

MISSIONS ENGAGEMENT

Assessment Tool for Churches



Created by the Converge Leadership Planning Team
Version 2020.01.13

Introduction

Welcome to the Missions Engagement Assessment Tool. This tool is designed by and for leaders who oversee missions in Alliance churches throughout the USA. To properly utilize this tool in your own church, it is essential to understand these 10 things:

- 1. **The goal is deeper engagement.** There are hundreds of ways to be engaged in Alliance missions, and this tool's goal is simply to help you determine new ways to be engaged.
- 2. **This tool is only for Alliance missions.** While most Alliance churches engage in other missions activity outside of the Alliance, the goal for this assessment is to help you engage more deeply within the Alliance and all it has to offer.
- 3. This is a self-assessment and not meant to compare against other churches. Year over year you should only use this tool to evaluate your own church and whether it is moving forward or backwards when it comes to engagement in Alliance missions.
- 4. This tool should be used each year. After taking the assessment you will receive a score based on 135 possible points. This gives you the ability to measure in subsequent years if your church is making progress at engaging deeper in Alliance missions.
- 5. **This tool is designed for global missions**, but can be used for local ministries as well. You have complete freedom to use this tool in any way and any context you desire.
- 6. This tool is meant to be used by your church's missions leadership. The assessment is very subjective and will be most effective when your primary missions leadership are the ones using the tool. This could be a missions pastor or missions committee leader, lead pastor, key elder, or your entire missions leadership team.
- 7. The effectiveness of this tool will be found in the reasons for your answers. While you may answer a question quickly, take the time to write down why you answered the way you did. This will be the key to determining new and deeper ways to engage.
- 8. It will not always be clear how to engage more deeply, so ask for help. This tool may help you figure out where you are but it does not provide answers on next steps. Talk to your district missions mobilizer, other missions leaders, or Global Link for help.
- 9. After using the tool, set clear goals on where your church can engage more deeply in the coming year. The tool will help you see many possible areas to deepen engagement. The best step forward, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to create goals for how to improve your engagement score in the coming year.
- 10. This tool is really meant to help your church start the discussion. There are other tools and assessments for churches that also provide rich insight into missions engagement. This tool is meant to help Alliance churches, large and small, young and old, take the time to have the discussion, because every church is vital to Kingdom advancement.

How to Use the Tool

This tool is designed around 5 key areas of missions engagement - building relationships, praying, giving, sending and promoting. For more information about these five areas of engagement, contact the Global Link office at GlobalLink@cmalliance.org / (719) 265-2129, or visit the website at http://www.cmalliance.org/ministries/global-link.

Here are simple, recommended steps for how to use this tool.

- **Step 1** Pull together your key missions leadership team to pray and explain to them how this tool can be used in your context. This might just be you, yet it might also include your missions committee, lead pastor, key volunteers, or whomever you consider your missions leadership.
- **Step 2** Each of the 5 engagement areas have 3 key questions for you to answer. Work through each page and create a score. If you answer NO to the primary question on a page, your score for that page is 0. Otherwise, answer the secondary questions and tally a score for that page (see example on next page).
- **Step 3** Before leaving each page, brainstorm a few ideas for your church that are worthy of deeper consideration as you consider how you might engage more deeply. These ideas might be obvious, low-hanging fruit, or they might be faith-filled risks that could be transforming for your missions engagement.
- Step 4 Repeat Steps 2 & 3 for all 15 pages.
- **Step 5** At the end of the assessment there is a page for you to tally and track your score. Fill out the page and note the year so you can come back to this in future years.
- **Step 6** Determine the best opportunities to engage for the coming year and agree on those with your missions leadership team. Then write them down on the page titled "Best Opportunities for Engagement" so you can keep track of them throughout the year.

Key Terms

International Worker (IW): The title by which Alliance missionaries are identified.

Partner: An Alliance IW or field with whom your church has a deeper than surface-level relationship of commitment and strategic engagement.

Alliance Missions: The broad term used to describe all of the Alliance's missions' structures including aXcess, Marketplace Ministries (mm), Compassion and Mercy Associates (CAMA), and ENVISION.

