

Family on Mission

Fast-forward your life to the point when you are 80 and looking back at your accomplishments. How will you feel if you see hundreds of ministry activities and a broken family? Will ministry accomplishments make up for an empty marriage and kids who are estranged and far from God?

Perhaps you should leave the ministry and just concentrate on your family? But would this really be the best for your family? In the Bible we see a Trinity that is “Family on mission”, maintaining unbelievable relational connection while engaging together in God’s rescue mission. Could this be true of your family as well?

Dave Patty was born in the Philippines to missionary parents, grew up in a family on mission, and now has grown children who are serving God together with he and his wife. Dave and Connie, with two of their children, Tyler and Claire will lead this pre-conference track together, sharing insights and experiences from family on mission.

This seminar will cover:

1. The great dichotomy and how you can avoid it
2. Three models of family and how they express themselves in ministry
3. Seven habits of family on mission
4. Four thieves of family on mission
5. Recent results from an in-depth survey of children and parents in ministry in Central and Eastern Europe – with practical tips from real families.
6. Family on mission from the perspective of wives and children.
7. Effective prayer for your family

Your insights, experiences and questions will also enrich our time together. This will be a unique opportunity for you to prepare now for the look backward that brings you joy and satisfaction as you see a fruitful life that blessed your family.

Dave Patty has been involved in training youth leaders and leading national and international youth movements in Europe for over 30 years and serves as the president of Josiah Venture. He is also a founding member of Global Youth Initiative, which mobilises and equips youth ministry trainers in over 40 countries of the world. Dave is an ordained pastor with a BA in theology and a MA in education. He has also done graduate work in leadership development at Harvard University. For the past 21 years he has lived in the Czech Republic, and spent the 10 years before that in Germany. Dave is married to Connie, and has three children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire.

Connie Patty is a missionary with Josiah Venture, an organisation that evangelises, disciples, and trains young leaders across Central and Eastern Europe. She has lived in Europe for more thirty-three years, twenty-five of those in the Czech Republic with her husband, Dave. She is mom to three adult children, Tyler, Caleb, and Claire, to two daughter-in-laws, Lara and Haley, and “Nonnie” to Judah, Asher, and Charlie. She loves to pray, disciple young women, post on her blog, Living By Lysa, travel with her husband, and take photos to capture memories.

Claire Patty grew up in the Czech Republic as the daughter of missionaries, Dave and Connie Patty. From a young age she was impacted by being raised in a cross-cultural setting and seeing the gospel transform lives. After graduating from a Czech national school, she completed her BA in Bible and Children’s Ministry at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. During her years at Moody, God placed a passion in her heart for third-culture missionary kids. An internship at Mission Training International equipped her to provide training and debrief for missionary kids and their families, and it was there that her desire deepened to see these children cared for on the field. Claire now serves the Josiah Venture team as their JV kid ministry specialist. Her role involves coming alongside children of

missionaries and their families across Central and Eastern Europe to equip them in the challenges they face, helping them thrive in their local churches and countries where they live. She is based out of the Czech Republic.

Tyler Patty serves as the director of theological education Pprojects with Josiah Venture in the Czech Republic. Strongly influenced by his childhood on the mission field, Tyler returned with his family to continue the work of equipping young leaders to fulfil Christ's commission through the local church. Tyler has a BA in Bible and Youth Ministry from Moody Bible Institute, and an MA in Old Testament and Semitic Languages from Trinity International University. Tyler and his wife Lara live in Ostrava with their two sons, Judah and Asher, supporting young church planters through discipleship and biblical training, as well as spearheading new international initiatives in theological education.

Session #1

A tale of three families

1. David's family – Dad (or Mom) in ministry
 - Kings 1:5-6

2. Joshua's family – Dad and Mom on mission
 - Joshua 24:15
 - Judges 2:6-10

3. The Father's family – Family on Mission
 - Luke 2:49
 - John 5:19
 - John 12:49-50
 - John 20:21

God's rescue mission is the family business

A theology of family on mission

1. What is the mission?

2. The family of Abraham

3. The family of Israel

4. The family of God

5. The family of the Trinity

The false dichotomy – how do you balance family and ministry?

Three rhythms for family on mission

1. **Daily** connection with God – Deuteronomy 11:18-21
 - a. Pray with kids before they go to bed
 - b. A verse or short devotions at the dinner table
 - c. Memorizing scripture together
 - d. Talking about what God is teaching you

2. **Weekly** purposeful time with entire family – family nights
 - a. Let life give you your curriculum
 - b. Teach from the Word
 - c. Stay creative and varied
 - d. Make it fun, special, and meaningful
 - e. Share and pray together

3. **Regular** engagement together in service
 - a. Include them in what you are doing
 - b. Think of creative ways you can serve together
 - c. Find their spiritual gifts and develop them
 - d. Watch for the things that grab their heart, and pursue them
 - e. Keep it varied and interesting

Four thieves of family on mission

1. Mission to make a good impression
2. Mission to validate dad and mom
3. Mission to clone the parents
4. Mission that is controlled and owned rather than stewarded and received.

Session #2

Family on mission from the kid's perspective

Seven habits of family on mission

1. Authenticity
2. Conversation about mission
3. Learning by doing
4. Equipping for mission
5. Sacrifice and service as privilege
6. Emotional availability
7. Celebration

Families on mission have lots of problems – how do you deal with them?

1. Move toward the problem
2. Pursue Jesus, not the perfect family
3. Parent on behalf of the Father
4. Communicate – and forgive

5. Persevere

6. Pray

Family on mission panel

What are the benefits of family on mission?

1. Holistic family health
2. Disciplemaking of those closest first
3. Increased impact
4. Generational legacy – Prov. 13:22