

## Leading Yourself, Leading Others

Leadership is demanding. It requires us to develop a philosophy of ministry, a culture, a 'way of life'. It is not primarily a set of skills but a set of values that frame the functioning of our gifts and callings. How do we lead both ourselves and others well and fruitfully over a lifetime? This workshop will offer practical tools and explore lessons learned from 40 years of leadership experience, particularly focusing on the very relational way this question should be answered.

**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.

### **20 principles to create a rule of life for leading yourself and leading others:**

- 1) Discern and establish your Life calling, vision, focus. What is the 'that' for which Christ took hold of you? Mine have developed through the years from early foundations. I have found it helpful to summarize them. Here are some examples from different seasons

Serve, Speak, Strengthen.

Give the Lord my attention and my time. Sit in his presence, receive, and pass it on. Pioneer new places and things, go as far as the relationships in God go. Influence, equip and release spiritual sons and daughters. As far as it depends on me, do not let the Church be robbed of her inheritance.

- Listening
- Opening
- Influencing
- Fathering
- Restoring

2) Influence through example. Love people well. Steward spiritual authority biblically.

- Quotes on spiritual authority

“When a man, in virtue of an official position demands obedience of another, irrespective of the latter’s reason and conscience, this is the spirit of tyranny. When on the other hand, by the exercise of tact and sympathy; by prayer, spiritual power and sound wisdom one is able to influence and enlighten another, so that he through the medium of his own reason and conscience is led to alter one course and adopt another, that is true spiritual leadership” - DE Hoste

“Spiritual authority is never to make the rebel conform; it’s only purpose is to enable the obedient person to live a holy life. Therefore it rests on submission and obedience freely given. Furthermore, spiritual authority has only spiritual means at it’s disposal; it’s only weapons are prayer, scripture, counsel and the power of a holy life” - Menno Simons

When I choose to obey true authority I do not feel inferior or put down in any way because true authority is spiritual and respects my moral freedom. Obedience is my free choice. But when so called authority seeks to impose another persons will on mine, or brings emotional or intellectual pressure to bear, it does not respect my moral freedom. I can conform or rebel, neither is likely to bring any real satisfaction” - Tom Marshall

- If people move away, let them go. If they move close, provide context for another step

3) Be the Church’s servant. Never let her be your master

- Two-eyed leader concept
- Family dynamics of the Church (God’s family)

4) Keep loving your spouse and family as a priority

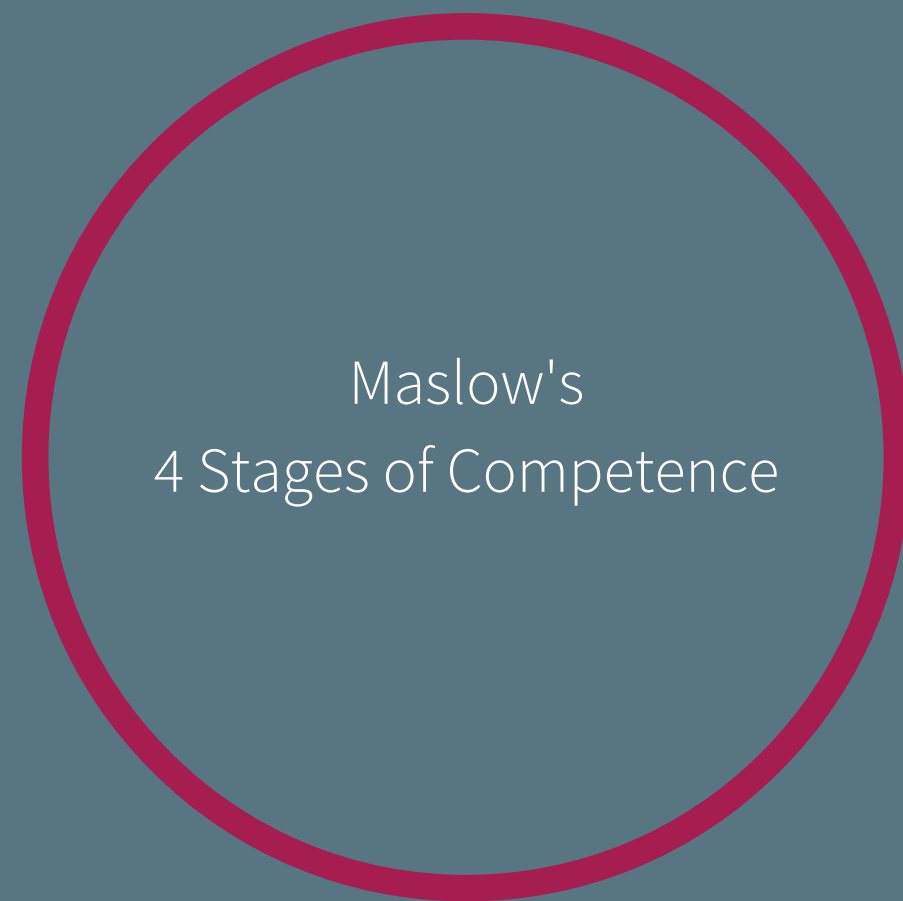
- 5) Don't please people. Obey God!
  - Take steps out of what can be done in front of you now. God will move.
  - Political decisions / Fear of man
  
