

Forging Partnerships to Fulfill the Mission

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The world is a global community

- For organizations and institutions within the community to be effective in achieving their mission, leadership at all levels need to be innovative, forge partnerships and collaborate.

The world is a global community

- This presentation considers how Ministry leaders within the Seventh-day Adventist organizations can forge partnerships with others: Colleagues, organizational institutions, agencies and social institutions in society to address social needs, increase the visibility of the church in the community and create avenues for the fulfillment of the mission of the Church.

Our Mission is Worldwide

- “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen.
(Mathew 28:19-20).

Something must be done...

- “Workers with clear minds are needed to devise methods for reaching the people. Something must be done to break down the prejudice existing in the world against the truth.”
(Evangelism, 129).

Jesus sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul

- “The life of Christ established a religion in which there is no caste. A religion by which Jew and Gentile, free and bond, are linked in a common brotherhood, equal before God. No question of policy influenced His movements. He made no differences between neighbors and strangers, friends and enemies.

Jesus sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul

- That which appealed to His heart was a soul thirsting for the waters of life. He passed by no human being as worthless, but sought to apply the healing remedy to every soul.” (The Ministry of Healing, 25).

Work in partnership with those who share your faith

- “If charity work is to be done, the church is its own almoner. We do not need to unite with societies of a worldly character in order to visit the sick, clothe the naked, or help the needy. This work we can do through God's own appointed agencies, and in the name of Jesus Christ.

Work in partnership with those who share your faith

- God does not design that we shall be placed in any subservience to the world in this regard, or that any communication shall be made by us to them that will give them an advantage over us.”—Letter 28, pp. 7, 8. (To Dr. W. P. Burke, April 5, 1888.) (8 Manuscript Releases, 107, 108).

Paul says,

- Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among *them*. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." (2 Corinthians 6:14-16).

Bringing the light before the people

- “We must take every justifiable means of bringing the light before the people. Let the press be utilized, and let every advertising agency be employed that will call attention to the work. This should not be regarded as nonessential.

Bringing the light before the people

- On every street corner you may see placards and notices calling attention to various things that are going on, some of them of the most objectionable character; and shall those who have the light of life be satisfied with feeble efforts to call the attention of the masses to the truth?" (Evangelism, 130).

Seventh-day Adventists position about partnership

- Seventh-day Adventists "recognize those agencies that lift up Christ before men as a part of the divine plan for the evangelization of the world" (General Conference Working Policy, 075).

Seventh-day Adventists position about partnership

- In reference to its position in global Christian organizations, the Adventist Church has held observer status at meetings and been open to partnering with other churches in areas that do not compromise its identity, mission, and message.

Something to avoid ...

- “All alliances that give undue influence to those who do not love God over those who profess His name must be strictly avoided. All combinations with unbelievers that bind as a yoke must be broken.” (8 Manuscript Releases, 107, 108).

Avoid world's invading...

- "It is all right for the church to be in the world provided the world is not in the church. The ship does not sink when it is launched in the water; it sinks when the water gets into the ship The rescue work of the church declines in direct proportion to how much the world invades the church."—Roy J. Fish and J. E. Conant, Every Member Evangelism for Today, (Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2009), p. 48.

Bible promises when we work together in unity,
and united with our institutions.

- The Power of the gospel to change lives will be demonstrated (Philippians 2:1-11).
- The Holy Spirit's is released (Psalm 133; Galatians 5:16-26).
- The resources God has given us are maximized. Costs drop and effectiveness increases (Mathew 25:14-30).

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- The credibility of our message is strengthened (John 5:31-47; 10:38; 17:23).
- The church is inspired to become a unified community that demonstrate real love, commitment to each other, growth in Christ, and witness to the world (Ephesians 4:1-16).

Why partnership is needed...

- It can inspire great ideas.
- Add another dimension.
- Share their experiences.
- Provide essential insight.
- Increase capacity.

Why partnership is needed...

- Provide opportunities.
- Help you reach new audiences.
- May provide a venue.
- Strengthen relationships.
- (<https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/do-engagement/partnership-working/partnership-working-principles>).

How to Start a Partnership Initiative

- Assume the fact that the Holy Spirit is inspiring others to address the ministry focus that He has brought upon your heart.
- Focus in the big vision. If you hope to have an effective collaborative partnership, from the earliest stages you must realize that the best partnerships are driven by a compelling and commonly-owned vision.

Practical Benefits

- Reduction of duplication and cost. Together you can accomplish your purpose and carry out your mission more efficiently and cheaper.
- The leveraging of proficiency and expertise. The expertise and giftedness within the parties are mutually complement.
- New opportunities exploited. Together you can be productive in a new context of ministry that separately.

Partnerships are only a means to an end, not the end themselves!

- An effective, collaborative partnership should begin with limited and achievable objectives which expand as the partnership experiences success.
- It should focus first on defined objectives that are both valuable to all the participants and have a reasonably high possibility of short-term success.
(<https://www.lausanneworldpulse.com/themedarticles-php/1333/10-2010>).

If you want to forge a successful partnership...

- Establish exactly what you wish to achieve from this partnership, and how these goals fit into your wider departmental strategy.
- In advance, make sure that you have sufficient internal resources available to properly do the job in partnership.
- It is crucial that the relationship is one of mutual respect.

If you want to forge a successful partnership...

- To find common ground with a partner you must have interests beyond financials.
- Partnerships with others must be carefully considered and responsibly implemented – responsible partnerships have the potential to propel a project to its highest plane.

(<https://startups.co.uk/how-to-forge-a-successful-brand-partnership/>)