

CESLM Fall Training 2024 Presenter Bios



Plenary Session Speaker, Majd Alajji



Majd is the senior manager for Diaspora Church Relations at the Canadian Bible Society where he focuses on empowering diaspora churches from various nations across Canada. His role involves providing tailored resources in the native languages of these communities and developing workshops that address the specific needs of their congregations.

Before joining the Canadian Bible Society, Majd was involved in refugee support. He managed private sponsorship programs with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada and worked extensively with refugees in Lebanon and Canada, gaining invaluable experience in addressing the complexities of refugee resettlement and integration. Majd is currently working on a DMin in Biblical Exposition. Majd is married to Angel; they are proud parents of two boys, Emmanuel and Lucas.

Topic: Embracing the Stranger: Biblical Insights on Loving New Canadians

Synopsis: This topic explores the biblical directive to love and welcome strangers, emphasizing key scriptures like Leviticus 19:33-34. It delves into the historical context of the Israelites as strangers in Egypt and underscores God's call for justice and compassion. The discussion outlines guiding principles and practical steps, while also addressing the current situation in Canada. Additionally, it highlights Jesus' teachings on compassion and the importance of recognizing His presence in those who are new or different.

Workshop 1 Presenter, Dr. Roswita Dressler



Roswita is an Associate Professor at the Werklund School of Education, University of Calgary specializing in second language teaching.

She is also a wife and mother and former K-12 teacher. She used to coordinate the adult ESL classes at her church, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Topic: Using the Noticing-Awareness-Practice Model to Teach Grammar

Synopsis: Teaching grammar rules and getting students to apply them is often ineffective in the long run because it is only helpful if students remember the rules when they need them. The **Noticing-Awareness-Practice (NAP) model** has been developed to provide teachers with a structure for introducing grammar embedded in the real-life context in which they occur. When students notice the grammar and are aware of the rules, then they can more effectively practice them in context. In this session participants will experience the NAP model, having the opportunity to adapt a piece of text for teaching purposes.

Workshop 2 Presenter, Logan Johnson



Logan is currently working as a youth pastor at his church as well as a ministry associate for University Campus Ministries. He is passionate about working with international students and one day going overseas. A fun fact is that his grandma is Madeline Johnson who founded Cooperative ESL Ministries. As well, his parents always had international students in their home. Now, together with his wife Olivia, they have the honour of continuing this tradition in their own home.

Topic: The Power of Hospitality to International Students

Synopsis: All throughout scripture, God encourages his people to love the foreigner with a radical acceptance and hospitality. In our Canadian context we have countless students that have never heard the Gospel before.