports-related, para-ministry into a truly Gospel-centric powerhouse. This third Key Note Address will ask: Is your church truly reaching those who are far from Jesus and His Church? If your answer is: never, rarely, or seldom...this Keynote Address is for you! Topics covered will include exploring:

- The difference between volunteering and being SENT?
- Current trends of envisioning *Strategically-Relevant & Efficiently-Effective* methods for reaching those far from Jesus
- The difference between conducting a program versus engaging in a mission
- How to inspire, train and empower local church sports outreach missionaries as opposed to recruiting sports coaches and league directors

- How to avoid vision/mission drift

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presenter Bio: In his current role with CSRM, Dr. Linville serves as the General Editor/Publisher of CSRM's Publishing House (Overwhelming Victory Press - OVP); and as a Professor in CSRM's AGON Institute of Sports Ministry that offers a Master of Arts in Sports Outreach. Linville's Sports Ministry career began as an Urban Director for the YMCA and Urban Young Life ministries where he mobilized Sports Outreach Ministries to center-city kids, gangs and other disenfranchised people. His Sports Ministry continued as a highly successful Basketball Coach in the state of Ohio where he received two District 4 High School Coach of the year awards (one awarded as an assistant coach). He also coached collegiately at Geneva College and was inducted into the Stark County Amateur Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 and also the Babe Stearn Boy's Club Hall of Fame in 2016. Linville's local church Sports Ministry included 15 years as the Director of Sports & Recreation Outreach at an Evangelical Friends Church. There, he supervised the efforts of over 500 volunteers and a dozen staff and interns, whose efforts to reach over 2,000 people per week resulted in increasing church attendance from 250 to 2,500. Dr. Linville was awarded the world's first Honorary Doctorate in Sports Ministry, has an earned Doctorate in Sports Outreach Ministry and serves as the Dean and a Professor of The AGON Institute of Sports Ministry. Dr. Linville Ministerial credentials are through the Evangelical Friends – Eastern Region. Married since 1982 he and his wife reside in Ohio, have two married children and enjoy a growing number of Grandchildren.

Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: General Interest

Room: Gym

Host: Dr. Vickie Byler

Presentation Title: Leagues for those Impacted by a Disability

Presenter: Brian Loe

Presentation Description: Many sports leaders desire to connect with athletes with differing abilities but may not feel that they have the skills or support to do so. This presentation will discuss how to organize programs for athletes impacted by a disability. Some of the questions to be addressed will include

- What sports should I offer?
- What kind of “*Local Church Sports Missionary* (volunteer) to athlete ratio” should I aim for?
- What are some things to think about when working with athletes who have been impacted by a disability?
- What support do athletes who have been impacted by a disability need to be able to compete?

- How can our church and its *Local Sports Missionaries* (volunteers) engage the families of athletes who have been impacted with a disability?
- How can I share the Gospel with athletes and their families?

Bio of Presenter: Brian Loe has served as the Recreation Pastor at Cypress Baptist Church in Benton, LA. for 4 years where he launched the sports outreach ministry at the Cypress Baptist 3:16 Field House. Prior to full time sports ministry, Loe was a bi-vocational worship leader and a student pastor, as well as an insurance inspector. Loe's wife serves on the Cypress staff a worship leader and the Loe's have two children. Brian grew up in a military family, and hopes one day to return for a visit to Okinawa, Japan where he grew up. When not at the Field House, Brian and his family like to go to New Orleans Saints and Texas Rangers games.

Presentation Format: Workshop, Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Philosophical or Methodological



Track: General Interest

Room: Chapel Lobby

Host: Bill Love

Presentation Title: Communication: The Key to a Thriving Marriage and Local Church Sports Ministry

Presentation Description: This seminar will provide Biblical insights and wisdom on how to ensure effective communication and will include tips on how to manage conflict within both ministry and marriage. It will help singles prepare for marriage and thrive in ministry. It will also empower married couples to both thrive in ministry and marriage.

Presenters: Dwight and Angela McDowell

Presenters Bio: Dwight and Angela McDowell have a diverse professional background that reflects 25 plus years of professional experience working in public service. They have worked at the State, Local and Federal Government levels, as both civilian, sailor and as community volunteers. Their true passion is working with urban as well as suburban youth and young adults. They have been both coaches and mentors to this population at a local community center in Norfolk, VA. The McDowell's, who are quite active in their local church, also speak as faith-based youth and young adult teachers and motivators to all ages. They continue to serve on the CSRM board of Trustees on which Dwight served as board chair for 3 years. They also serve on local boards, Norfolk Mayors Commission, Community Service Board, and a Gubernatorial Board. The McDowell's are the founders of MarriageMapp Coaching & Mentoring LLC. Dwight holds a bachelor's degree and is a Certified Life Coach, ICF and Angela has a master's degree in Marriage, Couples and Family Therapy. They are SYMBIS Facilitators and Gottman Leaders. Together they are marriage coaches and host virtual online coaching appointments for couples. The McDowell are the authors of 3 Journals, Marriage is HeartWork for couples, husbands and wives and the book, entitled "The Call of a Mentor" and Podcast Host for The Call of a Mentor "Youth & Recreation Sports Talk" and Marriage Talk.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological and Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Gospel Centricity

Room: Chapel

Host: Bob Schindler

Presentation Title: Bringing Your Sport Into the Gospel

Presentation Description: If the gospel is the primary source and purpose of a person's life, then it should and can be the source and purpose of a person's SR&F ministry as well. This Workshop will share practical ways this has been done and provide all who attend an interactive way to make a personal application that will empower SR&F ministers to be Gospel-centered. This Workshop will explore questions like:

- How is the story of the Gospel being written in the life of the SR&F outreach ministers?
- Where can a SR&F outreach minister practically see the Gospel being written in every area of their lives?

