

*The Power of Unity for Faith,  
Mission and Ministry*



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**General Vice President**  
**General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**  
**March 15, 2013**

# Where were you?

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**January 28, 1986**

**11:38 EST**

# Challenger



- ❧ In early 1979, NASA awarded Space Shuttle orbiter manufacturer Rockwell a contract to convert an older model to a space-rated orbiter.
- ❧ The vehicle's conversion began late that year.
- ❧ Although the job was easier than it could have been, it was a major process that involved the disassembly and replacement of many parts and components.

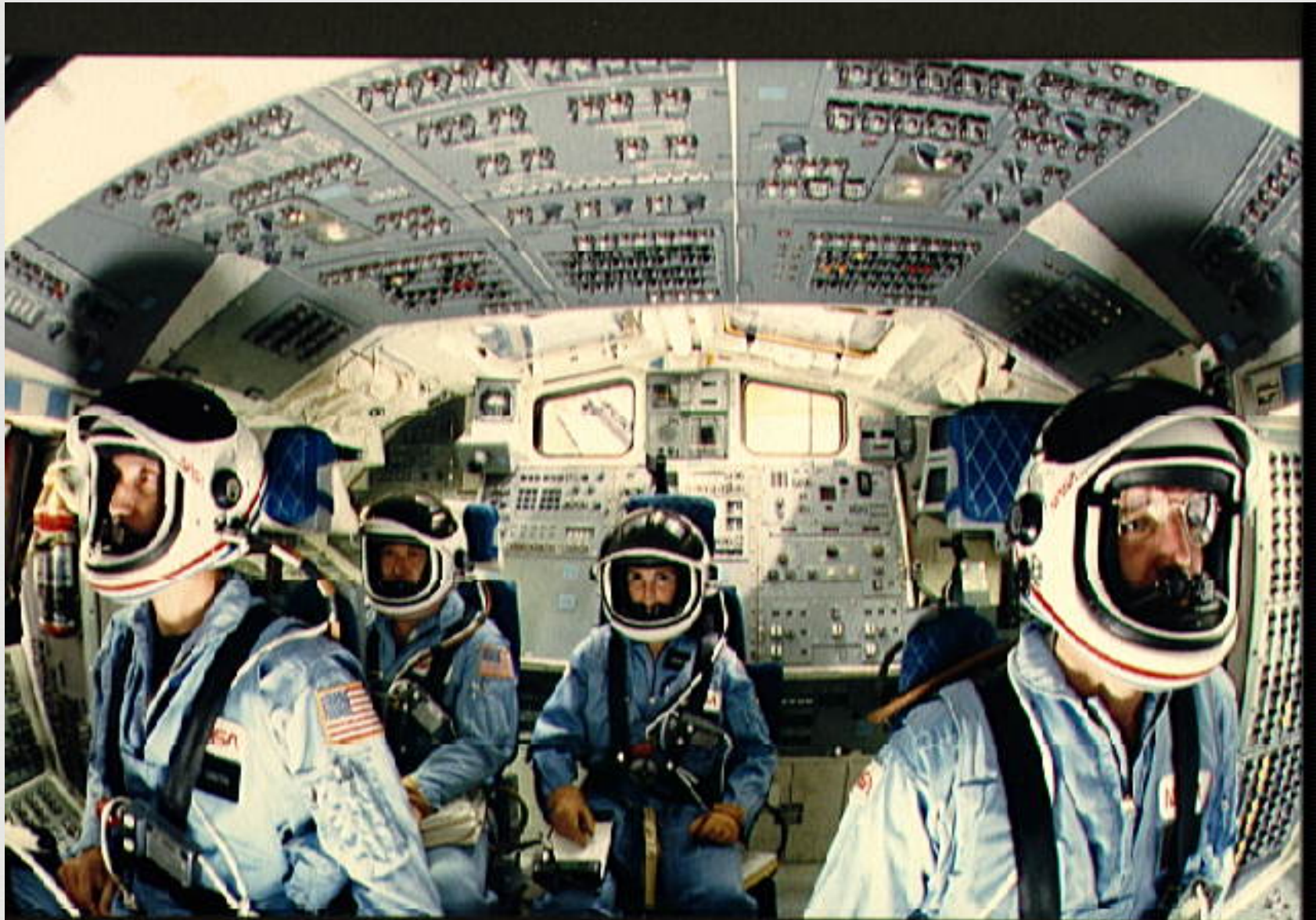


# Crew of The Space Shuttle *Challenger*





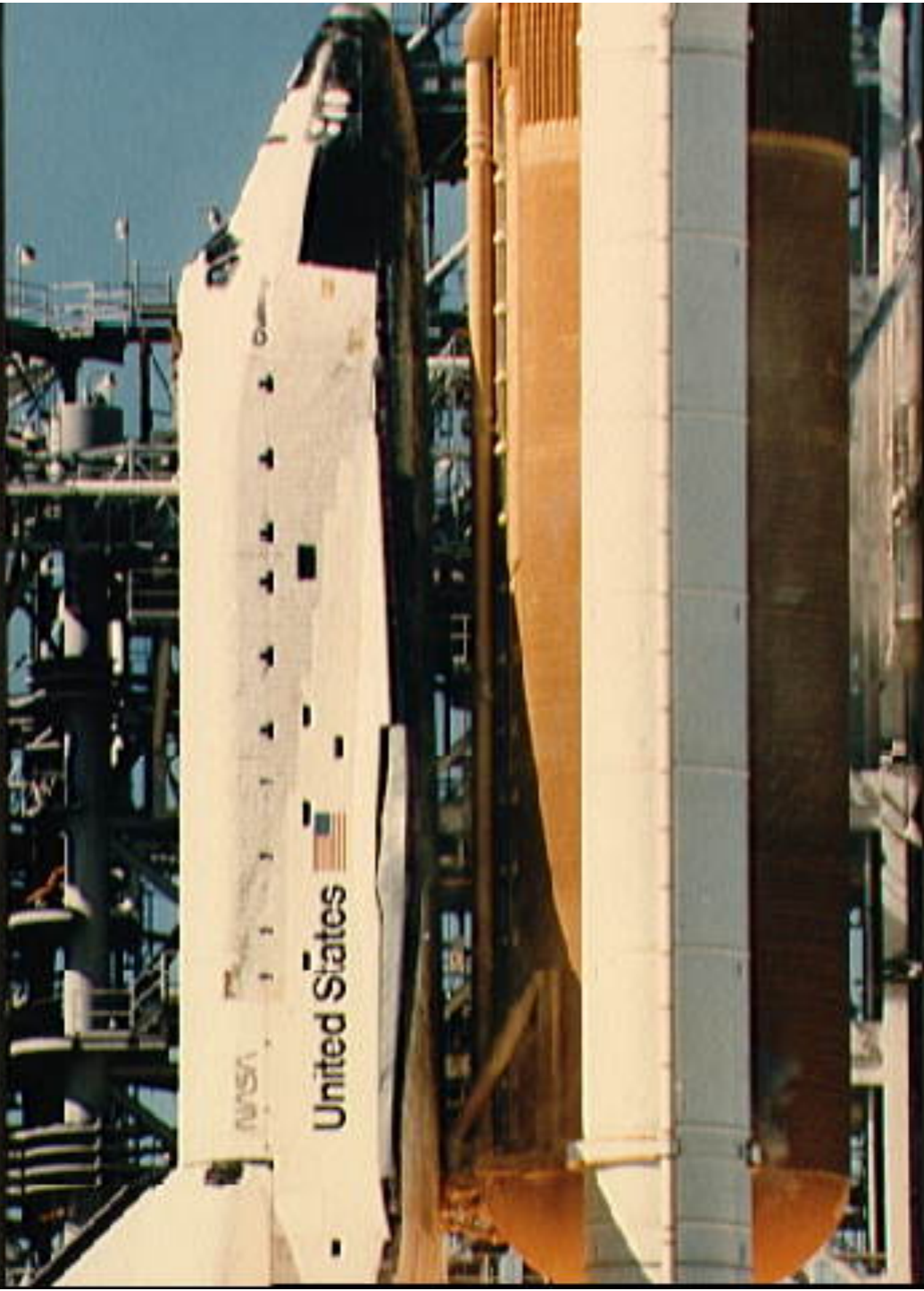
# Crew in Training

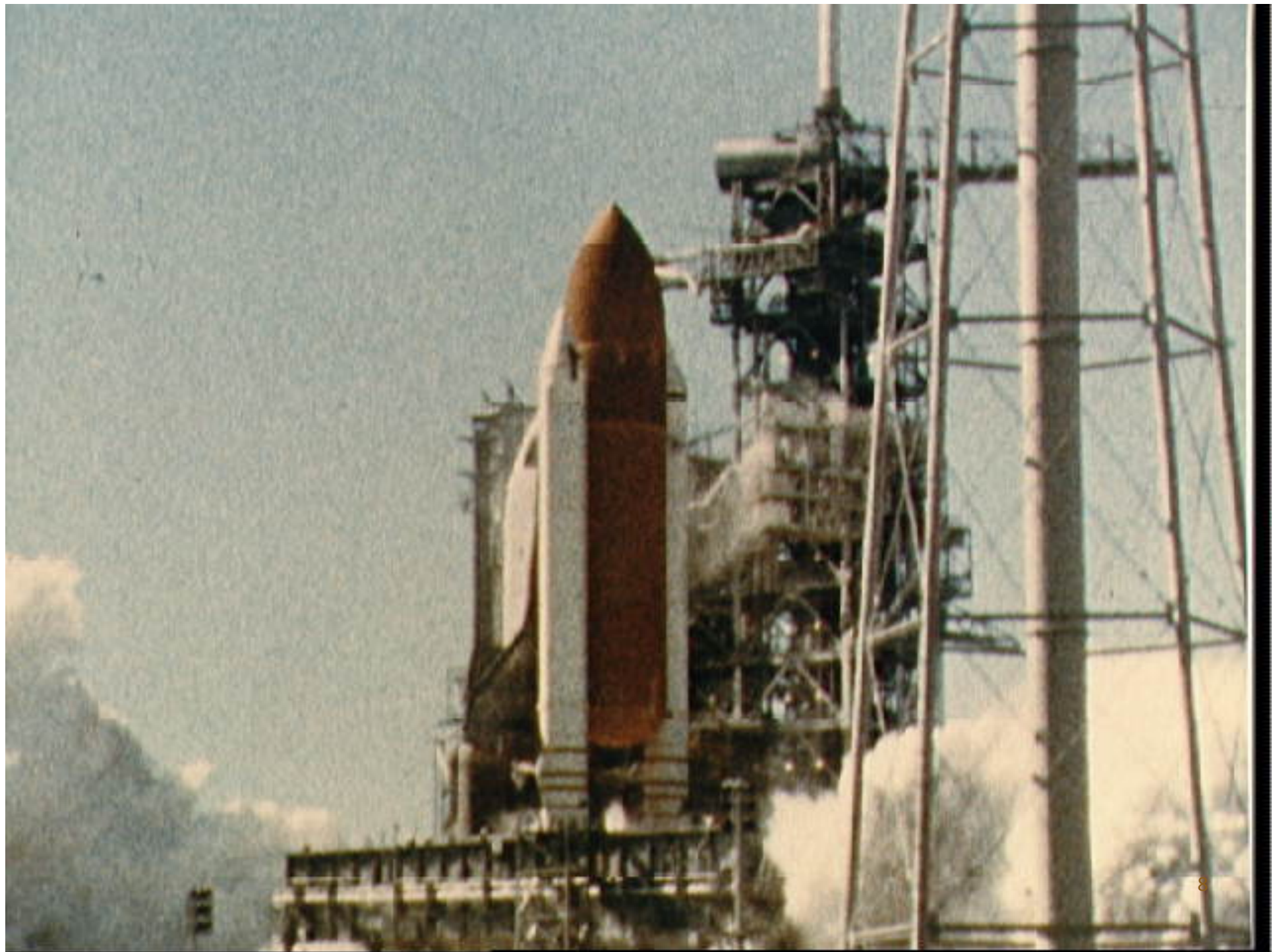












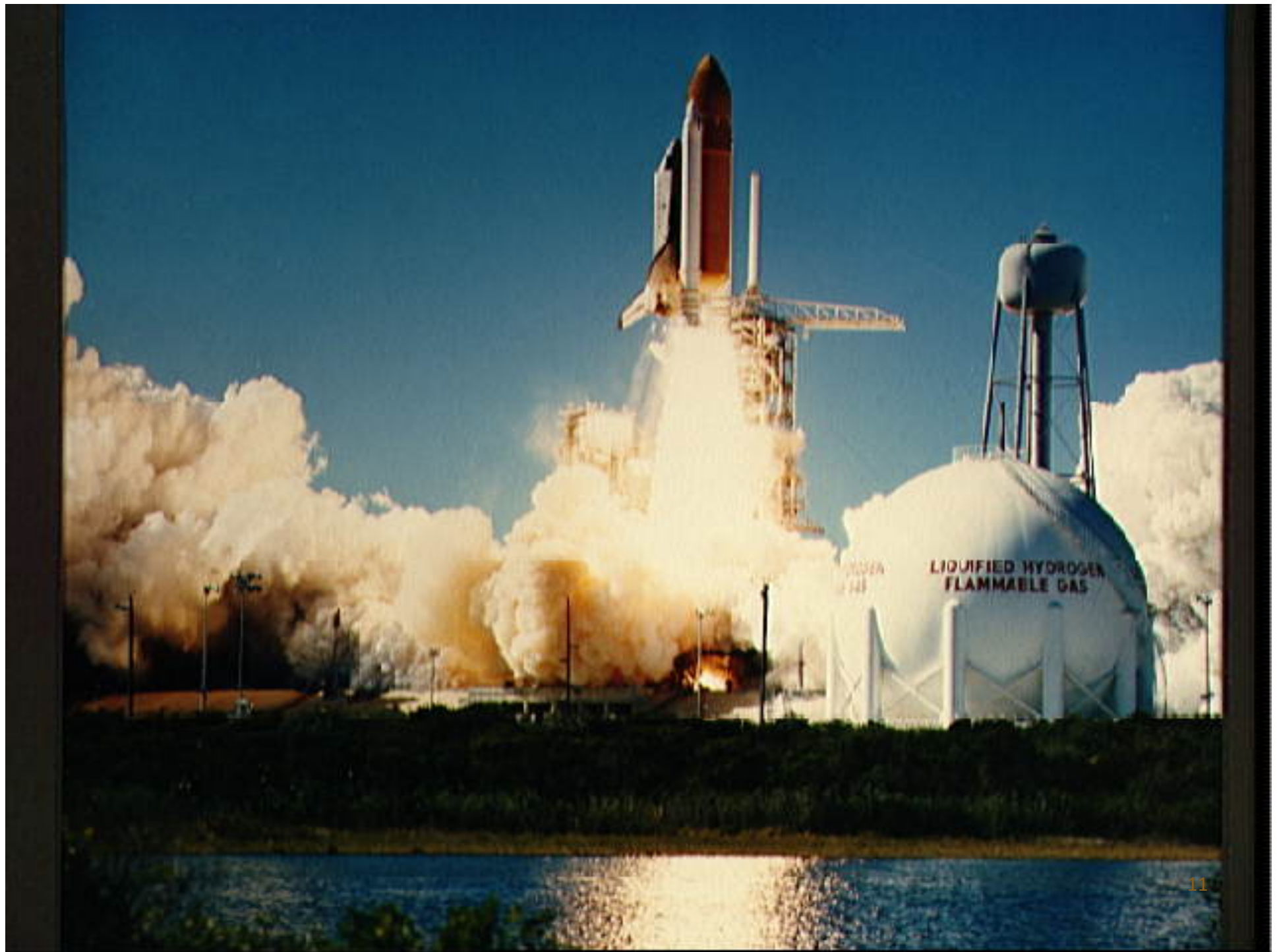


**There were noticeable problems.**





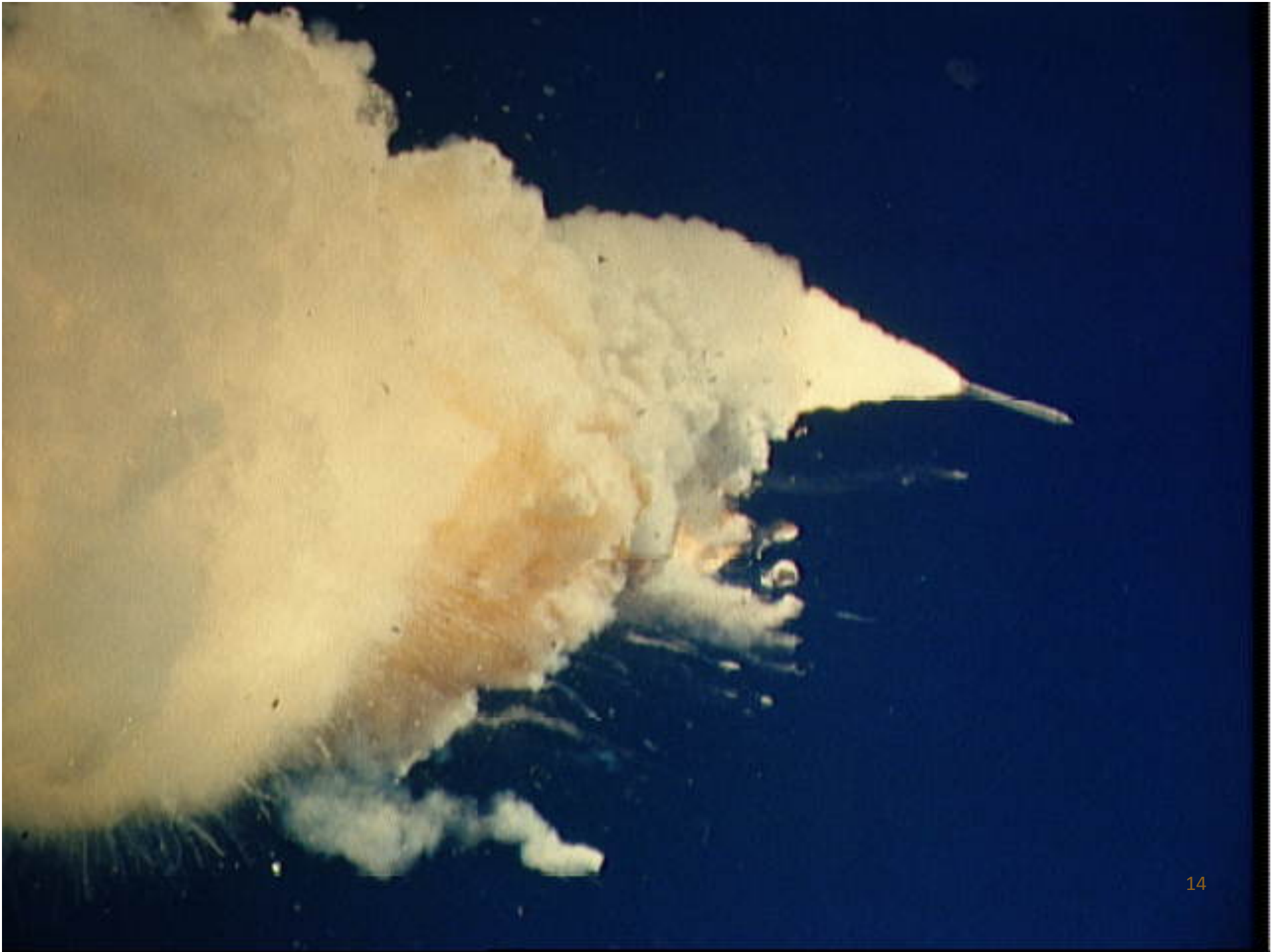
















# DISASTER



January 28, 1986

11:38 EST

73 seconds into its flight









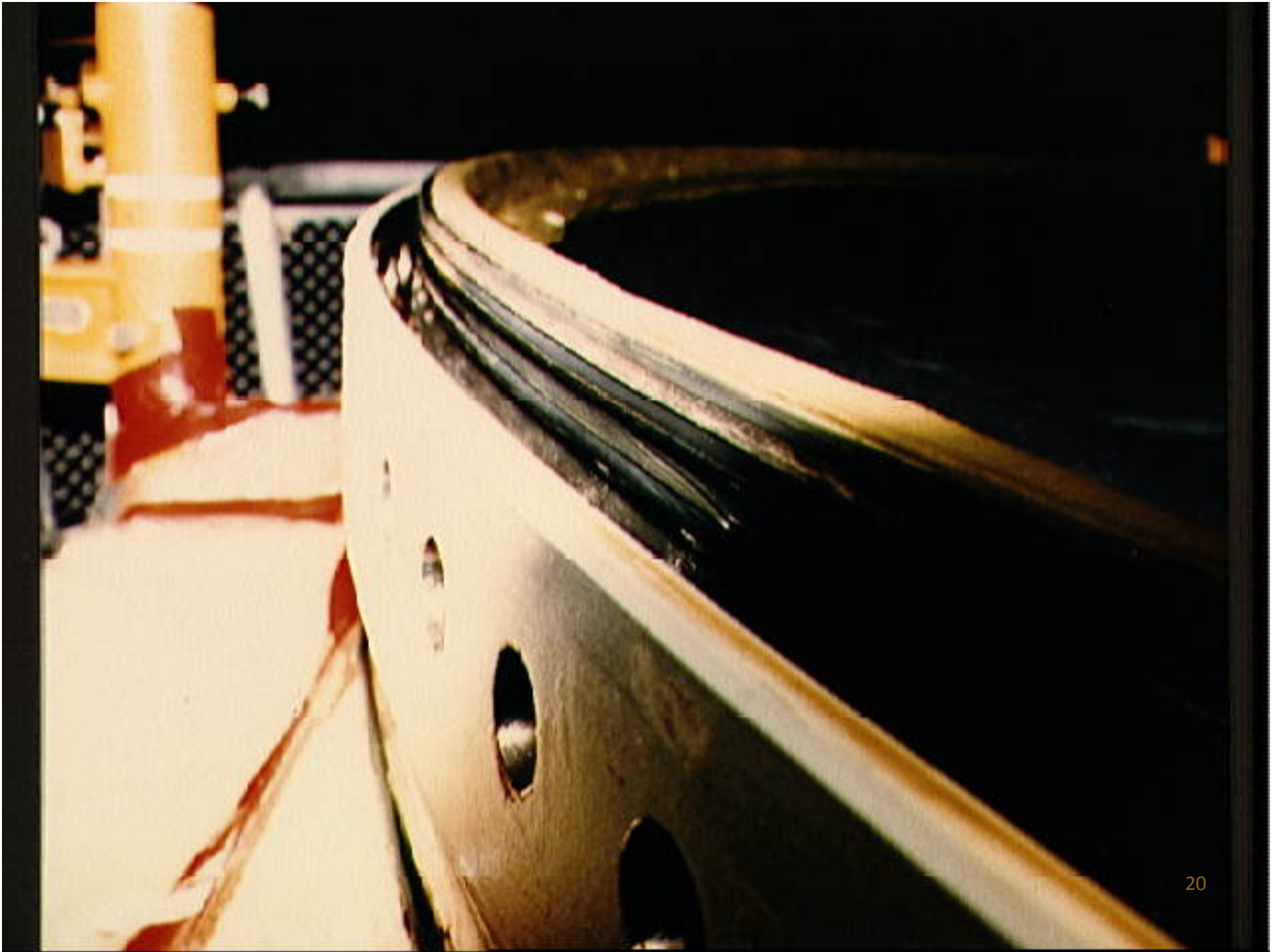


# A Little Thing



- 1. The O-ring seal in its right solid rocket booster (SRB) failed at liftoff.**
- 2. The O-ring failure caused a breach in the SRB joint it sealed, allowing pressurized hot gas from within the solid rocket motor to reach the outside and impinge upon the adjacent SRB attachment hardware and external fuel tank.**
- 3. This led to the separation of the right-hand SRBs aft/rear attachment and the structural failure of the external tank.**

*Aerodynamic forces promptly broke up the orbiter.*



# Problems Overlooked



- ❧ NASA managers had known contractor's design of the SRBs contained a potentially catastrophic flaw in the O-rings since 1977, but failed to address it properly.
- ❧ They also disregarded warnings from engineers about the dangers of launching posed by the low temperatures of that morning and had failed to adequately report these technical concerns to their superiors.
  - The vehicle was never certified to operate in temperatures that low.
    - The O-rings and other critical components had no test data to support any expectation of a successful launch in such conditions.



