

WEBVTT

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Hi, I'm Dan Shoemaker, President of Reciprocal Ministries International or RMI as we normally

107b3886-7a0f-4e8b-b4f7-2fb26e1c9125

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known. RMI's cornerstone ministry is Cross-Cultural Church to Church

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Relationships and Partnerships. Or C3 Partnerships, as we call.

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For more information on that and other ministries of RMI, go to RMIBridge.org.

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I want to share today though what an Effective Partnership looks like between

277cde54-32f3-476b-a1af-90b5fb4b2314

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a US Church and the National Church. Really goes to the heart of what missions is all

e916e0fd-4ba2-4eb2-9157-210d72d47ddf

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about. There are several principles if in place in your church, which will help you have an active

09d35526-4de4-48a6-b65a-85b65472987a

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missions program which in turn will lead to a desire to enter into effective long-term

9aa479b0-7507-4685-bfcc-647e4c425fa6

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partnerships. One important principle is that, missions, especially short-term

5002bf6c-0567-433c-a5e0-916dfd290421

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missions, needs to be an ongoing overall ministry of the church. This

can't be an

062e9bb1-a56e-4b89-be25-f1f7b9301e59

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afterthought - something you do one week in a year, or you

5cfe45b1-1b12-48f6-8e3f-b5c713abfde4

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send a team somewhere to do something for one week in the year. It

ee98fab1-8210-4522-a3cb-6aab3bdeedd9

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needs to be integrated into the

bbf1c159-4568-4426-8aa0-35a374293931

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ministry the church, bringing the local engagement of the church and the foreigners

67bc2c13-0ee3-4aee-af63-a7a71bf3b4d9

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missions program to be as one in the church.

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Acts 1:8 is a very succinct job description for the church.

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The ministry of the church needs to start in your backyard and then expand to

fc34f634-6981-4da8-bc9d-21c556b6cc34

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the ends of the earth. It needs to be a part of the integral

686dc3d2-26bb-4a5a-8545-c18bf14a13b7

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part of the weekly activities of your congregation. It needs to be a part

d639a338-1853-4895-b7be-d70733027392

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of your DNA. Everyone needs to feel part of taking the Gospel from their

8fa2a17c-9b0c-44d0-803b-8f6549a40656

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backyard to the

648a342c-7c5a-46ff-ae6d-cce098aa87ba

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ends of the earth. Another principle is that, you need Pastoral and Leadership

75240b5d-2b1e-4152-a5fd-0385e86be418

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Engagement. It is vital that the pastors and leadership are involved and

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not just in the local engagement of the church but in the complete mission of the church taking it to the

22485023-b373-4c2e-9c03-462fc980e331

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ends of the earth. You can't ask people to be a part of something that you're not passionate

7892efdc-7610-45e4-9ce1-44a53dfa5cbf

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about. Yes, it might be that you have to go way beyond your own comfort zone but as you do,

21b27d4a-c7e5-45b2-8421-9adc426d481c

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your people will step up and come along side of you. They will follow your leadership, your

d9c3a196-57fe-4d7d-b22a-728fa4ae6ec9

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people will be ready to help, provide the resources and participate in

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the partnership together. True partnerships engage the whole church

44f9ce02-0504-45a8-bc2d-7711818d1192

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and missions-minded churches engage in effective

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partnerships. So, what are some characteristics of

8d51bf7c-6973-4542-81ef-a6807275c2fb

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effective partnerships together? There are five. One is Long-term.

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Effective, intentional partnerships should be done with the goal of being in

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the long-term. Developing that relationship with a long-term perspective will provide

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great opportunities for you, for ministry as you move into the future. Secondly,

d0a25285-4c02-4cb6-8f8e-a0deb4b38ae8

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is Compatible Theology. Make sure that whoever your partner is has the same

8e513787-df40-475a-8473-5f697ffe08e9

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theological foundations as you do. There will probably be many differences based on culture

168f599a-5ace-48cd-988a-6cc2c8d11d7a

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and practice, that's okay, but make sure what is important is that

434b5778-698a-438b-9274-414b0a6b8b1e

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the essentials are the same. That you're comfortable with that kind of thing.

