

APOSTOLIC SWORD NETWORK (ASN) NETWORKING MANUAL

Hebrews 4:12-13

“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

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Isaiah 8:18

*“Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me!
We are for signs and wonders in Israel.”*

Sword Ministries International

PMB 649

3044 Shepherd of the Hills Expressway,
Suite 100

Branson, MO 65616

Phone: 417-335-7650

Fax: 417-334-2003

E-mail: info@swordministries.org

Web: www.swordministries.org

All scripture references from NKJV unless otherwise noted.

I. MY HEART FOR APOSTOLIC NETWORKING

It has been in my heart for several years to network different ministry teams through relationship and fellowship with ministers and friends, including aiding other networks (locally, regionally or internationally) to build their relational networks. Over the years we held many revivals for churches and individuals in ministry that have been "independent". Many in ministry have shown a strong need for apostolic counsel, wisdom and relationship upon which to draw. We will be putting letters together on Apostolic Prophetic Insight and foresight to help encourage and minister into the lives of all those in ministry, including the churches and businessmen that have become partners with Sword Ministries International/ASN or an Associate Network.

In 2001, while holding revival meetings in South Africa, I ministered for Apostle Dr. Andre Pelsar. I want to share the following article, written by Dr. Pelsar concerning networking:

"Give us your heart for the church. Let us lay down our secret agendas and fears and distrust because of past disappointments and hurts. Let us see Your glory being manifested in our generation!"

When a net is working, it catches fish! This is the simplicity of joining forces and resources in apostolic networking. As we learn to synergize our strengths to compliment our weaknesses, we enter into Christ Jesus' principle team of work that will leave an indelible imprint on people everywhere. People marveled at unlearned Peter and John; and the Pharisees were incensed against Peter. Three thousand worshippers were smitten in their hearts when Peter spoke and whole cities were shaken when Paul's apostolic teams arrived. Jesus promised that when two or three gathered together in His name, He is there. So, as we walk in agreement, God begins to command His blessings upon us in such a way that people will marvel. People know we cannot accomplish much in our own strength and ability, so when God begins to move because of our willingness to network accurately in the purposes of God, they are seeing God's genius at work and their minds cannot comprehend it. "How is it possible?" they ask. It is possible because of networking.

There is much talk about networking all over the globe. But there is a great deal of understanding yet to come. So we pray: *"Blessed Holy Spirit, reveal to us the secret of networking with those of like mind in order to reveal the awesome power of God unleashed upon those who would walk in simple unity of faith without being dominated or controlled, without carnal competition and seeking earthly recognition; but simply being added together to a greater body of believers for the extension of Your kingdom purposes. Come and show us things to come concerning networking. Give us Your heart for the church. Let*

us lay down our secret agendas and fears and distrust because of past disappointments and hurts. Let us see Your glory being manifested in our generation. Thrust us forward supernaturally into new dimensions of Your wisdom and power. Oh, Spirit of the Living God, we need You so much! We announce and declare that all the old systems of man's structures have failed to produce humility and brotherly love like You want to see it and that we need total reformation in our modus operandi. Mend our nets, divine Spirit, we ask that You help us to restore the net for the great ingathering You have been promising over the years. Heavenly Father, we ask these things in Jesus name. Let Your Holy Spirit lead and guide us into all truth concerning networking our brothers. Amen."

The word "net" simply means, "Meshed fabric of cord, twine, thread or hair, used for catching fish or birds or for other purposes, such as being fishers of men." It also means, "enclosures for cricket practice." So, although it has the connotation of catching something, it also spells out a place of training and gives certain confinements or boundaries of operation. Net profit means the amount left after working expenses have been paid, the amount left after all the deductions. It is subject to no discount. The verb "net" profit means, "to gain or yield profit." (Oxford Dictionary) We need to realize the profitableness of networking before we will wholeheartedly commit to it. Networking is a complex system of intersecting lines, for example, like we see on railroad tracks, planned to channel cargo from one place to another without causing accidents, allowing a free flow of transport to convey passengers and goods conveniently to their destination.

Unless we begin to have a firm grasp of the fact that apostolic people are a people of divine destiny, we will not have the urgency of spirit and soul to make sacrifices in order to network effectively for kingdom purposes that are greater than our own individual ambitions.

"Sagene" is the Greek word denoting a dragnet. Fishermen used to let it down in the water drawing it together in a narrowing circle to catch fish or simply drag it to the shore. The Greek historian Herodotus uses the verb "esageneuo" to describe a device, which the Persians used to clear a conquered island of its inhabitants. We need to clear entire areas and spiritual territories of the spiritual powers and wicked ruling spirits in order to release the full potential of the kingdom through the church. When a spiritual territory has been cleared, all

the churches where Jesus is Lord will draw benefits. This should encourage those of like mind to operate as one. The purpose of mutual spiritual benefit and authority should stimulate co-operation without fleshly competition spurred on by envy and jealousies. Networking provides the agency through which spiritual battles can be fought on an Allied basis without any participating force losing identity.

We combine against one enemy for one purpose. When the battle is over and the victory won, we rejoice together and walk in new dimensions of strength and authority having influence and legal spiritual rights in the conquered positions in the spirit realm. The enemy knows this and therefore keeps us apart. Apostolic authority brings unity of faith without compromise. This is a spiritual weapon that the church has not used to its full effect yet. While church leaders resist the apostolic move, they postpone the final onslaught on the cap of the enemy and death.

THERE ARE GREAT EXPLOITS AWAITING GOD'S PEOPLE OF DESTINY. Networking is the key to conquests beyond our individual capabilities. The other word used for net in Mark 1:16 is "*amphiblestron*," which literally means, "*throwing around*." It is derived from the two words *amphi*, which means around, as in *amphi* theatre and *ballo*, which means to throw. A small net was cast over the shoulder of the fisherman and allowed to spread out before made to sink by weights. Unless we see the weightiness or seriousness of networking, we will not be able to sink the nets, lower them for the catch, or get to the depths where the fish are.

