

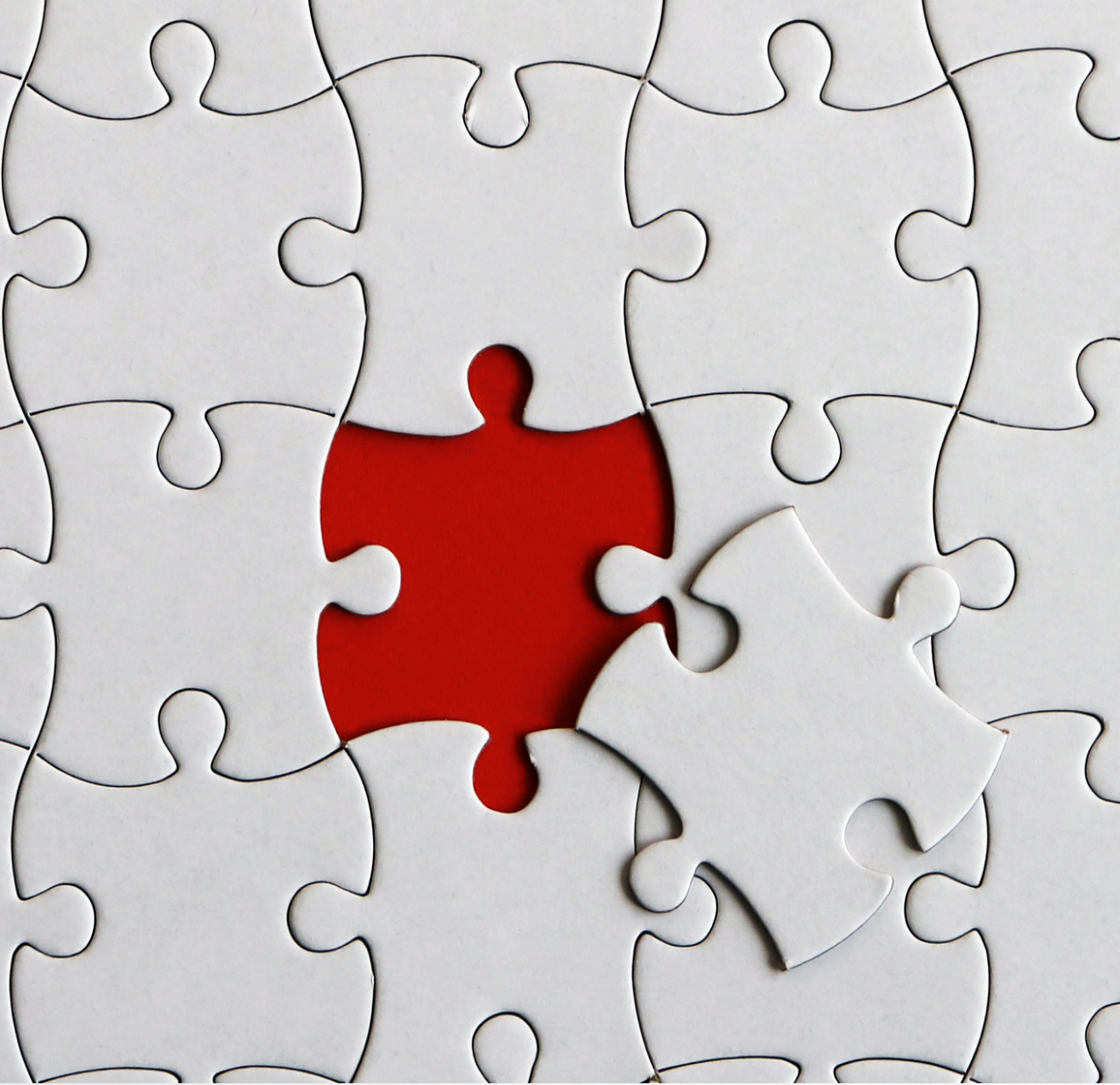
2019 Nurture and Retention Summit

Discipling,
Nurturing, and
Reclaiming

Growing Faithfulness in the Local Church

Factors conducive to financial partnership

Aniel Barbe



Is my Contribution Important?

Mcintosh and Arn, *What Every Pastor Should Know*

1#Growing Spirituality



Spirituality and Liberality

“ Religiously affiliated individuals are more than two times more generous with their financial contributions on average than those without a religious affiliation.”

Lake Institute and the Giving USA Foundation™
2017: *Study on American Generosity and Religious Affiliation*



Jesus' Financial Partners

“These women were helping to support them out of their own means.” (Luke 8:3b)



Jesus' Financial Partners

“Uparchonton”

Financial means including possessions and solid assets of a certain value.