*Everything seemed to say abort the mission.*



# Record Entry



**January 28, 1986**

**Vehicle and crew lost  
73 seconds after liftoff**

# AMICUS



☞ Classic example of where we are in collaboration among our ministry departments

■ Three departments were to collaborate for the service delivery and ministry.

- Chaplaincy
- Education
- Youth





# Result



*Great Disconnect*  
*Little Ministry Accomplished*



# “DaVinci Dilemma”



- An overabundance of diverse talents and gifts
- Self-defined as: too many talents, not enough range for delivering information/services
- A problem as old as human genius itself.
  - ✧ Even Da Vinci, criticized himself for his many unfinished works and called his (self-judged) inadequate efforts “an affront to man and to God.”

Rothstein, 2010

# Dilemma



**This dilemma forces several questions:**

- **How do you get anything done when you're good at everything?**
- **How do you decide where to put your attention?**
- **How do you find a way to honor and pursue all your talents without driving yourself—and everyone else—crazy?**



# Dilemma



- ❧ The Biblical metaphor of the human body demonstrates that the Church's unity exists in diversity—people and gifts.
- ❧ There should be a fellowship of the spirit in the Church that is deeper and more important than any differences.



John 14:6; Acts 9:2; 16:17; 18:25-26

# Power of Unity



- ❖ **Unity is essential to the Church.**
- ❖ **We need “all hands on deck,” everyone at all levels working together.**
- ❖ ***Without it the Church will fail to accomplish its sacred mission.***





# Power of Unity



 *For Faith*

 *For Mission*

 *For Ministry*



# Our Role

- ☞ The GC and its Divisions are like the pastors to the other organizations of the Church.
- ☞ The other levels actually provide the ministries to the pews and public.



# Power of Unity for Faith



- ❧ Most of us believe in inclusion—unity.
- ❧ Inclusion too often is addressed exclusively at the conceptual level.
  - food for thought, but not daily interactions
- ❧ Three factors that influence the practice of inclusion
  - Attitudes
  - Resources
  - Programs or curriculum (ministry)



# Power of Unity for Faith

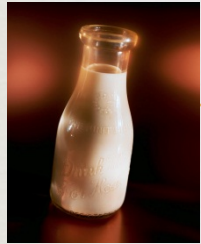
## #14 Unity in the Body of Christ



The church is one body with many members, called from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. In Christ we are a new creation; distinctions of race, culture, learning, and nationality, and differences between high and low, rich and poor, male and female, must not be divisive among us. We are all equal in Christ, who by one Spirit has bonded us into one fellowship with Him and with one another; we are to serve and be served without partiality or reservation. Through the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Scriptures we share the same faith and hope, and reach out in one witness to all. This unity has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as His children.

Rom. 12:4, 5; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Matt. 28:19, 20; Ps. 133:1; 2 Cor. 5:16, 17; Acts 17:26, 27; Gal. 3:27, 29; Col. 3:10-15; Eph. 4:14-16; 4:1-6; John 17:20-23

# Power of Unity for Faith



## Hebrews 5: 12-14– *Spiritual Immaturity*

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need *someone* to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

For everyone who partakes only of milk *is* unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, *that is*, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.



# Power of Unity for Faith




- ☞ They should be “mature,” “perfect” (in 5:9),
  - fully equipped for an assigned task
- ☞ We as a body should be living lessons to the world.






# Power of Unity for Faith



❧ ***Don't go backward* (6:1–2):** He urges them to stop going over the same old ground again and again. 

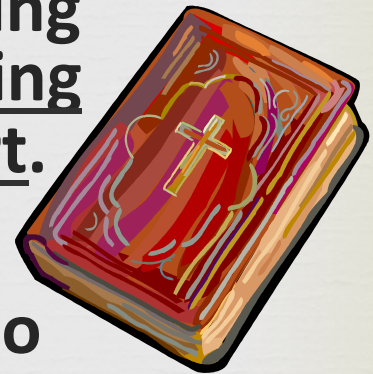
❧ ***Do go forward* (6:3):** Push on to maturity in Christ. 

❧ **The society into which the Christian is called is not a collective but a Body.**

# Power of Unity for Faith



✧ In Luke 8 Jesus laid the foundation by teaching His disciples that faith comes through receiving the Word of God into an understanding heart.



✧ EGW says, You have to talk faith, you have to live faith, you have to act faith, that you may have an increase of faith; and thus exercising that living faith you will grow to strong men and women in Christ Jesus.

SDABC, 5; MS 1, 1889

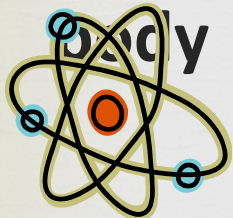
# Power of Unity for Faith

*Unity and Diversity in One Body*



If we are to fulfill the Great Commission we must have the synergy of God's grace; the power of inclusion in faith, with everyone answering God's call and each supporting the other in His calling and function.

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one



that there should be no schism in the body, but *that the members should have the same care for one another.*



# Power of Unity for Faith



*<sup>5</sup> Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15*

- **Faith compels mission;**  
**Mission strengthens faith.**



# Power of Unity for Mission



**Once “mission” typically meant the reconversion of European Protestants to Catholicism or the conversion of [by biased definition] “pagans” whose lands were colonized.**

# Power of Unity for Mission

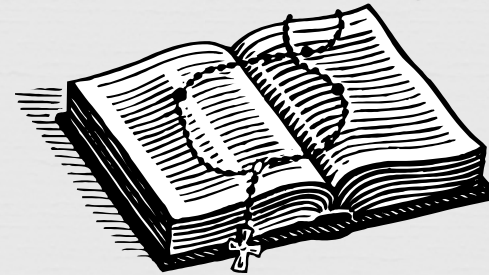


- Why do we engage in mission?