Presenters: Don Weyrick and Jeff Fox

Presenters Bio:

Don Weyrick has been with CEDE Sports since April 2024. Prior to that, he ran a sports ministry in Southern California called Playing4eternity. Weyrick has been in sports ministry since 2010 and on Reach Gathering work teams since 2019. Don is married, was a collegiate water polo and swimmer, a small independent baseball player and also played volleyball and basketball at high amateur levels.

Jeff Fox is a much loved and appreciated ministry veteran who pastored for nearly 25 years before engaging in local church SR&F Ministry starting in 2000. Fox has coached and started a local church SR&F Outreach Ministry and currently assists his home church, The Church Indian Trail, NC where he oversees the baseball ministry and in addition develops and trains all the congregation's sports coaches. Fox currently serves full-time on staff with CEDE SPORTS where he has served for over 12 years.

Presentation Format: Workshop

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Personal/Professional Development (Co-listed with A&O)

Room: 100

Host: Pastor Nick Demos

Presentation Title: The Key to Balance: Schedule Management

Presentation Description: There are only 24 hours in a day. Unless a SR&F outreach minister takes control of how they spend their time, others will do it for them! Leaders are constantly being pulled in different directions, so this session will talk about how to be intentional with how to most wisely envision, plan for and spend your time. Topics will include how to:

- Strategically structure your workday
- Create margin
- Say yes to the most important priorities
- Integrate a healthy work/home rhythm.

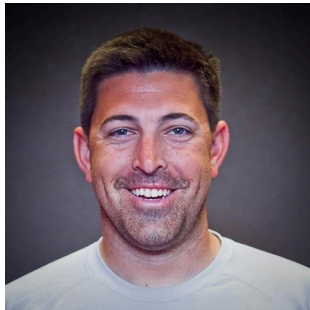
Presenter: Nick Demos

Presenter Bio: Pastor Demos has spent the last 17+ years with CCV Stars, a multi-site, multi-sport, youth sports outreach of Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV) in the Phoenix area. In his time at CCV, he has seen the program grow from 2,400 annual youth participants at one campus to the country's largest local church sports outreach serving over 28,000 participants at 18 campuses. Following this year's Reach Gathering, Pastor Demos will be passing the baton to a new leader at CCV and joining the staff at Momentum Ministry Partners whose vision is to empower local congregations to embrace sports ministry as a mission that is essential to reaching their community for Jesus. Educationally, Demos received his Bachelor's in Secondary Education from Arizona State University and his Masters in Sports Leadership from Northeastern University in Boston. He has represented CCV Stars as part of the Mega Church Recreator's Association (MCRA) and has a huge passion for connecting with and helping support other sports ministries. Nick and his wife have been married for nearly 18 years together they are raising four children. Nick's family calendar fills up quickly with church and sports commitments, and he says that being able to coach his kids has been one of the great joys of his time at CCV. Nick is a long-suffering Dallas Cowboys fan and has become a diehard supporter of Wrexham AFC of the English Football League.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: *Theological-Truths* (Co-listed with *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*)

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: SENT: The Missiology of the *Sports Outreach Community*

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Description:

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gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goals of reaching all who are far from Jesus and His Church. Many sports ministers even report that their outreaches sometimes get a few of their sports participants to make a *Day's-Decision* ("raise their hand" or "pray a prayer") when given the opportunity to: "accept Jesus," but rarely do these "conversions" lead to anyone joining the church and becoming life-long *Dedicated-Disciples* of Jesus. The theology of Sports Outreach Track provides a step-by-step approach to knowing how to lay the foundational *Level #1 Theological-Truths* that will catalytically transform a local church and/or a sports-related, para-ministry into a truly Gospel-centric powerhouse. This third Key Note Address will ask: Is your church truly reaching those who are far from Jesus and His Church? If your answer is: never, rarely, or seldom...this Keynote Address is for you! Topics covered will include exploring:

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Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Leadership

Room: Student

Host: Nick Demos

Presentation Title: Help! I'm Surrounded by Leaders

Presentation Description: How to recruit and lead, leaders is the theme of this Seminar. Most SR&F leaders want to be surrounded by other leaders, but once so surrounded, it's not always clear how to lead, leaders! Based upon the presenter's own unlikely leadership journey in sports ministry, this Seminar will provide practical action steps and memorable takeaways that have emerged from the presenter's personal experience, trial and error, advice from mentors...and a whole lot of prayer. It is hoped this Seminar will surprise all who attend with game-changing, biblically-based, leadership principles that are rarely taught but are truly unforgettable. The main goal of this Seminar is to empower local church sports ministers to surround themselves with leaders who are empowered to mobilize church members to engage in effective gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* SR&F outreach ministry.