I heard an interesting anecdote from a friend recently. He was told by someone who lived on the Golan Heights who went for a jog early before sunrise that the effect of the sunrise on the lake of Galilee had a strange effect on the water. If positioned on the shore facing the sunrise, the rays of the sun shone from behind the fishing boats into the water and made the exact position of the fish visible. It is possible that Jesus could have seen the fish from the shore, according to this account, while Peter and the other disciples returned from a fruitless fishing expedition through the night. That's why He could tell them where to cast the nets. This resulted in a miraculous draught of fish. When we will respond to the insight and clarity of vision, the Holy Spirit gives us in the light of the "sun" of Righteousness, we will have net breaking, boat sinking draughts of men, women and children into the kingdom of God!

"Oh, blessed Holy Spirit, I will follow Your instructions implicitly. Make me a fisher of men. Men in high places, men in need, desperate men and complacent ones too."

This is my prayer for the network too. A large net was drug by several boats as in the great draught of fish in deep water (*John 21:6,8*). Smaller nets were used in shallow water and fishermen drug the net from the shore. The great draught only came after they went out into the deep, at Jesus' command.

WE CANNOT HAVE SHALLOW RELATIONSHIPS AND EXPECT GREAT RESULTS. There has to be depth of relationship, not mere association with a group, but the release of the dynamics of a sense of belonging to a true brotherhood where the one is willing to lay down

his life for the other. The kind of love this world knows little of, the kind of love and commitment Jesus said we would become known for, the kind of love, God displayed by giving His only begotten Son to those who believe in Him. Depth of relationship demands sacrifice as well as belief. We need to believe that what we are busy with, in networking, is actually the perfect will of God for all concerned.

The spreading of nets is normally used for subtle devices of enemies as in *Psalm 9:15, Proverbs 9:12, Isaiah 51:20*. It signifies the figure of one exhausted with ineffectual attempts to release himself. Being caught in a net represents the inevitable vengeance of God in *Lamentations 1:13* and *Ezekiel 12:13*. But in a positive sense, it reveals the grace of God to draw people into a place of safety, after having exhausted themselves trying to do everything by themselves. The inevitable becomes a blessing, not a curse. **The synergy of networking creates the mutual ability of accomplishing much more as a team than one could as an individual.** We even use this synergistic method in our counseling teams and prophetic teams and we have much better results than one man seeking to promote his own ministry.

When a net is cast into the sea, it gathers good fish and bad fish.

TO MAKE APOSTOLIC NETWORKING PROFITABLE TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WE NEED TO REMOVE ALL THINGS THAT OFFEND:

Matthew 13:47 *“All things that offend must be removed from the net and cast into the kingdom”*

Jesus warned us that offenses will come, but that we should be careful not to cause the offense. The word offense refers to a baited stick in a trap or a bird snare from which it is difficult to escape. Once an offense has been taken, it is extremely difficult to recover from it. A brother offended is hard to win back. “*Skandalon*” is the baited stick in a snare as in *Romans 11:9* and it refers to a stumbling block. Balaam’s advice was a trap to Israel. He suggested to Balak to send his heathen maidens among the men of Israel so that they would intermarry and incur the wrath of God upon Israel. In this way Balaam secured his reward for cursing Israel, without cursing Israel himself, but by allowing them to bring the curse upon themselves. The Lord perceived Satan’s snare for Peter and consequently warned him and prayed for him. It is one thing to warn someone, but it is quite another kettle of fish to warn someone after you have procured the solution through intercession on that person’s behalf. Jesus said, “I prayed for you that your faith would fail not. And when you are strengthened, go and strengthen your brothers.” (*Matthew 16:23*)

Some prophets of doom throw out a warning and then try to escape the disaster they prophesied. Jeremiah warned the people of captivity, but had the guts to go into captivity with them, losing a piece of ground God told him to purchase prophetically as a sign to the nation that one day land would again be bought and sold in Israel. Those who were offended at Jeremiah's accuracy concerning the coming captivity did not receive the protection offered by the conquerors. Most of them were either destroyed or kept under arrest, whereas those who adhered to Jeremiah were able to make progress even during the years of captivity. Skandalon always arouses prejudice and becomes a hindrance to others and causes them to fall by the way.

To those who reject the Gospel, Christ has become a rock of offense (*Romans 9:33*). Paul warns us that we should not use our liberty as an occasion to sin by the selfish use of liberty (*Romans 14:13, 16-17*). While it is true that we are free to do what we want, everything is not expedient when we realize that every action affects the network or the body of believers to whom we belong. Every private defeat is a defeat for all concerned. Every victory is a victory for the entire network. You provide strength or weakness to the system of relationship whether it is in secret or in public, for a spiritual force is released through actions and words. What we speak about our churches, our network and our relationships affects all concerned. You cannot be a secret disciple. You cannot break down and build up at the same time. We must realize that God's Spirit is exacting a high moral standard from those who would draw benefits from networking.

The apostolic spirit has a strange evasive quality to it; that whenever someone desires to abuse it for personal gain, it does not allow it and retracts, as it were, from the eager grasp of such a person. Because sacrifice and willingness to suffer and be persecuted is at the heart of the apostolic spirit, anyone who wants to use it for personal gain cannot linger in the presence of others who are willing to put up with hardship and suffering. It sticks out like a sore thumb. It is removed. Like Ananias and Sapphira (*Acts 6*), who desperately wanted to be seen as part of the apostolic company of people, they made up their minds to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back a portion of the money they were supposed to give. Both dropped down dead in church, at the feet of the apostles, the place where other believers laid their finances. Real brotherly love is the only safeguard against such stumbling blocks (*1 John 2:10*). Where there is true brotherly love there will be no occasion for stumbling. All idolatry needs to be removed from a network and from the lives partaking in the networking. *Hosea 4:17* warns us all that Ephraim's partaking with idols has laid stumbling blocks in his own path. Many times we cause ourselves to stumble, because of our willful rebellion and stubbornness, which are as the sin of witchcraft and idolatry (*1 Samuel 15:23*). *Proverbs 16:18* exhorts us that a haughty spirit becomes a stumbling block, something that leads others or oneself to sin. *1 Corinthians 10:32* tells us to refrain

from doing anything that will lead ourselves or others astray, giving no occasion of stumbling. In other words, become blameless and void of offense (*Acts 24:16*). In *Acts 25:8* the word *hamartano* is used, which means, have I offended? Hamartio is sin, or missing the mark like an archer who shoots but never hits the target. All sin offends. Private, secret sins have to be removed from our lives as we network together or we will create an opportunity for offense to come in. In *Acts 25:11*, an offender is a wrong-doer (*adikeo*). We want to do what is right in the sight of God and have a clear conscience before God and all men as we forcibly advance the kingdom purposes in the earth with no compromise and with confident identities, assurance that He who is sent is always with us. Do we agree? May God, the Holy Spirit, help us as we step out into the deep to network in a way the church has never seen before, globally, as the power of God's love joins together into perfect unity of faith. Amen.