Experiential and Relational

- They have been healed or delivered by Jesus.
- They were with Jesus

Partnership and Faithfulness

Faithfulness in partnering in God's mission prepares for faithfulness in time of crisis.



2#Deconstruction of Attitudes towards Money



Common Attitudes Toward Money

- Money as status
- Money as freedom
- Money as security
- Money as an exchange for affection



Deconstruction

Money as status

Our identity is in our affiliation to God

Money as freedom

Real independence is in Christ

Money as security

God's protection is foremost

Money as an exchange for affection

You are unconditionally love





3#Empowering Partners



Obstacle to Empowerment

Empowerment versus filling the church



Growth and Health

“Have the courage and commitment to pursue both health and growth. This dedication needs to be passed down from the top leadership to the local pastor, lay leaders, and members.”

S. Joseph Kidder, *Ministry Magazine*, Feb. 2011



Obstacle to Empowerment

- Empowerment versus filling the church.
- Reluctance to address financial matters.



Poor Money Management Imperils Partnership

Many do not remember the cause of God, and carelessly expend money in holiday amusements, in dress and folly, and when there is a call made for the advancement of the work in home and foreign missions, they have nothing to give, or even have overdrawn their account.

E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, Dec. 19, 1893



Financial Counseling

Many lack wise management and economy. They do not weigh matters well, and move cautiously. Such should not trust to their own poor judgment, but should counsel with their brethren who have experience.

E. G. White, *Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 224



Financial Counseling

- Use the hermit crab strategy. (I'm Undercover)
- Prioritize proximity interventions.





4#Building Trust



Trust: All-Time-Low

42 percent of Americans now have a “great deal” or “quite a lot” of confidence in organized religion and the church.

Gallup poll, 2015



Invest in Growing Confidence

“Then, when I arrive, I will give letters of introduction to the men you approve and send them with your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ If it seems advisable for me to go also, they will accompany me.”

(1 Corinthians 16: 3,4)



Trust Changes Everything

“A significant increase in the public transparency, accountability, and institutionalized credibility of the many religious and charitable causes and organizations to which American Christians might consider giving money would have the real effect over time of considerably increasing the amount of money they give.”