☞ The church is sent because Jesus was sent.

Jesus: As the Father has sent me, so send I you. John 20:21

- How do we do mission?



- What is mission?

☞ Being faithful to Biblical models of mission does not mean emulating them in operational detail, but rather holds to the principles they convey.

*Ex: medical missionary work for the 21<sup>st</sup> century*



# Power of Unity for Mission



There is an interesting dichotomy that determines the nature and scope of mission: lopsided Christianity.

❧ Pertains to a church's zeal toward evangelism or social concern to the neglect of the other

Is there room for both in the Biblical foundations?

❧ Addresses proper Biblical balance and relationship between evangelism and social concern—social action?

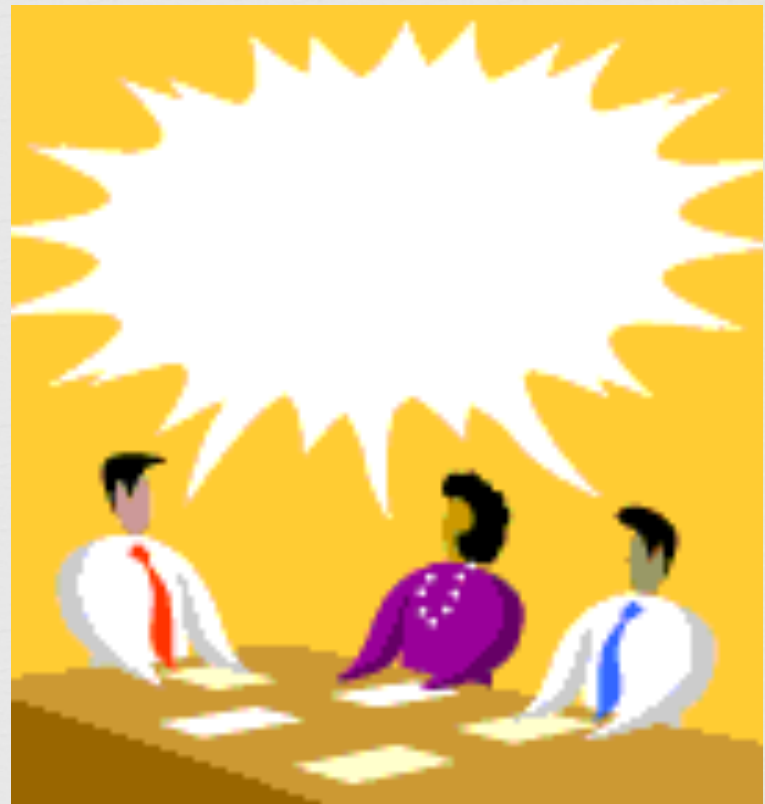
*Is community outreach or community service an outgrowth of social concern, spiritual concern, or both?*

Sider, 1993, 1991

# Power of Unity for Mission



- Our Church is beginning to examine our identity and perspectives, and
- It is beginning to learn at deeper levels how our SDA worldview shapes our understanding of scripture, theology, the nature of human beings and of missions.



# Power of Unity for Mission



Could it be that we along with most of the Christian world have been plagued with what has been identified in the wider literature as “the below the surface deep currents of traditionalism?”

Hiebert, 1999



# Power of Unity for Ministry

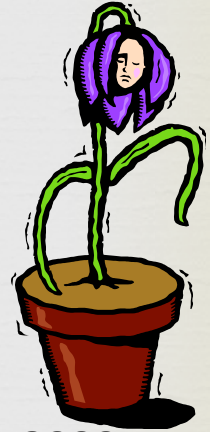
☞ The Pew Partnership for Civic Change commissioned a study of collaboration used in the USA to build and strengthen community.

- focused on one type of collaboration, in particular
  - individuals, groups, public organizations



a process of shared decision-making in which all the parties with a stake in an issue or enterprise constructively explore their differences and develop joint strategies for action; then act jointly

# Power of Unity for Ministry



Sider, 2000

☞ Is there any wonder that so many Christians and churches are disastrously weak and disgracefully ineffective?

☞ God calls us to join Him in the awesome task, expecting great things from Him and attempting great things for Him.

☞ Yet, it often seems that, “We would rather be ruined than changed; we would rather die in our dread than climb the cross of the moment and let our illusions die.”

***“The cure for missionary ‘malaise’ is in a new look at Scripture, for it is there that we see God Clearly.”***

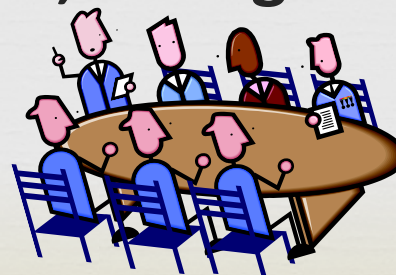
Guthrie, 2000; Auden in Hedges, 2009

# Power of Unity for Ministry

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☞ Collaboration can be a powerful alternative to conventional mechanisms for effecting change, such as coalitions, task forces, and commissions.

☞ This is especially true of/in organizations where  
1) leadership is centralized, 2) the work mission-driven, 3) processes are guided by procedures and statutes, and 4) internal communication is mostly confined to departments, workgroups, and committees.





# Power of Unity for Ministry



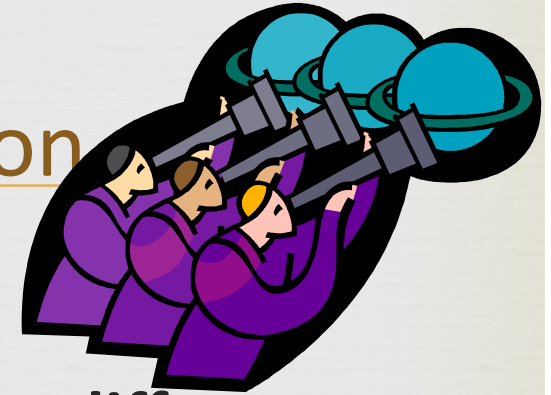
- ❧ Collaborative structures span silos and divisions.
- ❧ Processes are guided by norms of trust and reciprocity.
- ❧ Communication is more personal, more conversational, and more exploratory than in segmented settings.
- ❧ For this reason, collaborative efforts tend to be
  - ✓ Loosely structured, highly adaptive, and inherently creative with spaces where connections are made.
    - Ideas are cross-fertilized; collective knowledge is developed.
    - Blended teams generate rich opportunities for innovation.



