



## **MOBILIZE IMPACT** CONFERENCE

### **Breakout Session 1, Friday at 11:30**

#### **DISCIPLE MAKING: MOVING FROM TRADITIONAL TO TRANSFORMATIONAL** **Ivan Veldhuizen, Room 120**

There are many things we can learn from the global church where disciple-making and gospel movements of biblical proportion are taking place. We will consider what principles and practices can be transferred effectively into our American context to see a fresh wave of radical Jesus-followers unleashed through your church.

#### **THE THEOLOGY & USE OF AI IN MINISTRY** **Juan Valencia, Room 121**

The AI revolution is coming and you are not prepared for it. This workshop will give a brief overview of what's coming, an outline of how to think about the theological use of AI as a tool in ministry, and then give some practical suggestions for what you can do right now with AI that will further your ministry.

#### **HOW THE LANDSCAPE OF MINISTRY IS CHANGING: MINISTRY & CULTURE COLLIDING** **Bernard Emerson, Room 124**

For leaders who are navigating ministry where cultural shifts are reshaping traditional outreach. We'll explore shifts in ministry, emphasizing the need for how churches engage communities. Attendees will gain insights into how changes are driving the transformation of ministry, prompting a reevaluation of practices. Whether you're looking to refresh your approach or validation for new directions, this session promises perspectives for steering ministry through changing times.

#### **HOW TO SHARE JESUS WITH YOUR LGBTQ+ FRIENDS** **Chad Francis, Room 210**

When it comes to engaging our LGBTQ+ friends, many people seem to believe there's a tension between the teaching of Jesus and the compassion of Jesus. This leaves some feeling embarrassed by the Bible, while others compromise. But what if there was another way? Join us as we look at a framework for understanding how Jesus is good news for our LGBTQ+ friends and talk about practical steps we can take to share this reality.

### **Breakout Session 2, Friday at 1:15**

#### **PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE: SUCCESSION** **Matt Steen, Room 120**

The Church in America is seeing a wave of succession as a generation of pastors begins to age out of ministry. How can we begin to prepare for the inevitable in a way that honors everyone involved?

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## AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Damon & Chantel Owens, Room 124**

Being a "mission-minded" church is not easy. Do it well, it requires empowering the community and cross-sector collaboration. Effective community development often requires the cooperation of the public, private, and social sectors. As the local church, we must BUILD bridges...not walls in order to mobilize for impact.

## Breakout Session 3, Saturday at 9:00

### LIFESTYLE EVANGELISM

**Larry Adams, Room 120**

Utilizing everyday opportunities to build relationships that God can use to create open doors to sharing the love of Christ and the Gospel.

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### CREATING A DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE

**John Markum, Room 210**

The Great Commission commands us to "go and make disciples", but few churches have an executable discipleship strategy. Join me for a look into creating systems for fulfilling the call to make disciples as part of the DNA of your ministry.

# Speaker Bios

LARRY ADAMS

**Director of Church Strengthening: Converge PacWest**

Director of Church Strengthening for ConvergePacWest. For 35 years, Larry served as senior pastor at Golden Hills Community Church in Brentwood, California. He and his wife, Karla, have three married children and eight grandchildren. They both serve as church-strengthening directors for Converge PacWest, providing mentorship/coaching for pastors and spouses in churches across Northern California, Nevada, and Hawaii.

BERNARD EMERSON

**Regional President: Converge PacWest**

Bernard Emerson is the Regional President of Converge PacWest and a proud native of Oakland. Bernard works with churches and partners with them to coach leaders. With a strong sense of God's call, he partnered with Kyle Brooks to plant Tapestry Church. In his free time, he loves to ride Harley Davidson motorcycles and is an avid Miami Dolphins fan. He and his wife Kim have been married for 34 years and have 5 children.

CHAD FRANCIS

**Lead Pastor**

Chad is the Lead Pastor of Fair Oaks Church in the East Bay Area, CA. As a Bay Area native, he's passionate about helping God's people embrace the adventure of living for Jesus in this beautiful but broken place. Chad received his B.S. in Christian Leadership from William Jesus University in 2010 and his Masters in Biblical & Theological Studies from Western Seminary in 2021.

JOHN MARKUM

**Lead Pastor**

Pastor John is a veteran church planter with 20 years of ministry experience. He has written a number of Bible studies and holds a MA in Church Ministry. He and his wife, Tiffany serve together in San Jose and have four great kids.

DAMON & SHANTELL OWENS

**Senior Pastor**

Damon Owens is the Co-Founder & Sr. Pastor of Genesis Church-Antioch; a 9-year-old multi-generational church that is committed to sharing the gospel through local missions, community youth development, and trauma informed care. He is currently Chairman of the Board of Overseers for Converge PacWest which oversees churches in Northern CA, Nevada, and Hawaii. Damon is also a Regional Ministry Developer with World Impact, Inc., a 50-year-old Urban Christian missions organization whose sole purpose is to provide affordable, accessible, and effective resources for the Urban Church. He is also pursuing his Master's Degree in Organizational and Leadership Development. Damon loves Golf, Formula One Racing and is a loyal Las Vegas Raiders fan. He is married to Shantell and has 3 daughters and 5 beautiful grandchildren: Christian, Anaiyah, Gia, Olivia, & Derrick Jr.

## Speaker Bios Cont'd

JUAN VALENCIA

**Lead Pastor**

Juan Valencia, a bi-vocational church planter in East Palo Alto, bridges ministry and technology with deep theological reflection on AI. As an engineering executive in Silicon Valley, he utilizes expertise in machine learning and large language models to aid in ministry. Juan, alongside his wife Rachel and children Eman and Estelle, planted Living Community Church, which currently meets as a house church in East Palo Alto.

IVAN VELDHUIZEN

**Vice President: Converge International Ministries**

Ivan Veldhuizen, Senior VP of International Ministries at Converge since 2012, fosters a global-minded culture across 1400+ churches, aiming to mobilize them to reach least reached people groups worldwide. He previously served as a field associate at the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association for five years, bringing evangelism to 24 countries. With a Master of Divinity from Bethel Seminary, Ivan has 25 years of experience as a Converge pastor, driving spiritual health, community impact, and world missions. He resides in Orlando, Florida.