

**AN INTERDEPENDENCE MODEL FOR MISSION:
ALLIANCE BETWEEN THE OREGON
MINISTRY NETWORK AND THE
MALAWI ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

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The confluence of three streams—the success of the modern missionary movement, the pervasiveness of globalization, and the latent potential of the interdependent body of Christ—indicate that advancing the mission of God in the twenty-first century calls for new ways of thinking and doing mission. This project attempted to demonstrate that these three existing conditions afford the Church the opportunity to employ international ministry partnerships as a means of engaging the whole Church in the mission of God for the whole world.

The project focused on the research and development of an interdependence model of mission whereby church leaders can evaluate and/or formulate a healthy and effective international ministry partnership. The research identified a matrix composed of six fundamental principles that must be employed: (1) expectations, (2) mutuality, (3) methodology, (4) dependency, (5) sustainability, and (6) accountability.

The design included a field-based research trip to Malawi in addition to the biblical-theological and general literature reviews. The intervention took place during a subsequent trip to Malawi comprised of three components: a seminar, deliberations pertaining to a partnership agreement between the Oregon Ministry Network and the Malawi Assemblies of God for a joint-venture in the Sudan, and a post-test questionnaire designed to measure perceptions and beliefs about ministry partnerships. The same questionnaire was administered as a pre-test to eighteen national leaders and five AGWM missionaries attending Pan-Africa Theological Seminary in Lome, Togo and the executive leadership team of the Oregon Ministry Network.