

## General Structure

### Main Duties

Lead by example

Nurture iGo people, especially church leaders

Sustain the church's progress against an action plan

**Time commitment:** depends, but interactions should be *regular* and *scheduled*

### Tasks as an accountability partner:

1. Assess a church's progress against goals and action plan
2. Form your response
  - a. Identify areas to commend, as well as the issues to address
  - b. Research possible aids, helps, tips from SED and other churches
  - c. Draft a set of observations and questions
  - d. Assemble suggestions and objectives for the coming month
3. Regular meeting (usually by phone) with church leader(s) to discuss progress and the way ahead, plus provide encouragement and set expectations
4. Capture lessons learned, stories, and metrics – relay progress and stories to SED
5. Facilitators and METs meet periodically to discuss their progress

### Beginnings:

1. Prep work
  - a. Consider how iN mission, vision, and metrics may be pursued through action plans
  - b. Know the iN framework and the importance of encouraging & motivating to act
  - c. Consider the characteristics of sound action plans, as well as pitfalls & obstacles
2. Set expectations
  - a. Discuss their goals in context of their current state
  - b. Discuss accountability as a positive thing
3. Establish communications
  - a. Who's lead or primary point of contact for the church
  - b. Frequency of communications
  - c. Method(s) – emails, phone conversations, in-person meetings
4. Get 1<sup>st</sup> steps going
  - a. Identify core group of missional people, including leaders
  - b. Encourage regular gatherings of these people
  - c. Gain knowledge of the challenges ahead (As Is, To Be, and Gap Analysis sheets)
  - d. Begin discussing the way ahead, and assess leader commitment

## iNeighborhood Framework

### iN Mission

**Connecting people with Jesus**

- ✚ A shift outside the walls for churches
- ✚ A lifestyle for individuals

### iN Vision

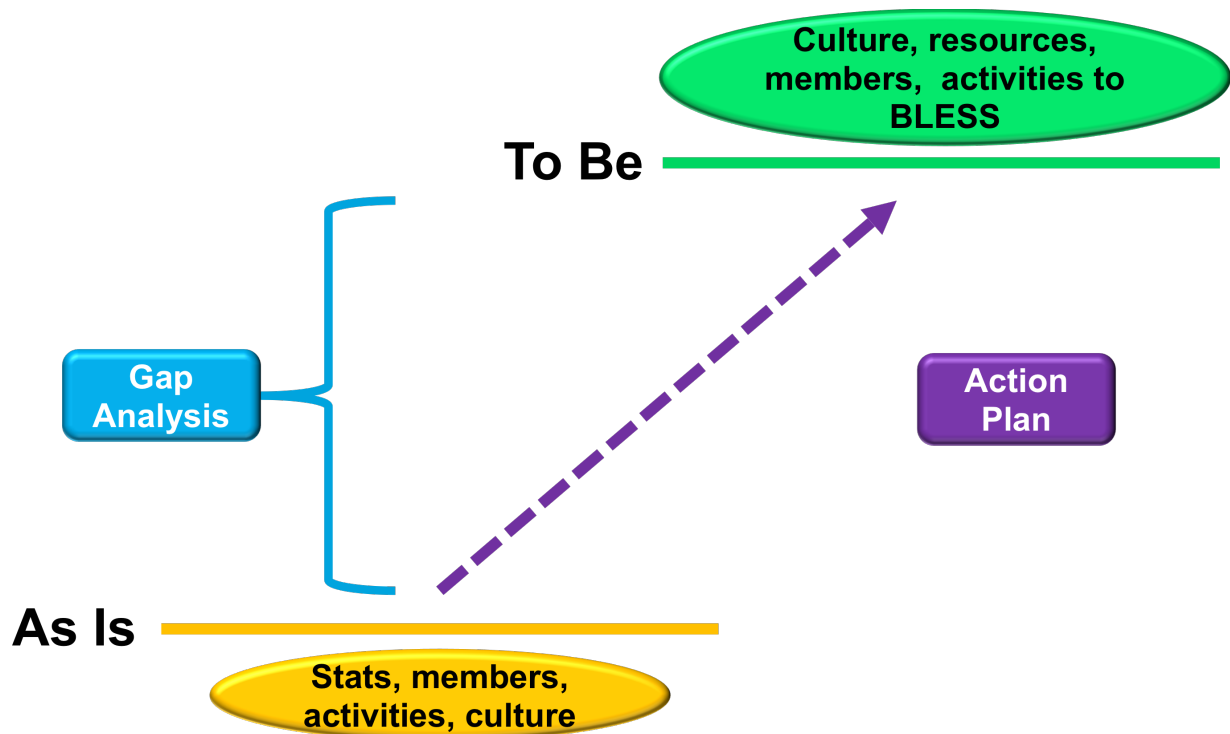
**As we work together to connect our neighbors with Jesus, lives are transformed and God's kingdom grows.**