*When the right people are brought together in constructive ways and with the appropriate information, they are able to create powerful visions and robust strategies for change.*

# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Blending by Collaboration



☞ Simplest definition: working together

☞ "a process through which parties who see different aspects of a problem can constructively explore their differences and search for solutions that go beyond their own limited vision of what is possible." Gray, 1989

☞ "a mutually beneficial relationship between two or more parties who work toward common goals by sharing responsibility, authority, and accountability for achieving results."  
Chrislip and Larson in London and Tate, 2012

# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Blending by Collaboration

☞ Collaboration is called for where the need and intent are to change fundamentally the way services are designed and delivered.“

- Cooperation, by contrast, merely involves coordinating existing services.

Melaville and Blank, 1991 (monograph on interagency collaboration)

*In blending ministries, collaboration can be both the means and the end – the process by which you blend and then the resulting mode of operation from the process.*



# Power of Unity for Ministry

Blending by Collaboration

## THE PREREQUISITES FOR COLLABORATION

- ❧ Collaboration must be democratic and inclusive.
  - Hierarchies of get in the way of decision-making.
  - Excluding individuals or groups with a stake in the issues derails the process.
- ❧ Collaboration requires involvement of a wide range of leaders.
  - Support of high-level, visible leaders brings credibility to collaboration and is essential for success.

# Power of Unity for Ministry

Blending by Collaboration

**Generally collaboration is designed to produce solutions that none of the groups working independently could achieve.**

**In this way, they all depend on each other to produce mutually beneficial solutions.**

London and Tate, 2012



# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Some Questions Before A Collaborative Venture



- ❧ What are the structural relationships between the parties and the power issues inherent in the collaborative arrangement?
- ❧ Is there a clear understanding among all the parties of the respective goals of the other participants?
- ❧ What form of leadership is required to facilitate the process?
- ❧ Does the venture have some form of integrating structure, such as a cross-section of steering committees, to facilitate and coordinate decision-making and implementation?
- ❧ Will the venture be more effective with a neutral party as facilitator?
- ❧ Does the venture have enough time, money, and staff support?





# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Six Issues To Be Addressed For *Blending*



- 1.** The parties must arrive at a shared definition of the problem, including how it relates to the interdependence of the various stakeholders.
- 2.** The parties must make a commitment to collaborate.
- 3.** Other stakeholders need to be identified whose involvement may be necessary for the success of the endeavor.
- 4.** The parties have to acknowledge and accept the legitimacy of the other participants.
- 5.** The parties must decide what type of convener or leader can bring the parties together.
- 6.** The parties must determine what resources are needed for the collaboration to proceed.

# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Six Steps for the Second, Direction-Setting, Phase



- ✓ The parties must a) identify the interests that brought them to the table, b) determine how they differ from the interests of others, c) set directions, and d) establish shared goals.
- 1. Establishing ground rules.
- 2. Set the agenda.
- 3. Organize subgroups, especially if the number of issues to be discussed is large or the number of stakeholders exceeds a dozen or so people.
- 4. Engage in a joint information search to establish and consider the essential facts of the issue involved.
- 5. Explore the pros and cons of various alternatives.
- 6. Reach agreements and settlements for a course of action.

# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Final Step of the Process: *Blending*



### *The Implementation Phase*

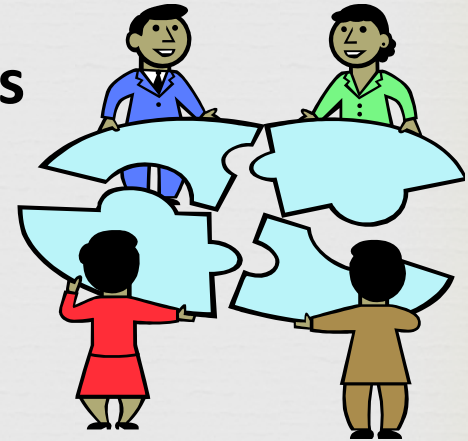
- 1. Participating groups or organizations deal with their constituencies.**
- 2. Parties garner the support of those who will be charged with implementing the agreement.**
- 3. Structures for implementation are established.**
- 4. The agreement is monitored and compliance is ensured.**



# Power of Unity for Ministry

## Eight Factors That Lead to Success

1. Investing in signature relationship practices
2. Modeling collaborative behavior
3. Creating a “gift culture”
4. Ensuring requisite skills
5. Supporting a strong sense of community
6. Assigning team leaders that are both task-and relationship-oriented
7. Building on heritage relationships
8. Understanding role clarity and task ambiguity



# Power of Unity for Ministry

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*What has moved so many people to take on this hard work of collaboration?*

☞ The existing governing framework was proving itself incapable of getting the job done.

- To put it bluntly, the problems that people expected to be solved were not getting solved.



Kemmis and McKinney,  
in London and Tate, 2012

# Blended Ministry



## Four Bonding Elements

*From a Study of 2 Kings: Elijah and Elisha*

1. Mutual vision
  2. Mutual expectations
  3. Mutual contributions
  4. Mutual commitment
- Mutual action





# The Law of Mutual Dependence



***We are all woven together in the great web of humanity, and whatever we can do to benefit and uplift others will reflect in blessing upon ourselves.***



PP 534, 535 (1890); 1MCP 267

# Jesus' Prayer



✠ Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We are.

✠ “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

John 17: 11, 20-21

# Our resolve



- ☞ Let us rise up with a greater readiness.
- ☞ Let us stand with a greater determination.
- ☞ Let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make [The Church] what it ought to be.
- ☞ We have an opportunity to make [The Church] a better [community].

