

# Track Seminars

Explore 14 themed track sessions across four different timeframes, or “groups.” Select a track that resonates with your role, then choose the seminars that best align with your interests. Since some seminars fill up quickly, we recommend selecting two in each group!

# Lead Me Home

## Seminar Group 1

Wednesday, May 28  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

### Client and Culture

Tracking Global Trends and Other Critical Ministry Topics

South Mt. Mesquite

### A Biblical Perspective on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Bible contains ancient wisdom on how we should treat each other, yet most Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives ignore the counsel contained in God's Word. But the Bible mentions justice 138 times! Explore how to reframe the issue from a biblical view.

Presenter: **Jerrel Gilliam**, Light of Life Mission, CEO

## Seminar Group 2

Thursday, May 29  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Hispanic Culture: Opportunities and Challenges

Discover how to understand the context of the growing Hispanic community, embrace its diversity, and build multicultural bridges. Explore new strategies to connect with a vibrant culture that speaks one language and many dialects.

Presenter: **Javier Yunes**, Our Daily Bread, Director of Engagement – Hispanic Ministries

## Seminar Group 3

Friday, May 30  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Hurt or Heal: How Our Actions Impact Client's Perception of God

Research demonstrates that human's attachment to others can influence their attachment to God. Trauma can lead to distrust. How we interact with those who have developed an unhealthy attachment style can either promote healing or continued brokenness. Learn how to interact and create programming that leads to positive changes in attachment styles.

Presenter: **Jon McKinnon**, Nashville Rescue Mission, Director of Counseling

## Seminar Group 4

Friday, May 30  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

### A Roadmap for Nonprofit Partnerships

Explore how you can cultivate impactful partnerships with agencies and corporate entities to create mutually beneficial relationships that increase funding and ultimately help transform more lives in the community. Learn actionable strategies for turning initiatives into real-life results by leveraging unique strengths and resources.

Presenter: **Jennifer Evans**, Phoenix Rescue Mission, Director of Organizational Partnerships

### Leadership and Staff Development

Inspiring Intentionality and Growth for Ministry Leaders

Sierra Ballroom 2 & 3

Sponsor:



### Ask Anything: Insights and Answers from Mission Leaders

Attendees can pose questions to and interact in discussions with a panel of CEOs, CDOs, and CPOs to gain insight, wisdom, and learn from the lived experience of seasoned nonprofit leaders of faith-based, life transformation missions and ministries.

Presenters: **Nathan Freeland**, Fresno Mission, Chief Strategy Officer; and a panel of CEOs, CDOs, CPOs

### Setting Your Board Up for Success

Acquire an overview of the Ripple Effect board training program and principles that develop harmony between the nonprofit CEO/executive director and his/her board by establishing a clear division of responsibilities for each role. You will leave with five actionable keys to success and hear from a panel of Citygate Network members who have gone through the program and can share their experiences in creating and advancing a policy board.

Presenters: **Penny Kievet, Reid Lehman, and Herb Smith**, Ripple Effect Faculty

### Leadership Lessons: Taking a Mission from Survive to Thrive

Explore seven leadership lessons on moving a ministry from survival mode to thriving. Learn practical and applicable leadership lessons that can improve your interactions and reputation in your community. Attendees will walk out with at least one action step on moving your ministry to greater heights.

Presenter: **Scott Chin**, Seattle's Union Gospel Mission, CEO

### Follow the Leader

If you want to be a great leader, follow the greatest leader that ever lived. Examine several stories from the life of Jesus and reflect on the leadership principles He demonstrated, as well as considering how those principles could have practical applications for your leadership today.

Presenter: **Dennis Van Kampen**, Denver Rescue Mission, CEO

### Public Image and Branding

Deepening Community Connections through High-Impact Communications and Branding

Palm 3A & B

Sponsor:



### Making Numbers Count: Storytelling with Data

Participate in an open dialogue about how to incorporate numbers into storytelling for key stakeholders within the ministry context. Take advantage of the opportunity to practice a process that equips leaders with key action steps to consider when deciding what numbers to share and how.