Presenter: Danny Downing

Presenter Bio: Donny Varney is entering his 23rd year of involvement in sports ministry across 3 different states, including the past 10 years as the first sports ministry pastor for Grace Church in Akron, Ohio where he led a team of 8 dedicated sports ministry staff along with 18 sports ministry interns and 60 full-time summer counselors. Recently, Varney became Vice President for Momentum Ministry Partners, an organization with an 86-year history of supporting local church leaders in their pursuit of maximum Gospel-centric effectiveness. Varney earned a Bachelors in Secondary Education and a Master of Ministry degree from Northland International University. A competitive athlete, Varney has run 6 marathons but his favorite sport to watch, play, and coach is soccer. Donny and his wife have been married for 22 years and are raising 4 children. Otherwise, Varney loves to write poems; go on coffee dates with his wife; slurp his cereal; is a terrible singer; and enjoys finding moments to embarrass his kids.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical or Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Youth Sports

Room: Aud - B

Host: Kristen Walbridge

Presentation Title: Staying *Strategically-Relevant & Efficiently-Effective*: Trends Shaping Youth Sports and Ministry

Presentation Description: Today's youth sports culture is rapidly changing. This Key Note will analyze current trends and explore where the local church has a distinct, Christ-focused advantage. Join in the conversation to redefine the *Level #1 Why* and discover new, Gospel-centered growth opportunities that move beyond the court and field into intentional *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* endeavors.

Presenter: Travis Vaughn

Presenter Bio: Vaughn is a director at Upward Sports, where he leads the market research, product development and marketing teams. Vaughn has led the research and the design of organization changes that has taken Upward to four straight years of growth. Process and principally driven, Vaughn's commitment to embrace innovation and insight into how to engage

in continuous improvement will aid churches to fulfill their goal to be Gospel-centric and empower their leaders to reach those who are far from Jesus and His Church.

Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Philosophical, Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Session: 4 LAB Wednesday 9:45-11:15

Track: Administration & Organization (Co-Listed with Youth Sports)

Room: Aud - B

Host: Nick Demos

Presentation Title: The CCV Model: Running an Excellent Gospel-centric, Local Church Youth Sports Outreach For Programs of All Sizes

Presentation Description: This presentation will be a panel-led, round-table discussion led by the CCV Stars Central leadership team. The CCV leadership team will share the sports outreach blueprint they developed, and will discuss how a similar model can be reproduced in local churches. This session is designed to enable all who attend, to adapt the CCV blueprint model to fit specific situations, whether they serve dozens, or even thousands of youth sport participants. Questions are welcome, and a great and interactive time is expected!

Convener: Nick Demos

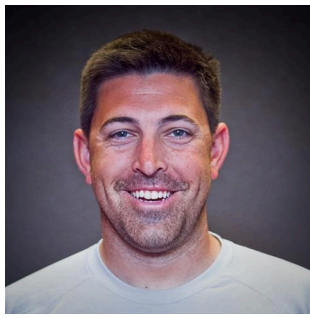
Panel Members: Nick Demos, Jed Roberts, Alexis Alhadeff

Panel Members Bio: The panel members of this presentation consist of the sports outreach leadership team of Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV). CCV is a local church in the Phoenix area that has historically focused on conducting a Gospel-Centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* sports outreach. Nick Demos, Jed Roberts, and Alexis Alhadeff have collectively served for over 3 decades during which they envisioned and created a ministry blueprint for the country's largest, local church, multi-site sports outreach ministry. The three panel members lead the CCV Stars leadership team that consists of 40 full-time staff who serve 18 different campuses. The CCV Stars are responsible for the vision, standards, direction, and training for the congregation's outreaches and engage in marketing, registrations, onboarding volunteers and managing budgets.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical, Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Presentation Track: Day Camps**Room:** 100**Host:** Liz Ramey**Presentation Title:** Creating Intentional Moments with Students and Camp Staff

Presentation Description: Creating intentional relationships are crucial for gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* impact. This Workshop will inform and inspire all who attend to envision how to integrate relationship building strategies into a local church day camp outreach. From curriculum and camp games to staff training and “one-on-ones” this session will provide proven ways to make every moment with each person in your camp ministry impactful and focused on Jesus. Topics will include how to:

- Maximize personal daily schedules
- Integrate Bible curriculum
- Bring Jesus into every game
- Recruit the right people (staff) for the right time
- Train your staff to be gospel bearers

Presenter Name: Liz Ramey

Presenter Bio: Liz Ramey has been engaged in camp ministry for 10 years. While Ramey has always had a heart for reaching kids and for worship ministry, she has more recently experienced how a local church day camp can open an avenue to minister to young adults as well! Prior to being full time in camp ministry, Ramey was an elementary teacher for 6 years while helping to lead and plant her former church in Houston. Ramey has now led her congregation’s Daycation Summer Camp for over 16 years, where the church employs and empowers 70 college aged young adults to reach hundreds of families every summer. Ramey has overseen the camp’s *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goal and mission is to share the love of Jesus Christ by teaching the Gospel and representing Jesus through a fun, creative and encouraging camp experience that eventually results in participants and their families becoming engaged in their church.

Presentation Format: Workshop**Presentation Certification Fulfillment:** Methodological

Track: Fitness

Room: Gym

Host: Debbie Brown

Presentation Title: Fitness, Faith and Excellence: Best Practices for Effective Gospel-centric, Local Church Ministry

Presentation Description: This interactive workshop equips fitness ministry leaders with practical, proven strategies to begin, build, grow and sustain a Gospel-centric, Christ-honoring fitness program. All who lead a local church fitness outreach ministry need tools, ideas and inspiration to lead well, and reach and encourage those God sends us! This Workshop will empower all who attend to serve with confidence and lead with purpose as it covers best key practices to allow the ministry to flourish.