Great Commission Fund (GCF): The one fund structure for all giving to the Alliance.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: Partnerships

Partnerships are based on strong relationships between Alliance International Workers (IWs) and churches. Partnerships require a level of commitment and strategic engagement that goes beyond surface level relationships and are a key aspect of engaging in Alliance missions.

Is your church in partnership(s) with any Alliance IWs or m	ission f	ields?	ESNO	
If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.				
Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
 How well do you incorporate, on an annual basis, the 5 elements of a healthy partnership with your missions' partners? 5 elements of partnership are Strategic Prayer, Being Aware, Going There, Partner Care, and Doing Our Share (financially). 		1		
How well do you connect your Alliance partners to your local congregation? Does anyone in your church have direct contact with partners? Do your partners know about your church and its activities?	0			
How well do you stay aware of your partner's strategies, prayer requests, needs, and opportunities to engage in their work? Do you go beyond their newsletter to learn about their needs? Do you know how to support your partners on a personal level? Are you aware of their immediate prayer needs?			2	
Total Score:	3	(add :	all points	s)

Ideas for My Church

- 1. We are weak on the 5 elements, need to review this for each partnership.
- 2. We need to put our people in direct contact with our missionaries.
- 3. Our IWs don't know much about our church, we can fixthat!

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: Partnerships

Partnerships are based on strong relationships between Alliance International Workers (IWs) and churches. Partnerships require a level of commitment and strategic engagement that goes beyond surface level relationships and are a key aspect of engaging in Alliance missions.

Is your church in partnership(s) with any Alliance IWs or mission fields? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How well do you incorporate, on an annual basis, the 5 elements of a healthy partnership with your missions partners?				
 5 elements of partnership are Strategic Prayer, Being Aware, Going There, Partner Care, and Doing Our Share (financially). 				
How well do you connect your Alliance partners to your local congregation? Does anyone in your church have direct contact with partners? Do your partners know about your church and its activities?				
How well do you stay aware of your partner's strategies, prayer requests, needs, and opportunities to engage in their work? • Do you go beyond their newsletter to learn about their needs?				
Do you know how to support your partners on a personal level? Are you aware of their immediate prayer needs?				
Total Score:	(add all points))	

Ideas for My Church

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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: Member Care

Member Care is actively caring for the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of your Alliance partners, both on the field and during home assignment. A key indicator of Alliance missions engagement is the love and care your church provides to these partners.

Do you provide membe	r care for any Alliance partner,	field, or IW?	YES NO	O .
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If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How committed are you at creating focused and committed groups of leaders and lay people who are praying for and caring for each partner on an intimate, personal level? Do your lay people have direct, personal contact with partners? Do you have a lay champion to lead the support effort?				
How well do you engage and support your partner when they are home in the US? Do your partners get priority exposure at your church? Do you know and assist with all their needs when they are home?				
How well does your congregation know how to love and support your partners? Does your entire congregation have opportunity to support them? Have you trained volunteers on how to provide member care?				
Total Score:	(add all points))	

Ideas for My Church

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BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: Short-Term Missions

One fundamental method of building relationships with a partner is to visit them in person. Whether this is a vision trip or a team from your church, short-term missions trips allow churches to contribute to the shared strategies of Alliance missions work around the world.

Does your church send short-term teams to Alliance partners?	YES	NO
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If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How strategic are you in focusing short-term teams on advancing the work of your Alliance partners?				
 Are your teams focused on advancing your partner's ministry? Do you send teams consistently to the same partners? Is your partner inviting you or is your church driving the trip? 				
How well does your pre-trip training disciple team members towards a commitment to Jesus and missions?				
 Does your training inspire passion towards missions? Do you incorporate walking with Jesus as central to your training? Do you introduce and explain Alliance missions in your training? 				
How well do you utilize short-term teams upon their return to advance your church's strategy to educate and inspire your congregation toward prayer, giving, and deepening your partnerships?				
 Do your teams get a chance to corporately report on their trip? Do you invite team participants to be leaders in missions activity? 				
Total Score:	: (add all points))	

Ideas for My Church

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PRAYER: Leadership

The missions prayer culture in the local church often reflects the prayer commitment of its leadership. Consistent prayer from your church's leadership is a vital part of building and cultivating engagement with your Alliance International Workers (IWs).

