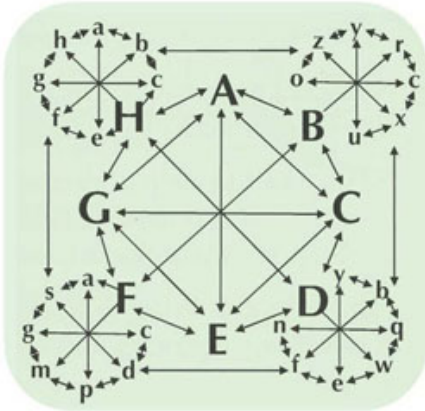




BUILDING A COLLABORATIVE



One Way to Visualize a Collaborative

In this diagram a collaborative is made up of multiple networks, each with their own sphere of influence with other networks, but all are equal and contributing from the strengths and assets.

Collaboration is aimed at uniting many diverse organizations interested in the transformation of individuals, communities and nations in a wholistic ministry through CHE.

What Is Collaboration?

- In simplest terms it is the act of working together.
- It is something more, it is working together to accomplish more than any one person or organization could do alone.
- It is much more than just trying to find common ground on which to act.
- It is about bringing out the best in the group and helping them to reach a higher ground. It is about increasing the capability of the whole.
- It is the ability to multiply each other strengths to produce results no party could achieve themselves.
- Newer, never before seen capabilities, opportunities, and successes emerge from successful collaboration.
- It takes your strength and my strength and maximizes them.
- It is a highly disciplined way of moving from idea to action. It involves the discipline to listen, not to pre-judge what others are saying, and to ask questions based around asking “why” instead of “how”.
- It lets people operate at a constant high level of innovation.
- It requires a beginner’s mind that does not have pre-conceived answers to questions and problems.
- The “Aha, I see” moment is an indicator of true collaboration.
- It is a simultaneous change of individuals and organizations.
- For collaboration to happen there must be enough freedom to achieve the goal, with very few outside restraints.

- It is about having real live conversations about the things that are important and not shelving the ideas that people are afraid to discuss.
- It concentrates on the positive and builds on that. Affirmative Inquiry is at the center of discussions not SWOT.
- It is always based upon relationships of trust, love and commitment to the advance of God's kingdom.

Five Key Elements Of Collaboration

- Unifying purpose: Shared commitment to the same goal, not legalism, holds the organization together. This is the "glue" holding the collaboration together. This created by a very clearly defined and agreed upon purpose for the collaboration, which extends from the abstract to the concrete.
- Independent members: Each organization is different. Each retains its independence while cooperating with others on specific tasks. There is a healthy independence for each organization.
- Voluntary links: They communicate extensively and meet often. No one is forced to participate. There are many crisscrossing relationships. There are expansive relationships among people and extensive connections through technology.
- Multiple leaders: Different people and organizations lead, depending on what needs to be done. During any given process, more than one person leads. There are fewer bosses and more leaders who take the lead position when appropriate.
- Integrated levels: People work on many levels and within itself and other partner organizations in the collaboration that itself is part of the "nuts and bolts" work that is embedded in the larger collaboration of relationships. There are groups within groups nesting internally in many collaborations.

A Collaborative Effort has Been Compared to a Partnership Built Where:

- There is a shared vision among groups
- There must be a strong relationship among the groups with a champion within each group
- The partnership should result in meaningful outcomes