Presenter: Debbie Brown

Presenter Bio: At Houston's First Baptist Church Debbie Brown has led the Fitness Ministry with energy, compassion and faith for 25 years. Brown has a passion to see her team use their spiritual gifts to build and serve the thriving fitness community and her greatest joy is to see others fall in love with Jesus and then to get strong and balanced through their commitment to live the healthiest life possible while growing closer to God. Brown's ministry has become a place of encouragement, connection, accountability, and spiritual renewal through movement and fellowship. Debbie and her late husband have a daughter and a granddaughter.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: General Interest (Co-listed with *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*)

Room: Chapel Lobby

Host: Bill Love

Presentation Title: Building the Church Under Persecution in Restrictive Countries and Contexts

Presentation Description: This Key Note Address is designed to enlighten, inform and inspire any local church SR&F leader on how to envision, empower and enable a partnership with an indigenous international mission or congregation for the purpose of empowering indigenous international leadership to plant new, or enhance and expand the impact of existing congregations.

Presenter: "V" from "T"

Presenter Bio: "V" from "T" (name withheld for security reasons) overall experience includes work in the management and development of various companies and he has also worked in his country as a coordinator of development of the national youth program. More recently, the Director has become actively involved in local church ministry as a youth coordinator, missionary, church planter and sport ministry country leader. While a full list of his academics, industry, cultural and ministerial positions and accomplishments would fill an entire page, they are not listed for security reasons.

Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Philosophical or Methodological

Track: Gospel Centricity

Room: Chapel

Host: Bob Schindler

Presentation Title: Gospel-Centered Culture that Leads to Ministry Breakthrough

Presentation Description: The goal of SR&F leaders is to create intentional ministries that transform lives. The greatest point of tension to this goal centers around the balance of maintaining SR&F ministries and increasing the ministry impact. The greatest opportunity for intentional *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* opportunities comes when *local church sports missionaries (volunteer coaches)* and athletes operate with a unified vision that is *Gospel-centric*. In this panel discussion, SR&F leaders will share practical ideas about developing a *Gospel-centric* culture and the steps that can be taken to embody the Gospel in all SR&F endeavors.

Presenters: Javier Sola, Trevor Jackson and Bob Schindler

Presenter Bio:

Trevor Jackson serves as the Associate Minister of Recreation at First Woodway Baptist Church in Waco, TX. Jackson has been involved in Recreation Ministry for over four years and has had the joy of witnessing the Lord grow the recreation ministry at First Woodway—otherwise known as “The MAC”—and transform lives within it. Jackson has a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from the University of Houston and is currently pursuing a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Sports Ministry from George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. Jackson is also a Certified Spiritual Director and a NASM Certified Personal Fitness Trainer. Over recent years, Jackson has greatly benefited from Cede Sports ministry coaching and has found tremendous value in Gospel Centered Sports Ministry. Trevor loves playing basketball and pickleball, and, as a native Oklahoman, is an avid fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder. He and his wife are recently married and currently are training for the 2026 Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon.

Javier Sola serves as the Discovery Sports Pastor at Discovery Church in Orlando, Florida. He has served in this role since 2021 and served as the Student Pastor 10 years before this. The greatest honor and blessing in Sola’s 15 years of ministry has been seeing God transform countless lives and give them the grace to call Jesus their savior. God has blessed Sola with the opportunity to lead the Sports Ministry and combine his favorite passions: ministry, sports, and family. Sola grew up on the sandy/sunny beaches of Clearwater, Florida, where he developed his love for integrating sports and faith. A graduate of the University of South Florida with a degree in Bio-Medical Science, Sola also earned a Masters of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary. Sola plays many sports but excels as a runner including completing over 100 competitive races over 25 years, from 1 mile to marathons to Disney’s Dopey Challenge (48.6 miles). Javier spends time with his family (wife and 3 children) by playing board games, going to the beach; Disney, and Universal; and with great passion and intensity watching the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Bob Schindler is the President of CEDE SPORTS, where he has served since 2003. (CEDE SPORTS strives to impact the people of sport through churches and chaplaincy.) Prior to that, Schindler was an Associate Pastor, church planter and Senior Pastor in two churches in East Tennessee. Schindler started sports ministries that served both adults and children and were the primary outreach vehicle for both churches. Before entering the ministry as a vocation, he played professional golf, and worked in the chemical and software industries. Schindler studied Chemical Engineering at Vanderbilt University and is currently pursuing his Masters in Christian Leadership at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC. Schindler published his first book - *Does God Care Who Wins?* - in 2017. Bob is married to his wife of 48 years, and has seven grown children and seven grandchildren. The Schindlers have called New City Church (formerly Church at Charlotte) home since 2003 and have been supported missionaries of the church since 2008.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: Leadership (Co-listed with *Theological-Truths*)

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: Round Table Discussion “Woke or Awakened” Leading Local Church SR&F in the midst of Controversy

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Description: This round table discussion will explore theologies and strategies for local church SR&F outreach ministries in relationship to current issues in regards to human sexuality and identity.