Denominations: A denomination comes from the word denominator, which is the common number below the line in a vulgar fraction, or divisor. It is a name applicable to any individual or class or sect. It is used to reduce yards, feet and inches to a common denominator. The name of a religious group that gives it distinction from other groups is also referred to as a denomination. It is based on having a common denominator faith. In other words, we can all agree on some basic issues and that is as far as we are prepared to go. You can see how long that would last in the unfolding of the purposes of God, which is always in a progressive state. Churches who decide that this is what we will believe and preach and adhere to become stifled and stiff and then have to defend their constitution and their denomination when the cloud of God's glory has moved on from where they began. It is only natural that they would attack the new move onwards with God, for they are being exposed as being "fossilized" and obsolete.

It is natural that the Roman Catholic Church had to attack Luther for exposing their deadness and their dominance of the people by keeping the people away from the truth. In the same way, every other move of God was criticized by the previous move. The Jews did not want to know that there was a New Testament based upon better promises. That is why Jesus and the apostles were martyred. Today the moves of God come in such quick succession that unless one is committed to change, you can hardly keep up with what is happening. When a woman is close to childbirth, the contractions are compacted within a short space of time. It is extremely difficult for either a denomination or a ministerial fellowship to remain flexible. Every time they have to change or adapt, it is a major obstacle and eventually the effort becomes too great for them and they determine to settle in some acceptable comfort zone where all are in agreement. This is the reason why there are always great exoduses from traditional groups when God does a new thing in the earth. Pharaoh still does not want the people

of God to go out and worship Him freely. That is why God is still in the business of raising up Moses'.

- Nominal: Existing in name or word only, not actual or real or effective. It often refers to abstract concepts.
- Nominate-v.t: Appoint, propose for election, to office. In order to have the right to nominate, you must be a member of a denomination.
- Fellowship: Sharing community interest, companionship, a body of associates; the right hand of fellowship is a sign of admission, dignity, one who lays down his money in partnership.
- Fellow: Comrade, associate, graduate, associated in joint action.

There is a distinct difference between a denomination, a fellowship and a network. The dynamics of networking are still being discovered and we learn as we commit to it step by step. Both denominations as well as ministerial fellowships have always had the Roman Catholic pyramid structure as their basis, whereas the network has not changed: it is still in ministerial fellowship. You do not make oranges into peaches by changing the name. The reason why networks are emerging as the new standard for co-operating the kingdom activities of the church is because the old paradigms of denomination and fellowship among ministers has become obsolete and outdated. Christians have a special privilege to have fellowship with one another. Light and darkness cannot mix or have fellowship, but those who walk in the light can have fellowship. Basically, it is two fellowships in a ship, heading the same way and experiencing the same storms until the destination is reached. It is rather exclusive and it is difficult for one fellowship to fellowship with another fellowship. But a network can network with another network. One denomination cannot mix with another. It is two distinctly different identities.

IN NETWORKING, ONE LOOKS FOR RELATIONSHIP POTENTIAL.

It has to be a two way street. Paul says I have to impart some spiritual gift to you and to be refreshed by you. It works both ways. It has to be mutually beneficial for it to be a network. It is not from the top down, being dominated and controlled. It is not merely a horizontal fellowship that has no substance when there is a crisis, either. It is both vertical and horizontal simultaneously. There is submission to authority and accountability, but at the same time there is opportunity to give input and to be recognized for who you are and not to be measured with human measures such as the size of achievement before promotion. Self worth is part of a network and individuality is accepted, whereas in a denomination total confirmation is required. Fellowships normally are held together through compromise. Okay, we are definitely not in agreement concerning the baptism issues; so let us agree not to bring up controversial issues in

our fellowship, for the sake of fellowship. Such unity is fake unity for unity of faith is centered around the truth and not around compromise.

It is something worth sacrificing for and worth laying down one's life for others. It also has the dynamic of constant change built up into it. It promises growth and new revelations are welcome as long as it lines up with the Word of God.

What gives networking a dynamic nature is the conviction and purpose that binds people in the network together.

(For more information: Harvester International Ministries, Apostle Dr. Andre Pelsar, PO Box 276, Milnerton, Capetown, South Africa 7435 Phone: 021.551.1699)

After reading this article, I see a great need for cities, regions and states to establish relational networks in which:

1. Ministers can come together in united prayer so hearts can be activated by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission of Evangelism.
2. To see key leaders help provide a way for ministers to turn past "Divine Appointments" into future "Divine Connections" for the glory of God.
3. To see a higher calling in our local region fulfilled. Not just having an association but where personal renewal goals are a priority in which accountability, transparency, relatability and humility can thrive among fellow ministers.

Setting Goals

To build meaningful ministerial relationships that reflect our walk with Jesus we must have, first of all, a strong personal renewal program.

"RENEWAL" – (Greek) Anakainizo
The adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking of man to the heart and mind of God. This process is personal in nature and transforming in effect.

It is true that strong marriages and families make a strong ministry, so too is it true that strong ministers make strong ministerial associations.

It is important to establish personal renewal priorities in your own life because this will give you more strength to exercise godly influence relationally.

Remember:
 God is first.
 Family is second.
 Personal prayer partners are third.
 The ministry is last.

Before Enoch started a ministry...he walked and talked with God!