Presenter: **Sarah Walters**, Adult and Teen Challenge USA Director of Ministry Intelligence and Research

### Real Connection in a Digital World: Branding Your Mission's Heart Online

What if you could turn browsers into believers? What if your online presence didn't just communicate what you do but connected people to the heart of your ministry? Learn how to build a cohesive digital brand that inspires trust and action – everything from crafting authentic brand messaging to creating a website experience that engages potential donors and guides them toward meaningful support.

Presenter: **Janelle Suzanne**, Louder Agency, Partner and Chief Marketing Officer

### Getting Attention: Tips for News Editors

A former news director has connections with current and former TV newsroom executives and anchors who will form a panel for discussion about what works and doesn't work when you pitch news stories that help provide local exposure and brand familiarity for your ministry.

Presenter: **Steve Ruppe**, Ruppe Public Relations (and news reporters and editors from the Phoenix area)

### Avoiding a Media Crisis (and what to do when you can't)

The first steps to avoiding negative publicity include striving for excellence and a no-exception policy on short-cuts. But when the inevitable occurs, a carefully planned crisis management plan combined with donor loyalty will ensure you survive and thrive. Take advantage of a veteran with 45 years of experience managing media crises.

Presenter: **Julie Larocco**, blue dawg, Strategic Advisor

## Transformational Programming I

Inspiring Life-Changing Programs  
Toward Next-Level Outcomes

South Mt. Lantana

Sponsor:



## Transformational Programming II

South Mt. Kaibab

Sponsor:



## Resource Development I

Leveraging Resource Pathways  
to Maximize Ministry

Sonoran Sky 4

Sponsor:



## Resource Development II

Sonoran Sky 1 & 2

Sponsor:



### Seminar Group 1

Wednesday, May 28  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

#### Restoring Financial Hope Through Christ

Financial hopelessness drives many back to addictive, self-destructive behaviors. Recognizing that people in recovery face a unique set of financial challenges, learn to equip clients with tools to face financial challenges and restore hope through the *Faith & Finances* curriculum and methodologies, which integrate a hopeful Christian perspective with money management geared toward those in recovery.

Presenter: **Jerilyn Sanders**, Chalmers Center, Senior Director of U.S. Economic Development Programs; and **John Hull**, Everett Gospel Mission, CEO

#### Getting Unstuck in Client Relationships

Sometimes client relationships or counseling can feel like they've come to an impasse. Learn practical, tested, easy-to-implement strategies for chaplains, counselors, peer-counselors, and program staff to get past hurdles that inhibit genuine connection with clients.

Presenter: **Heather Rice**, Whosoever Gospel Mission, Executive Director

#### CEO Engagement; a Critical Ingredient to Fundraising Success

Explore how the CEO should engage in fundraising, including when to lead and when to allow the development team to lead. Learn the importance of having a strategically involved leader in the development process.

Presenter: **Dean Kurpjuweit**, Union Gospel Mission, President

#### From Friends to Family: Creating a Planned Giving Pipeline

Every nonprofit has a donor who lived humbly and quietly, only to leave a significant gift when they die. But what if you could identify these hidden major donors before their surprise legacy gift arrives? Learn how to bring donors into your legacy pipeline by laying a solid foundation of engagement and appreciation.

Presenters: **Doug Bouws**, Money for Ministry, VP of Client Services; and **Paul Spence**, City Gospel Mission, VP of Development

### Seminar Group 2

Thursday, May 29  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Cognitive Behavioral Therapy/Dialectical Behavior Therapy: A Christian Perspective

Learn key CBT and DBT coping skills and interventions designed to help clients and guests increase mental flexibility, manage overwhelming emotions, and cope with distress. Discover how to integrate these evidence-based techniques from a Christian perspective, offering spiritual tools to support emotional healing. Equip your staff to guide residents toward healthier coping strategies and emotional resilience.

Presenter: **Rose Russell**, Bay Area Rescue Mission, Program Coordinator

#### Understanding Youth Homelessness

Examine the distinct causes and barriers young people experiencing homelessness face. Gain insight into the unique experiences of school-age youth (14–17 years) and young adults (18–24) and how these differences demand tailored responses. Learn how to adapt successful strategies and innovative approaches that meet the specific needs of this vulnerable population, as well as actionable insights for developing youth-centered interventions.