Convener: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Convener Bio: In his current role with CSRM, Dr. Linville serves as the General Editor/Publisher of CSRM's Publishing House (Overwhelming Victory Press - OVP); and as a Professor in CSRM's AGON Institute of Sports Ministry that offers a Master of Arts in Sports Outreach. Linville's Sports Ministry career began as an Urban Director for the YMCA and Urban Young Life ministries where he mobilized Sports Outreach Ministries to center-city kids, gangs and other disenfranchised people. His Sports Ministry continued as a highly successful Basketball Coach in the state of Ohio where he received two District 4 High School Coach of the year awards (one awarded as an assistant coach). He also coached collegiately at Geneva College and was inducted into the Stark County Amateur Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 and also the Babe Stearn Boy's Club Hall of Fame in 2016. Linville's local church Sports Ministry included 15 years as the Director of Sports & Recreation Outreach at an Evangelical Friends Church. There, he supervised the efforts of over 500 volunteers and a dozen staff and interns, whose efforts to reach over 2,000 people per week resulted in increasing church attendance from 250 to 2,500. Dr. Linville was awarded the world's first Honorary Doctorate in Sports Ministry, has an earned Doctorate in Sports Outreach Ministry and serves as the Dean and a Professor of The AGON Institute of Sports Ministry. Dr. Linville Ministerial credentials are through the Evangelical Friends – Eastern Region. Married since 1982 he and his wife reside in Ohio, have two married children and enjoy a growing number of Grandchildren.

Presentation Format: Round Table Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Personal & Professional Development

Room: Student

Host: Don Weyrick

Presentation Title: Personal Care and Spiritual Formation for SR&F, Male Leaders

Presentation Description: Personal care and spiritual formation is important for SR&F leaders as they seek to steward responsibilities of family, ministry and their individual lives. This panel and round table discussion will focus specifically on how local church, SR&F male leaders can seek to provide biblical guidance and practical ways to live this out.

Presenter:

Convener : Don Weyrick

Panel : Ben Radant, John Keating and Chad Payne

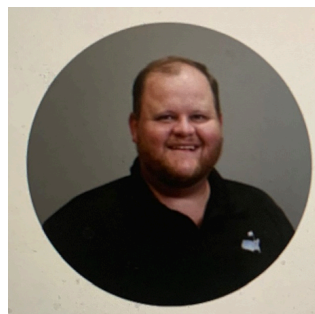
Presenter Bio:

- Ben Radant is the Children's Minister at Cornerstone Christian Church in Brownsburg, Indiana. Radant grew up playing backyard sports in Pittsburgh and walked on to play soccer and tennis at Kentucky Christian University. Radant has coached high school soccer for 5 years, is a 1st Dan in Tae Kwon Do, and even has a paintball trophy. Radant has run an Upward Soccer League for over 14 years and also runs a men's basketball ministry.
- Chad Payn is the Division Chair and Associate Professor of Sports and Recreation at Oklahoma Baptist University. He joined the OBU faculty in 2016 after serving as a sports minister for over 15 years in churches in Houston, Dallas, Southeast Georgia, and Oklahoma. His passion is using sports and recreation as a tool to build Gospel-centered relationships between the church and communities. He has led several international sports ministry trips with churches and as a GO Trip mentor with OBU. Chad lives in Oklahoma, where he enjoys family activities with his wife and three kids and currently has fallen in love with playing pickleball.
- Rev. John M. Keating is the Outreach & Sports Pastor at The Naz Church in Grove City, OH where he has served since 2016. Through the Naz Sports, he helps people take their next steps toward Jesus Christ through 20+ various sports & fitness ministries. Annually they welcome thousands of participants from ages 3yrs.- 80+yrs. and are equipping hundreds of volunteers. He also oversees all Outreach Missions work through The Naz targeting local, national and global impact efforts. As a member of The Naz Preaching Team he rotates preaching in weekend services while also serving as a regular key speaker at yearly retreats, churches and camps. Pastor John's greatest blessings are found in his wife of 16 years and their two kids.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion/Round Table

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: *Theological-Truths* (Co-listed with Leadership)

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: Round Table Discussion “Woke or Awakened” Leading Local Church SR&F in the midst of Controversy

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Description: This round table discussion will explore theologies and strategies for local church SR&F outreach ministries in relationship to current issues in regards to human sexuality and identity.

Convener: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Convener Bio: In his current role with CSRM, Dr. Linville serves as the General Editor/Publisher of CSRM's Publishing House (Overwhelming Victory Press - OVP); and as a Professor in CSRM's AGON Institute of Sports Ministry that offers a Master of Arts in Sports Outreach. Linville's Sports Ministry career began as an Urban Director for the YMCA and Urban Young Life ministries where he mobilized Sports Outreach Ministries to center-city kids, gangs and other disenfranchised people. His Sports Ministry continued as a highly successful Basketball Coach in the state of Ohio where he received two District 4 High School Coach of the year awards (one awarded as an assistant coach). He also coached collegiately at Geneva College and was inducted into the Stark County Amateur Basketball Hall of Fame in 2018 and also the Babe Stearn Boy's Club Hall of Fame in 2016. Linville's local church Sports Ministry included 15 years as the Director of Sports & Recreation Outreach at an Evangelical Friends Church. There, he supervised the efforts of over 500 volunteers and a dozen staff and interns, whose efforts to reach over 2,000 people per week resulted in increasing church attendance from 250 to 2,500. Dr. Linville was awarded the world's first Honorary Doctorate in Sports Ministry, has an earned Doctorate in Sports Outreach Ministry and serves as the Dean and a Professor of The AGON Institute of Sports Ministry. Dr. Linville Ministerial credentials are through the Evangelical Friends – Eastern Region. Married since 1982 he and his wife reside in Ohio, have two married children and enjoy a growing number of Grandchildren.