Matthew 6:33 *“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

The following guidelines will lead you in personal renewal:

1. **Receiving the Love of God** – It’s not that we are to first love God in the morning but that we are to let Him first love us! (*1 John 4:19*) We’ve left our first love by not receiving God’s intimate love during our “ministerial day!” (*Revelation 2:4*) As ministers we are to be good receivers first before we can be good givers! The root of all failure is neglect. Let’s keep ourselves in the love of God! (*Jude 21, Ephesians 3:17-21*)
2. **Loving Yourself God’s Way** – Sin is nothing more than self abuse! Personal abuse starts when self-respect ends. The Bible teaches us to only love others after we first love ourselves. (*Matthew 19:19*) We can’t truly love ourselves until we see how much God loves us! A daily encounter with the love of God activates true love for ourselves!
3. **Loving God Back in Worship** – First commandment living is where all true personal relationships start! (*Matthew 22:37-39*) To love the Lord our God with all of our heart, soul and mind opens the door to all healthy relationships! Intimacy is activated through the open door of a personal worship life! (*John 4:23*)
4. **Loving Others Who Are Close To You** – With most ministers, maintaining personal renewal between family time and ministry time is critical. All would agree that God created the family before the church! However, by experience we short change quality time with our real family for the sake of the needs of our “church” family. A married couple’s love for each other comes before the children. A child’s time with the parents comes before a live-in guest in the home. For singles, honoring and obeying parents in faith comes before personal friendships!
5. **Being Diligent At Your “Job”** – We all have jobs! A workman is worthy of his hire! For some ministers a secondary job provides a wonderful benefit to help with the needs and love for the family life. The Bible encourages us to work “as servants of Christ... Doing the will of God from the heart!” (*Ephesians 6:5-9*) The Word continues by saying, “if you don’t work, you don’t eat!” (*1 Thessalonians 3:6-15*) We are to provide for our family’s needs and have enough to help others in need. (*Ephesians 4:28, Acts 20:35, 1 Timothy 5:3-16*)
6. **Establish Strong Christian Friendships** – One of the most exciting Christian priorities that promote personal renewal is establishing strong Christian friendships. You can start by going to your local ministers’ prayer fellowships and starting from there. This is a higher priority than your personal ministry. Why? Because “iron not only

sharpens iron!" A little correction will expose the blind sides of our personality! The Holy Spirit sends God's Word through others to strengthen us! We need this strength! (*Matthew 18:19,20*) We need help! (*Eccl. 4:9*) We need care! (*Psalms 142:4*) We need closeness! (*Proverbs 18:24*) We need correction! (*Proverbs 27:17*) We need intimacy! (*Proverbs 27:9*)

7. **Your Ministry To Others** – Last but not least is your ministry to others! Freely we have received, now we can freely give! Since our ministerial priorities are in order, we will not be worn out by the cares and conflicts of the ministry! We will be built up in the love of God, supported by family and friends and be refreshed and renewed to minister to those around us!

(The simple teaching of the 7 point personal priorities of life and ministry is available in expanded form at no cost in tape or in written form by written request to PMA, PO Box 7702, York, PA 17404 / Phone#717-792-5354)

Clear Biblical Accountability

“ACCOUNTABILITY” - Webster’s Dictionary

This word comes from an old French word which means “to tell.” We are to have the capability to explain our values and to be responsible for our personal actions.

To Be Accountable also Involves Transparency

“TRANSPARENCY” – Webster’s Dictionary

The act of being without guilt or concealment. To be sincere, open, frank, and candid with truth.

For many ministers, it has been difficult to connect in healthy ministerial relationships due to the fact they have learned to be vague and quiet with their personal lives to the public.

Rightfully so! We have all lived in our ministerial glass houses. Some stones that have been thrown at us have shattered our ability to be transparent!

Transparency is the key to helping develop strong relationships and when the elements of praying together and for one another is established, the result is that divine appointments become divine connections.

“CONNECTION” – Webster’s Dictionary

A common union between two parties that binds them together for a dynamic purpose. A family tie that unites, supports, and communicates ideas, favor and resources.

Recognizing five-fold ministry gifts with proven character and ability to equip county churches with strong territorial purpose will carry the kingdom of God forward.

Another vital connection is kingdom business along with a unique group of people gifted to serve within private and government institutions. For example, military, police, chaplains, widows, etc. which all need fellowship and purpose. In this way, when several can serve together the impact is greater.

Acts 6:3 “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”

(I encourage you to listen to the tape series *Receiving your Appointment.*)

Unity

Unity at all costs! Ministers are praying together all over the world desiring to see unity!

John 17:22-23 “I have given to them the glory and honor which You have given Me, that they may be one [even] as We are one: I in them and You in Me, in order that they may become one and perfectly united, that the world may know and [definitely] recognize that You sent Me and that You have loved them [even] as You have loved Me.”

Psalms 133:1-3 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down on the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down on the edge of his garments. It is like the dew of Hermon, descending upon the mountains of Zion; for there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.”

Remember Satan’s goal is division!

Matt 26:31 “Then Jesus said to them, “All of you will be made to stumble because of Me this night, for it is written: ‘I will strike the Shepherd, And the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ”

1 John 3:16-23 *“By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has this world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him? My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”*

Philippians 2:1-4 *“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”*

We encourage you to gather in united prayer!

Mobilized to Evangelize

In Ted Haggard's Christian bestseller, *Primary Purpose*, a striking trend is noted among ministers who pray together. He states, “We have learned that if we will be respectful and open and at the same time focus on our primary purpose (evangelism), the gospel message can be communicated without other issues getting in the way.” These ministers in the state of Colorado now have a proven track record of success! They have teamed together in their evangelistic efforts to “stop looking at the ways that they were different and started to function in the ways that they were alike” as evangelists. They found secret to mobilize...to evangelize!

“MOBILIZE” – Webster's Dictionary

To make moveable and place in circulation or use to bring into readiness for immediate active service for war. To organize people or resources in order to respond to the current needs or conditions.

Cultivate a heart for the lost!

(I encourage you to order the tape series *Soul Winning First!*)

Revival

Revival (Hebrides Revival, 1949) – A quote from Evan Duncan Campbell, “A revival is where God sweeps into a humble place and moves it out of the realm of the common and natural and into the realm of the supernatural. Through it, the forces of darkness are turned back, the gospel shines forth and mankind is transformed.”

A.W. Tozer said, “No revival without reformation.” (Please note page 23 – Apostolic Perspective on Reformation.)

In a true work of God, there is always something to do and something to know. The two conditions of true unity are common understanding and common unselfishness. Wisdom and love-if we want revival, we need both.

In Winkie Pratney’s book, “Revival, Its Principles and Personalities,” he says, “And how do we deal with areas of doctrinal disagreement? Some truths are without question fundamental; others are not as central to awakening as we might believe. God reserves the right to use people you do not agree with. Revival has come even when Christians disagree. We are to love God and each other until we “come to the unity of the faith.” Jesus said, “If any man will do His will-he shall know the doctrine...” (*John 7:17*) Obedience must precede understanding; we can love even when we cannot fully see. Revival begins with our crying out for a genuine love for Christ and a servant’s heart, to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” Get our hearts right with God first and He will help us get right with our brother. Pianos tuned to the same tuning fork will also be tuned to one another. From such a true commitment to His Lordship, differences can be accommodated and distinctions maintained without hurtful division. Brothers in the same family may not always agree, but they must not forget they are still brothers. Those true to Him will not hate each other. And that commonality of affection and convictions sets the stage for His entry.

