

Track 2: Speak

Track 2 is only for NMT participants who have completed Track 1. Track 3 and 4 are the only tracks 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.

One-Point Teaching

Linear Western culture prefers instruction that contains 3 main ideas, is progressive, and contains alliterated concepts. Most non-western cultures, however think and receive instruction differently. This class will challenge the way you think and give you a chance to practice something that may be entirely new: teaching a Bible study with only one point.

Educators will find this class helpful as they incorporate this approach into their instructional methodology, enhancing the learning experiences for their students.

Children’s Ministry Dos and Don’ts

Encounters with kids start the moment the door of the plane opens in a new village. But these encounters can seem deceptively simple and the landscape can be dotted with hidden landmines. This is not a class on ‘how to have a great VBS,’ but rather a challenge to be the kind of person, and create the kind of place, that presents Christ clearly in word and deed. The class will present critical guidelines to help you steer clear of those landmines. Kids are every culture’s most precious assets and we need to handle with great care our responsibility to that culture.

Educators will find this class invaluable as you enhance your cultural perspectives, sharpen your awareness of hidden dangers, and sharpen your approach as you work with, and minister to, children.

Transitioning to Spiritual Discussions

So you have talked about moose hunting, boating, the weather, and even politics. But the discussion you most want to have, the message of Christ, seems a closed door! How do you know when to push on that door without killing the relationship? When is it time to live Christ, and when is it time to speak Christ? Most of us long to share our faith, but the awkwardness is such a barrier. This class will hit that topic head on.

Educators will appreciate the ways this class can inform and structure the ways they present Christ to colleagues and community members beyond the walls of your classroom.

Authentic Parental Involvement

Educators? Pastors? Missionaries? Youth workers? Regardless of the role you find yourselves, you are working in a culture that places high value on family- nuclear and extended. If you long to experience greater parental, adult, or extended family involvement with your children and youth, then this class will be your starting place. This collaborative class will invite everyone to identify roadblocks to parental/familial involvement, challenge our thinking as it relates to this important approach, and

explore ways we can create space for meaningful and authentic involvement from adults. You will leave with some self-identified action steps to implement in your village context.

Life in Isolation

Living off road is different. The tactics for getting a large vehicle, a new mattress, or even a dog out to the village is a clear reminder that, “life out there” is more complicated. But friends and deep relationships can’t be “ordered and delivered.” In villages either made up of close-knit relatives, or independent thinking outsiders, building true friendships can seem a far-off hope. And... maybe it is. What does God’s Word say to the lonely one who feels cut off? This class will give you footholds from Scripture as you scale the high mountain of adjustment to isolation.

Educators will find this class particularly relevant when your professional environment can be as lonely for Christians as can the village context.

Responding to Trauma in the Village

Statistics tell us that trauma occurs in the lives of bush Alaskans on a higher ratio than to the general American public. What those statistics cannot tell you is that the trauma is compounded by the small population where everyone feels every grief. What should you do when trauma comes to your village? How can you show appropriate love and compassion when very likely you are grieving as well? This class is led by Native elders and will address what your role is when some form of trauma comes to your village.

Educators experience the trauma deeply as it impacts their students and other students in their small school community. This class will enhance your professional training in identifying and dealing with trauma.

Raising Ministry Kids

Ministry and family often seem at odds with each other. Parenting is challenging enough without your family being in the center of the ministry fishbowl, and yet that is exactly where families are often called to live. This class delves deeply into the goals of parenting and then applies those goals to the ministry setting. Is it possible to raise strong kids and build a strong ministry at the same time? That is the topic of this class. **Educators** with families will relate well to this class. **Educators** without family may find this class particularly helpful in supporting ministry families residing in your village.

Elders Speak (Combined with Track 1 & 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 years, variety, and depth of the experiences on this panel will encourage you and fill you with hope for your own path.

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

Alaska Church Doctrines

Nearly everyone, in most villages, claim Christian membership to an often far-away church or denomination, regardless of whether they attend church or have an active church in the community. Entering into these communities that are “owned” by various churches demands a greater understanding of the current doctrinal beliefs and practice of the dominant church in your region. The ability to best understand your village church context will help you sharpen your own beliefs and define possible working relationships with the dominant church in your area. This class provides the necessary tools for understanding the church beliefs in your region. Even long-time village residents have appreciated the information provided in this class. This is an essential class.

Educators will find this class critical for background information in working with your students, cultural church customs, and with the community.

Understanding Addiction

The worst epidemic faced in our communities is addiction and its ripple effects. Dori Hagen will expose what addiction looks like at the brain level. Understanding the physical reality of addiction enhances, rather than diminishes, God's power and grace in reaching humanity under all circumstances. It can also help us know how to better communicate Christ's freedom to a person suffering under a fierce slavery to addiction.

Educators will find this class particularly relevant to sharpen their skills with special needs and the emotional health of their students.

Healthy Relationships with Addicts

Dori Hagen continues her discussion on addiction with a focused look at how to maintain a working, sacrificial, yet beneficial outreach to the addicted. She shows that this is neither hopeless nor easy, especially in the discipleship process. This class will encourage you to understand the challenges faced by those who suffer with addiction as they try to see a hope for following Christ to freedom.

Normal Cycles

Cycles are a normal aspect of life but cross-cultural encounters present some unique cycles and need careful consideration. Each cycle, while neither good nor bad, contains challenges and pitfalls, as well as opportunities for growth. The greatest danger is getting stuck in a cycle for too long or getting mired down too deeply in disillusionment, complacency or burn out. This class will identify natural cycles of ministry and challenge us to keep pressing on with the task to which Christ has called us- that is, to reach out regardless of the cycle in which we find ourselves.

Educators will find this class helpful in processing the cycles of their unfolding practice and life in the village context.

God's Word and Terrible Things

Statistics show that villages deal with an abnormally high rate of violence, abuse, and early, premature death. Teachers of this class come with the experience of how to bring God's Word into these tragedies. What do you share with grieving parents? How do you counsel those grieving parents or those whose lives have been rocked by abuse and feel that abusing or suicide is the only end? How does God's Word intersect all these difficult areas? The answers will not be patterned cut-outs, but stories that will stick in

your mind as prompts and encouragement for life's darkest moments in order that God's hope shines brightest.

Educators will find this class informative to help sharpen their skill in using God's Word beyond the classroom, and guide their relational approach in responding to grief and trauma.

1 Class TBA