

Strickland
Bio & Workshop Description
Fall 2019
Mobilizing Women for the Gospel

Martha J Strickland, Ed.D., has experience in missions, teaching, and most recently as an associate professor of education at Penn State Harrisburg with a teaching focus on the science of teaching and learning (educational psychology), and a research focus on facilitating transitioning immigrant and refugee families as they navigate local schools and cultural contexts.

As an identical twin and pastor's kid, I grew up loving Scripture and participating in the local church. Many evenings our family engaged missionaries and people from all walks of life in conversation at our dinner table. Valuing the experiences and thoughts of people, leaning into conversations and always taking an inquiry stance became a way of life for me. Since college (Wheaton College, Illinois), my life has been impacted by those I have engaged in conversation across the world. My journey has included serving as a career missionary with World Venture teaching missionary kids; getting a master's in educational leadership (USF), serving for a year with Wycliffe's Children's Education Department (Texas), and serving in training and education in World Venture's home office. During those 10 years I was given the opportunity to visit our missionary families to problem-solve issues related to family transitions and education. This took me to over 40 countries. Subsequently I did my doctoral studies at Northern Illinois University focused on transitioning immigrant and refugee families.

Today, as a tenured professor, I find my research and global experience to be used in assisting families moving across cultures and equipping refugee resettlement volunteers for service. I continue to lean into conversations finding new questions and new perceptions which open the world in new ways for Christian workers engaged in service. I am continually eager to explore how we can transform our questions and perceptions to enhance our service for His Kingdom.

Workshop Description:

Title: "See" Change: Increasing Service Capacity in Hope

In this workshop we explore the dynamics of perception and asking questions that can open our capacity to serve people in cultural transition. The information and activities have emerged from years of experience and research working with transitioning families – most recently refugee families.