38b22a16-a33d-497c-be79-c77d6b5f6171

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Thirdly, Spiritual. The goal of your partnership should be

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to experience the oneness we have through the Holy Spirit and together, to desire,

29f8c093-94b7-4c53-8c33-68a9a864d4a4

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to take the Gospel into their community. Yes, projects and ministries

e8e0e9a2-0da8-4796-8e4b-969ece9b953f

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are important but these should come after you've established a

relationship

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together based on the bond that we have in Christ. Fourthly, it needs to be

47256d60-db84-45b2-bea5-7b921d13cbda

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in depth, because it is long-term. You're able to

cca000db-c13b-498c-8da7-b4b0bfd1fc2f

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then develop and take the time to learn about each other - what are our wants or

a542c598-c693-495c-bcc3-46579a3585ce

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desires, our dreams, our gifts, our goals, the opportunities that we have. As we

94cd6611-e62a-4666-93f8-962dd12669e2

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learn to gather these things, we'll be able to get to know each other on a

a8d95197-1f23-4020-9782-465568226049

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far deeper level. This will then bring forth the projects and

8ec67260-b481-4876-adba-2909490117ec

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ministries that will flow out of your relationship of trust and understanding that you've

2ec0468c-d01f-4302-b402-09859c07f316

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taken the time to build. Fifthly, partner with the Church,

ac623c65-8e08-4593-8c2c-c64a66f1b005

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not the orphanage, not a school, not a

4cbb898a-c705-4e32-a39e-3bcc1348c516

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medical clinic, etc. Make the partnership about the church foremost,

a469aa4c-443c-47a9-8741-f4dfdbb19adf

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and ministry with, and through the church. These other things can be a

part of your ministry

acfc8896-4936-4e8e-b155-b2dbbc9fda15

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but should not take up the majority of your time and effort. It is a church-to

17859831-1f37-4f71-98d9-0da2f1115f5f

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-church partnership, always keep that in mind. That will (be) make you

507fecdc-95a2-4351-9f5e-6c00c1cd43be

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successful. To sum it up, relationship is the foundation for an effective partnership

af25975a-afa8-4d4a-b1ff-8ab759e7fc74

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between a US Church and a National Church. Out of the relationship - come projects,

dad72a0e-b2da-43ef-a584-519495fe00e0

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goals and objectives, and long-term engagement that will endure. If you try to reverse this

1379c54c-a89c-43bf-af57-a23694240e11

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by jumping right into some projects (it) first, it most likely

58dff9ba-eb4d-4ea3-9fdb-948d9cf66dbe

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will not last. I've seen this happen time and time again. There

6223c74e-a7b3-432b-97fe-2e8cdfa74a19

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are also some several key elements that you need to make sure are

f1bef58e-f665-4a62-979a-95ad3c836700

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in place in order to see the relationship you desire flourish

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and endure long-term. The first element is to engage a

940672c1-9ce0-47d8-b420-ff2ae0892832

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third-party facilitator to maximize ministry

a00f5f92-9fe2-4a26-ad7d-aa580cedc878  
00:05:03.790 --> 00:05:08.730  
impact and cultural relevancy. My thirty years of experience

cd673432-5523-4a1c-bd93-bbf2add43724  
00:05:08.730 --> 00:05:11.960  
have shown that it is never a good idea to go directly to

6f396779-bdda-4555-bc7e-ee66946b777a  
00:05:11.960 --> 00:05:16.020  
a National Church in another country. Especially if it's in

f457ab8a-a7fd-4477-abd6-0aa9a51fc8b1  
00:05:16.020 --> 00:05:20.140  
a third-world country. Please, please find an agency

1df04619-a082-4f58-884c-f4547f193cac  
00:05:20.140 --> 00:05:25.010  
or group of missionaries that are already on the ground that you can  
work through, rather

e8049b25-752f-45b0-8631-e790cbbf49bf  
00:05:25.010 --> 00:05:29.860  
than working directly with the national pastor. There are so many  
reasons for this,

47457dbd-81ae-41a3-a337-beb789bc93b4  
00:05:29.860 --> 00:05:33.380  
but here's one of the most important - and this is, the vast

7a6b5d05-7c48-48f6-ab12-0c800c12135f  
00:05:33.380 --> 00:05:38.300  
differences in culture and language. It doesn't matter if the national  
pastor speaks

a7c88ec9-3ff4-4ce3-8f53-621f0aec5595  
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English. These are two things were going to come into play. Many US  
churches get involved with