Does your church leadership pray regularly for Alliance missions? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How consistently are you, as the missions leader, regularly and passionately praying for Alliance missions? Is missions prayer part of your daily prayer life? Do you ever fast and pray for missions? Do you have an extensive list of things to pray for?				
How consistently is your missions leadership team regularly and passionately praying for Alliance missions? • Such as you, your missions committee, and/or key volunteers. • Do you gather together regularly just to pray for missions? • Do you have a means to share immediate requests?				
How consistently is your church's non-missions leadership regularly and passionately praying for Alliance missions? • Are your elders and deacons praying for missions? • Do your other pastors and staff pray for missions?				
Total Score:	(add all points))	

Ideas for My Church

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PRAYER: Corporate

Praying for our Alliance missions corporately can be one of the most powerful ways to excite and engage a prayer movement for missions in your church. From seniors down to children's ministry, corporate prayer for missions is a strong sign of engagement.

Does your church corporately engage in prayer for Alliance missions? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below.

If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
To what degree is your congregation praying for Alliance missions corporately?				
 Prayer for Alliance mission fields and IWs around the world Prayer for generosity towards the Great Commission Fund Prayer for raising up new Alliance workers 				
To what degree does your congregation make use of prayer tools and information on how to pray for your church's Alliance IWs and missions partners?				
 Via prayer guides, email, or social media Information on what to pray over for all missionaries Alliance weekly prayer email 				
To what degree is your congregation praying for broader missions topics in the world?				
e.g. Least reached people groups, Persecuted Christians				
Total Score:	: (add all points))	

Ideas for My Church

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PRAYER: Individual

The real work of missions prayer happens when individuals within your church are informed and intentional about praying for missionaries.

Are you inspiring and encouraging individual prayer for Alliance missions? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
To what degree do you provide tools and opportunities for individuals to pray for missions? Prayer guides, prayer apps, prayer updates Prayer meetings				
To what degree have you identified missions-minded prayer warriors and interact with them regularly? • Who has asked you about your IWs? • Who shows up to prayer events?				
To what degree are you encouraging reciprocal prayer with your partners?				
 Do you send your church prayer needs to your IWs? Do you keep your IWs aware of church happenings and events? 				
Total Score:	(add all points)		s)	

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GIVING: Great Commission Fund

Owning the vision financially is vital and a strong indicator of missions engagement. The Great Commission Fund (GCF) is the backbone of Alliance missions and the audacious goal for each Alliance church is to generously give 10% to the GCF as part of their giving to Alliance Missions.

What percentage of your church's total giving is to the GCF? 0% 1-3% 4-7% 8-10% 10%+

If greater than 0%, continue by answering the questions below. If 0%, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
What percentage of your church's total giving is to the GCF?				
 1 to 5% is SOME 6 - 9% is ACTIVE 10+% is HIGH 				
How well do the people in your church understand how the GCF works and the impact their generosity has around the world?				
 Do you talk about and promote the GCF in services? Do you share stories of GCF impact in partner locations? 				
How effective is your church's strategy to increase your GCF giving?				
 Has there been a measurable increase in GCF giving? Does leadership have a written and agreed upon strategy? Is there a specific plan for promoting the GCF at your church? 				
Total Score:		(add a	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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GIVING: Giving Goals and Strategies

Setting the right giving goals can provide your church with excitement to generously give to reach more people. No church sends an international worker by accident; neither do they increase their missions giving unintentionally. An engaged church is a church with a plan.

Does your church have giving goals in place related to Alliance missions? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below.

If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
To what degree is your church leadership committed to a strategy to increase giving to Alliance missions (e.g. GCF, special projects, non-GCF Alliance IWs)? • Is giving to Alliance Missions a primary focus for leadership? • Are there specific, measurable goals in place?				
How committed are you to striking a healthy balance between long-term missions objectives (e.g. GCF) and short-term opportunities? • Have you set any goals in this area? • Do you have a sense of what healthy missions-related financial goals are for your church?				
To what degree have you engaged your congregation with your goals for Alliance missions giving? • Is the average person aware of these church goals? • Do over 50% of your people give to Alliance missions?				
Total Score:	(add all points))	

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GIVING: Opportunities for Giving

One of the Alliance core values reads - *Everything we have belongs to God. We are His stewards.* Yet we live in a time when there are many voices calling for the attention of your generous church members. A vital part of engagement is to help the people in our Alliance churches become aware of the opportunities to give to Alliance missions.

