



## **Global Connections Forum – Nov 1, 2011**

Partnership, paternalism and power – building  
accountable North-South relationships

(Missiological approaches to North-South partnerships)



To build mutual South-North relationships I suggest we need to:

- Overcome mindset issues
- Address the disconnect in priorities/approaches
- Change some of our theological thinking
- Develop structures built on mutuality





## Overcoming Mindset Issues

“Andy, your time is over, ours is just arriving”

- Unusual because:
- For years the dominant/subservient had become comfortable. Everyone seemed happy playing the game!
- History still has a hold over people’s mindsets from both sides. For a person to state the above means a huge shift in thinking.
- Money still controls us all to some extent. Everyone both westerner and southerner uses money to achieve the outcomes we want. It is never neutral!



“We could call the tradition that is driving us ‘neo-colonialism’, or ‘globalization’.

It refers to our unjust wealth, our superior attitudes, our determination to be rulers, to be in control.

But this house is falling.

Beware that we are not caught up in the crash.”

*Jonathan Ingleby*





## Addressing the disconnect in priorities/approaches (some is cultural)

- Controlling outcomes vs moving with the flow of life
- Success that can be measured vs seeing where we end up
- Documentation vs story
- Fear of shame vs fear of failure
- Trust vs relationship





## Changing some of our Theological/Missiological thinking:

- How we view poverty
- An individualistic approach to understanding the Bible
- West to the rest



# Global Structure



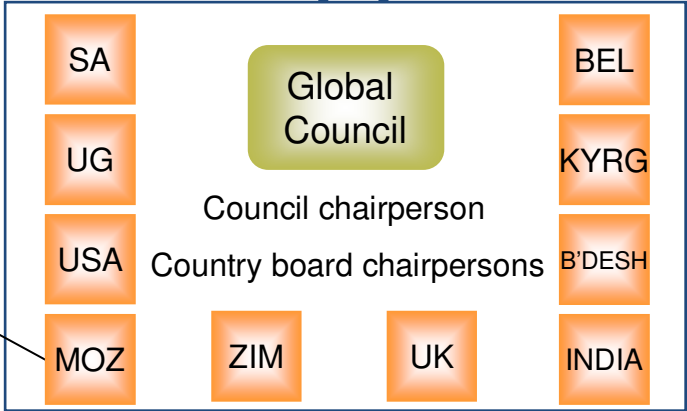
Mozambique Operations

Mozambique Board



Provides operational coherence at a Global Level

## Operations



Provides Governance at a Global Level

## Governance



## Develop Structures built on mutuality

### Key Principles in the Oasis structure:

1. So that we can combine global cohesion with local empowerment.
2. Equity of all – through equal representation on the Global Council & Executive all countries have the same input and influence in decisions about where and how Oasis will grow in the future.
3. Empowerment of those who work within Oasis - through the decentralisation of authority & responsibility to local boards & staff, Oasis staff are empowered to be in control of their own destiny. (This includes fundraising)
4. Interdependence – as we relate to each other across the globe we will all be stronger, sharing the different resources and expertise that we develop in different contexts around the world.



## Questions

- Is Accountability between partners the wrong concept for us to focus on? If we strengthened mutuality would accountability take care of itself?
- Is it still appropriate for an organization to be located in the North for recruitment or fundraising purposes when these are then sent to the south? What alternatives might there be in the new world we are moving into?



## Questions

- What can we learn from the business world where issues of dependency and paternalism are lessened? Does the answer lie more in the area of social enterprise where money is invested rather than donated?
- Is the statement 'money is power' related to the restricted nature of most donated income from North to South? Should donors move to investing in an entity rather than restricting donations to a project/programme?