Presenter: **Andrew Neal**, Outreach—Indiana, CEO

#### From Boomers to Gen Z: How Generations Shape Giving

A Gen Z presenter teams up with a Boomer to talk about how new advances have brought innovation and energy to tried-and-true development platforms. Young fundraisers bring a new vision that updates proven fundraising and philanthropy principles. Catch the excitement!

Presenters: **Roy Jones**, Fit Fundraising, President; and **Kyle Gorman**, Evansville Rescue Mission, Executive Director of Advancement

#### Optimize the New Donor Experience

Carefully crafted donor communications can reinforce your mission, inspire donors, and establish a strong foundation for long-term partnership. Recent research from The Donor Experience Scorecard analyzes how over 100 nonprofit organizations treated new donors and highlights critical steps to optimize fundraising growth. Learn innovative strategies that enhance the donor experience and elevate engagement across channels.

Presenters: **Amy Sewell**, Douglas Shaw, Sr. VP Digital Solutions; and **Aubrey Hoepfner**, Douglas Shaw, VP Client Services

### Seminar Group 3

Friday, May 30  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### When Home Isn't a Safe Place

Ideally home should offer the safest space, but many of your clients have not had this experience. Their traumas have left them without any tools of their own to create a safe environment for their own families. Learn how abuse impacts an individual's ability to function and what you can do to help.

Presenter: **Stacey Womack**, Abuse Recovery Ministry Services, Executive Director

#### Creating Pathways to Employment Through the Defense Talent Program

City Rescue Mission has partnered with a local manufacturer to identify mission guests to participate in the U.S. Navy Talent Pipeline Program. The program re-capitalizes its workforce by recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining workforce members with critical trade skills, and wants to achieve similar results at missions in Pennsylvania, Virginia, New England, New York, and California.

Presenters: **Jack Lynn**, City Rescue Mission, President and CEO; **Helmet Kraus**, Ezeflow USA Inc., HR Director; and **Joshua Rock**, U.S. Navy Talent Pipeline Program, Program Analyst

#### Strategic Storytelling: Making Good Fundraising Videos

Learn the essential elements of effective fundraising videos and how to harness video storytelling that engages and boosts results. Drawing from real-world case studies, participants will discover the key components that resonate with donors and prospects, as well as effective channels for maximum impact, and how to incorporate video into your fundraising strategy.

Presenters: **Sarah Wallin**, BDI, VP and Creative Director; **Kyle Gorman**, Evansville Rescue Mission, Executive Director of Advancement

#### Get Government Grants Without Losing Your Mission

Hear one mission's journey from zero government grant funding to millions in state and federal funding supporting new and expanded mission-aligned programming serving thousands of men and women in recovery! Grants require a lot of effort but build solid sustainability and produce better impact, better storytelling and better outreach. Learn how to start the conversation with your team.

Presenter: **Sarah Kerr**, Helping Up Mission, Assistant Director of Grants

### Seminar Group 4

Friday, May 30  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

#### Aftercare: The Key to Long-term Recovery

According to statistics, if someone maintains sobriety for five years, they have an 85 percent chance of lifelong recovery. Implementing an aftercare program makes a significant difference in keeping alumni connected to recovery, support, and accountability. Learn proven techniques, engage in a Q&A, and hear the testimonial of a program graduate.

Presenter: **Kirsten Ridgewell**, Union Gospel Mission—Inland Northwest, Women's Recovery, Lead Aftercare Manager

#### Relapse: Growth Opportunity or Personal Failure?

Jesus never used the word "failure" or shamed people for making bad decisions. Instead, He asked them penetrating questions to help them learn and grow from their choices. Learn how to use the Genesis Process FASTER scale to help residents and program participants turn relapses into growth and recovery opportunities.

Presenter: **Dean Perry**, Genesis Process, President

#### AI-Driven Decisions: Leveraging Data for Lasting Impact

Explore how to harness AI to effectively drive exponential improvements that deliver sustained, meaningful outcomes. Discover strategies and practical applications for data-driven analysis from optimizing processes to enhancing predictive insights. Learn from experts about best practices, case studies, and actionable steps to future-proof your organization and leverage AI for long-term impact and success.

Presenters: **Charles Lehosit**, Sr VP Digital, RKD

#### A Practical Approach to Building a Healthy Grants Program

This practical discussion on building a strong, sustainable grants program will explore different types of grants and funding agencies, as well as strategies to identify funders that align with your mission. Gain insights on what foundations look for in partnerships and hear from a panel of Citygate Network leaders discussing their policies, experiences, lessons learned, and key considerations related to public funding.

