

# 2018 NECF World Cafe

## Table Discussion Takeaways

### Top 5 Common Themes

Notice some of the common themes that came up in many of the table discussions. We noticed:

- Prayer
- Training
- Collaboration
- Humility
- Stories

## TABLE NOTES

### Leadership Beyond "Ministry Leaders"

#### Obstacles

- o Younger leaders are not given opportunities to fail
- o Older leaders feel threatened

#### What's Next?

- o Opportunities for the Church to collaborate
- o Tools to assess leadership growth and behaviors
- o Church leaders creating resources to help their members understand the testimony, spiritual gifts, and opportunities to serve
- o Systems that are created and sustained by lay leaders, (training and implementation)

- o Training yourself out of a job
- o Not building a ministry model centered around one person

## Youth and the Next Generation

Celebrate

- o Youth are amazingly open
- o God is at work in the lives of young people in our neighborhoods

Obstacles

- o In the places we least expect to find them - such as in churches, parents, and schools

What's Next?

- o Prayer is key!!!
- o Youth workers need to be invested for the long-term
- o Churches need to be focused on making disciples
- o Mentoring and leadership focus

## Having Hard Conversations With Humility

We are given opportunities to express humility in hard conversations

- o Humor (self-deprecating)
- o Listening
- o Actions

Significant barriers

- o Conflict avoidance
- o Toleration (keeping people "at the door") vs. genuine welcome

Ways to move forward

- o Change the goal from "being right" to understanding the other (even if we don't change our minds)
- o We fail at having hard conversations but remain committed to the relationship
- o All actions are expressed in grace

## Developing Intentional Diverse Leadership (Internal)

### Obstacles

- o Sharing airtime is a struggle
- o Race and gender conditioning is hard to break
- o Understanding our NEED for one another (embracing your poverty)

### What's Next?

- o Leadership dynamics should lean/be weighted towards those with less voice/power
- o Finding ways to lay down/share power
- o Be relentlessly committed to teaching on why diverse leadership matters (beyond, "I need to die to myself")
- o More willingness and priority to come alongside/under indigenously led organization
- o Accept that process is not going to be pretty; process is ugly but worth it!
- o Unpacking how leaders should behave has a cultural lens; expanding our view of "how things ought to be run"

## Cross-Sector Partnerships

Humbly listening to the needs of schools, and connecting strength of churches to leverage our resources)

Long-term power of relationships enables us to respect boundaries

Humbly listening and communicating well between potential partners

Responding to the requests of Dept. of Corrections for in-prison ministry

Churches should start slow and start simple.

- o Don't over-commit and follow through on commitments, (be people of our word)

Connect more with businesses to provide resources beyond what Church can provide (products, employees, etc.)

Partner with universities, (e.g., providing interns)

## Joining In and Being Present in Your Community

Vocation is calling

Equip the saints

Tell stories; share testimonies of loving action

Build relationships and presence, (rather than transactional exchanges)

## United Prayer

Engaging more in Pro-active prayer vs. Reactive prayer

Revival always starts in prayer

- o Success is being faithful
- o Success is in God's hands

Being more intentional about corporate prayer across local churches, cultures, denominations, etc.

Having a visible presence of prayer in time of need and places of need

## Rest and Sabbath Practices

We can celebrate

- o A greater awareness of the Sabbath's importance in contemporary church culture
- o Sabbath as dependence on God, rather than as simply abstaining from activity

Obstacles we observe

- o Our culture's over-focus on achievement has infected the Church
- o Tyranny of technology

What's Next?

- o Leadership needs to value, protect, and model Sabbath rest in their own lives
- o Leadership needs to value rest and Sabbath for those under them, and hold them accountable for practicing it

## Developing Collaborations Across Lines

Building trusting relationships

Willingness to engage: Learn & Listen

Common theme: "kingdom" or "Church", gaining membership

Leadership and structure for sustainability

Coming outside of "4 walls"

Need for humility and civility

Involvement within the community

Looking at other successful models

## Helpful Structure for a Movement

Interdependency

- o Posture
- o Form
- o Outcome

Mutual submission

## Combating Human Trafficking

Raise awareness of obstacles

- o How to get the word out?
- o Legislative changes in law

What's Next?

- o Safe houses - healing spaces
- o Celebrating the movement that is now starting to happen

## Funding and Sustainability

God provides!

Obstacles

- o Access to and understanding of strategies
- o Missing skill/knowledge (especially in small nonprofit/church plants)

What's Next?

- o Mentorship
- o Training and education
- o Collaborative funding

## Evangelism

Celebrating

- o Tremendous conversions among Rwandans and Burundians
- o Tremendous growth in church plants in U.S., and in Kirundi language groups

Obstacles

- o Importance of discipleship
- o Church attendance needed
- o Language
- o Not going out enough

What's Next?

- o Outreach
- o Prayer

- o Persecution

## Collaborative Story

### Celebrating

- o Stories advance the Gospel (i.e., parables of Jesus)
- o Work with what you Have! (iPhone has amazing camera)
- o We can all be storytellers

### Obstacles

- o Huge need for churches and nonprofits to tell their stories well
- o Crafting a strong story can be difficult - training needed
- o Lack of "margin" to listen well

### What's Next?

- o Identify which stories to tell, (with discernment from God)
- o Become more aware of our own biases
- o Those who are "Last" need to be central to the narrative
- o Get outside of the church to discover stories