

Reproducing Mature Disciples Ready for Leadership

‘...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also...’ (2 Tim. 2:2)

The mission of the church will only be able to be fulfilled according to the availability and readiness of emerging leaders. They will need to have been effectively disciplined by experienced leaders so that there is an entrustment which enables the mission to be widened in scope and for it to have longevity to go forward with future generations. As those who disciple, we need to recognise and call out grace in others. It is a role akin to father and son, mother and daughter. It is a family and relational dynamic, rather than one of pure methodology. In this session we will look at key principles involved in the raising up of mature disciples who are ready to lead at all levels. They will be those who carry the same values and vision that we carry, and who are also able to lead and disciple others, not by copying methods, but by imparting the biblical vision and values and encouraging the development of God-given grace in others. We will consider: How do we identify what we often do intuitively and train others in it? How do we develop the character and skills in others most effectively?

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 a soon to be published book on corporate prayer. 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. How to Select Able and Faithful

A. ‘Many Witnesses’ Cast the Net Wide – don’t make discipleship a specialism.

1. Faithful and Able – not just gifted and capable - loyalty and faithfulness matters just as much as character and gift
2. Father to Son

II. A Philosophy of Ministry

A. Jesus and the 3, 12, 72 and the crowds

B. Paul, Timothy & Titus

C. Paul, Peter, James & John

1. Peer to Peer – not competitive but right arm of fellowship

2. Nelson's Table / Prussian / Genghis Khan – not command and control

III. The process of developing gifting

A. D1-D4

1. Often D2-D3 is where it goes wrong
2. Delegate
3. Don't solve everything – allow time for the struggle

IV. Time with those you are discipling

A. Short/Medium/Long Term Orbit

1. Have end points and review points

B. WhatsApp / Zoom Calls / Ministry Trips / Walk and Pray

C. Classroom / Apprenticeship / Immersion

V. What Do You Do Intuitively?

A. Life and Behaviour influences more than words

- B. Why do people want to be near you? Need to figure this out in order to do it more systematically.

Suggested Readings:

NB: D1-D4 is taken from *Building a Discipling Culture* by Mike Breen, 3rd Edition – Chapter 10
Multiplying Life