Presenter: **Laura De Vries**, DBD Group, Senior Consultant; and **Romanita Hairston**, Murdock Foundation, CEO; **Kim Hinrichs**, DBD Group, Grant Specialist; and a panel of Citygate Network ministry leaders

## Operations and Administration

Galvanizing Ministries with Best Practices in HR, Finances, Facilities, Technology, and More

South Mt. Noble

Sponsor:



## Organizational Growth

Investing in the Team's Capacity to Ensure Healthy Growth Across the Entire Mission

Sonoran Sky 6

Sponsor:



## Enterprise and Retail

Catalyzing Entrepreneurial Spirit for Ministry Outcomes and Resource Growth

Sonoran Sky 3

## Frontline Services and Hospitality

Elevating Service, Ensuring Safety, Embracing Hospitality

Palm 3C & D

### Seminar Group 1

Wednesday, May 28  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

#### Human Resources 101

Discuss the behavioral and technical competencies required for professionals working in the human resources field, managing people and matching them to positions at your organization.

Presenter: **Ashley Roose**, Open Door Mission, VP Human Resources

#### Bridging the Skills Gap: Strategies for Workforce Development

Workplace Stability resources help employers address the challenges of economic diversity in the workplace and better understand the obstacles facing lower-wage employees. Gain insights that will help you make changes that foster retention, growth, and productivity. Avoid wasting money on hiring and training by accessing hidden talent within your organization, improving staff morale, while achieving sustainable success.

Presenter: **Carrie Arnold**, Cherry Street Ministries, VP Workforce Development

#### Leveraging Social Enterprise to Strengthen Long-term Programming

Learn how to create a safe and nurturing environment where individuals can develop essential skills, build confidence, and embrace their God-given abilities. Attendees will hear about a mission's first-hand experience integrating trauma-informed care and explore methodologies designed to equip individuals with the necessary tools to pursue self-sufficiency and personal growth.

Presenter: **Melissa Jones**, Wheeler Mission, Restored Creations Program Manager

#### Welcoming Hearts: Cultivating Hospitality in Nonprofit Ministry

Explore the vital role of hospitality in faith-based organizations. This essential expression of faith and love fosters connection, builds trust, and facilitates life transformation for those we serve. Develop a deeper understanding of the significance of hospitality, rooted in Scripture, and learn practical strategies to create environments that promote profound change.

Presenter: **Wendy Buttacy**, Adult and Teen Challenge USA, Chief Operating Officer

### Seminar Group 2

Thursday, May 29  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Enhancing Efficiency and Control with Technology Solutions

Join a discussion about technology solutions that strengthen internal controls, increase efficiencies, and standardize workflows. Learn about integrated solutions that can produce high-level management reports covering all aspects of the ministry.

Presenters: **Denise Henning**, Mission Accounting and Advisory Partners, CPA; and **Dan Schmidt**, Mission Accounting and Advisory Partners, CFO

#### Managing the Transition with New Staff

The addition of every new staff member changes the team's composition, yet after a perfunctory welcome, they just get to work. Leaders must set the stage and frame "newness" as an asset and opportunity for team growth, recommitment, renewed vision, and energy. Explore how to effectively (and peacefully) transition new employees onto the team.

Presenter: **Jeremy Montgomery**, Philly House, CEO

#### Diversifying Your Funding with Regular Revenue

Discover how to connect with younger generations in an inspirational way while also strengthening your organization's financial sustainability. Learn how social enterprise can generate revenue, expand your reach, engage new supporters, and create lasting impact. Explore this transformative step toward greater community engagement and reduced need for traditional fundraising.

Presenters: **Evan Crass**, SMCo Thrift, Vice-president; **JR Slack**, SMCo Thrift, President

#### Taking it to the Streets

The work of many ministries takes place when guests arrive at the facility. But what if you took it to the streets and added a mobile component to the services you offer? Where would you start and what would that look like? How could you grow it and what services could you provide in a mobile capacity? Learn from leaders operating mobile ministries and hear their stories.