Learn to Change!

“CHANGE” – Webster’s Dictionary

The act or process of making something distinctly different and implies a radical transmutation of character. To convert something by altering its nature to suit a new function. To transform by substitution.

We must first be transformed to effectively bring about change in our communities.

Romans 12:1-2 “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

“TRANSFORMED” – Defined in 1828 in Webster’s Dictionary as metamorphosis, transmutation. In theology, a change of heart in a man, by which his disposition and temper are conformed to the divine image, a change from enmity to holiness and love.

Isaiah 52:8 “Your watchmen shall lift up their voices, With their voices they shall sing together; For they shall see eye to eye When the LORD brings back Zion.”

Primary Purpose: Souls

1. To establish Apostolic five-fold vision in local churches.
2. To train Presbyters on how to launch apostolic teams.
3. To draw on a multitude of apostolic teams for global vision as in mass crusades, stadium ministry, etc.
4. To network all forms of ministry relationships including networking kingdom business to strengthen all areas of ministry for mass salvations.
5. **To develop, train and send out multi-faceted giftings and callings.**

II. VISIONARY PURPOSE

To bring together individual ministers, ministries, kingdom organizations and church communities to establish presbytery and apostolic teams for global transformation and reformation. (Please see the five pillar visionary structure which follows.)

Proof:

2 Cor 12:12 " *Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.*"

I am an emissary – signs, wonders, and miracles – were done in your presence with great patience.

Supernatural Salvations:

Acts 10:44--46 " *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*"

Original Revelation: To empower, implement and develop vision and purpose for God's miraculous work.

Gal 1:11-12 " *But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*"

Apostles Doctrine:

Acts 2:42 " *And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.*"

Wise Master Builders: To gather apostolic graces for challenge, support, encouragement, nurturing, and activation, to implement effective apostolic power bases for kingdom fulfillment!

1 Cor 3:9-10 " *For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God, which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.*"

Ephesians 4:16 " *from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*"

Development of Supernatural Training Centers: To interconnect ministry gifts with the emphasis on empowering all avenues of ministry. Signs and wonders follow them that believe. Stephen, a disciple, was appointed to help ministry, but under apostolic government, signs and wonders flourished in his life.

Acts 6:3-8,10 *"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke."*

Saul connected himself with prophets and began to prophesy with them. He was turned into another man:

1 Sam 10:6-8 *"Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you."*

Provide Apostolic Oversight: To provide counsel, insight, accountability, aid, input, effective management to organizations and ministries. As Paul said in

Titus 1:5-9: *"For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you—if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict."*

Fathers and Sons:

I Cor 4:15-17 *"For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me. For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church."*

Networking of the Family:

- A place of gathering at key central power bases.
- Hospitality, rest, relaxation, family time, restoration, etc.
- Conferences for reactivation: demonstration, impartation, saturation, manifestation
- Recognize leading appointments, assignments, and visionary focus
- Building kingdom mindset into people
- To recognize, establish and validate for license and ordination purposes
- Equip and release those who are "Called to Call."

Eph 4:15-16 *"but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ.... from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."*

Networking Kingdom Businesses

1. Primary purpose is to advance Kingdom purposes; by providing a resource center for and alternative economic system to aid the transfer of wealth into the Kingdom of God.
2. Define and role model the Endtime Anointings as for example in King Cyrus.
3. Develop and encourage a finishing mentality in line with prophetic purposes.
4. Assist emerging business networks through the global five pillar visionary structure with counsel to assist effective management growth in all areas.
5. Establish clear connection and relatability between the king's anointing and the priestly anointing and the combination of both.
6. Impart visionary purpose and revelation concerning a kingdom mentality into the business of the last days!

(Ask about the soon to be released "Kingdom Business Manual")

Guidelines

1. A clear visionary statement established on Godly spiritual principles should be established through the organizational structure, which includes all relational aspects, training, and developmental aspects.
2. Financial integrity that is above reproach.
3. Committed to kingdom financing.
4. A clear understanding of submission and authority with the local church.
5. A clear commitment, responsibility and accountability to the reformation movement in line with Apostolic Oversight.
6. One year assessment period!

Visionary
Structure
Goes
HERE

III. THE APOSTOLIC VISION

" I PRESS TOWARD THE GOAL FOR THE PRIZE OF THE UPWARD CALL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS." PHIL 3:14

Ephesians 2:20-21 *"Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone."*

Ephesians 3:5 *"Which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets."*

(Note that the Revelation came to holy Apostles and Prophets.)

Five-fold ministry gifts are not above other parts of the body. They are merely different in function. With the apostolic is great vision for birthing churches and laying foundations. Prophets greatly assist by prophesying the vision into existence. Teachers expound upon God's Word line upon line. Pastors continue to encourage and lead the people. Evangelists are released to minister to the people locally and globally.

I would like to share with you six points of Apostolic Vision that I heard from Apostle Dr. Andre Pelsar of South Africa.

1. To establish one vision for every city.
2. To bring the body of Christ into unity of faith.
3. To develop all the churches where Jesus is acknowledged as Head of the church to their maximum potential.
4. To establish every church in its proper function by defining its own mission statement to fit in with the rest of the body of Christ in the whole city.
5. To bring recognition to the apostles, prophets, evangelists, teachers and administrators as well as pastors and elders in the city without forming another committee, but by basing the work on relationships and fellowship in Christ.
6. To unify the efforts of each church into one purpose to have the maximum impact on the city, not as one church with one name, not as a denomination, but as the true body of Christ: different members having different functions, yet all united under the leadership of Christ and led by the Holy Ghost to bring glory to the Father.

Once cities have been set in order, the provinces and the nation can come under the headship of Christ. Only the Spirit of God can do this. He works through the apostles. Once nations have come under the Lordship of Christ, (all the believers in that nation, all the churches that truly acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord) only then will nations be brought together in unity and the stage will be set to hand over the entire global body of Christ to the Lord of Lords and King of Kings. This is the ultimate end of the apostolic vision in a city, in a nation, and in the world today.