- 6) Serving the purposes of God is a long haul. Keep perspective!
  - My job as a leader is to steward vision, not create it
  
- 7) Life long learning
  - Conscious competence (See PowerPoint attachment)
  
- 8) Find friends to go on the adventure with
  
- 9) Find and do what you cannot escape from in your heart - the call of God
  - What gives you energy?
  - Different seasons of life. Transitions are part of life. Something is birthed and dies
  
- 10) Find fathers and mothers
  - Advice for 60's season
  - Proverbs 2
  - Rufus' mother

- 11) Psalm 1 rhythms for ongoing fruitfulness in fellowship with God
- 12) Have I kept myself in God's love?
- 13) Have I moved from discouragement to trust?
- 14) Am I letting my thoughts go for a walk with the Holy Spirit?
- 15) How am I praying for situations?
- 16) Am I soft hearted towards God?
- 17) Am I waiting patiently for the Lord?
- 18) Am I trying to be strong where God wants me to be weak?
  - Psalm 7 lions tearing
  - God and feelings
  - Don't defend yourself
- 19) Am I getting by on my own strength?
- 20) Am I leading by a compass not a map?

# 4 Stages of Discipleship / Training / Learning

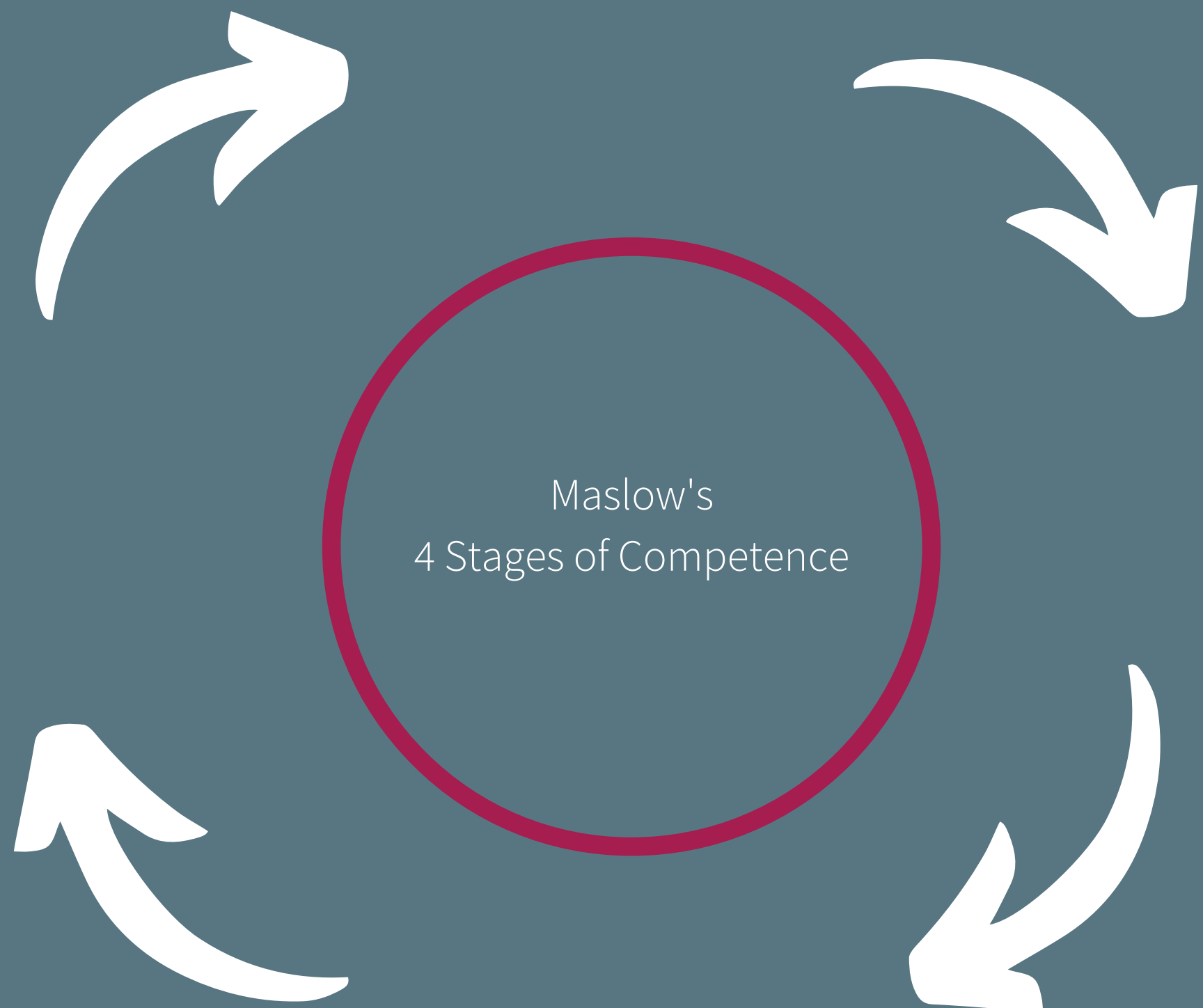
Unconsciously  
Incompetent

Consciously  
Incompetent



Unconsciously  
Competent

Consciously  
Competent



# 4 Stages of Learning 'Thumbs Up'



Unconsciously  
Incompetent



Consciously  
Incompetent



Unconsciously  
Competent



Consciously  
Competent