Presenters: **Sterling Copeland**, Christ's Body, Pastor and Community Outreach Director; **Paul Gonzalez**, Christ's Body, Outreach Director

### Seminar Group 3

Friday, May 30  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Before Your Security Team Arrives

Hear a discussion about the five key aspects of security that your organization should have in place before your security team ever shows up. Discover insights and tools to build a resilient, grace-filled team thoroughly prepared to face any security risk.

Presenters: **Jon Barron** and **James Dick**, Gallagher, co-directors of Citygate Network's endorsed insurance program; and **Curt Floski**, Shepherd's House Ministries, Executive Director

#### Leader Care and the Impact on Trust

Healthy leadership cannot exist without trust. We'll break down why leader care must include this critical governance responsibility and provide practical ways for boards and senior leaders to partner together to build trust within the organization.

Presenter: **Jake Lapp**, ECFA, VP of Member Accountability

#### Develop a Teaching Kitchen

(same seminar as offered in Group 3 under Mission Foundations)

Develop your ministry's capacity to create a strong vocational track for clients learning about food services and providing a foundation for related social enterprises. Learn from one mission's experience that now provides 400 graduates with food handler permits annually, establishing a high employment rate in the food industry. In addition, explore the development of related social enterprises and learn how to establish contracts (and funding) with local employment agencies.

Presenter: **Jeff Cook**, Springs Rescue Mission, Chief Program Officer

#### Change Vouchers: Reduce Begging and Increase Referrals to Support Services

Recognized as one of the five most innovative global initiatives to deal with the poverty crisis, change vouchers have become a standard response to homelessness in South Africa's two largest cities. This alternative to giving cash directs people towards comprehensive services that can assist them out of homelessness. Hear from one of the creators of the Mi-Change voucher system about how it has catalyzed the integration of services by participating organizations.

Presenter: **Jean-Ray Knighton Fitt**, U-Turn Homeless Ministries, CEO

### Seminar Group 4

Friday, May 30  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

#### Building and Breaking Emergency Management Plans

The increasing frequency of climate-related disasters, health emergencies, and violence underscores the urgent need for nonprofits to elevate emergency preparedness. As national and local emergency response systems like FEMA evolve, so must the strategies of organizations serving vulnerable populations. Learn how to assess current plans, strengthen staff readiness, and collaborate across the sector to stay ahead of emerging risks and operational challenges.

Presenter: **Jeffery Dashner**, Mel Trotter Ministries, Sr. VP of Operations

#### Unlocking Potential: Understanding Your Team's Nervous System

Explore the intersection of neuroscience and personal growth in an interactive seminar designed for leaders to unpack the latest research on how the nervous system heals, learns, and thrives. Discover how the human brain processes information, stress, and motivation, and gain practical strategies to enhance your team's health and productivity.

Presenter: **Hannah Banks**, Wheeler Mission, Program Manager

#### Why Focusing on the Donor and Gift Matters More than Focusing on the Customer

How do you care for gift-in-kind donors? Your thrift operation interacts with so many donors and unique supporters and every donated item represents a potential long-term partnership. Explore the strategies and systems that turn thrift donors into engaged supporters, strengthen relationships, and unlock new funding opportunities for your ministry.

Presenters: **Evan Crass**, SMCo Thrift, Vice-president; **JR Slack**, SMCo Thrift, President

#### How to Unleash the Power of Volunteers in Your Kitchen

Explore the three types of volunteers: First, you have those who just want to serve the meal. Second, there are those who just want to do mundane, background tasks. Third, you have volunteers who want to help with planning, prepping, cooking, and serving. Learn how to empower and appreciate each type and build an army of long-term volunteers.

Presenter: **Kenneth Patterson**, Wyoming Rescue Mission, Executive Chef

## Foundations of Counseling

Merging Clinical Approaches with a Ministerial Heart

Sonoran Sky 7 & 8

## Mission Foundations

Laying groundwork for sustainable, faith-driven transformation

Sierra Ballroom 1

## Hot Topics

Addressing the Burning Questions and Provocative Subjects of Today and Tomorrow

Sonoran Sky 5

### Seminar Group 1

Wednesday, May 28  
3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

#### Building Resilience: Addressing Provider Burnout Through Intentional Boundaries

Explore the roots of burnout, the role of boundaries in professional resilience, and how intentional boundary setting can protect providers' well-being without compromising their commitment to care. Learn tools to create a sustainable helping practice and engage in a creative and interactive skill-building exercise to solidify understanding and application of these essential practices.

