

7 Sound Bites

INTRODUCTION

Four Bridges Ministry is admittedly a huge and complex enterprise. Yet there are a few simple elements that are at the core of all these matters. And these can be stated in a few sound bites.

CONNECTING THE BODY OF CHRIST

The four communication bridges are for connecting the Christian workers with their harvest fields and support partners. This exists today in a small measure. But just as interstate freeways connect the country better than state highways or local roads, likewise Four Bridges bring new possibilities.

COMMUNICATING THE TRUTH IN LOVE

Across these four bridges flows the truth and love of God. The truth sets people free. The love of God nourishes the soul. Amidst the many wants in this life, the real needs are for God's truth and love.

IMPROVING STEWARDSHIP OF TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURE (things and money)

A biblical worldview points to the fact that every believer will sometime give an account to Jesus Christ for the stewardship of their time, talents and treasure. He will justly judge and generously reward. Therefore it is wise to develop healthy habits and make commitments from an eternal perspective.

BRINGING TOGETHER PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES

People need people. In our excessively busy society it can be difficult to find people that could lead to meaningful relationships. There is an over abundance of resources so that it can be difficult to locate the best items for spiritual growth. And we all need opportunities to minister the truth of God in love.

RAISING UP LAY LEADERS

We all begin as sheep in the pasture (field) of the Lord. We receive from preachers and teachers. Then we are invited to partner with workers by praying, helping and giving. At some time God opens doors to serve Him as a worker. Then the last step is to become a servant leader that brings together and serves the partners, workers and fields. The shortage locally and globally is for effective lay leaders.

FACILITATING FUNCTIONAL COMMUNITIES

As we harness the current and future technologies then we can come together locally and globally in the name of Jesus. This can be done online and off line. The hardware and software are just tools that can serve the purposes of God. Lord Jesus Christ can work through all this as the head of the body of Christ.

GLORIFYING GOD IN BEARING MUCH FRUIT

The Four Bridges will systematically facilitate more effective discipleship, evangelism and benevolence. That will improve relationships horizontally with people and vertically with God. By the grace of God lives will be transformed as people get into the Word of God, the Word gets into them. His Word with the Holy Spirit renews their mind, changes their outlook and leads to Christ like character.

FOUR BRIDGES MINISTRY PROPOSAL

Connecting workers with their fields and partners.

TARGET:

Four Bridges Ministry (4b) is currently enrolling the support of a Launch Team made up of intercessors, advisors and donors. Together we will successfully complete this Blueprint Phase. A professionally designed and developed web platform will provide the foundation in cyberspace for the five services of **Four Bridges Ministry** (4b). Those five services are Networking Hub, Information Clearinghouse, Educational Nucleus, Think Tank and Research & Development Lab.

RATIONALE:

The name "Four Bridges" refers to the communication pathways needed to accomplish our mission of *connecting Christian workers with their harvest fields and support partners*. (See more details on the web site www.fourbridges.org)

Four Bridges Ministry (4b) positions itself as a trustworthy source of biblically orthodox information and education in the rapidly changing frontier of the Internet. The four bridges will bring together people, resources and opportunities. These will systematically facilitate more effective discipleship, evangelism and benevolence both locally and globally. Working together we will improve relationships vertically with God and horizontally with people. Lives will surely be transformed. As people get into the Word of God then the Word renews their mind and cleanses their heart. Appropriate actions occur with right motives and this leads to Christ-like character. As the body of Christ is connected more effectively and communicating in various ways then together we will certainly bear much spiritual fruit. These processes and results will bring glory to God.

As a **Networking Hub** Four Bridges serves by pointing to useful resources like: web sites, books, videos, organizations and experts. Then a person will more quickly and easily answer their question, solve their problem or meet their need. The time, energy and money saved can be used on something better than worry, searching and being stuck.

As an **Information Clearinghouse** Four Bridges provides simple summaries of complex information with links and references to the sources to find more details. Then a person can more quickly and easily gather the information used to make wise choices. Those using the web platform will appreciate this user-friendly way of navigating the ever-increasing mountains of information.

As an **Education Nucleus** Four Bridges pioneers an online lay institute. This fills the gap between Sunday school and Bible College. Seminary students and graduates make up the adjunct faculty. This gives those entering ministry a wide open door to exercise their spiritual gifts and communicate the truth in love online. The teachers will have a profile web site where they will enroll intercessors, advisors and donors.

As a **Think Tank** Four Bridges will sponsor a gathering each month. It will rotate so that each quarter a key group is featured ... Partners, Workers and Fields. We will ask what do you need and want? What can we do for you in the next three months? Let us tell you about the other two groups. A CD of these findings will be produced each month and sold individually or to subscribers.

As a **Research & Development Lab** Four Bridges will use the wisdom, insights and contacts from the other four services to discover the kinds of products and services that are needed as society changes rapidly and the World Wide Web causes the globe to shrink. Some probable products include educational DVDs for PowerPoint, Endnote and Bible Works. There needs to be basic and intermediate lessons on public speaking for future preachers and Bible teachers. The various kinds of communication used across the four bridges can be made into proprietary software. This will be licensed as a reasonable rate to seminaries, Bible colleges, mission agencies, denominations and local churches.

FINANCIAL:

The goal for the Strong Start Capital Campaign is \$40,000 with 10K for consultants, 10K for web designers, 10K for hardware and software and 10K for initial payroll.

STATUS:

This ministry has been growing in the heart and mind of the founder for two decades. The nonprofit corporation was register with the state of Texas on April 23, 2004. During these formative days your prayers and donations make a big difference.

ACTION:

Go to the web site at www.fourbridges.org . Explore the site carefully. Pray for the ministry. Donate generously. Contact the founder, John S. Oliver, 214-821-7530 for a face-to-face meeting. Schedule a presentation of Four Bridges Ministry (4b) for your group. Tell many other people about **Four Bridges Ministry**.