- ✚ My neighbor is where I live-work-play
- ✚ Their life – and mine – are transformed
- ✚ Kingdom growth = Christ's Church

### Metrics

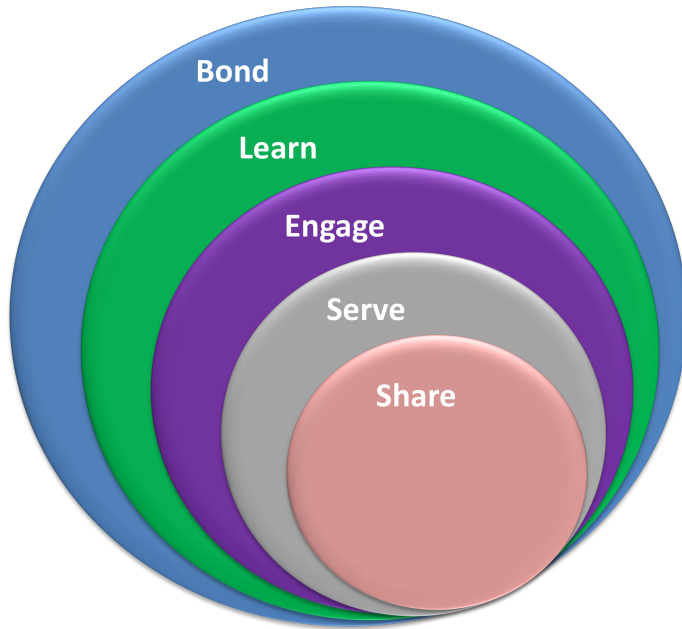
- 50 ministries partnering on iN
- 100 congregations disciple-making
- 500 new neighborhoods with the Word
- 6000 members active in neighborhoods

