

# ► faith-reliance & inter-dependence

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Speaking Hope to the World



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**Envisioned Success: Revelation 7:9/10**

**Arrival at Destination**

**Mission is complete; Jesus is praised**

**Mission:** Reaching the Unreached

**Vehicle:** The Great Commission

**Cyclist:** The Bride of Christ; the Church

**Powered by:** The Holy Spirit





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## Essential Elements

1. Local entity “owns” the Great Commission
2. Local entity understands and teaches the joy and discipline of giving
3. Local entity “dis-owns” materialism, excessive debt and/or culture of corruption
4. Local entity learns practical fundraising fundamentals.



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## Which part of the bicycle is your ministry?

Cycling in the same direction and to the same destination:

- Front wheel: “on the ground” ministry – Local Partners
- Rear wheel: “sending” ministry
- Bicycle chain: connecting mechanism



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## “Self-Support” is nothing new

- Henry Venn (1796-1873; founder of “Clapham Circle”), coined the 3-self principle for guiding the development of church plants: Self-governing, Self-financing, Self-reproducing
- “Self-Theologizing” was later added to recognize the need to express authentic cultural adaptation of the gospel
- The Nevius Plan\* practiced and recorded by Chapin H. Carpenter, *Self-Support: Illustrated in the History of the Bassein Karen Mission from 1840 – 1880* (1883 - Kessinger Rare Reprint)
- Discouraged by his mission not accepting this “new way”, Carpenter quit (and died soon after)





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**Typically our goals have been product goals; Process goals take a different kind of planning.\***

## The Energy of “cyclist” - the Church:

- God is the source of power and introducing Him, the point behind Mission
- “Making Disciples” is the Mission but we are not told “how”. Perhaps because the message needs to be culturally adapted and directed in the power of Holy Spirit.





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**Typically our goals have been product goals; Process goals take a different kind of planning.\***

- “The ultimate goal goes beyond mere independence to the unfinished task of evangelism and building the body of Christ.”\*
- Therefore, enabling the multiplication of disciples in inter-dependency is the key, as modeled in Paul’s missionary work.



\*J.E.Plueddemann; EMIS Beyond Independence to Responsible Maturity ©1983





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- **TWR's structure promotes inter-dependence; local Partner relationships allow**
  - a global, local church presence
  - growth through ready examples and support
  - promotion of the Global Engagement vision – the key to understanding the responsibility of stewardship and thereby, inter-dependency
- **Servant Leadership values allow personal growth to accommodate biblical multiplication patterns**





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## ■ Ideally, 3 basic responsibilities of a TWR national Partner:

- assist the Church in its country
- develop self-sufficiency in finances
- contribute to World Missions



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## ■ And 3 different Partner profiles:

- Pioneering Partners
- Progressing Partners
- Providing Partners



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- **Every country has different terrain**
- **Constant attention to the road map, tires & parts**
- **There are always detours, steep hills, accidents and surprises – good and bad!**





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- **TWR's unique Partner relationships allow a unique solution to faith-reliance & inter-dependence**
- **2003-2009 – listening/working with East European Partners to look for a way forward**



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- **Challenges I found in Europe:**
- **Every country completely different with a few general commonalities regarding faith-reliance:**
  - Church leaders rarely talk to their congregations about money, even regarding the basic joy and discipline of tithes and offerings.
  - Few business leaders in the Christian community; in fact, a distrust of business people or people with money



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- **Every country completely different with a few general commonalities regarding faith-reliance:**

- Without discipling in the area of money, Christians found to be asking “Who has the most money?” instead of, “What does God want me to give?”
- Therefore, “poor” people not asked to give
- faith-reliance could work elsewhere but not in their country





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- **Every country completely different with a few general commonalities regarding faith-reliance:**
  - Little psychological ownership of the funding process for their ministry
  - Distrust, yet reliance, on foreign funds and personnel with an attitude of bemused toleration



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- **Every country completely different with a few general commonalities regarding faith-reliance:**
  - Preoccupation with own situation; Little vision for reaching the “Ends of the Earth
  - Looking for the “silver bullet”; foreign funding is sought before local funding



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## Different in Africa!

- Already tired of unhealthy dependency and its long-term effects
- Want to learn the steps out of the indignity of being the world's "charity case"
- Looking for an Isaiah 61 Africa





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## Why do Christians (anywhere) give?

*Faith, Hope, Love*

**EgoCentric**  
Fear, Shame, Guilt

**SocioCentric**  
Recognition,  
Social Responsibility

**TheoCentric**  
Obedience,  
Worship



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## **“Western” Donors**

- Sometimes question money being “poured” into situations with (seemingly) few results
- No longer writing cheques and walking away to let Mission Agencies do the work
- Want to participate where possible
- Sometimes have a “savior” mentality



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## **“Before you Decide to Save the World”**

- Throw away your assumptions about what you think people need
- Ask recipients what they think might work
- Focus on ideas that may be more effective than the “obvious” project
- Be willing to be anonymous





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## Missionaries

- Sometimes lack an “exit strategy” or know if they should have one
- Sometimes work from their own agenda rather than the vision of the local church
- Can block the notion that local efforts could run without foreign help
- Sometimes hesitant to talk about money with new believers



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## Missionaries

- Often feel that “poor” people should not be asked to give
- Find needed funding by “calling home” and providing a “silver bullet” instead of teaching biblical stewardship
- Do not always view biblical fundraisers as ministers to donors



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## Potential Damage

1. Bike chained in place instead of being released to reach its destination. (Servant Leadership)
2. “Home office ministry” (back wheel) damaged when donors not allowed to participate in the journey. (Donors must remain more important than their donation)







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## Potential Damage

3. Regional and Partner ministries (front wheel) crushed without protection as process toward faith-reliance and inter-dependence advances.





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## Potential Damage

4. Chain and gears keep going, apparently unaware that the destination is unattainable without the other pieces in working order.
5. Blown over by external forces; loss of balance in wheels/parts





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## Recommended Care

- Committed Servant Leaders
- Biblical stewardship recognized and taught as part of the discipleship process
- Disciples moving together with an Acts 1:8 vision for reaching the Ends of the Earth by the power of the Holy Spirit





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## Recommended Care

- inter-dependence – local ministry not *only* “receiving”; foreign ministry not *only* giving money
- stewardship and fundraising a normal subject in each part of ministry – not left up to a few



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## Ideal inter-dependence

*Practically speaking, this may mean:*

- Prioritizing projects for the unreached
- Exit strategies for foreign workers
- Donations being given to local plans
- God as “Benefactor” & “Savior” (not “the West”)

