

Be Fruitful and Multiply: Raising Spiritual Sons and Daughters

Perhaps the greatest need facing the church in Europe today is the need for more leaders. Quality leaders emerge rather than arrive. Training in a classroom context can be a significant component in the development of a leader. However, it is not enough on its own; something more relational is required. Can we learn from New Testament models of ministry development? Can we shape a culture where the multiplication of ministry occurs naturally?

Mike Betts leads Relational Mission, a network of churches which is part of the global Newfrontiers family. He is the author of *From the Inside Out, Relational Mission: A Way of Life*, and *The Prayers of Many*. Mike is passionate about the church enjoying her inheritance in Christ, involving church planting, gospel expansion, corporate prayer, and seeing the next generation grow into all that God has for them. Mike is married to Sue, and they live in Lowestoft, Suffolk, UK. He is part of the eldership team at Lowestoft Community Church, which he, Sue, and a number of others planted over 30 years ago. At that time Mike and Sue sought help and advice from Terry Virgo, who had begun to serve emerging churches. Terry's work and relationships with churches became the start of Newfrontiers. In 2011, Terry handed over responsibility for Newfrontiers to a number of his spiritual sons, and Mike began to lead the network that is now Relational Mission. Relational Mission works predominantly in the UK and mainland Europe but with growing connections across the world. Its network includes some 70 churches of which 30 are church plant and pioneering situations.

I. Vocabulary of Family

A. Not an organization or a business but a family

1. Organisational dynamics serve the family but don't define the family
2. 1 Timothy 5:9 – flows from family care not organizational programme

B. God as our Father

1. Romans 5:18 ABBA
2. Galatians 4:6 Sons
3. “What is the highest privilege of the gospel? What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.....Adoption....is the highest privilege that the gospel offers; higher even than justification...To be right with God

the Judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater.” (J.I. Packer – Knowing God, p200-201, 206)

C. Old Testament

1. Psalm 139
2. Genesis 49:1-4
3. Proverbs 4:1

D. New Testament

1. Family dynamics - 1 Timothy 5:1
2. Care for his own family - 1 Timothy 5:8
3. Rufus' Mother - Romans 16:13
4. My true child - 2 Timothy 1:2 / Titus 1:4 / 1 Timothy 1:2
5. Father and son - Philippians 2:22
6. Not many fathers - 1 Corinthians 4:15
7. Who we are and how we live - Matthew 5:45

II. Leadership as Family

A. Two- Eyed Leader Concept

1. One eye on own development (Acts 26:19 / Philippians 3:13)
2. One eye on development of others (2 Timothy 2:22)

III. Multiplication of Family

- A. Standards will go down in order to go up. (Philippians 1:12-17)
- B. Willingness to be surpassed (John 3:27)
- C. We all stand on family shoulders – prepare the next generation
- D. Fathers and Mothers – for life and seasons

IV. Family in Europe

- A. Monument or Movement?
- B. Isaiah 60:4 – Call out sons and daughters
- C. Classroom, apprentice, immersion.
- D. Culture / language dynamics. There is no Jew or Gentile

Suggested Readings: See Session 1 notes