Presentation Format: Round Table Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Youth Sports (Co-Listed with Administration & Organization)

Room: Aud - B

Host: Nick Demos

Presentation Title: The CCV Model: Running an Excellent Gospel-centric, Local Church Youth Sports Outreach For Programs of All Sizes

Presentation Description: This presentation will be a panel-led, round-table discussion led by the CCV Stars Central leadership team. The CCV leadership team will share the sports outreach blueprint they developed, and will discuss how a similar model can be reproduced in local churches. This session is designed to enable all who attend, to adapt the CCV blueprint model to fit specific situations, whether they serve dozens, or even thousands of youth sport participants. Questions are welcome, and a great and interactive time is expected!

Convener: Nick Demos

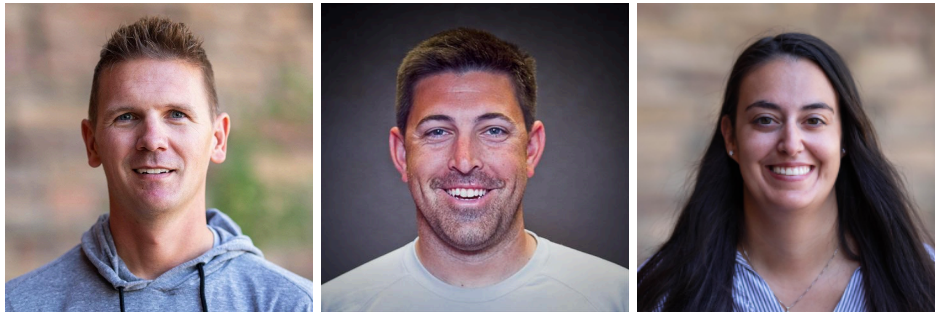
Panel Members: CCV Stars Team

Panel Members Bio: The panel members of this presentation consist of the sports outreach leadership team of Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV). CCV is a local church in the Phoenix area that has historically focused on conducting a Gospel-Centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* sports outreach. Nick Demos, Jed Roberts, and Alexis Alhadeff have collectively served for over 3 decades during which they envisioned and created a ministry blueprint for the country's largest, local church, multi-site sports outreach ministry. The three panel members lead the CCV Stars leadership team that consists of 40 full-time staff who serve 18 different campuses. The CCV Stars are responsible for the vision, standards, direction, and training for the congregation's outreaches and engage in marketing, registrations, onboarding volunteers and managing budgets.

Presentation Format: Panel Discussion

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical, Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Session: 5 Wednesday 1:45-2:45

Track: Administration and Organization (Co-listed with Leadership)

Room: 100

Host: Nick Demos

Presentation Title: Leading a Growing Sports Ministry

Presentation Description: This seminar will focus on what it looks like to build, grow, and sustain a thriving sports ministry. Drawing from real-world ministry experience, this session will explore key principles, challenges, and lessons learned along the journey of growth. SR&F leaders will be encouraged to think strategically and prayerfully about their own context and leadership approach and will encounter fresh perspectives, practical inspiration, and clarity on next steps for leading a healthy, impactful, and growing sports ministry.

Presenter: Carolyn Ward

Presenter Bio: Carolyn Ward holds a bachelor's degree in Sports Ministry from Oklahoma Baptist University and a master's degree in Strategic Ministry from Johnson University. Ward has been involved in sports ministry for 10 years, with 6 of those years in full-time roles. Throughout her ministry calling, she has served as a Regional Director for Triumph Sports Camps in Dallas, TX, Sports Director at First Baptist Church at the Fields in Carrollton, TX, and currently serves as a Sports Pastor at Christ's Church of the Valley (CCV Stars) in Phoenix, Arizona. In January 2025, Ward received CCV's Staff Culture Award in recognition of her commitment to serving families with care and excellence. Carolyn is married and has a daughter. When she isn't out on the fields, she enjoys hiking with her family or spending time cooking. A fun fact about Carolyn: she once received seven fouls in a middle school basketball game!

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Adult Sports

Room: Student

Host: Bryce Johnson

Presentation Title: Local Churches Reaching the Sports FAN Through FANTasy Football Leagues Operating as Small Groups

Presentation Description: This Seminar is designed to present unique and effective ways to intentionally reach and minister to sports fans who are far from Jesus, unengaged and disconnected at any church. It will provide the strategy and framework for utilizing Fantasy Football as a powerful way to engage sports fans and help them come to, and grow in, their faith. It will also include a demonstration on how to start and run a Fantasy Football ministry within your local church's sports ministry. The end goal of this Seminar is to empower local churches to help sports fans (especially men or disengaged young people) connect and experience fellowship with others at your church and in your sports ministry.

