

Standing Firm Strong Together

Thursday (11 June) 08h15

Creating Synergies: Standing Firm Together as Institutions

(Dr Siegfried Ngubane)

Standing Firm Together as Institutions

Restoring the Integrity of the house of God to the Glory of God

- The sale of fake qualifications in the name of God, in the house of God.
- Why fraudulently giving degrees: undergrad, master and doctoral degrees left, right and centre to “students” who want the title... but don’t know any better.
- Why is the church so silent concerning this fraudulent institution?
- Because of charlatan institution like these the world mocks the church... Sad Sad indeed. While we decry the scourge of corruption in the public service, we remain mostly silent about this unscrupulous practice in church circles.
- There is no unity if there is no gospel, bad theology hurt people

Let us Rise Up and Build

1. **Focusing on God**
2. **Overcome discouragement**
3. **Working in partnership**
4. **The Word and Spiritual Revival**



The Power of Synergy - Darren T. Carter

- In looking at the purpose of God for our lives, synergy is when our lives come in contact with others to create something we could never create alone.
- We should be working with each other and training the younger members to develop their gifting's.
- We need to prepare people in all fields of life to follow Christ so that they can be a witness for Him in their area of ministry.

1. Synergy helps us to create something we could never produce on our own.
2. The power of synergy is released as we partner with others.
3. Community is shared responsibility and releases the power of synergy.
4. True kingdom synergy extends to the next generation.

Partnership and Collaboration *collaboration*



- It can take many forms
- It may be two organizations in a bilateral partnership of mutuality, respect, and genuine joint benefit that want to do something in their community
- It may be 3 or more organizations from one or more countries that want to work together more effectively to reach and serve a large, unreached people group
- Nehemiah led the people to pledge their loyalty and commitment to God:
- “Now those who placed their seal on the document were: Nehemiah the governor, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah,” (Nehemiah 10:1 NKJV)