John 17:21 *”Jesus said, “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.”*

IV. APOSTOLIC PERSPECTIVE - REFORMATION

There is a great call for churches birthed by the genuine call of God that is wrapped around a supernatural experience with God. I am talking about reformation. Roberts Liardon describes several keys to reformation in his book, ***The Spirit of Reformation***. He describes going to John Knox's statue and reading the following statement, "*The reformation that John Knox began started a spiritual revolution in the heart of man.*" Roberts Liardon says the Holy Spirit spoke to his heart and said, "The word reformation describes what I want to do in the earth, better than the word revival." Martin Luther, John Wesley and George Whitefield are just a few people that God used to bring about reformation in times past, changing the spiritual climate and cultures. While holding revival meetings in York, Pennsylvania, a pastor came to me and said, "I see you as a huge ice breaker, cutting through the ice for other ships to follow." We need reformation!

My personal definition of reformation is a progressive release of revelation designed to re-establish the community and government order, that it may corporately demonstrate the image of God through the gospel of Christ.

We have to move in the NOW timing of the Spirit. I have heard the statement many times: "We want an old fashioned revival"; however, this terminology does not have what is required to produce a kingdom-now mentality concerning reformation. All across America and around the world people are speaking of the

third day.

Jesus said in *John 2:19*, "Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." In this scripture, Jesus is speaking of raising up the body. *Hosea 6:2*, "After two days, He will revive us; on the third day, He will raise us up, that we may live in His sight." I believe that more than a third-day reformation mindset is rising. I believe revelation concerning resurrection's power within the entire being is rising and will continue to rise.

We are moving into a greater understanding of the mind of Christ.

Ephesians 1:10: "*that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times, He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth-in Him.*"

Prophetic foresight

Notice what Tertullus says to Felix in *Acts 24:2*, "And when he was called upon, Tertullus began his accusation saying: "Seeing that through you we enjoy great peace and prosperity is being brought to this nation by your foresight." Foresight is the ability to see ahead and understand the conditions of the future ensuring accurate actions that will have an effect.

Present actions become powerful when linked to the future reality. Prophetic insight gives thrust to apostolic acts, viewing the finish in the spirit providing motivation in the present. This is why I speak of "Establishing an Apostolic Power Base." This prophetic insight provides a platform to effectively invade the future to unfold God's purpose for this now generation.

***REVIVAL* can be defined as divine intervention in the normal course of spiritual things, but "*REFORMATION*" establishes a new order out of divine arrangement.**

(I encourage you to order the tapes, "Spiritual Military Strategies" and "Receiving Your Appointment." Both tapes are strategic in receiving the understanding of impartation and taking regions.)

V. IMPLEMENTATION

KEY STRATEGIES FOR CENTRAL OPERATIONS

1. Apostolic Authority to provide:
 - A. An avenue of continual wisdom
 - B. Ministerial protection, communication, prayer, etc.
 - C. Network and facilitate the outworking of multiple visions connected to the 5-Pillar Visionary Structure.
2. Establish a global strategic command center:
 - A. To manage new, God-ordained, visionary structures.
 - B. To aid the development of new networks, etc.
3. Gathering of the Apostolic
 - A. To facilitate covenant interaction
 - B. To develop interpersonal relationships which will:
 - 1) Facilitate greater trust and friendship
 - 2) Facilitate transparent, effective intercommunication
 - 3) Aid effective network decisions to increase the Kingdom of God

CENTRAL POWER BASES

1. There will be a clearly-defined center of strength with apostolic oversight within the parameters of a presbytery team.
2. Correct Godly authority with revelation strength and doctrinal soundness, according to apostolic patterns which will fuel outward influences for the entire five-pillar visionary structure.
3. To provide a center (per Jerusalem) for governmental strength and apostolic reference. (Note: *Acts 15*. Key decisions were reached in Jerusalem and relationship integrity was maintained.), i.e.:

Acts 15:35 "Paul and Barnabas also remained in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others, also."

Acts 15:40-41 "but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. And he went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches."

4. To establish satellite power base structures for the implementation of presbytery teams, i.e.:
 - A. Antioch also provided headquarters for Paul and Barnabas as in *Acts 14:23-28* and *Acts 18:22*:

Acts 14:23-28: *“So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. And after they had passed through Pisidia, they came to Pamphylia. Now when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia. From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. So they stayed there a long time with the disciples.”*

Acts 18:22 *“And when he had landed at Caesarea, and gone up and greeted the church, he went down to Antioch.”*

B. Ephesus became a great base later on for the Apostle John.

Light of Glory Apostolic Base (Jerusalem) is strategically located to bring millions in globally for further training and equipping.

CHURCH PLANTING

Church planting isn't just an automatic alternative open to a pastor or for someone who is looking for a way to begin. Planting a healthy church requires more than just following a manual. If God is motivating you to plant a church, then obey Him. Don't try to plant a church unless the Lord has called you to do so. Your efforts will be fruitless if the churches are not birthed totally out of the direction and love of God.

Acts 16:9-10 (MSG) *“That night Paul had a dream: A Macedonian stood on the far shore and called across the sea, ‘Come over to Macedonia and help us!’ The dream gave Paul his map. We went to work at once getting things ready to cross over to Macedonia. All the pieces had come together. We knew now for sure that God had called us to preach the good news to the Europeans.”*

When called to plant a church, the Spirit of God will also call the planting pastor to a community or geographical area. Be zealous to plant that new church! Make sure you are called to plant a church in that particular community so that the project doesn't end in frustration and failure.

Church planters and the people they gather around them should have a **pioneer spirit**. These people are willing to begin without the comforts and conveniences provided and, in fact, demanded by most churchgoers at established churches. These pioneers are willing to overlook the fact that maybe the nursery is set up in a hallway, and that the parking lot is located a little farther from the meeting place than is ideal. They enjoy meeting in other unique places, and they are given to hospitality themselves. The fact that the new church does not have a very large youth group doesn't send

them packing, but it tells them they need to make up the difference for their teenagers in personal attention and alternative solutions.

The pioneers who establish new churches are people who are willing to accept hardships for the joy of knowing they are participating in establishing a heritage for future generations (*Hebrews 12:2-3*). Pioneers carry in their hearts a great passion for those who don't know the Lord.

