**Special Projects Concept Note**

**Ron Burdock**

 **April 21, 2018**

The word partnership has been used with great success and importance in the mission community in recent years. The idea of partnership shifted the needle from the single lens of sending to a greater awareness of the significance of the Global Church. Oscar Muriu is one of many voices who brought great energy and clarity to the importance of partnership as a way of levelling the playing field between Westerners and the Global Church. That levelling was the key gift in the idea of partnership.

When is a partnership alive and well? A partnership is a true kingdom reality only when it is an active and living experience and the partners are being transformed by one another’s colaborship and humble striving side by side for kingdom purposes. It may be better practice to turn the focus away from the notion of people being *in a partnership* to what we are accomplishing together here and now today and in transforming kingdom ways. Keeping the lens on current active working initiatives is the best way to measure the depth of true partnership.

North Park is growing a movement of people who will engage the challenges facing the world and who will do so from the context of their own story and vocation. The weight of mission being placed on their shoulders awakens a spiritual energy and passion that gives them the commitment and momentum to think and build relationships deeply as they journey. North Park’s role is to coach and equip these people to be effective through best practices of global engagement, all the while intentionally growing them up in their own discipleship. We call these people Influencers as they seek to influence change in the world.

The initial season for an Influencer involves exploration and confirmation of a setting and a people where there is potential for relationship and mutual benefit. Influencer’s move beyond exploration to a season of commitment and regular face to face working together, bringing their vocation, character and spiritual heartbeat to the unfolding story.

Taking the time in the initial season of exploration to build relationships lays a strong foundation that reduces the potential for misunderstanding or missteps in working together. Proving one’s value early without the use of money leads to a level of clarity and awareness about the real state of the situation in which the Influencer finds themselves. It takes time to understand real vs perceived needs. It takes time to understand the context in which one is serving. When that time is invested and the bonds of relationship are strong and authentic, opportunities for the wise use of funding present themselves. North Park can be a catalytic agent in growing our Influencers as well as impacting the world through being intentionally with financial resources alongside our influencers as opportunities emerge.

**Special Projects** are a way of capitalizing on and fueling the momentum built by our Influencers, inspiring them to go forward with North Park joining them in every deeper ways. This builds our Influencers capacity to impact the world. A residual and important outcome is to equip our people in the wise use of finances, and to grow our understanding as a congregation on the strategic use of money on behalf of the Global Church. In a season where the wealth of the West is greater than it has ever been in history, and yet the story of dependency troubles us, we have the opportunity to be learners through hands on engagement in Special Projects with our Influencers.

**Special Projects** emerge from our Influencers as opportunities to engage the human and financial resources of North Park for greater impact. Ideas are required to be time bound, strategic in nature and designed to build capacity into indigenous peoples and organizations based on the specific work of the Influencer.

A suggested process may include the following:

* The Influencer Team Leader discerns opportunities for Special Projects among the Influencers and recommends to the MOT as a DRAFT idea. The MOT discerns and approves in principal with parameters, including how and where funding may come from.
* The Influencer builds a team, finalizes a proposal and meets with the MOT to review and approve. The team reports to the MOT with the guidance of the Global Mentor. The MOT monitors the outcomes of the Special Project.

Currently we have a growing handful of potential **Special Projects** that would inspired greater momentum for the Influencers:

* Gail Tiessen and our ESL at North Park team are training leaders in Ethiopia and require funding for Teachers Kits and Student Books.
* Don Schroeder has trained Manual in Belize to start his own course. Don’s heart is to provide the start-up tools so that Manual has what he needs. The cost wold be approximately $500.
* Brett and Sheena Fliesser are growing their relationship with North Park Youth. Josh Black is very interested in sending youth this summer to start a new movement. There may be an opportunity to provide match funding to students who travel.
* Rod and Lou Sheil are attempting to raise funds for the building of a maintenance house for the school that they are influencing.
* Matt and Janice Eckert are hoping to fund a Church Planting initiative on behalf of Saulius and City Church in Vilnius.

We would need to discern the charitable accountability for these types of projects, and in some cases they will be able to administer by North Park. In others they may need a different Agency to be the administrator. We would be wise to begin the process of building capacity to oversee projects such as will emerge from our Influencers.

It will require effort to set up the appropriate parameters for the fund so that we might do good work. The Influencer team has invited Daniel Rickett to visit in June to talk through the appropriate use of money when engaging globally. A set of Best Practices will be drafted in conversation with our Influencers as a result of the meeting. The MOT may wish to engage alongside Daniel to confirm and explore the **Special Projects** Idea.

**NOTE:** We saw the need for this type of focused support and capacity building into our missionaries and created Missionary Initiatives inside the Global Challenge category. Appendix 1 is the design as well as a picture of what we funded in 2013. We did not share this widely but focused on a few key people we were working closely with and who had teams/D2s in place. We knew that if we spread it widely among the 46 missionaries that it would be too complex and gangly to manage. **Special Projects** as an idea can be redesigned and in use with the Missionaries.

**NOTE:** I put together a history of the Influencer Flight Funding in an Excel File called Influencer Finances 2016 to 2010

**Appendix 1**

**North Park Global Outreach Fund**

Missionary Initiatives

The Global Outreach Team of North Park Community Church has a *Strategic Fund* through which we advance the work of Global Outreach.

Context:

Missionaries are North Park’s front-line team and need our active partnership.

Objective

1. To strengthen missionaries via counseling, training, resources, transition support.
2. To increase missionary effectiveness via resources, seed funding and indigenous support initiatives.

Process

1. The missionary drafts a proposal based on the template. The proposal is approved by the respective missionary’s agency.
2. The proposal is submitted to the Long Term Team and the Director of Global Outreach.
3. The Long Term Team and the Director of Global Outreach confer and decide upon a course of action.
4. The missionary oversees the proposal and provides the Long Term Team with a report on the goals

**Template for Proposals**

|  |
| --- |
| **Key Contents** |
| **Vision** | What is your vision for this proposal; how did it emerge? |
| **Goal** | What are the goals of the initiative? Consider 3-5 specific goals? |
| **Benefits** | Who will benefit from this initiative? |
| **Accountabilities** | Who will take accountability for the initiatives success? |
| **Risks / Constraints** | What are the risks of the initiative?  |
| **Success Criteria** | How will you measure success for this initiative? |
| **Stakeholders** | What stakeholders are involved in the planning of this initiative? |
| **Budget** | What is the budget for the initiative, and how is each stakeholder participating in the funding of the initiative? (Include specific line item expenses in the budget) |
| **Administration** | Who will manage the finances for this initiative? |
| **Timeline** | What is the approximate timeline for the initiative? |
| **Reporting** | How will you report on the initiative as well as the outcomes? |

|  |
| --- |
| **Strategic Fund Missionary Initiatives 2013 (Dec 31)** |
| **Missionary** | **Initiative** | **Amount** |
| Ian Perry  | Video Proposal | $ 1000  |
| Jenny Casselman | Internship | $ 6576 |
| Heather Pressley | D2 transition | $1,166.58 plus$2154.88 Ruth Carolyn Trip= $3321.46 |
| Cam Internship |  | $10,500 |
| Gee EDR Training |  | $670 |
| **TOTAL** |  | **$22067.46** |