



COLLABORATION, NETWORKS, AND PARTNERSHIP IN CHRISTIAN MISSION

an annotated bibliography of recommended articles, books, sites, and videos

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INTRODUCTION

Collaboration has a strong biblical basis, but collaboration is also an intensely practical topic and not just a matter for theological discussion. For that reason, most of the resources recommended here emphasize the "hands-on" or "how-to" aspects of what it takes to form a viable, healthy, and effective collaborative initiative for ministry and mission.

This bibliography, in line with common usage, uses the term *network* or *networks* to refer to a wide range of initiatives from alliances and coalitions to networks and partnerships.

Disclaimer: While we believe that this list of recommended network resources offer significant contributions to the field of network development, we do not necessarily endorse all approaches, models, or points that are discussed in these resources.

BOOKS

1. Foundational, must-read books

- Ernie Addicott. *Body Matters: A Guide to Partnership in Christian Mission* (Edmonds, WA: IPA, 2005). <http://a.co/7jhDNMu>
- Phill Butler. *Well Connected: Releasing Power, Restoring Hope through Kingdom Partnerships* (Colorado Springs, CO: Authentic, 2005). Available for free download in multiple languages from: <https://synr.gy/wellconnected>
- Daniel Rickett. *Making Your Partnership Work* (Enumclaw, WA: WinePress, 2002). <http://a.co/2o7A2Ck>

The three books in this group by Addicott, Butler, and Rickett are some of the most practical resources currently available that focus on the topic of partnership in Christian mission.

Butler's book, *Well Connected*, is the most recently published of the three and is the most comprehensive in content. The late Ralph Winter, founder of the U.S. Center for World Mission, now Frontier Ventures, referred to *Well Connected* as "the quintessential partnership handbook." Butler has nearly 30 years of international partnership development work through InterDev and visionSynergy. In this book, he writes for an audience of reflective practitioners who want to understand the "why" of partnership development as well as the "how" of partnering well. The first part of the book develops the theological aspects of partnership while the remainder of the book provides a clearly defined process for partnership development and a detailed description of the key factors for success. Drawing from significant personal experience, Butler includes dozens of real-world illustrations and abbreviated case studies throughout the book.

Addicott's book, *Body Matters*, provides a very readable introduction to partnering in Christian mission. Addicott and Butler were colleagues at InterDev, so both books present essentially the same process for partnership development - more condensed in Addicott's book and more expanded in Butler's book. In addition to the core process of partnership development, Addicott provides more in-depth discussion on the topics of cross-cultural differences and conflict management within inter-organizational partnerships. The book centers on the theme of relational health in the context of missional partnerships and makes the clear point that partnership is not just about the "mechanics" of working together; it is fundamentally about trust.

Rickett's book, *Making Your Partnership Work*, is the earliest and most condensed of the three in this group. Rickett's book is organized around the three "imperatives of

partnership:" vision, relationships, and results. Rickett writes in the introduction:

"To have productive partnerships, we must have vision, relationship, and results. No one of these can be ignored. Reduce a partnership to vision only, and it becomes no more than good intentions. Reduce it to relationship, and it becomes a fellowship without a purpose. Reduce it to results, and it loses its capacity to remain faithful. Vision, relationships, and results depend on one another for wholeness. They are interwoven in partnership and in ministry at its best" (p.23).

Rickett's book includes a number of useful resources and checklists to help readers evaluate the potential fit between partners, develop a common understanding, and evaluate the partnership itself.

2. Cross-cultural dimensions of working in partnerships

- Birmingham, Beth and Scott Todd, eds. *Shared Strength: Exploring Cross-Cultural Christian Partnerships*. Compassion International, 2010. <http://a.co/bVjK1A7>
- Cueva, Samuel. *Mission Partnership in Creative Tension: An Analysis of Relationships within the Evangelical Missions Movement with Special Reference to Peru and Britain from 1987-2006*. Langham Monographs, 2013. <http://a.co/c436of2>
- Lederleitner, Mary. *Cross-Cultural Partnerships: Navigating the Complexities of Money and Mission*. IVP Books, 2010. <http://a.co/7EHNaG5>
- Mischke, Werner. *The Beauty of Partnership*. MissionONE, 2010. https://mission1.org/get_involved/equip_the_church/the_beauty_of_partnership/
- Rickett, Daniel. *Building Strategic Relationships: A practical guide to partnering with non-western missions*. Partners International. WinePress Pub., 2003. <http://a.co/iu74ceW>
- Shreve, Kenneth. *Partnership Theology in Creative Access Regions*. Langham Partnership. Langham Global Library, 2017. <http://a.co/7Do5lIS>
- Toyama-Szeto, Nikki A. and Femi B. Adeleye. *Partnering with the Global Church*. Urbana Onward. Intervarsity Press, 2012. <https://www.ivpress.com/partnering-with-the-global-church>