The following are criteria' for church planters:

Commitment A high level of self-esteem A friendly person A supportive spouse (if married) A capacity to visualize A self-starter Solid faith	Flexible/Adaptable Called to plant Committed to developing people in their growth A positive relationship with ASN leadership A willingness and ability to lead Responsiveness to the community
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The Lord Jesus alone calls and anoints. We must learn to recognize the anointing of the Holy Spirit in people's lives so we can assist them in this church planting process to our communities. *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."* **Psalm 127:1**

Matthew 28:18-20 (MSG) *"Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave His charge: 'God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age.'"*

Why do we plant churches? We plant churches because it is an appropriate response to the Great Commission.

The local church must become reproducible through a process of intentional church planting so that an ever-growing number of people can be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This process is effectively served through the multiplication of churches.

The New Testament church under the leadership and power of the Holy Spirit was an aggressive church-planting movement. It was the Holy Spirit who empowered the early believers to become powerful witnesses of Jesus. It was the Holy Spirit who enabled the disbursed Jerusalem church, running for their lives, to preach and teach the Good News and establish churches all over Judea and Samaria. It was the Holy Spirit who directed the church at Antioch to set apart Paul and Barnabas for the task of planting churches across the then-known world.

It was the Holy Spirit who enabled Paul to preach the Gospel and leave churches established wherever he went. While in Ephesus, Paul taught and encouraged others to plant churches throughout Asia Minor. R.K. Blake of the Wesleyan Church said, "The Holy Spirit empowered church has but one norm – plant more churches." Donald McGavran, considered by many to be the father of the modern church growth movement, said, "If God's plan for the salvation of the world is to be carried out, a mighty multiplication of living congregations must occur." I heard the Holy Spirit speak through Tommy Barnett that the multiplication anointing is being released within churches to grow and expand.

Church planting is a natural way for the Kingdom of God to be extended. Dr. C. Peter Wagner suggests four categories of growth in the Christian movement: Internal Growth, Expansion Growth, Extension Growth, and Bridging Growth. Church planting facilitates all four types of growth:

Internal Growth: *2 Pet. 3:18; Eph. 3:17; 1 Thes. 3:12; 2 Pet. 1:5*
 Expansion Growth: *Acts 1:15; 2:41; 2:47; 4:4; 5:14, 6:7*
 Extension Growth: *Acts 8:1; 9:31; 9:35*
 Bridging Growth: *Acts 8:1; 10:1; 13:3-6; 13:13-14*

Church Planting is a natural development of the process of biblical discipleship. Whenever men and women are developed and released into ministry, the desire to be sent out will naturally follow. It will be the natural desire to reproduce the church that has nurtured and trained them. Church planting facilitates this process while expanding the Kingdom of God and advancing the harvest of souls.

Clarifying Your Church Planting Vision

Isaiah 33:6a *“And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times...”*

Once we have the knowledge that God desires that we plant a church, we need to pursue wisdom on how to start. The Scriptures promise stability if we follow His method. It is more important to know where and how you're going, than to see how fast you can get there. The following steps will help you see clearly and remain focused.

FIRST STEP: DEVELOP A PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY. A philosophy is the reason why you do something the way you do it. It's a conviction, a deeply felt value, which becomes the motor driving your actions in a certain way and certain direction. A philosophy of ministry is a formulated set of convictions that explain the reason why you do what you do. To articulate your philosophy of ministry, answer the following questions about your ministry convictions:

1. What is your ultimate goal in ministry?

2. What are the three most important verses or passages of Scriptures that bring you to that goal?
3. How do you plan to accomplish your goal?

SECOND STEP: LIST YOUR CORE VALUES TO THE ANSWERS OF THE ABOVE QUESTIONS. Core values are non-negotiable convictions. They simply must be part of whatever you preside over as a pastor. Leading a church family that did not embrace these values would be very difficult, if not impossible. Often our values and convictions are hidden within us. There is a great value to writing a philosophy of ministry. It will force you to carefully think through what you believe about the church and to develop an intentional and articulated plan that will be implemented in your congregation.

THIRD STEP: USE YOUR PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY AND CORE VALUES TO WRITE A "MISSION STATEMENT." A mission statement is a concisely worded statement that defines the purpose of the new church's existence. Over the years to come, this brief statement will become a valuable tool in uniting the congregation and by focusing on this statement, will know the reason of their existence.

The following factors should be considered in the formation of a mission statement:

1. What do you really believe in?
2. What do you feel called to accomplish?
3. What are the opportunities and needs around you?

Now that you have carefully thought through these factors, it is time to write a distinctive (easy to remember, quick to grasp) statement that summarizes the new church's mission. Remember that a mission statement is not a personal statement of your calling, and it is not a doctrinal statement. It is a statement that crystallizes in the hearers' hearts and minds what the new church is about.

FINAL STEP: COMMUNICATE THE VISION. Write out the vision in detail as the Lord has given it to you in a style that will be presentable to those who will be partners with you in ministry.

Habbakuk 2:2 says, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that reads it."

Time spent in prayer and formation of the above information is critical. It will be placed in the hands of people from every walk of life and every degree of interest in the church that you are planting.

SMALL GROUPS

In America today, you can easily remove yourself from the interaction of daily life. Instead of pumping gas and paying the attendant, you can avoid confrontation with a human by using your credit card at the pump. No longer do you have to go to the bank; just drop off your deposit at the ATM machine. Need to buy something, watch QVC. Instead of going to the office, you can office at home now. Living in our own little world, this trend is called "cocooning."

Despite the "convenience" of this lifestyle, it creates a problem because it ignores one of man's basic needs. From the beginning, God designed us to need one another as He needs us. As the world moves toward isolation, the church has an opportunity to meet this need for community. One method of supplying community is small groups (cell groups, care groups, support groups, etc.).

The following can be achieved through small groups:

1. Small groups are so common in North American culture that people are less threatened when invited to attend one than when invited to attend church.
2. Small groups give people a convenient way to express spiritual caring for each other.
3. Small groups have power to develop Christian leaders.
4. Serving as a group leader makes a Christian grow spiritually.
5. Belonging to a group makes believers accountable regarding their spiritual growth.
6. Small groups, when genuinely open to newcomers, make prospects feel welcomed.
7. People sometimes attend a small group before they attend a church service.
8. Small groups provide prayer support for individual needs.
9. Preparation for weekly training sessions for leaders makes a pastor more alert to his spiritual opportunities while providing an effective way to delegate pastoral functions to responsible lay leaders.
10. Small groups encourage a special kind of participation that never happens in public services. The vacuum created by cocooning will result in an increasing thirst for community and interpersonal connections. This will be a golden opportunity for churches.