Presenter: **Dr. Kimberly Ernest**, PhD, LPC, LiveUpResources

#### Teaching Staff Core Values and Theology

Connect your staff with the larger movement of rescue missions and life transformation ministries. Learn from research and interaction with hundreds of others answering these questions: "What common core values and theology do you share with others in the life transformation movement?" "How do you adapt those values into a unique expression for your organization's context?" What are best practices for training staff in core values to ensure a solid theological foundation?"

Presenters: **Andrew Sears**, City Vision University, President; and **Dick McMillen**, City Vision University, Vice-president of Partner Care

#### Building a Shared Campus

A number of Citygate Network members have created/built shared campuses, inviting various nonprofit partners to share a one-stop-shop common campus, offering multiple services at one location. Hear about the diverse visions, challenges, and opportunities directly from the leaders who have implemented this approach and explore the possibilities for your ministry.

Presenter: **Matt Dildine**, Fresno Mission, CEO

### Seminar Group 2

Thursday, May 29  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Navigating the Conversation: Addressing Problematic Marijuana Use in the Era of Legalization

The rise of legalized and medical marijuana has introduced both benefits and challenges for mental health professionals. Through case studies, interactive discussions, and skill-building exercises, participants will leave equipped for impactful conversations that balance compassion with clinical insight, awareness and accountability.

Presenter: **Dr. Kimberly Ernest**, PhD, LPC, LiveUpResources

#### Developing Effective Aftercare Programs

What comes after residential recovery programs? How can you impact long-term life transformation and sobriety? Explore best practices for effective aftercare that provides support for all program graduates for 24+ months. Also, learn about the Wounded Healers Aftercare Program provided by City Vision University and implemented by more than 40 rescue mission ministries.

Presenters: **Andrew Sears**, City Vision University, President; **Andrew Eason**, City Vision University, Wounded Healers Program Director; and **Chris Hedlund**, Hope Gospel Mission, Program Director

#### Technology's Transformative Role in Ministry

Explore how technology like generative AI is reshaping ministry through content creation, marketing strategies, and fundraising. Address ethical concerns and biblical perspectives on technology's role in enhancing rather than replacing human creativity and connection.

Presenter: **Bryan Brown**, Masterworks, President

### Seminar Group 3

Friday, May 30  
9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

#### Challenging Relationships: Dealing With the Kinds of Personalities that Make You Question Yourself

Navigate the complexities of difficult relationships while exploring strategies to better understand challenging individuals. Learn tools that will help you create healthier dynamics and respond with confidence. Learn how to assess when to end a relationship, identify steps for improvement, and evaluate potential for positive change.

Presenter: **Dr. Roy Smith**, LiveUpResources

#### Develop a Teaching Kitchen

(same seminar as offered in Group 3 under Enterprise & Retail)

Develop your ministry's capacity to create a strong vocational track for clients learning about food services and providing a foundation for related social enterprises. Learn from one mission's experience that now provides 400 graduates with food handler permits annually, establishing a high employment rate in the food industry. In addition, explore the development of related social enterprises and learn how to establish contracts (and funding) with local employment agencies.

Presenter: **Jeff Cook**, Springs Rescue Mission, Chief Program Officer

#### Beyond the Roof: Creating Sustainable Solutions When Housing Isn't Enough

Move beyond providing shelter to addressing deeper needs, including physical, emotional, and spiritual brokenness, by providing comprehensive wrap-around services that promote long-term thriving. Partner with mental health, substance abuse, trauma recovery, and life skills professionals to encourage stability and independence. Meet people where they are, like Jesus did, and walk alongside them toward healing, life transformation, and self-sufficiency.

Presenter: **Robert Rush**, Hope the Mission, Chief People and Organization Officer

### Seminar Group 4

Friday, May 30  
11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

#### Navigating Male Sexuality in Ministry: Guiding Toward Healing and Wholeness

Learn tools to help individuals process past sexual experiences (whether positive, distressing, or traumatic) and successfully navigate their sexuality in alignment with God's design. By focusing on unique challenges faced by men, attendees will gain practical strategies to foster healing, understanding, and growth in their clients.