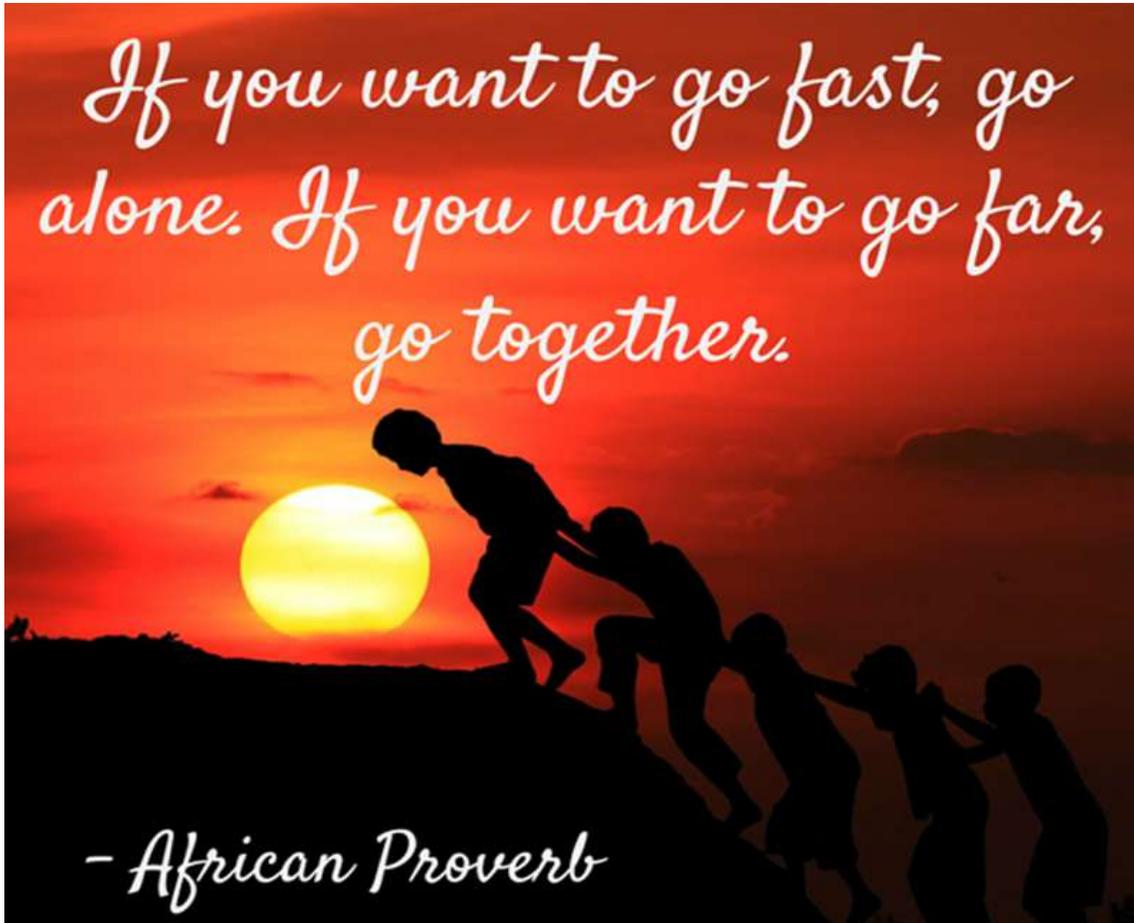


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Why Christian leaders are to make an intentional effort to work together.

- We are living in a day when the message of the church is changing
- Churches are moving away from the old message of salvation through the blood of Jesus
- The old message of the blood and the cross of Christ is quickly being replaced by a Christless message that lacks power, and that lacks hope.

Theology Demands It:



- Regardless of our identities, all of us have “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:5, 6).
- Through the victory of Jesus Christ, a “new humanity” has been formed in the earth to bear witness to the glory of God (Ephesians 2:10-22; 3:1-21).



Theology Demands It (Cont'd)

- Our actions and attitudes reflect the grace of God given in the gospel.
- Ephesians 3:10 marks the church as the agency through which “the colorful wisdom of God” is made known “to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.”
- The church is the place where “the riches of the glory of His inheritance among the saints” is demonstrated (Ephesians 1:18).

What Makes it Different?

- Its not an ecumenical movement
- Its noy just another call of (church) unity
- Intentionality and not compromise
- Clear agreement on the essentials of our mission and not major on minor theological differences
- Leaders must find ways to navigate around and through other issues. But the primary point is that the core theology of the Bible demands that genuine efforts be made to accomplish these greater goals



What Makes it Different? (Cont'd)

- Relationships are the most important basis of synergy in the establishing of genuine relationships
- Trust - hearing the heart of the other person is essential
- Intentionality - enter into these relationships, or grow into them, **with a sense of need for the other person(s).**
- Intimacy through the Word, Prayer and Worship to hear the voice of God and be under the leading His Word and His Holy Spirit



1. Focusing on God

- “Then I said to them, “You see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lies waste, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build the wall of Jerusalem, that we may no longer be a reproach.” And I told them of the hand of my God which had been good upon me, and also of the king’s words that he had spoken to me. So they said, “Let us rise up and build.” Then they set their hands to this good work. **(Nehemiah 2:17-18 NKJV)**
- Like Nehemiah, we need to pray fervently to God for His strength and His wisdom to help us in doing His work. We need to ask God to forgive us our sins so that God can use us **(2 Tim 2:21)**

2. Overcoming Discouragement

We cannot compromise with our enemies:

- “...and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. *Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.* (Nehemiah 4:8-9 NKJV)
- “So I answered them, and said to them, “The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build, but you have no heritage or right or memorial in Jerusalem.” (Neh 2:20 NKJV).

3. Working in Partnership and Collaboration

Nehemiah and the people were able to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem in 52 days because:

- He knew what needed to be done. He saw the urgency of the work
- He presented his plans to the people and sought the co-operation of everyone
- He was courageous & strong; not fearful of his enemies.
- He had great faith in God. So I sent messengers to them, saying, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you?” (Nehemiah 6:3 NKJV) The work cannot cease.

4. Hunger for the Word and Spiritual Revival

“Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel. So Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly of men and women and all who could hear with understanding on the first day of the seventh month.

Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law. **So Ezra the scribe stood on a platform of wood which they had made for the purpose; and beside him, at his right hand, stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Urijah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah; and at his left hand Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbadana, Zechariah, and Meshullam.** And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, “Amen, Amen!” while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground. (Nehemiah 8:1-6 NKJV)

Conclusion

- Synergy does not occur on its own initiative. It only occurs in the context of genuine interaction
- In the Christian community, human interaction presumes the presence of divine interaction in and among us
- Jesus told His disciples, “ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34, 35 NKJV)

- Like Nehemiah, we need to pray fervently to God for His strength and His wisdom to help us in doing His work.
- We need to ask God to forgive us our sins so that God can use us: Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.(2 Tim 2:21 NKJV).