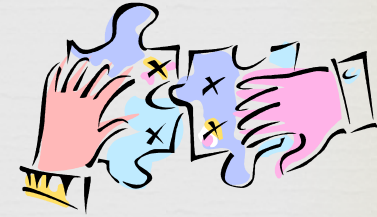
Martin Luther King, Jr.

- ☞ *I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field.*

John Wesley



# Building Collaborative Communities

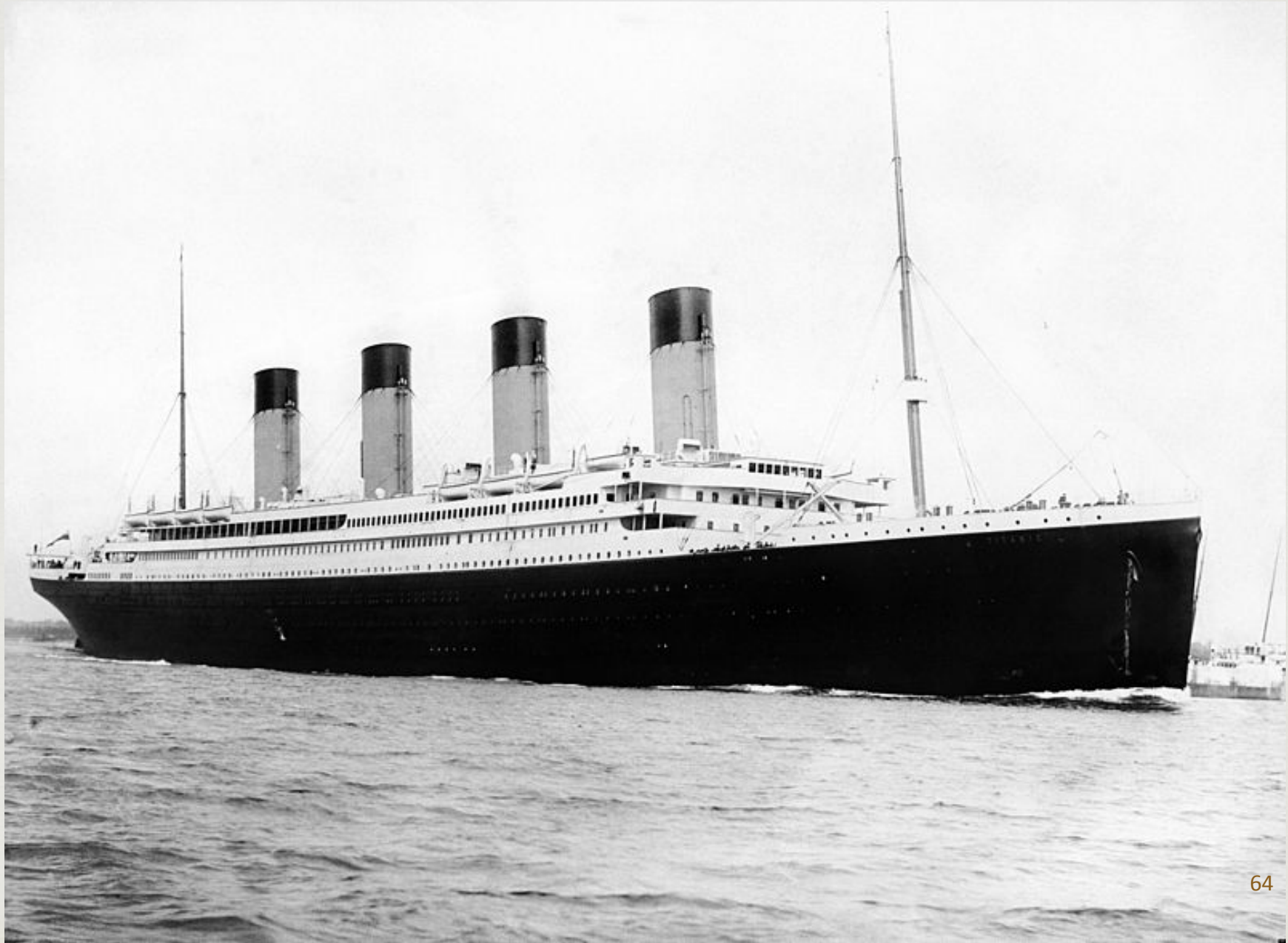


**HBR: Four Traits that are Crucial to Teams, but also Undermine Them**

- 1. Large size**
- 2. Virtual participation (distance)**
- 3. Diversity**
- 4. High education levels**

Gratton and Erickson, 2007

# Titanic





# Titanic Sinking





# *USA Today, April 9, 1997*



**Scientists now say that a series of slits, not a giant gash, sank the *Titanic*.**

**✧ An international team of divers and scientists discovered**

- **The damage was surprisingly small.**
  - ❖ **Instead of a huge gash, they found six relatively narrow slits across the six watertight holds – cargo spaces.**

# *Lessons Learned*



- ❧ **Small damage, invisible to most, can sink not only a great ship, or bring down a mighty space ship, but can wreck a great reputation.**
- ❧ **Small damage can also bring down an organization or institution of the Church.**
- ❧ **It can bring down the entire Church.**

# *Disaster*



- ❧ **Multitudes are going down to ruin;  
the people who have received light and truth are but  
as a handful to withstand all the host of evil; . . .**
- ❧ **Will you be careless with heaven's most sacred  
trusts?**
- ❧ **Will you say with Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?"**

*Testimonies for the Church, Volume 5. 1855 (458–459)*



# Colossians 3:23-24



***And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.***

NKJV

# What does the Lord expect of you?



**Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,  
be compassionate and loyal in your love,  
And don't take yourself too seriously –  
take God seriously.**





**Building collaborative communities means finding new and better ways to work together. We need to create spaces where people can find each other, share ideas, and discover common ground.**



**Building collaborative communities means finding new and better ways to work together.**

***We need to create spaces where people can find each other, share ideas, and discover common ground.***



# Prayer for You - Ephesians 1:17-21



That Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know

- what is the hope of His calling,
- what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance, and
- what *is* the exceeding greatness of His power,

according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ . . . , far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. NKJV