C. Smith and M. Emerson, *Passing the Plate*, p. 143



The Equation of Trust

$$\text{Trustworthiness} = \frac{C + R + I}{S}$$

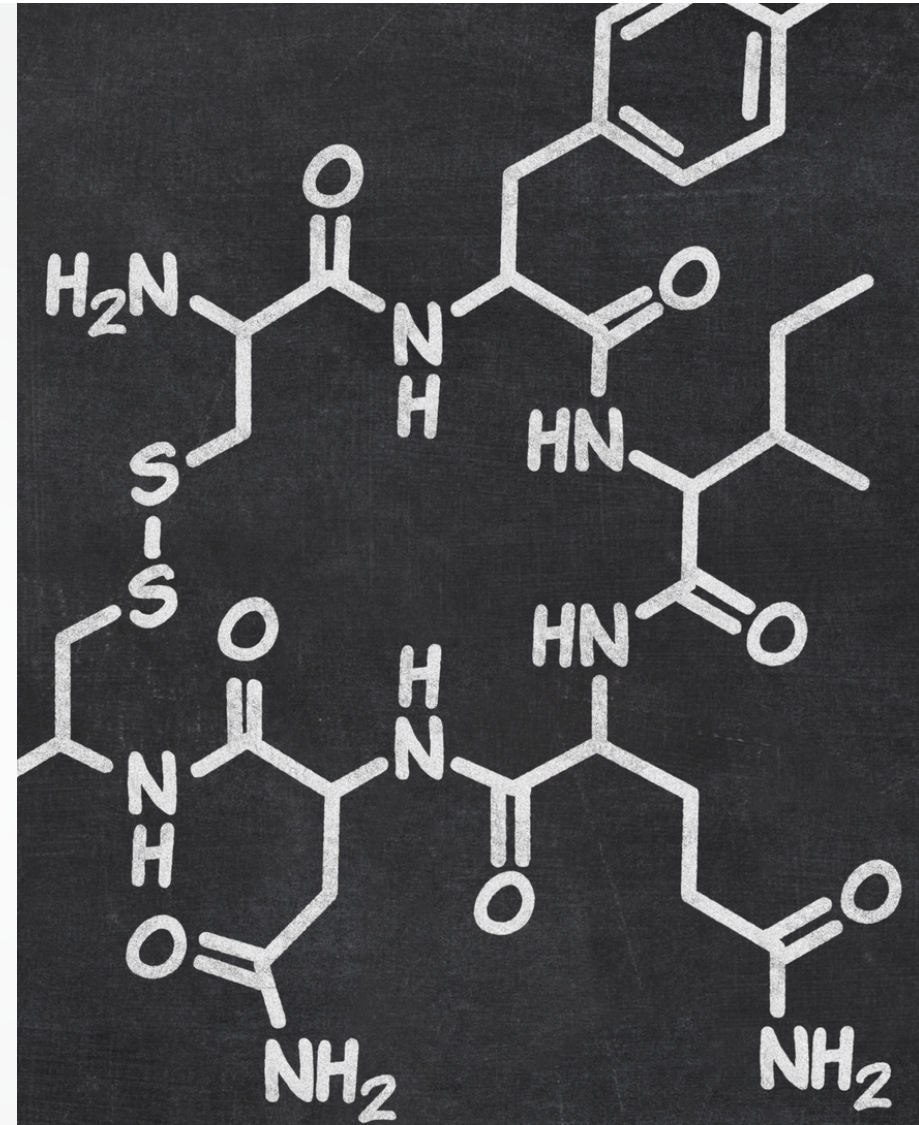
C = Credibility

R = Reliability

I = Intimacy

S = Self-orientation

Galford and Drapeau, *The Trusted Leader*



Growing Trust

- Quality and relevant services.
- Quality relationship between members and church leadership.
- Adequate internal control system



Factors Conducive to Financial Partnership

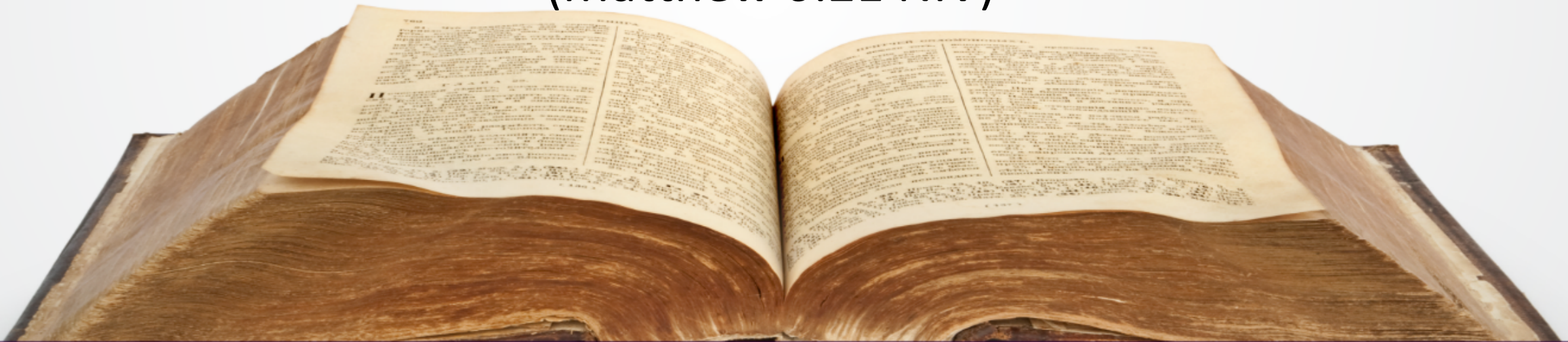
- Growing spirituality
- Deconstruction of attitudes towards money
- Empowering partners
- Building Trust



Invest in Growing Confidence

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

(Matthew 6:21 NIV)

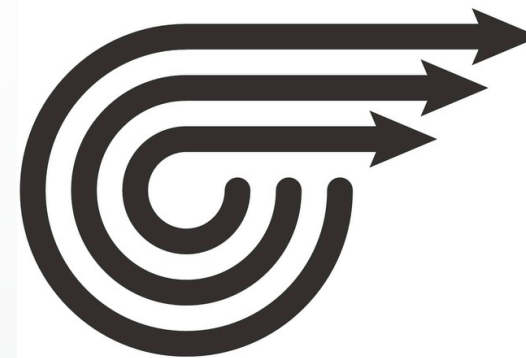


Recommendations

The Church should assess and carefully follow the spiritual financial giving pattern of members.

Some designated leaders at the local church should know the identity of those struggling to be spiritual financial partners and work closely with them through visitations.

The local church should put in place actions and initiatives conducive to financial partnership: Growing spirituality, deconstruction of attitudes toward finances, empowering partners and building trust.



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