The seven books in this group by Birmingham & Todd, Lederleiter, Mischke, Rickett, and Shreve, Toyama-Szeto and Adeleye, and Cueva address key issues in cross-cultural networks such as equality, dependency, accountability, and more. The topics and issues discussed in these books are relevant to the current global mission context as the center of gravity continues to shift from established Western mission outreaches to Majority World ministries.

Mischke's workbook and Rickett's brief guide help readers understand some of the essential components of healthy cross-cultural networks. Birmingham and Todd provide an edited collection of topics more specifically focused in the area of relief and development work. Lederleiter's book directly addresses the highly charged issue of money and partnering. Shreve's book sets a "partnership theology" where mission operates under extreme conditions. Both Toyama-Szeto and Adeleye's book and Cuevas' book provide an invaluable Majority World perspective on cross-cultural Christian collaboration.

3. Church/community collaborations

- Rusaw, Rick and Eric Swanson. *The Externally Focused Church*. Group, 2004. <http://a.co/h3Pe0oO>
- Swanson, Eric and Sam Williams. *To Transform a City: Whole Church, Whole Gospel, Whole City*. Zondervan, 2010. <http://a.co/2ZT9UqN>
- Sweney, Chip. *A New Kind of Big: How Churches of Any Size can Partner to Transform Communities*. Baker: 2011. <http://a.co/hP3xRyD>
- Bruno, Chris and Matt Dirks. *Churches Partnering Together: Biblical Strategies for Fellowship, Evangelism, and Compassion*. Crossway, 2014. <http://a.co/6WqC57F>
- White, Tom. *The Practitioner's Guide: Building City Gospel Movements*. Good Place Publishing, 2013.

Perhaps one of the greatest areas of untapped potential in collaboration around the world is in the context of local churches working together with others to reach and transform their cities. The four books in this group by Rusaw, Swanson & Williams, Sweney, and Bruno and Dirks provide very practical introductions to local church / community partnerships and large-scale church/community networks that can dramatically impact the rapidly expanding cities of the world.

4. Church / agency partnerships:

- Liew, Ivan. *Churches and Missions Agencies Together: A Relational Model For Partnership Practice*. Condeo Press, 2017. <https://www.condeopress.com/products/churches-missions-agencies-together>

Liew's book explores the nature of Church and Mission Agencies relationships. As the editor, his book contains articles written from both perspectives. This book proposes moving from transactional relationships to a relationship-focused partnering practice that opens the door to collaboration and engagement.

5. Books from the earlier days of the modern "network movement"

- Bush, Luis and Lorry Lutz. *Partnering in Ministry: The Direction of World Evangelism*. IV Press: Downers Grove, IL, 1990.
- Kraakevik, James and Dotsey Welliver, Eds. *Partners in the Gospel: The Strategic Role of Partnership in World Evangelization*. Billy Graham Center, Wheaton College, 1991. <http://a.co/9me3Ib6>
- Taylor, William Ed. *Kingdom Partnerships for Synergy in Missions*. William Carey: Pasadena, CA, 1994. <http://a.co/9rAedKQ>

The 1980s and 1990s saw a growing interest in partnering for world evangelization. At least a hundred multilateral and international networks and partnerships were launched with emphases on specific language groups, people groups, cities, regions, or countries of the world. From the early days of the modern network movement, the three books in this group by Bush & Lutz, Kraakevik & Welliver, and Taylor provide a broad introduction to the field of collaboration in Christian mission. The books cover a wide variety of topics and include a number of case-study models of networks from around the world.