Do you give opportunities for giving outside the normal offerings? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
Do you challenge your congregation towards faith-filled / sacrificial giving to missions?				
 Do you encourage Alliance or church special missions' projects? (e.g. the GC Day and Year-End offerings) Do you teach your people to faithfully give above normal giving? Do you encourage your people to seek Holy Spirit direction? 				
How well do you create awareness of opportunities to give to special projects through Alliance missions?				
 Do you promote your partners' approved and work specials? When needs arise do you make your people aware? 				
To what degree do you promote missions giving to your children, youth, students or college groups?				
 Do you provide special opportunities for them to give to missions? Do they give to Alliance missions? 				
Total Score:		(add	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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SENDING: Inspire and Identify

While the great commission is a responsibility for every devoted disciple, there are some Christfollowers in our churches who are called to serve as International Workers (IWs). An engaged church is a church that is always on the lookout for who God might call and send next.

Does your church have a strategy to inspire and identify those within your congregation towards full-time missions' work? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How well do you identify potential candidates and inspire missionary service among your church's children and youth? • Do you engage them regularly with the need for IWs? • Do they know the next steps if they have an interest in missions?				
How well do you identify potential candidates and inspire full-time missionary service among your church's adults? • Do you engage them regularly with the need for IWs? • Do they know the next steps if they have an interest in missions?				
How often do you provide direct inspirational challenges to your congregation to consider the call into missionary service? Do you make this challenge from the platform at least yearly?				
How often is a message preached inspiring people to go? Total Score:		(add	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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SENDING: Develop and Disciple

One of the most important parts of being a missions leader is when a person comes to you and says, "I think I might be called to be a missionary." An engaged church has a specific plan to help these interested people by discipling them and developing them for their life calling.

When you have a potential international worker identified, do you develop and disciple them towards this opportunity? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
To what degree is the "deeper life" encouraged in potential missionary candidates as presented in the C&MA's concept of the four-fold gospel? Do you have a plan to disciple and encourage candidates? Do you consistently provide accountability to the spiritual walk of your candidates?				
To what degree do you and your missions team coach and develop missionary candidates for the mission field? Do you have a plan in place to use with each candidate? Do your candidates have active leadership opportunities in missions at your church?				
To what degree do you use Alliance resources to lead and train missionary candidates? • e.g. ALME, ENVISION internships • Short-term mission trips, books, online learning				
Total Score:		(add	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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SENDING: Deploy

A vital part of being a church engaged in Alliance missions is to direct our best people towards opportunities to serve in the Alliance.

Do you send international workers from your church to Alliance mission fields? YES ${\sf NO}$

If YES, continue by answering the questions below. If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question.

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How proactively do you direct your international worker candidates towards Alliance missions?				
 Do you help them become aware of opportunities in the Alliance? Do you prioritize Alliance missions with your candidates? 				
How well do you coach your international worker candidates to surround themselves with committed prayer and financial supporters?				
 Do you connect them with a mentor or coach? Do you provide them a structured list of books to read, assessments to complete, or other development tasks? Do you surround your candidate with a prayer group? 				
How engaged is your missions' leadership with the on-going care and accountability for Alliance international workers sent from your church?				
 Do you have a specific plan to care for your candidates? Do your candidates know they will be actively cared for? 				
Total Score:		(add a	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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PROMOTION: Missions Education

There is a vast amount of information about missions, the world, and the Alliance that can help the people in our churches advance their own understanding of how they can be engaged in global missions.

Do you teach missions foundations, principles, and facts to your church? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below.

If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How effectively and frequently do you provide your congregation with training around the core missiological principles of global missions?				
 Do you offer classes or workshops teaching missions principles? Do you incorporate teaching at every missions event? Is your congregation well versed in basic missions principles? 				
How effective is your church's teaching about this history and strategies of global missions?				
 Does global missions get promoted from the platform consistently? Does exposure to missions happen in all ministries through the church, such as children, youth, and adult ministries? 				
How intentional and effective is your annual missions emphasis/conference at educating your church about Alliance missions' history and strategies?				
 Do you take this opportunity to promote the Alliance family? Does your missions focus happen in other ministries through the church, such as children, youth, and adult ministries? 				
Total Score:		(add a	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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PROMOTION: Communication

One of the strongest indicators of engagement in Alliance missions is the intentionality and consistency of communicating Alliance missions to your congregation.

