

Chats Wednesday June 23, 2021 EDITED minus the bday messages

From Katy Beth Searls to Everyone: 07:59 AM
Good Morning...,another day to hear from Jesus together!

From Steve DeBuhr to Everyone: 08:40 AM
The stake and the sapling is a good metaphor. There is a season when the stake needs be in place and then a time where the stake needs to be removed; otherwise, the stake will stunt growth in the sapling.

From Paul & Kari Jenkins to Everyone: 08:42 AM
If the stake is removed too early, the sapling will not grow properly and could even die. Great metaphor.

From Holly Muehleisen to Everyone: 08:42 AM
And the discernment to know when!

From Jewel Romdenh to Everyone: 09:16 AM
Did Andy say 90%?
From Dan Schafer to Everyone: 09:17 AM
That is what I heard.
From Andy Bowen to Me: (Direct Message) 09:17 AM
90%

From Andy Bowen to Everyone: 09:18 AM
90%
That's what Derwin Gray says.
From Jewel Romdenh to Everyone: 09:18 AM
Thank you

From Chrissy (Greenwell) Charles to Everyone: 09:21 AM
When we "lose" ourselves in Christ, taking on His identity, when we do what He calls us to do, we aren't betraying our identity but giving testimony of Who we belong to. Powerful!

From Mike Brown to Everyone: 09:32 AM
God created us all equal, of equal worth, importance in His image. We must always recognize and accept that. At the same time God created us different. He is a God of diversity, creativity. Consequently, we have different denominations, churches, missions. We even have different groups that share the same doctrinal beliefs, simply because we have different preferences. I don't see that as any bad thing. God has created us that way. Now if we ever exclude others, then that is certainly a bad thing. My thoughts anyway.

From Mike Ganey to Everyone: 09:39 AM
With aid/development in Africa (my reference point), harm has been done in how it has been done. Books have been written - When Helping Hurts for example. By bringing the "majority world church" into "western" organizations do we cause harm? Is there a new colonialism?

From Joy Phillips to Everyone: 09:43 AM
Unless the structures are also changed at the same time I believe that is a big threat. Great question Mike.

From Paul & Kari Jenkins to Everyone: 09:43 AM
I agree that we all have different preferences and perspectives. However, if we do not surrender or lay down some of our preferences, we unintentionally exclude people. When Kari and I were married, I had to lay down some of my personal preferences. If I hadn't, I don't think she would have wanted to continue living with me. But I don't regret giving any of those preferences up because I gained so much more. The question then is how much are we willing to lay down in order to include others in our organization and ministries. Of course, we don't surrender our theological beliefs or commitment to the vision, but there are many policies and practices that are simply preference or tradition.

From Tim Rickel to Everyone: 09:45 AM
For this reason, as we work to mobilize workers from outside the US we need to be certain to create structures and

practices for listening to those voices.

From Mike Ganey to Everyone: 09:47 AM

I think of the "pool". On one hand it seems logical. But does it steal from some the massive lessons I learned in trusting God by raising funds (and continuing to do so)? Do we steal that faith building in how we do the "pool"? Are we sharing one resource and stealing the other?

From Mark & Serena Dunbar to Everyone: 09:50 AM

When the pool is voluntary there is joy and eagerness for others to succeed. When it is imposed there is resentment

From Paul & Kari Jenkins to Everyone: 09:50 AM

To clarify, in Fred's organization there are multiple mobilization bases / sending offices which are registered and functioning in different countries. There was agreement to allow the Ghana mobilization base to utilize a "pool" system for their financing whereas the U.S. mobilization base continues to use the model that we are familiar with in WGM. I think the key in this is flexibility - not necessarily changing all the structures for everyone.

From Dan Schafer to Everyone: 09:58 AM

We need to be careful not to jump to quickly to the solution to these issues. We need to take time to wrestle with the conversation and listen carefully to all the voices before proposing exactly how to proceed.

From Andy Bowen to Everyone: 09:59 AM

Dan: yes! Amen!

From Jim Ritchie to Everyone: 09:59 AM

In the hospital where we served in Kenya, it had been started by Westerners but the Westerners all left about 10 years before we arrived. The Kenyans were in charge and remained in charge. In some ways, they did things quite differently from us, And, frankly, there was a reluctance to include us in true partnership roles. And we didn't like that very much. We realized that we were experiencing feelings that the Kenyans must have been feeling when the Westerners were in charge and were reluctant to include the Kenyans in true partnership roles.

From Mike Ganey to Everyone: 10:03 AM

unintended consequences - that's what I'm trying to see going forward, not waiting for the next book on how things went awry

From the Whova chat: I think diversity is good; God created us uniquely different. My question is: With today's mentality of "forced diversity" and "tolerance", how do we open up to true diversity while protecting holiness and our Christ identity that should rule in our community? We have our native & mixed cultures, but as Christians we are forming a new culture, a Christian Culture, that should unite the church. Chrissy Greenwell