Presenter: Bryce Johnson

Presenter Bio: Bryce Johnson is the President and Founder of UNPACKIN' it Ministries, with a mission to challenge, encourage, and inspire sports fans to follow Jesus and become more like Him. Through devotionals, podcasts, radio, books, events, and Fantasy Football Fellowship, sports fans engage in sports conversations that lead to faith conversations. Johnson's passion is to see sports fans everywhere following Jesus, so whether he's writing, speaking, or hosting a show, he relates sports stories to life and Biblical truth. Bryce is the author of The Sports Devotional Series and The Fantasy Football Fellowship Playbook and a contributor to the Bible App and AthletesInAction.org. A graduate of Appalachian State University with a degree in Electronic Media/Broadcasting and a minor in sociology. Johnson's favorite sports moment came when he was a fan in the "Big House" when App State beat Michigan and pulled the greatest upset in college football history. Bryce's favorite moment on the court was hitting a game-winner at UNC basketball camp as a Duke fan. Bryce and his wife have two daughters and hail from North Carolina.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Day Camps

Room: Wiggle Giggle

Host: Vickie Byler

Presentation Title: Glory Kids: How To Serve those who are Impacted by a Disability

Presentation Description:

Presenter: Matt Sauer

Presenter Bio:

Presentation Format:

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical, Methodological

Presenter Photo:

Track: *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* (Co-listed with Youth Sports)

Room: Aud - B

Host: Kristen Walbridge

Presentation Title: Empowering *Local Church Sports Missionaries* (Volunteer Coaches) for Gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*

Presentation Description: This seminar is designed to equip local church sports coaches to move beyond leading basic devotions to engaging in life-changing Gospel conversations. Learn how to equip leaders to be Christ-focused mentors and establish an intentional and formal pipeline that develops coaches into their next leadership role within the local church.

Presenter: Ben Radant

Presenter Bio: Ben Radant is the Children's Minister at Cornerstone Christian Church in Brownsburg, Indiana. Radant grew up playing backyard sports in Pittsburgh and walked on to play soccer and tennis at Kentucky Christian University. Radant has coached high school soccer for 5 years, is a 1st Don in Tae Kwon Do, and even has a paintball trophy. Radant has run an Upward Soccer League for over 14 years and also runs a men's basketball ministry.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: Fitness (Co-listed with Personal/Professional Development)

Room: Gym

Host: Debbie Brown

Presentation Title: Fit to Lead: Healthy Habits That Empower and Elevate Leadership

Presentation Description: Healthy leadership begins with a foundation of personal well-being, where biblical wellness, fitness, and nutrition fuel clarity, resilience, and emotional balance. When leaders prioritize their own spiritual, emotional, physical and relational health they not only experience, but also model, sustainable habits that reflect biblical stewardship of the body and personal life. This seminar explores:

- Practical strategies for integrating biblically-based mindful wellness
- Envisioning how to integrate leadership practices into a daily schedule
- Pragmatic tools to elevate personal vitality, spiritual grounding, and professional impact

Presenter: Rev. Adam Dunlap

Presenter Bio: Rev. Adam Dunlap has served as the Minister of the Fitness & Recreation Ministry at Houston's First Baptist Church since 2017. The Fitness and Recreation Ministry consists of a fully functioning fitness gym, various rec sports and partnership programming, a summer day camp ministry, and the church's retreat property. In overseeing these ministries, Dunlap feels blessed to be able to integrate faith and personal wellness together in a variety of ways for the glory of God and the benefit of all who participate. With over 16 years in the fitness and wellness world, Dunlap is able to combine the best of the church and secular approach to sport, recreation and fitness outreach ministry. Dunlap loves to work out and watch a variety of sports including Houston's professional teams along with his alma mater, Texas Tech. Adam is passionate about being a husband to his wife of 11 years, and father to two children. He and his family faithfully attend and serve Houston's First Baptist Church Cypress campus each week.

Presentation Pedagogy: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical or Methodological

Presenter Photo: Headshot Photo File Upload:



Track: General Interest

Room: Chapel Lobby

Host: Bill Love

Presentation Title: The Integration of Faith & Sport

Presentation Description: Sports offer a unique space to pursue an embodied spirituality. Each person was created to engage mind, body, and spirit in worship to God. This Seminar/Workshop is designed to empower all participants to think creatively about how they can use sports to draw close to God. Topics will include:

- An exploration of the importance of spiritual formation in sports
- An overview of creative practices in spiritual formation
- A discussion on designing opportunities for sports and spiritual formation

Presenter: Isaac Lee

Presenter Bio: Isaac Lee serves as the Continuing Education program manager for Truett Seminary's Faith & Sports Institute (FSI) where he manages FSI's Online Certificate Program and helps to develop and teach continuing education courses for Christian Leaders in Sports. Before coming to Truett, Lee received a Bachelors degree in physical education from the University of Alberta and a Master of Divinity degree from Taylor Seminary. A lifelong learner, Lee has also received a certificate in Christian leadership from Arrow Leadership. Along with his educational pursuits, Lee has a passion for sports as evidenced by the fact that he played varsity badminton and volunteered as University athletic trainer. Lee also has 13 years of sports ministry experience with Athletes in Action, where he has helped to disciple, lead, and mentor athletes, coaches, and fellow sports ministry staff members. Lee is currently a student in the Doctor of Ministry program at Truett Seminary.