ARTICLES

- Aghamkar, Atul Ph.D. "Partnership in Mission: A Biblical and Theological Perspective". June 2017. <https://synergycommons.net/resources/partnership-mission-biblical-theological-perspective-revised/>
- Livengood, Ellen. "Better Together? The mutual benefit between churches and networks". February 2015. <http://catalystservices.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Better-Together.pdf>
- Oxbrow, Mark. "Better Together: Partnership and Collaboration in Mission". *Edinburgh 2010 Conference Paper*, 2010. <http://edinburgh2010.oikoumene.org/fileadmin/files/edinburgh2010/files/docs/Partnership%20.doc>
- Wan, Enoch, and Kevin Penman. "The Why, How, and Who of Partnership in Christian Missions". *Global Missiology English*, Vol. 3, No. 7, 1 Apr. 2010. <http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/61>
- Wood, Rick, Editor. "Networks are Changing the Shape of World Missions". *Frontier Ventures. Mission Frontiers*, March - April 2017. <http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/archive/networks>

The articles in this group by Oxbrow, Wan, and Penman are three of the numerous articles drawing on the wisdom of the last 20 plus years of collaborative practice in Christian mission. These articles are notable for their comprehensive perspective as they reflect on the recent history of collaboration in mission and review some of the foundational literature on mission networks (including a number of the resources in this recommended list). Aghamkar's article provides a unique and respected South Asian perspective on the biblical and theological basis for partnership. The April 2017 issue of Mission Frontiers looks back on 30 years of missions and what has emerged from this global movement. It also looks at how networks are reshaping the future of missions.

VIDEOS

visionSynergy's YouTube channel contains a growing library of more than 50 network leader story videos including more than three hours of recordings drawn from interviews with experienced ministry leaders from around the world who share their personal insights on the practice of collaboration in Christian mission. Also available on the visionSynergy YouTube channel is a 12-hour video introduction to Kingdom Partnerships and a 10-part Partnership Essentials video series presented by Phill Butler.

visionSynergy Youtube Channel

<https://youtube.com/visionsynergy>

Kingdom Partnerships

<https://synr.gy/kingdompartnerships>

Partnership Essentials

<https://synr.gy/partnershipessentials>

MINISTRY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCE SITES

The following ministries work with Christian organizations around the world to develop effective networks and collaborative initiatives:

- Catalyst Services. <http://catalystservices.org>
- Daniel Rickett Consulting. <http://www.danielrickett.com>
- Frontline Ministries. <https://flministries.org/about/>

- International Partnering Associates (IPA). <http://www.ipassociates.org>
- REACT Services. <http://www.reactservices.com>
- visionSynergy. <http://visionsynergy.net>

These sites include a global directory of geographic and issue-focused mission networks (Linking Global Voices) and an online learning community for network leaders (Synergy Commons):

- Lausanne Movement Issue Networks. <https://lausanne.org/all-issue-networks>
- Linking Global Voices. <http://linkingglobalvoices.com>
- Synergy Commons. <https://synergycommons.net>

SECULAR RESOURCES

1. Books on inter-organizational collaboration

These books outline comprehensive frameworks for developing nonprofit collaborations. The book from Mattessich complements the handbook from Winer and Ray as an in-depth analysis of 20 research-based factors that lead to success in collaboration.

- Linden, Russell M. *Leading Across Boundaries: Creating collaborative agencies in a networked world*. Jossey-Bass, 2010.
<http://a.co/4eDaWLR>
- Mattessich, Paul. W., and Kirsten M. Johnson. *Collaboration: What makes it work. 3rd Edition*. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation: Saint Paul, MN., 2018.
<http://a.co/gGhOwnW>
- Vandeventer, Paul, and Myrna Mandell. *Networks That Work: a Practitioners Guide to Managing Networked Action*. 2nd ed., Community Partners, 2011.
<http://a.co/jjTRFPu>
- Winer, Michael. B. *Collaboration Handbook: Creating, sustaining, and enjoying the journey*. Amherst H. Wilder Foundation: Saint Paul, MN., 1994.
<http://a.co/4YQG9TA>

2. Books on facilitation and consensus decision-making

All networks involve numerous meetings, and those meetings sometimes involve very complex situations. If those meetings are not managed well - if group process, participation, facilitation, consensus, decision-making, and follow-through are lacking -

then it is likely the network will achieve few (if any) results. The books in this group focus on these critical network development process skills.