8431a978-a3fe-4bdd-9f78-0f3fd24d6831  
00:05:43.530 --> 00:05:48.060  
Haitian pastors directly that speak little English, over time most of  
these partnerships

ec9f1bcb-feaa-4d41-a47d-4c5ab3f78e01  
00:05:48.060 --> 00:05:51.440  
blow apart, not because the leadership is bad. But due

070f6d30-f019-4eeb-a0c5-098246371dc1

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to the vast differences in culture and understanding. Work through an agency that will

6f8d1543-5661-4700-a584-b7af5de88174

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help you negotiate these cultural differences so that you can be set

b58aa93d-bf61-4126-8f3d-4a16712504e9

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up for success. You also want an agency that can tell you "No". No

94353514-7bb7-489d-8def-8178c4a73bba

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is one of the most important words in partnerships. Often, what you or the

9e202f17-4a77-4bca-a5ba-258bfb2ac8a5

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National Church Leaders want to do is not the right thing, not the right way,

3fad8ba6-0843-4c83-8577-f9e5b9fa3aeb

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or it won't be done. It's not going to be culturally relevant, etc. You need

ebeebea7-e5f4-4117-839f-b87bfb160aef

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someone who understands both cultures - both yours and theirs to help guide

63bcf25c-fc68-4930-bc16-7e0cf4f5dd73

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to partnership in a culturally relevant manner for both parties. So,

933e917d-695d-4fa4-a838-19edebfe34dd

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work through a third party facilitator. This is the one most

5fed9fca-ec74-4889-9467-b85dd07706e5

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important piece of advice I can give you. You'll never regret it, if you do. Another element

84ed673b-4770-4c65-9fc1-fec521ae4217

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is having a wholistic strategy of engagement with your partnership. You are

c71977a8-d629-4daa-a275-6a226885162e

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there first and foremost for the relationship but you're also there not to do the ministry for

45aa32fa-8af5-4d13-add2-f44e516e4b9b

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the national church but to help resource them so that they can be more effective

5814ab3d-a36e-44a7-88a1-7507e7cdf62e

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in their outreach to their own people and to the community around them, through culturally

a3bd0629-8654-44b1-bd87-526b8dfc3cdc

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relevant projects and ministries. So, I would encourage you to engage with the

3847be74-f187-4098-8e7c-2123e1f44fbe

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church through RMI's Five-Ministry Impact Points: Evangelism, Discipleship,

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Social Compassion, Education/Leadership Development and

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Community Development. These Impact points provide you with many different ways to engage

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your people in a very wholistic manner in the partnership. It will enable you to

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have a wide variety of people from your church engaging in ministry because you're going to be

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doing a wide variety of projects in ministries

a7464ef9-b400-4b73-9b10-81a04202ef4b

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over time rather than the same thing time after time. Make sure

d9aa786b-a8da-4b52-8442-27b4eb609d5d

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you go through an agency that can help engage you in these ways, that can help

83926146-9a16-4e5d-81fb-b2bffd422a79

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you handle teams well, that provides accountability -very important; and helps you

ce17e340-2505-49ea-babd-c5927dae2932

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accomplish projects and ministries throughout the year not just one your team is on the ground.

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A third element is to commit to the Long-term Partnership. The word here

b73e1182-1a30-4902-992f-da6ab4dc7a47

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is COMMIT. You're going to go through rocky patches. You're going to go through difficulties.

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You're going have to work through some issues together over time. It's just the

5e32ee70-0608-4ce3-b6c1-7f47d5780e8b

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nature of the beast. And so you need a third party facilitator that's going to help

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you negotiate those issues and those rough patches.

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Very, very important. The fourth element is a Partnership Coordinator.

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You need a person that would be the -one person who will be

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the go-between- between you and your partners as you go forth.

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This will help be a well-organized partnership

12141193-a87e-4de1-91d1-e62fc4a47182

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and not be driven to confusion otherwise. So what

2c43592d-2cab-4b84-b657-cbed6246e6fd

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are the important elements that you need to have? One, is a Third-party Facilitator, a

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Wholistic Engagement Strategy, Long-term Committed Partnership together,

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and a Partnership Coordinator. As you engage these elements in your partnership, you'll have

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a very successful and effective time together and you'll be glorifying

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God, and you'll be a light in a very dark place. Thank you very much.