## Action Plans

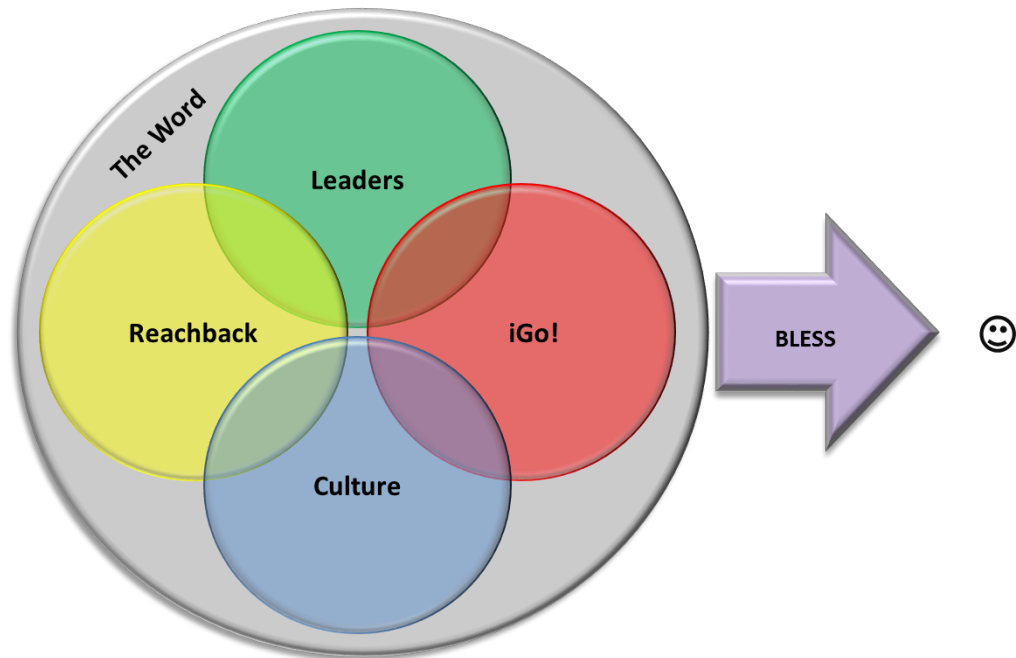


- Primary duties of you as a partner:
  - Walk the talk – live missionally, to set an example and be credible
  - Ensure continuous progress of each church on its action plan
- Four main areas of the action plan
  - **iGo people** – gathering, focusing, strengthening, and growing more of them
  - **Leader involvement** – as role models, vocal champions, and organizers
  - **Culture shift** for the congregation – to a focus outside the walls, a heart for others
  - **Reachback** – the infrastructure to sustain and grow iNeighborhood

### iNeighborhood Relational Aids

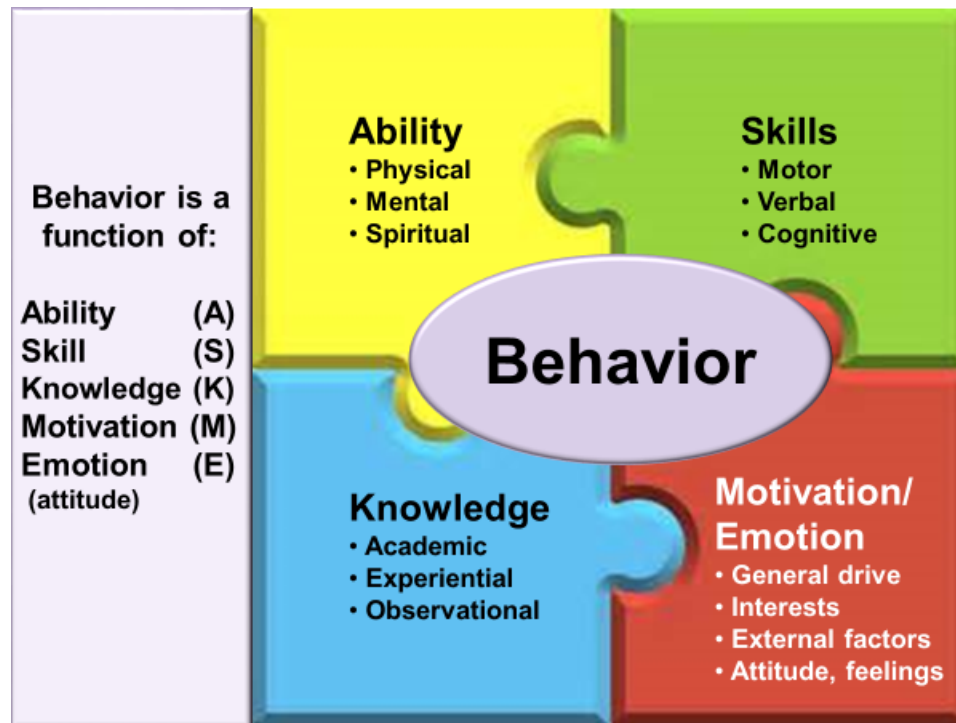


**B**ond = common interest(s) with neighbor  
**L**earn = listen, observe, understand neighbor  
**E**ngage = do things together, deepen the relationship  
**S**erve = love in action, meeting neighbor needs  
**S**hare = personal witness about Jesus  
**B-L-E-S-S**



Action plans should feature how to form relationships with non-Christians in order to connect them with Jesus. B-L-E-S-S occurs and is propelled by efforts from each of the components above.

