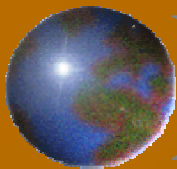


city and regional missions networks

ACMC staff retreat – 2/18/05



outline

1. definitions – what is a city or regional missions network?
2. an overview of city networks in Texas and Oklahoma
3. why have a missions network?
4. what is your target audience?
5. what is ACMC field staff currently doing?
6. how do you get started?
7. what topics are discussed?
8. logistics / format
9. what challenges / obstacles are you facing?
10. how effective are your missions networks?
11. what role should NAMP play?



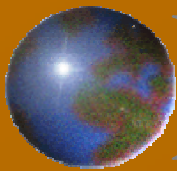
1. definitions

QUESTION: *what is a city missions network?*

ANSWER: a regularly meeting gathering of missions leaders for informational, training, and collaborative purposes

QUESTION: *what is a regional missions network?*

ANSWER: it is like a city missions network, but includes a larger area (perhaps an entire state)



2. an overview of city missions networks in Texas and Oklahoma

STRATEGY #1: focus on evangelical churches in the 6 largest metropolitan areas in my region

1. Austin – *1.2 million*
2. Dallas / Fort Worth – *5.2 million*
3. Houston – *4.7 million*
4. Oklahoma City – *1.1 million*
5. San Antonio – *1.6 million*
6. Tulsa – *900 thousand*



2. an overview of city missions networks in Texas and Oklahoma

STRATEGY #2: focus on 3 types of involvement with local churches

1. CONSULTING

- 1-to-1 involvement with a local church
- usually focuses on specific issues
- highly interactive, relational, dynamic
- sometimes one shot, sometimes longer term

2. NETWORKS

- key mechanism for “*churches helping churches with missions*” in a local setting
- seek to balance content with relationships with 10-30 churches
- intermediate involvement level between consulting and conferences

3. TRAINING EVENTS (conferences and seminars)

- conferences with 50-100 churches in a structured training environment
- usually addresses broad spectrum of issues
- content oriented
- workshops, resource area, exhibitors

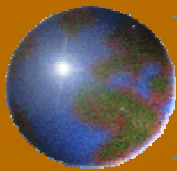


2. an overview of city missions networks in Texas and Oklahoma

4 networks currently in place

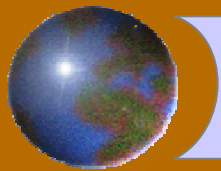
- Dallas / Fort Worth – *launched fall 2000*
- Austin – *launched April 2002*
- San Antonio – *launched September 2003*
- Tulsa – *launched September 2004*

2 networks planned – Houston, Oklahoma City



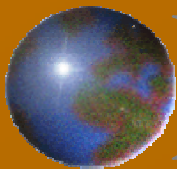
2. an overview of city missions networks in Texas and Oklahoma

- **we seek to involve all evangelical Protestant churches in the city (charismatic, denominational, independent) not allowing any to dominate or alienate those who are different**
- **the network is owned by its participants, not APMC**
- **we are currently involving about 2% of the city churches in each city network**
- **the GOAL is to involve 10% of the city churches in each network**



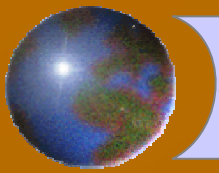
3. why have a missions network?

- education on missions basics for the local church
- facilitate “*churches helping churches in missions*”
- announce upcoming church, para-church, city / regional / national missions events
- encourage cooperative efforts – Perspectives, conferences, special events
- relationship development that leads to long-term partnerships with other churches and sending agencies
- source of contacts for ACMC consulting opportunities and conference planning
- **OTHER REASONS ?**



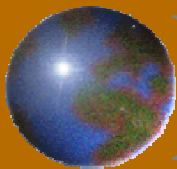
4. what is your target audience?

1. **PRIMARY: missions pastors and missions chair persons**
2. **lay missions leaders from LOCAL CHURCHES**
3. **staff from SENDING AGENCIES – *if local church focused***
4. **staff from PARA-CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS – *if local church focused***



5. what is A C M C field staff currently doing?

OPEN DISCUSSION



6. how do you get started?

- **lay the relational groundwork with 5-10 key missional churches in the city**
- **identify a strong facilitator**
- **identify a host church**
- **assemble a distribution list for invitees**
- **set your first meeting date**
- **start strong with a quality first meeting**



7. what topics are discussed?

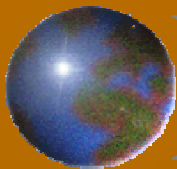
- **12 MAP topics**
- **hot button topics in missions**
- **topics of interest – solicited from network participants**
- **OTHER TOPICS ?**



8. logistics / format

EXAMPLE: *Austin network format* – 2 hours

- brown bag lunch / informal relationship building
- welcome / introductions
- announcements (keep them brief and local church focused)
- presentation (around a single theme, usually by a panel)
– 60 minutes
- informal small group prayer (around the theme)



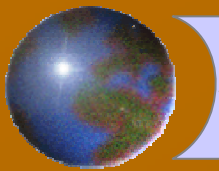
8. logistics / format

- the facilitator does not need to be from the host church
- carefully select and coach panel members
- good location – centrally located, prominent church, easy to find, good meeting room (*size, appearance, equipment*)
- stay at the same location for at least one year
- select a good time to meet for church staff and lay leaders
- regularly scheduled meetings – monthly, quarterly (*same time / day*)
- e-mail or snail mail announcements (and reminders) for each meeting
- keep it simple for the host church – provides meeting room, equipment, drinks only
- **OTHER COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS ?**



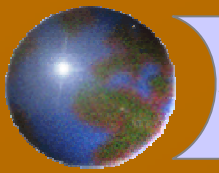
9. what challenges / obstacles are you facing?

- selecting a strong, well-connected facilitator
- involving sending agencies without allowing them dominate, keeping the time local church focused
- continually expanding the network
- not using the network meeting time to plan events
(including ACMC events)
- **OTHER CHALLENGES / OBSTACLES ?**



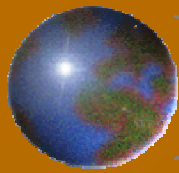
10. how effective are your missions networks?

OPEN DISCUSSION



11. what role should NAMP play?

OPEN DISCUSSION



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