

“There is a way: developing agency-church relations”

The agency-church relationship is critical in not only advancing the task of global mission but also in bringing glory to God as we do so. This seminar will view the agency-church relationship from a pastor's perspective, outlining current or potential problems in that relationship, why they need to be addressed and exploring practical ways they can be addressed. The seminar will involve considerable interaction between participants.

Growth areas

1. **There is little meaningful relationship between our church and the agencies.
Any relationship that exists is largely built around the needs of the moment.**

Is this a fair general comment or does it need refinement?

2. **The attitude of agencies serving the church as the prime-mover in mission is right and proper, but in practice, doesn't often happen.**

Is this a fair general comment or does it need refinement?

3. **There is little communication from agency to church throughout the mobilisation process.**

Is this a fair general comment or does it need refinement?

4. **There are rarely clear guidelines given to us as to 'who is responsible for what' between agency, missionary and church.**

Is this a fair general comment or does it need refinement?

Why bother growing in these areas?

- Global mission will prosper with better relationships and with the church as the prime-mover.
- Churches need to be encouraged to take missions seriously.
Agencies are in a great position to do that.
- Relationships matter before our activity matters.
It's God's way!
- Relationships matter when a crisis comes.
- Agencies have so much to offer churches.
You have so much experience, so much knowledge and wisdom and passion!

Possible means of growth

Consider:

1. **Asking yourselves,**
 “What is our attitude to churches and is it good?
 How well does our practice match our attitude?”
2. **Investing time and energy in growing a real relationship with a small number of targeted churches.**

Groups

“if I had an hour a week, or 15 minutes a day to develop a relationship with some churches what would I do?”

A suggestion I reckon is doable and effective.

Remember that you won't change the world overnight.
However, small but thoughtful and persistent changes today may mean large and significant changes in 10-20 years time.

3. **Pro-actively fostering a real relationship with every new church from which a missionary of theirs is sent.**
4. **Engaging with church leadership at the earliest possible time re. enquirers.**

Groups

How soon after a person shows interest in your mission do you contact the local church?

Why do you do it that way?

Do you encourage and equip the inquirer's church to take the lead in mobilising the inquirer?

5. **Keep engaging with church leadership through the mobilisation process.**

Keep churches in the loop along with the missionary.

6. **Have a checklist of items for discussion with a church.**

As early as possible, and in negotiation with the leadership of a church, make very clear what the agency can and will do and what the church and missionary should do.

7. Educating churches.

Tell them why you do things the way you do them.

8. Reviewing the material you send to churches and think about what it conveys.

Does it convey the priority of the church as the sending body and a servant hearted attitude?

Is it relevant to the churches?

9. Being more concerned about a church's global mission involvement than in recruiting to or promoting your agency.

4 aspects of a missions culture

Gospel-driven ministry

Globally prayerful

Passionate leadership

Mission tactics

10. Working together with other agencies to promote the churches rightful place and agencies as their servants and supporters.

The Croydon declaration

Groups

Is it something that has been followed up?

What do you know or think about it?

Other questions to consider

What would a good agency – church relationship look like?

What can we do now to start moving towards that?

What would I like to say to pastors and churches if I was running this seminar for them?

Feedback, ideas and thoughts please!

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