## Will &gt; Skill



- Biggest challenge to a lifestyle shift: being **M**OVED to act (motivation and emotion/attitude)
  - We all have enough ability, skill, and knowledge to love our neighbors and share our faith story, but we are less **WILLING** to actually do it
  - **Partners should constantly address motivation and feelings, i.e., attitudes towards non-Christians, the desire to love others as self, an urgency to act, and a willingness to put some effort into it**
- On impacting hearts and minds: some thrusts to boost motivation and emotion
  - Establish the burning platform – why us, why now, why here
  - Use Scripture – it reveals God’s redemptive mission and His will and purpose for us
  - Discuss imitating Christ and the notion of discipleship
  - Use the early church as an example
  - Gather and share real stories, anecdotes, testimonies
  - Identify actual needs of neighbors, especially any low hanging fruit (easily met needs)
  - Encourage – challenge – leaders to walk the talk
  - Use existing “iGo” people to move others to join in
  - Stress that the Spirit leads us: relinquish control, take a leap of faith (or at least a step!)
  - De-emphasize the error part of “trial and error”
  - Suggest a shift of resources (congregation time, talent, treasure outward vs. inward)
  - Hold accountable for progress, especially *action* with neighbors

## Assessing an Action Plan: Things to Look For

- ❑ Some initial organizing and equipping, as a way to reach a “launch” milestone
- ❑ An **immediate action-orientation** to people outside the church
- ❑ Actions will lead to iN mission accomplishment (connecting people with Jesus)
- ❑ Actions **foster relationships** with people who need Jesus
- ❑ Actions point to fulfillment of the “To Be” state
- ❑ Plan is balanced, with actions for –
  - Leaders
    - Role model activities, leading by example with one or more neighbors
    - Champion: communicating mission, vision, action plan (pulpit, bulletin, etc.)
    - Organizing the congregation and establishing the infrastructure for support
  - Culture
    - Communications to focus congregation on the lost and enlarge hearts for them
    - Social ministry activities to increase involvement by members
    - Equipping modules to help more members understand missional living
  - Reachback
    - PERSISTENT AND PERVASIVE PRAYERS for members and neighbors
    - Organization of member skills and trades to help others in need
    - Shift in resource allocation (time and treasure) to be more applied to the lost
    - Policies geared toward local outreach
  - iGo people
    - Actions to gather and strengthen them
    - Discipling to focus their efforts toward B-L-E-S-S (i.e., deepen relationships)
    - Enlargement of the iGo contingent
- ❑ Considers strengths and constraints of the “As Is” state, i.e., actions are suitable and feasible in the context of current state
- ❑ Limited to 1-2 actions per each of the 4 sub-areas listed above
- ❑ Plan depicts a new direction, a different path, a revised way of operating for the church

### Pitfalls and hindrances

- ❖ No leadership by example (leaders don’t walk the talk)
- ❖ Congregation talks, plans, trains, organizes, talks more . . . no actions toward neighbors
- ❖ Failure to do the labor-intensive processes to actually get buy-in and commitment (motivation to ACT) from a critical mass in the congregation
- ❖ Fit it in, add it onto an already busy congregation rather than replace existing congregation activities in order to do local missional work
- ❖ Related to the above, no significant shift in the congregation’s reallocation of time/talents/treasure; church programs and ministries stay largely status quo
- ❖ Becomes a prayer campaign: pray for others (the non-Christian) but don’t pray for the opportunity for ourselves to actually help, or for us to actually share our faith
- ❖ Relationships not formed or nurtured, which often takes a long time; perspective is not on the long haul with neighbors
- ❖ Becomes an “invite to church” campaign
- ❖ Too expectational of neighbors, i.e., if we do something, we should see something
- ❖ No metrics