Do you communicate about Alliance missions to your church? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below.

If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
To what degree does your lead pastor communicate Alliance missions in various aspects of his ministry?				
 Does he talk about Alliance missions in sermons? Does he take special opportunity to promote Alliance missions? 				
To what degree are you satisfied with your plan and execution for communicating about Alliance missions to your congregation? (non-platform, social media, print, small groups)				
 Do you use Alliance materials or media to promote the Alliance? Do you consistently promote the Alliance on social media? Do your people know what's happening through the Alliance around the world? 				
How intentional and effective is your annual missions emphasis/conference in promoting Alliance missions and partners?				
 Do you take this opportunity to promote the Alliance family? Does your missions focus happen in other ministries through the church, such as children, youth, and adult ministries? 				
Total Score:		(add a	all points)

Ideas for My Church

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PROMOTION: Organization

To have impactful engagement with Alliance missions on a consistent basis will require a clear strategy and intentional action by your church.

Does your church have clear plans for promoting Alliance missions? YES NO

If YES, continue by answering the questions below.

If NO, enter 0 in the total score and proceed to the next question

Points	0	1	2	3
Engagement Level	None	Some	Active	High
How active is your missions leadership team/committee in developing the missions strategy for your church? • Do missions activities happen off-the-cuff, or is there a strategy? • Does the missions leadership set strategy, or is it given to them by your church leadership and board?				
To what degree are you satisfied with your strategies for missions promotion throughout your church? • Are your strategies, plans, and goals written down? • Are there policies and procedures for how to promote missions? • Does church leadership know and follow your missions policies?				
To what degree do you use the resources available to you from your district missions mobilizer or the C&MA National Office? Have you ever discussed missions with your district mobilizer? Are you aware of the resources from Global Link and the Alliance national office?				
Total Score:		(add a	all points	5)

Ideas for My Church

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Where do we get help with next steps?

As you and your missions team see areas that you hope will expand your Alliance missions engagement, here are a few ideas to help you get started.

Pray – This may be an obvious next step but all too often we pray too little or without great expectation. As you deep dive into areas where you believe your church can engage more deeply, allow the Spirit to guide and direct you.

Your District Missions Mobilizer (DMM) – Each district office has a person named to assist churches with mobilizing your congregations towards greater engagement with Alliance missions. Reach out to your DMM and ask for their insight and assistance in helping your church with your next steps. For Alliance NW that person is Hannah Cockerham. You can reach her at hannah@alliancenw.org or call (503) 685-9160.

Collaborate with other missions leaders – Converge was created with the goal to help Alliance churches' missions leaders build relationships and collaborate together. Reach out to people you have met, or to people you have not met but believe you can learn from, and seek their input.

Alliance Missions Leaders Facebook group – If you are not yet a member of this group, search Facebook for the term "Alliance Missions Leaders" and ask to join. Pose your questions to this group for input and play an active role in sharing your experiences with others.

Global Link Office at C&MA National Office – This office exists to assist churches in deepening their partnerships with IWs and mission fields. You can contact them at GlobalLink@cmalliance.org / (719) 265-2129, or visit the website at http://www.cmalliance.org/ministries/global-link.

Read books – There are hundreds or perhaps thousands of great books covering all aspects of global missions. Ask others to recommend books and start reading consistently to keep yourself educated and inspired.

Media – There are many websites and podcasts available covering a wide variety of topics related to global missions. Search these out and become a regular visitor or listener.

Assessment Score for your church

Year:	

Category	Score	Possible
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS / Partnerships		9
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS / Member Care		9
BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS / Short-Term Missions		9
PRAYER / Leadership		9
PRAYER / Corporate		9
PRAYER / Individual		9
GIVING / Great Commission Fund		9
GIVING / Giving Goals and Strategies		9
GIVING / Opportunities for Giving		9
SENDING / Inspire and Identify		9
SENDING / Develop and Disciple		9
SENDING / Deploy		9
PROMOTION / Education		9
PROMOTION / Communication		9
PROMOTION / Organization		9
Total Score		135

Best Opportunities for Engagement

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.