Creating a DNA of Connections in Your Church

Every organisation has DNA or core values, sometimes carefully chosen and sometimes imprinted on us by the culture around us. An important part of revitalising a church is connecting with people, and every culture around the world has unwritten rules about how people interact with other members of the community. In this session we will work to identify the "rules" on connecting with people in your country, and we will consider some practical ways to harness those cultural values for the gospel.

**Jay Mosser** has served in pastoral roles for 40 years – about 20 years in various assistant pastor capacities and the rest as senior pastor. Through those years he has served in three churches ranging from smaller (less than 50) to larger (about 1,000). Along the way he has worked with children, teens, worship ministry, pastoral care, preaching and leadership. Jay has an M.Div. from Western (Conservative Baptist) Seminary and a D.Min. from Corban University in Oregon, where his doctoral thesis was titled “How a Pastor’s Theology of Shepherding Affects the Health & Growth of a Church.” He is married to Kathy and has three daughters and four grandchildren. In his spare time, he loves to read, hike, travel, watch sports, and spend time with his family.

**Part I**

Thinking Biblically About Connections

1. A Culture of Connections Begins with a Love for Lost People Driven by a Passion for God Himself
   1. Luke 19:41-44
   2. Romans 9:1-3 and 10:1
   3. Philippians 3:17-21
   4. Colossians 1:15-20
2. A Culture of Connections Values Relationships *Within* the Family of Believers
   1. Connections with other believers enable us to obey the “one another” commands in the Bible. (Romans 12:4-13)
   2. Connections with other believers form the environment for ongoing discipleship. (Hebrews 3:12-13)
3. A Culture of Connections Pursues Relationships in the *Community* Around Us (“Bridges”)
   1. Paul describes “the fragrance of Christ” that should characterize God’s people.   
      (II Corinthians 2:14-17)
   2. Jesus regularly circulated with lost people, enough so that people reacted.   
      (Luke 5:27-32)

**Part II**

Thinking Practically About Connections

1. Let’s Chat: What are the cultural limits where you live? (things that would be against the law or frowned upon, like knocking on doors of people you don’t know or street evangelism)
2. Breakout Rooms: What are the cultural opportunities where you live that could be used by believers to build connections with people who do not yet know Christ? (a local festival that you could help with, a mission that serves hungry people or poor people, an orphanage where you could visit, a civic club like Rotary)

***Suggested Readings:***

*Let the Nations Be Glad!* by John Piper

*Eternity in Their Hearts* by Don Richardson

*Comeback Churches* by Ed Stetzer and Mike Dodson