Four Bridges Milestones

July 12, 2005

1. Launch a web site for advisors and consultants that has the many presentation parts already prepared as PDF files with audio over the web. Request their comments, suggestions and questions.
2. Launch a web site for major donors.
3. Make a presentation to the president of the seminary.
4. Make presentations to small groups of prospective major donors.
5. Make presentations to individual major donors. (i. e. Each can easily give 1K to 10K plus.)
6. Raise the 40K for the Strong Start Capital Campaign – 10K for consultants, 10K for web development, 10K for hardware and software and 10K for initial payroll
 - Use some of the first funds go to improve the fund raising methods and materials.
 - Use part of the initial funds to find suitable consultants to develop an effective business plan.
7. Write a preliminary business plan. This becomes an ever-improving operational guide that contains the synthesis of the latest and best collaboration. .
8. Take the business plan to various people for feedback.
9. Put the business plan on a web site for prayers and feed back.
10. Develop excellent short, medium and long presentations.
11. The presentations include:
 - DVDs both short and long
 - CDs
 - Power Point slideshows
 - appropriate print materials
 - related web sites and blogs.
12. These presentations are shared with individuals and groups.
13. Enroll more board of directors and a board of advisors members as needed.
14. Follow the mission statement, vision statement of the business plan.
15. Develop wise game plans to achieve our agreed upon goals.
16. Implement synergistic fund raising campaigns.
17. Launch web platform early in January 2006.
18. Optimize and synergize the five income streams of: donations, product sales, memberships, affiliates and advertisements
19. Roll out the five services of: Networking Hub, Information Clearinghouse, Education Nucleus, Think Tank and Research and Development Lab.
20. Provide excellent service to our five client groups of: international students, future missionaries, church planters, graduates and women entering ministry.
21. Enroll and process the minister-clients. Each one is screened, profiled, and assessed.
22. Guide each minister-client in developing, improving and maintaining their own support networks of intercessors, advisors and donors.
23. Open the first office (hopefully near campus), acquire needed equipment and hire needed staff. This initial productivity hub has an audio recording studio, video recording studio, web studio, prayer room and fellowship room.
24. From the beginning consider all of this as an ongoing experiment to develop proprietary software and systems that will be made available at a reasonable fee to other seminaries, Bible colleges, missions agencies, denominations and local churches.

Much prayer is involved in each plan, step and commitment.

Strong Start Capital Campaign

Forty thousand dollars is the fund raising goal. This will give the emerging ministry a strong start. This will pave the way for a public launch in January of 2006. The funds go into four areas equally at 10K each – Consultants, Web Development, Hardware & Software and Initial Payroll.

Consultants

The business consultants will take the hundreds of pages of notes from the many possible ministry plans over the last 20 years. They will ask me tough questions. Together we will craft a Strategic Plan for the long-term roll out with emphasis on the short-term projects. Their work will also include short sweet and simple ways to communicate the vision for the emerging ministry to others – like a 12 minute DVD and simple brochure-like web page. There will be an initial business plan that will be used as a working document. This will also appeal to prospective donors who are business owners.

Web Development

In order to fulfill the complex mission of the emerging ministry then there must be a professionally designed web platform. Part of the output from the consultants becomes input for the web designers. The core of the web site will be able to easily add dozens of speakers each week. The new testimonies, interviews, teachings and sermons are stored and woven into Internet radio broadcasts. We will likely use the largest vendor for that www.live365.com. The listeners can hear it for free streaming or pay for a download or CD. We may also piggy back with other vendors like www.christianity.com and www.sermonaudio.com. The speakers that are preparing for the ministry will have the option to have a profile web site that will attract a growing support base of intercessors, advisors and donors. This will require segmenting the various email newsletters according to how the various people choose to opt into them. Vendors that emphasize that include www.convio.com and www.constantcontact.com.

Hardware & Software

Along the way the consultants and web developers will be recommending all sorts of hardware and software. The initial 10K will provide a strong start. During the coming months other equipment and software will be added as needed.

Initial Payroll.

The ministry is designed to pay for its own costs of operation after it gets going. You could not expect a new bookstore or restaurant to pay all of it's payroll from the sales during the early phase. The income streams that the consultants and web developers will be working with from the start include: donations, sale of products like downloads and audio CDs, memberships, affiliates and advertisements.

Four Bridges Prayer Requests

You are invited to join with others that have been praying for John S. Oliver and Four Bridges Ministry. God shall surely honor our agreed prayers. Thus, there will be plenty of testimonies of answered prayer. We will always be careful to give Jesus Christ all the glory.

The short-term prayer requests are as follows:

- 1) The Four Bridges web sites reaches plenty of people easily.
- 2) Enroll Launch Team of intercessors, advisors and donors.
- 3) Initial fund raising unfolds smoothly.

The long-term prayer requests are as follows:

- 4) John's continued health, safety and strength.
 - 5) Ever-improving time management skills for John and the future staff members.
 - 6) Excellent communication between John and each Board of Director member.
 - 7) Together we diligently seek and faithfully obey the will of God one day at a time.
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Fund raising

Courage to set the appointments
FOCUS the presentation unto simple unified story
Find suitable visual aids for the presentations
Practice face-to-face presentations
Make improvements as I go
Keep it short, sweet and simple
Point prospective donors to the website
Leave them with a CD and DVD
Gain the courage and confidence
Use networking contacts to present to the wealthy

Advisors needed now

Web development
Database management
Fund raising
Strategic planning
Project management

Thanks in advance for your selfless service in the prayer closet.
May God bless, guard and guide you.
Amen and Hallelujah!