

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Video (3:39 minutes): **Transforming Lives and Communities Worldwide in Nigeria**

Key Concept:

Collaboration

Ministry Focus:

Nigeria

DEFINITION OF THE KEY CONCEPT

Collaboration occurs when two or more people or organizations work together in pursuit of commonly held goals. A collaborative approach to ministry recognizes that because each brings unique strengths, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

AREAS OF MINISTRY

World Missions works in a number of collaborative efforts with different denominations in various countries, with other CRCNA agencies, and with several organizations working internationally.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. With what three organizations mentioned in the video does World Missions collaborate?
2. Describe the ministry accomplished by each of the collaborative efforts mentioned in the video.
3. How has the Nigerian Church (CRCN) transitioned from a daughter church to a sister church? Give a brief historical overview.
4. What might be some of the advantages of a mission agency like CRWM working in collaboration with other organizations and agencies both North American and international?
5. What might be some of the challenges of a mission agency like CRWM working in collaboration with other organizations and agencies both North American and international?
6. How might paternalism show up in collaborative efforts of this sort? How can these problems be avoided?
7. If the Nigeria church and the church in Africa as a whole is well-developed, do Western mission agencies still need to collaborate with them in ministry efforts?
8. Are missionaries to Nigeria and/or Africa still needed? Explain.

Fast Facts Nigeria

- Location: Western Africa
- Capital: Abuja
- Population: 149,000,000
- Size: slightly more than twice the size of California
- Major Religions: Muslim (50%), Christian (40%), indigenous beliefs (10%)
- Major Languages: English, Hausa, Yoruba, Ibo, Fulani
- Ministry Partners: Church of Christ Among the Tiv (NKST), Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN), Reformed Church of Christ in Nigeria, (RCCN)



(taken from The World Factbook - <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ni.html>)

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

Nigeria

1. With what three organizations mentioned in the video does World Missions collaborate?

Christian Reformed Church of Nigeria (CRCN), Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC), Back to God Ministries International (BTGMI).

2. Describe the ministry accomplished by each of the collaborative efforts mentioned in the video.

CRCN – church planting and church development work among the Avadi people of the Eastern Kambari area.

CRWRC – Beacon of Hope, HIV/AIDS ministry.

BTGMI – distribution of the Today booklet and radio broadcast transcripts.

3. How has the Nigerian Church (CRCN) transitioned from a daughter church to a sister church? Give a brief historical overview.

Johanna Veenstra first sailed to Nigeria in 1919. Synod established Nigeria as a mission field in 1940. Today, the church in Nigeria has grown to the point that it is sending its own missionaries to different parts of Nigeria and others areas of the world.

4. What might be some of the advantages of a mission agency like CRWM working in collaboration with other organizations and agencies, both North American and international?

Different ideas, greater potential for support, in-country knowledge of culture and language, in-country and international connections, and a synergy in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

5. What might be some of the challenges of a mission agency like CRWM working in collaboration with other organizations and agencies, both North American and international?

Differing expectations with respect to money and personnel, different strategies, cultural misunderstandings, paternalism.

6. How might paternalism show up in collaborative efforts of this sort? How can these problems be avoided?

Paternalism can show up in issues of finances; the dominant partner voicing their opinions and expectations too soon; not listening with a desire to understand.

Paternalism can be avoided by listening carefully; partnering in ministries that can be sustained when funds and personnel are pulled out; learning and working from a mutual viewpoint instead of a North American perspective only.

7. If the Nigerian church and the church in Africa as a whole is well-developed, do Western mission agencies still need to collaborate with them in ministry efforts?

The Bible calls for unity. Collaborative efforts can be effective when knowledge and resources are pooled together. Partners can learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses. They can demonstrate in a tangible way that the Gospel is not a "Western" religion and that there is unity in Christ.

8. Are missionaries to Nigeria and/or Africa still needed? Explain.

Responses may vary.