

Holy Currencies



*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Circling through earth so all may grow
Vanquishing fear so all may give
Widening grace so all may live*

RESPECTFUL COMMUNICATION GUIDELINES

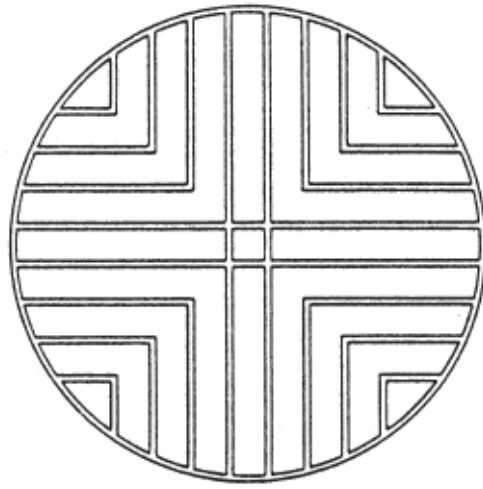
- R** = take RESPONSIBILITY for what you say and feel without blaming others
- E** = use EMPATHETIC listening
- S** = be SENSITIVE to differences in communication styles
- P** = PONDER what you hear and feel before you speak
- E** = EXAMINE your own assumptions and perceptions
- C** = keep CONFIDENTIALITY
- T** = TRUST ambiguity because we are *not* here to debate who is right or wrong

(from *The Bush Was Blazing but Not Consumed* by Eric H. F. Law)

I agree to uphold these guidelines for the time we have together.

SIGNATURE

DATE



Mutual Invitation

In order to ensure that everyone who wants to share has the opportunity to speak, we will proceed in the following way:
The leader or a designated person will share first. After that person has spoken, he or she then invites another to share. Whom you invite does not need to be the person next to you. After the next person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share.

If you are not ready to share yet, say “I pass for now” and we will invite you to share later on. If you don’t want to say anything at all, simply say “pass” and proceed to invite another to share. We will do this until everyone has been invited.

We invite you to listen and not to respond to someone’s sharing immediately. There will be time to respond and to ask clarification questions after everyone has had an opportunity to share.

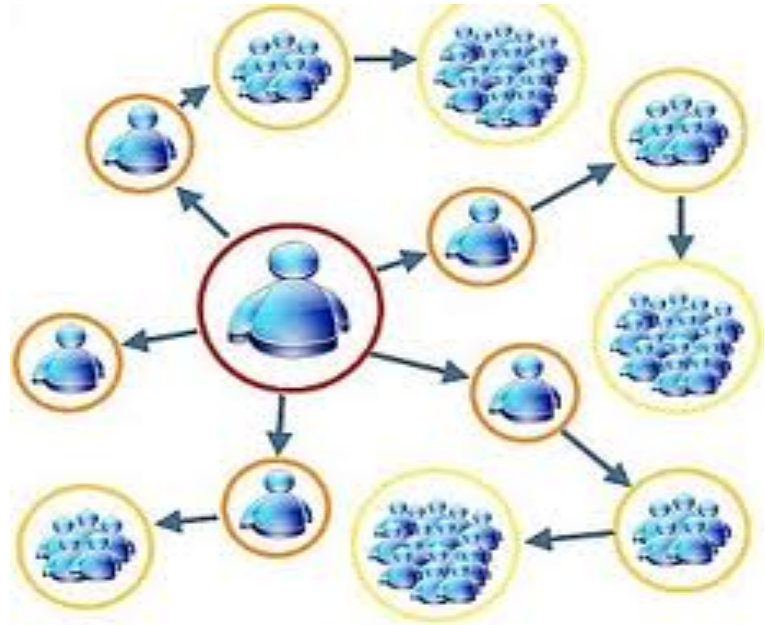
(from *The Wolf Shall Dwell With the Lamb* by Eric H. F. Law)

Examining Your Internal Network

Using the chart below, 1. Write down the name of 5 church members whom you know and trust.

2. Describe the last few encounters you had with them in the 2nd column.

3. Write in the 3rd column the blessings that were exchanged.



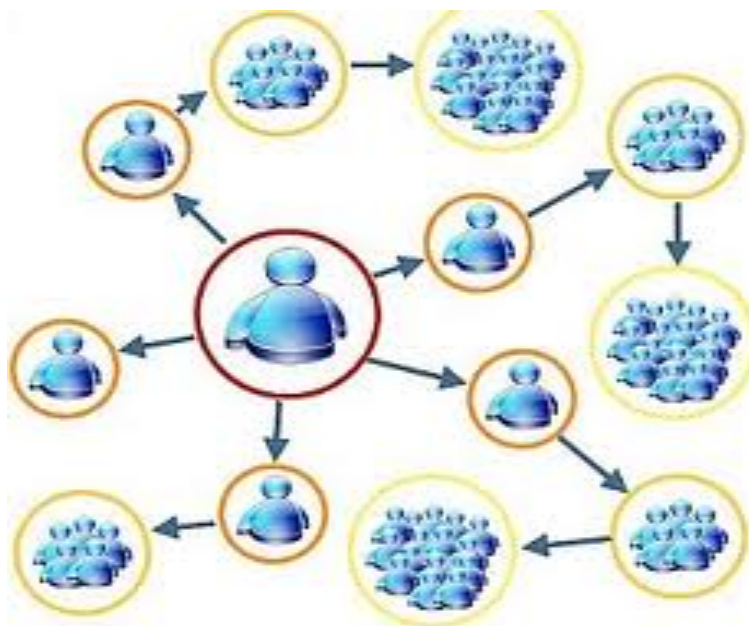
Internal friends	Describe Recent Encounters	What blessings were exchanged?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Examining Your External Network

Using the chart below, 1. Write down the name of 5 people in the community, who are not members of your church, but whom you know and trust.