- Bens, Ingrid. *Facilitation at a Glance: Your Pocket Guide to Facilitation*. Goal/QPC, 2016. <http://a.co/gHArmTB>
- Dressler, Larry. *Consensus Through Conversation: How to Achieve High-Commitment Decisions*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2006. <http://a.co/a9YiTNb>
- Ghais, Suzanne. *Extreme Facilitation: Guiding Groups Through Controversy and Complexity*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, CA., 2005. <http://a.co/3qHxccQ>
- Hartnett, Tim. *Consensus-Oriented Decision-Making: The CODM Model for Facilitating Groups to Widespread Agreement*. New Society Publishers, 2011. <http://a.co/7icE3sp>
- Kaner, Sam. *Facilitator's Guide to Participatory Decision-Making*. 3rd Edition. Jossey-Bass, 2007. <http://a.co/gJElyql>
- Klein, Brandon. *Facilitating Collaboration: Notes on Facilitation For Experienced Collaborators*. Italy, The Value Web. 2016. <http://a.co/iHmNW64>
- Schwarz, Roger M. *The Skilled Facilitator: A Comprehensive Resource for Consultants, Facilitators, Managers, Trainers, and Coaches*. 3rd. Edition. Jossey-Bass, 2017. <http://a.co/csZKqyU>
- Straus, David and Thomas .C. Layton. *How to Make Collaboration Work: Powerful Ways to Build Consensus, Solve Problems, and Make Decisions*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2002. <http://a.co/6tx3PKH>
- Weisbord, Marvin R. and Sandra Janoff. *Don't Just Do Something, Stand There!: Ten Principles for Leading Meetings That Matter*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2007. <http://a.co/dtvVXOD>
- Wilkinson, Michael. *The Secrets of Facilitation: The SMART Guide to Getting Results with Groups*. Jossey-Bass, 2012. <http://a.co/4yQyPuh>

3. Key articles, reports, and case studies

- Milward, H. Brinton, Ph.D., Gail MacKean, Ann Casebeer, Janice Popp, and Dr. Ron Lindstrom. *Inter-organizational Networks - A review of the literature to inform practice*. IBM Center for the Business of Government. 2014. <http://www.businessofgovernment.org/report/inter-organizational-networks-review-literature-inform-practice>
- Searce, Diana. *Catalyzing Networks for Social Change - A Funder's Guide*. The Monitor Institute. Hosted by Deloitte. 2015. <https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/us/Documents/monitor-institute/us-monitor-institute-catalyzing-networks-for-social-change.pdf>

- *The Rise of the Network Leader - Reframing leadership in the new work environment.* CEB Global. Annual Executive Guidance for 2014.
<https://www.cebglobal.com/content/dam/cebglobal/us/EN/top-insights/executive-guidance/pdfs/eg2014ann-rise-of-network-leader.pdf>
- Meehan, Deborah and Claire Reinelt et. all. *Leadership & Networks - New ways of developing leadership in a highly connected world.* Leadership Learning Community. Annie E. Casey Foundation and David and Lucile Packard Foundation, October 2012. <http://leadershiplearning.org/system/files/LLCNetworkNLfinal4.pdf>
- Parker, Susan. *Lessons From a 10-year Funder Initiative - A case study of Partnership for Higher Education in Africa.* Clear Thinking Communications, 2010.
https://www.macfound.org/media/article_pdfs/PHEA_CASE_STUDY_1.PDF
- Kania, John and Mark Kramer. *Collective Impact.* Stanford Social Innovation Review, Winter 2011. https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective_impact

4. Resources for network development and evaluation

- *Network Health Scorecard.* Network Impact, May 2015.
http://www.networkimpact.org/downloads/NH_Scorecard.pdf
- *Network Evaluation Guide.* Network Impact, May 2015.
<http://www.networkimpact.org/networkevaluation>
- Plastrik, Peter and Madeleine Taylor. *Net Gains: A handbook for network builders seeking social change.* Network Impact, May 2015.
<http://networkimpact.org/downloads/NetGainsHandbookVersion1.pdf>
- *Collective Impact Forum.* FSG. <http://www.collectiveimpactforum.org>

5. Network leadership organizations and networks

- Network Leadership Training Academy (NLTA); University of Colorado at Denver.
<http://www.spa.ucdenver.edu/NLTA>
- The International Association of Facilitators (IAF).
<https://www.iaf-world.org/site/>
- Collective Impact Forum.
<https://collectiveimpactforum.org/>
- Interaction Institute on Network Leadership.
<http://interactioninstitute.org/network-leadership-roles-2-0/>

6. Leading Networks

- McDermott, Ian and L Michael Hall. *The Collaborative Leader: The Ultimate Leadership Challenge*. Crown House Publishing: Williston, VT., 2017.
<http://a.co/dg8uyQY>
- Kristin Cullen, Phil Willburn, Donna Chrobot-Mason, and Charles Palus. *Networks: How Collective Leadership Really Works*. Center for Collective Leadership, White Paper, 2014.
<https://www.ccl.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/networksHowCollective.pdf>