Presenter: **Dr. Roy Smith**, LiveUpResources

See page 41 for the last Counseling session seminar.

#### Protecting Your Staff from Vicarious Trauma

In rescue ministry, staff face continual exposure to vicarious trauma through their interactions with victims of trauma. Prolonged exposure to secondary trauma leads to compassion fatigue, burn out, and premature separation from employment. Understand this phenomenon and learn strategies to protect and nurture staff from its effects.

Presenter: **Philip Garvin**, City Union Mission, Director of Clinical Services

#### The Legal Landscape

This overview and discussion will address current legal issues, court decisions, and legislative initiatives of importance to Citygate Network member ministries. Attendees will appreciate practical guidance for response, preparation, and compliance from our nonprofit attorney, as well as best practices.

Presenter: **Jon Ruybalid**, Jonathan A. Ruybalid LLC, Attorney

# Super Seminars

Saturday, May 31  
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Location: **Sonoran Sky 4**

## Dare to Lead: Transforming the Lives of the Least of These

Grammy-nominated, Dove Award-winning singer-songwriter Matt Hammitt will anchor a powerful session combining his *Dare to Be a Dad* curriculum with an exciting opportunity for collaboration. In addition to sharing insights on responsible fatherhood, Matt will share how ministries can partner with Save the Storks to offer life-affirming resources and solutions that empower, support, and serve men, women, and families across the country.

Presenters: **Matt Hammitt**, singer, speaker, advocate; and **Nikki Chamblee**, Save the Storks, Director of Women's Health and Mobile Partnerships

Location: **South Mountain Ballroom Mesquite and Noble**

## The Most Important Aspect of Leadership: Surviving the Sabotage

Ed Friedman calls preparing for and responding to sabotage "the most important aspect of leadership." Often the most soul-sucking and challenging part of leadership comes from trying to mobilize a team to meet the challenges of the world or to love people in pain when we sabotage our own work. Examine the completely unexpected reason for this, and what we can do as leaders to prepare for "the most important aspect of leadership."

Presenter: **Tod Bolsinger**, AE Sloan Leadership, co-owner/principal

Location: **South Mountain Ballroom Kaibab and Lantana**

## Sitting with Purpose: Host Conversations on a Bench

Learn about the national "Conversations on a Bench" movement planned for Citygate Network members all across North America in October 2025. You'll hear from CEOs who have braved sitting on a bench for 24-hours straight in their local communities to generate conversation, build awareness, and even fundraise. Join the movement, access the tool kit, and watch what God will do.

Presenters: **Matt Dildine**, Fresno Mission, CEO; and input from CEOs who have done it

Location: **Sonoran Sky 5**

## Playbook for a Healthy Team

To attract, grow, and retain remarkable individuals, it takes healthy leaders fully invested in moving your ministry forward. Discover some key principles and strategies that will help you transform functional team members into truly extraordinary co-laborers.

Presenters: **Tim Foot**, Slingshot, CEO; and **Brooke Hodnefield**, Slingshot, VP Nonprofit

Location:  
**Sonoran Sky 3**

## Just Show Up: Prodigal God (PRS)

In a world full of demands, learn to care for yourself, your staff, and your clients by just showing up. This session of the Just Show Up Book Club features Tim Keller's *Prodigal God*, provided for all attendees, demonstrating an innovative approach to learning and growing in community.

Presenters: **Mary Elizabeth Kyle**, Managing Director, Grace and Mercy Foundation; **Pam Wilkerson**, Helping Up Mission, Sr. Director Center for Women and Children

# Lead Me Home

## Foundations of Counseling

Location: **Sonoran Sky 7 & 8**

Saturday, May 31  
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

### Supporting Recovery Together: Behavioral Couples Therapy for Substance Use and Co-Occurring Disorders

Discover how to effectively work with couples who both struggle with substance use or co-occurring disorders. Explore the unique dynamics and challenges faced by these couples, focusing on evidence-based approaches to foster communication, trust, and mutual support in their recovery journeys. Learn practical strategies for addressing relational stressors, enhancing emotional connection, and integrating individual and couple-focused interventions to promote holistic healing.

Presenter: **Dr. Kimberly Ernest**, PhD, LPC, LiveUpResources