2. Describe the last few encounters you had with them in the 2nd column.

3. Write in the 3rd column the blessings that were exchanged.



External friends	Describe Recent Encounters	What blessings were exchanged?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

Currency of Relationship

Internal Relationship Inventory

Internal Relationships	Name the key people involved in building these relationships	Rate These Relationships: (None, weak, okay, strong)	Currencies exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gracious leadership - relationship - truth - time/place - money - wellness
Among members			
Among area churches of the same affiliation			
With area denominational organization			
With national denominational structure			

External Currency of Relationship Inventory

External Relationships: With People Not Already Members of the Church	Name the key people involved in building these relationships	Rate these Relationships: (None, weak, okay, strong)	Currencies exchange: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - gracious leadership - relationship - truth - time/place - money - wellness
Different Racial, Cultural and Ethnic Groups in the Neighborhood			
Individuals and Groups with Resources			
Individuals and Groups in Need			
Civic and Community Leaders			
Ecumenical/interfaith partners			
Local businesses			
Civic and Community Organizations			
Environment			

Luke 10:38-42

As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Developing Currency of Relationship **From Task Driven to Relationship-Driven Ministry**

- A. List some of the ministries of your church community, especially the ones that involve interacting with those who are not already members of their church.
- B. Using the chart below, spend some time to discern which approach does each one of these ministries operated out of in the last year.

Differences in Approaches

Task-Driven	Relationship-Driven
Linear	Circler/Spiral
Talking	Listening
Convincing	Trust-Building
Doing	Connecting
Instruction Giving	Story Telling

- C. Select one of the Task-Driven ministries. Describe what this ministry will look like (with some details) if it is a “Relationship-Driven” ministry

- D. *If my church community is to move toward a relationship-driven model of ministry,*
i. *My fear is . . .*

ii. *My hope is . . .*

Authentic Spiritual Experience

1. Recall an experience that you would consider an “authentic” spiritual experience in faith community. This experience can be one involving worship, a one-on-one encounter, a retreat, small group gatherings, educational programs, etc.

⊕ Where?

⊕ Who was involved?

⊕ What was I doing?

⊕ How did I know something “authentic” was happening?

⊕ What caused this experience to be authentic?

2. In a small group, share your experience and listen to others’ “authentic” spiritual experiences.
3. Write down some of the elements of “authenticity” based on your listening:
4. What are some of the ways through which your community can facilitate authentic spiritual experiences for others?

Sharing Your Story

1. Imagine persons who grew up never having stepped into any Christian church. They don't know about Jesus as we learned about Jesus in Sunday School or in sermons in church. They have never opened the Bible to read it. All their knowledge of Christianity comes from TV and movies. They are also exposed to other religions such as Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Wicca, etc., along the same level as they are exposed to Christianity—through TV, movies, the Internet and school.
 2. As you imagine yourself as one of these persons, what comes to mind when you hear the word “Christians”?
 3. Now imagine this person asking you the following questions.
 - a. Why are you Christian?
 - b. Why do you belong to an institution called “church”?
 4. Complete the following sentences as if you are answering the above questions from an unchurched person:
 - a. For me, being a Christian IS . . .
 - b. For me, being a Christian IS NOT . . .
 - c. Belonging to the church IS . . .
 - d. Belonging to the church IS NOT . . .
-

Taking Your Ministries Out In The World

1. List the ministries that you are presently engaged in your church community especially those taking place in the church building.
2. Write the name of these ministries on separate pieces of paper (one ministry per page), fold them up and put them one basket or bowl.
3. List some of the concerns, issues, and needs that people in the neighborhood/town/city face:

List the places (other than your church building) where people gather in the neighborhood, town, city, etc.

4. Write the name of these places, concerns, issues and needs on separate pieces of paper (one ministry per page), fold them up and put them another basket or bowl.

5. Blindly pick one piece of paper from each basket. Making connections between the two, create a fresh expression/missional ministry? (Avoid the temptation to talk about bringing “them” into the church, but focus instead on “bringing the church out to the people.”)

Describe this missional ministry with some details:

- a. How does this ministry build relationships?
 - b. How does this ministry enable all involved to be authentic?
 - c. How does the leadership share power?
 - d. How can this ministry be sustainable?
6. If we were to implement this missional ministry generated in this dialogue,
 - a. My fear is . . .
 - b. My hope is . . .