Presentation Format: Seminar / Workshop

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological or Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Gospel Centricity

Room: Chapel

Host: Bob Schindler

Presentation Title: Helping People Experience Jesus through Sports, Rec and Fitness

Presentation Description: This seminar is designed to equip SR&F outreach ministers to wisely and patiently engage those who are far from Jesus and His Church, recognizing that sharing the Gospel is a process, not a one-time event. Common myths about *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* will be replaced with freeing truths that bring confidence instead of pressure, shame, or confusion in *Proclaiming & Affirming* the Gospel. It is hoped all who attend this Seminar will be empowered to enable people to experience freedom as you help them experience Jesus through local church sports, recreation, and fitness outreach ministries. SR&F outreach ministers, by embracing biblical truths, will be empowered to live them out in a strategically faithful way to share the Gospel within your SR&F ministries. Participants will learn to:

- Explain the difference between God's intention for life that people can find in Jesus and their current less-than-fulfilling, lived experience
- Identify the main reasons for that gap
- Recognize the key myths that are believed about reaching those who are far from Jesus and His Church

Presenters: Jennifer Young and Don Weyrick

Presenter Bio: Jennifer Young is a local church sports ministry veteran of 20 years and currently resides in Danville, Indiana. Young initially started as an intern and was greatly impacted by CEDE Sports and graduated from its leadership center in 2007. For the last four years, Young has been a church coach and in addition, works with the women in the SR&F community. Prior to coaching for CEDE SPORTS, she served as a local church SR&F Outreach Minister with SOAR sports in Charlotte, NC and Columbia, SC and Connection Pointe Christian Church in Brownsburg, IN. Jennifer is a Big Ten college sports fan (Ohio State...can you say OH....), loves being an aunt to 7 nieces and nephews, and enjoys working with her hands in creating DIY pieces out of barnwood from her family's farm.

Don Weyrick has been with CEDE Sports since April 2024. Prior to that, he ran a sports ministry in Southern California called Playing4eternity. Weyrick has been in sports ministry since 2010 and on Reach Gathering work teams since 2019. Don is married, was a collegiate water polo and swimmer, a small independent baseball player and also played volleyball and basketball at high amateur levels.

Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:



Track: Leadership (Co-listed with Administration and Organization)

Room: 100

Host: Nick Demos

Presentation Title: Leading a Growing Sports Ministry

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Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological

Presenter Photo:



Track: Personal/Professional Development (Co-listed with Fitness)

Room: Gym

Host: Debbie Brown

Presentation Title: Fit to Lead: Healthy Habits That Empower and Elevate Leadership

Presentation Description: Healthy leadership begins with a foundation of personal well-being, where biblical wellness, fitness, and nutrition fuel clarity, resilience, and emotional balance. When leaders prioritize their own spiritual, emotional, physical and relational health they not

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Presentation Pedagogy: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Theological, Philosophical or Methodological

Presenter Photo: Headshot Photo File Upload:



Track: *Theological-Truths* of Local Church SR&F Outreach Ministry

Room: 3

Host: Rev. Dr. Greg Linville

Presentation Title: Putting The Church Back in the Game: The Ecclesiology of the Sports Outreach Community

Presentation Description:

The theology of Sports Outreach Track is **designed to enlighten both local church sports ministry leaders and all sports-related para-ministry leaders on how to truly accomplish their Great Commission goals.** The sad reality is that even though leagues, tournaments, fitness classes, camps and outreaches are well organized and attract hundreds (or more) people, most sports ministers report that their ministry is not effective in meeting their gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* goals of reaching all who are far from Jesus and His Church. Many sports ministers even report that their outreaches sometimes get a few of their sports participants to make a *Day's-Decision* ("raise their hand" or "pray a prayer") when given the opportunity to: "accept Jesus," but rarely do these "conversions" lead to anyone joining the church and becoming life-long *Dedicated-Disciples* of Jesus. The theology of Sports Outreach Track provides a step-by-step approach to knowing how to lay the foundational *Level #1*

Theological-Truths that will catalytically transform a local church and/or a sports-related, para-ministry into a truly Gospel-centric powerhouse. This final Key Note Address discusses the following topics:

- What is The Church?
- What is a congregation?
- What's the distinction and what difference does it make?
- Did the early church send out Barnabus and Paul to start para-ministries or to plant churches?
- Are FCA, AIA, PAO styled para-ministries more effective for Gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking* than local church SR&F outreach ministries?

This session will explore the theological foundation (ecclesiology) for what The Church is, and what it is to engage in, to accomplish the Great Commission. All of these and many other questions will be discussed in this Keynote Address...all for the purpose of enabling local church SR&F outreach leaders to envision *Strategically-Relevant & Efficiently-Effective* outreaches that can empower league directors, coaches and fitness leaders to reach those who are far from Jesus and His Church.

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Presentation Format: Key Note Address

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: *Theological-Truths*

Presenter Photo:



Track: Youth Sports (Co-listed with *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*)

Room: Aud - B

Host: Kristen Walbridge

Presentation Title: Empowering *Local Church Sports Missionaries* (Volunteer Coaches) for Gospel-centric, *Evangelistic-Disciplemaking*

Presentation Description: This seminar is designed to equip local church sports coaches to move beyond leading basic devotions to engaging in life-changing Gospel conversations. Learn how to equip leaders to be Christ-focused mentors and establish an intentional and formal pipeline that develops coaches into their next leadership role within the local church.

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Presentation Format: Seminar

Presentation Certification Fulfillment: Methodological, Philosophical

Presenter Photo:

