

Track 1: Learn

Track 1 and 2 are designed to be taken sequentially prior to Track 3 and 4 which can be taken out of order and typically taught every other year. NMT is an inclusive approach to learning where you will become a part of a Track and stay with that group of learners throughout the week. Your group will build relationship and trust as you delve into deep and meaningful learning and prayer. NMT is not designed to be “a la carte” and a thoughtful scope and sequence has been developed. Trust us, no matter what your level of experience, start in Track 1- you’ll be glad you didn’t miss out on this Track!

Dos and Don’ts

New to village life? This basic class is for you. The class will present things that should be done, things that should be avoided, in the context of the cultural spectrum throughout villages in Alaska and the North. Although each village is unique, there are numerous cultural similarities that our experienced speakers will share with those less experienced. Newcomers will find essential information to help you successfully navigate the first few years toward a deeper understanding of the place you now call, “Home.”

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee who has grown up in a village or been there many years? Consider this basic course an opportunity for you to share your experiences with both presenters and participants. The speaker for this course will rely on those attending to increase the knowledge base for all taking this course.

Educators new to village schools will find this information critical as you successfully build a bridge between your class and the community. Evaluate your perspective of “best practices” in education with the cultural distinctives of village life in the North, and integrate this learning into your 2019-2020 curriculum approach for greater success.

Perspectives on Native Culture

Listen to a variety of Native voices from bush Alaska and the North each year from this popular and informative class. Participants will benefit from listening to elders from different tribes and young adults speaking on the culture of the present. The diversity of speakers present their various “takes” on what Native culture means to them and how we can respond to the various differences in cultures in ways that demonstrates God’s love of all nations.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee who has grown up in a village or been there many years? This class may remind you of perspectives you’ve accepted but never examined.

Educators will appreciate this opportunity to hear the Native and generational perspectives, observe different cultural styles of learning and presenting information and knowledge, and dialogue with these speakers as it relates to village schools and their key role in the lives of their students.

Co-Dependency and Healthy Relationships

All ministry and life is based on relationships. Discipling relationships not carefully developed can dangerously move us toward unbalance, veering into destructive patterns or becoming overly guarded to shield ourselves from the pain and suffering in the world around us. How do we adjust and navigate our relationships, holding them to the path which best represents Christ? This class will cover hard topics from personal experience, warning signs that we are over-correcting one way or the other, and call us to follow Christ on every hard road.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? Consider this course essential to share your perspectives and experiences, as well as self-evaluate to make course corrections.

Educators will find this course relevant as they embrace the intricacies required in crafting a solid pedagogy that carefully blends professionalism and Native values and expectations. This course is critical in developing a healthy and emotionally sustainable way of relating to your students, the family members, and the community.

Spiritual Warfare

“If you have not faced it openly, you will.” Those chilling words from a past speaker still ring true. This class is not about magic words. Instead, this class is about what God says about spiritual warfare, how to face it, and how to teach others to face it. The speaker will present biblical truth and provide personal field experiences as it relates to spiritual warfare.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? Consider this course an opportunity to resonate with the biblical truth and experiences shared by others, as well as sharpen your solid approach in recognizing and handling spiritual opposition.

Educators will find this class helpful in forming their doctrine of spiritual forces, and gather ideas for personal, “best practices,” in covering themselves and their students in prayer.

History of Missions in the North

Snow-encrusted mountains and miles of wilderness with no roads give the impression of untouched lands. But this is a deceptive appearance at best. This land is filled with history of contact, communication, commerce, and missions. The current churches, missions, and teachers stand on many shoulders. Understanding those who came before us is not easy, but it is essential if we are to communicate our message. This class offers an overview of the history of Alaska and the intersection of that history with the Gospel of Christ.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? Experienced attendees are often surprised at the scope of history presented and new nuggets they discover about a well-studied subject. You may have additional information and insights essential to the others attending.

Educators, this is your class to evaluate the perspectives presented during your Alaska study and multicultural coursework. Come and gain a more comprehensive foundation for the challenges you face in engaging the students, the community and the culture. Growing in this understanding is essential to developing your pedagogy and classroom structures.

Buried Beliefs vs. Scripture

Before we jump in and attempt to, “remove the speck in our brothers’ eye,” we must pause. Many of us find it easy to identify contradictions in the lives of others, particularly within cultures that differ from our own. We can quickly, and all too easily, point out those who claim Christ yet believe and practice things contrary to His life and message. Founded on the truth that Christ is counter-culture to all of us, this class provides personal challenges for us to allow God to strike the hidden corners of our lives, and shine light on any beliefs and practices that need changing in our own culture first. This class will challenge us to examine anti-scriptural beliefs and practices through introspection in our own lives, forcing us to see ourselves clearly before attempting to change others.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? This class will provide a unique opportunity for you to examine your multi-cultural perspective and self-assess areas God would have you change.

Educators will find this class particularly helpful in sharpening your self-awareness and equipping gain a more balanced approach to effecting positive change from a platform of humility and service.

Teaching in the Bush

Educators have a demanding and difficult job, but those that embrace the bush setting find themselves presented with unique challenges. This class is facilitated by an experienced bush-teacher, speaking primarily to first-year educators. The class will present insightful challenges for the Christian educator to reach beyond their classroom walls as they seek to educate students, affect change, and minister to the community.

Are you:

Ministering in a village but not called to teaching? This class is essential for you! Bush-teaching can be a lonely post and educators, as a part of village society, are often overlooked by local Christian ministers. This class will present insightful challenges for Christians to effectively reach out and minister to educators as members of the community in which they live.

Youth Ministry

Regardless of your title, most people in bush ministry will find themselves working with youth. It is a demanding, challenging, difficult, and rewarding essential aspect in ministering to this high percentage of the Native population. This class is not about games, methods, or an hour on Wednesday night programming; this class will shoot to the heart of youth ministry in addressing the: why, who, and what. This class calls us to look at God’s heart to discover our motivation (why,) discuss ten sentences that define the youth (who,) and inserts God’s heart alongside the condition of youth to reveal our goals (what.)

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? Let this class challenge your experiences and allow God to take you deeper in your practice and beliefs about youth.

Educators will find this class a good opportunity to evaluate their foundational calling to children/youth and strengthen this with God's heart for your students. Educators will find this an excellent opportunity to share research-based approaches or methodologies in educational practice that can also enhance youth ministry beyond the classroom walls.

Using Story Methods

Do you minister in an oral culture that teaches through story? What better time to assess some modern methods to apply this ancient, and biblical technique? This class will provide an overview of various methods (Chronological Bible storying, Simply the Story, etc.,) discusses their strengths and weaknesses, and identifies their basic similarities. It will educate you as to what is out there today in methodology, and allow you to evaluate ways to incorporate these methods in your own evangelism and discipleship.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? You will find this a useful class for evaluating a variety of approaches to add to ways you have approached sharing the gospel.

Educators will find this relevant as they learn ways to relationally and informally share God's Word beyond the classroom.

Elders Speak (Combined with Track 2 &4)

This is an all-time NMT favorite where participants are free to engage in question and answer with a panel of elders. Is there something you always wanted to ask but were afraid of how it might sound? Ask it here. Is there a ministry problem you just can't seem to figure out? This group has likely faced something similar. Is there a teaching situation where you see no answers? Bring it up here. The wisdom, variety, and depth of the experiences on this panel will encourage you and fill you with hope for your own path.

Are you:

A Track 1 attendee that has grown up in a village or been there multiple years? Then you already realize the unique and valued perspective of godly elders. Come and enjoy this opportunity!

Educators will find this one of the best places to ask hard questions that will help them improve their practice and witness.

2 Classes: TBA