The key is to FOCUS ON BUILDING PEOPLE IN CHRIST rather than programs.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS

As the scriptures below indicate, it is imperative that we go into all the world and make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen*

Mark 16:15-16 *“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

The most effective way to do this is to:

- Train
- Equip
- Send

Acts 5:42 *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.”*

Accountability is necessary for success! Covenant relationship is essential in order to advance the gospel of the Kingdom
F→O→R→W→A→R→D→

Covenant Partners with Apostolic Sword Network (ASN) purpose to:

1. Pray for one another daily:

Ephesians 4:15-16 *“from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*

2. Submit to accountability of our personal conduct.
3. Submit a written monthly report to the ASN office (see the Forms section at the end of this manual)
4. Meet several times with ASN Leadership to review progress concerning what God is doing in our lives.

Proverbs 15:22 *“Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.”*

VI. THE POWER OF CORPORATE FASTING

Should I wait for God to lay a fast burden upon me? No, not necessarily, for the simple reason that if we waited for God to lay a fasting burden upon us, there probably would be no fasting, or very little. Fasting is like prayer. We pray when there is a need, without waiting for a burden of prayer. We should also fast where there is a need and because it is our Christian duty. In Mark 2:20, Jesus has already laid a fast upon us in these words, *"Then shall they fast in those days."* We have been too busy with "much serving" as ministers and have missed the power for the highest service. We have failed to follow Paul in his fasting as he has invited us to do when he says, *"Walk as you have us for an example;"* surely since he was *"in fasting often"* this is included in the example.

2 Corinthians 11:23 Paul says, *"In weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, in cold and nakedness."*

Paul distinguishes being without water in his hunger and fasting, which is doing without food only, but not without the drinking of water. **Fasting is the secret of power.**

There are three highly developed spiritual giants in the Bible who fasted for the length of forty days.

I. First and foremost is Jesus

Matthew 4:1-11 *"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.'" But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.' Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you, 'and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.' Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.*

Jesus was tempted in three ways:

1. In the flesh
 - a. Hunger – stones to bread
 2. In soul
 - a. Pride, etc. – challenges who He is in His will
 3. In the spirit
 - a. Spiritual perception – offered the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time (that's supernatural)
- Some define the temptations as:
- a. Lust of the flesh
 - b. Lust of the eyes
 - c. Pride of life

Now concerning the temptation of hunger:

1. Adam lost dominion because of food. Fasting restores dominion.
2. Esau lost his birthright over a bowl of porridge.

There are four things necessary to life. The first is air. The second is water. The third is sleep. The fourth is food.

Fasting harnesses the flesh so the spirit can operate. We are told the reason for His fast, but in chapter seventeen, Jesus explains the fast. The great revelation of why He fasted was shown when He healed this lunatic boy and answered the question that the disciples asked Him *"Why could not we cast him out?"* Jesus told the disciples. *"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."* Matthew 17:21

II. The second one is Moses,

Exodus 34:28 *"So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he neither ate bread nor drank water. And He wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments".*

III. The third one is Elijah.

It is interesting to note that when the Apostle James wanted to select a man who was an example of *"effectual fervent prayer"* he chose Elijah, a man who could go for forty days without eating. Fasting produces the ultimate shutdown of the flesh and prayer produces the ultimate release of the spirit, which equals miracle faith. Below are several examples of fasting in the Bible and the results produced by the fast.

Let's look at Biblical examples of corporate fasting:

- In the following verses we see Jehoshaphat facing overwhelming odds:

2 Chronicles 20:1-2 *“It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” (which is En Gedi).”*

Instead of allowing fear to take root, look at how he dealt with the situation:

2 Chronicles 20:3 *“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.”*

Jehoshaphat reminded the Lord of His covenant promises and as a result of the corporate fast a prophetic word was released.

2 Chronicles 20:16-17 *“Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. ‘You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the LORD, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem! Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the LORD is with you.”*

Another benefit of the corporate fast—the Lord delivered them out of the enemy’s hands:

2 Chronicles 20:24-27 *“So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped. When Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away their spoil, they found among them an abundance of valuables on the dead bodies, and precious jewelry, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away; and they were three days gathering the spoil because there was so much. And on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berachah, for there they blessed the LORD; therefore the name of that place was called The Valley of Berachah until this day. Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, with Jehoshaphat in front of them, to go back to Jerusalem with joy, for the LORD had made them rejoice over their enemies.”*

The word Berachah speaks of blessing. The Lord not only delivered them out of the hand of the enemy but also caused them to reap where they had not sown.

Great fear came upon all the surrounding kingdoms when they heard what happened with Jehoshaphat:

2 Chronicles 20:29 *“And the fear of God was on all the kingdoms of those countries when they heard that the LORD had fought against the enemies of Israel.”*

Ezra gathered the nation for a corporate fast.

Ezra 8:21-23 *“Then I proclaimed a fast there at the river of Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from Him the right way for us and our little ones and all our possessions. For I was ashamed to request of the king an escort of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy on the road, because we had spoken to the king, saying, “The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.” So we fasted and entreated our God for this, and He answered our prayer.” Esther gathered the nation for a three-day corporate fast.*

Esther 4:16 *“Go, gather all the Jews who are present in Shushan, and fast for me; neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. My maids and I will fast likewise. And so I will go to the king, which is against the law; and if I perish, I perish!”*

As a result of the corporate fast, Esther gained favor with the king.

Ester 5:1,2 *“Now it happened on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king’s palace, across from the king’s house, while the king sat on his royal throne in the royal house, facing the entrance of the house. So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.”*

- Joel gathered all the inhabitants of the land and proclaimed a corporate fast.

Joel 1:14 *“Consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly; gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land into the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD.”*

In Joel 2:15 we see that a fast is connected with a sacred assembly.

“Blow the trumpet in Zion, consecrate a fast, call a sacred assembly;”

- The entire city of Ninevah proclaimed a corporate fast and, as a result, stopped the judgment of God.

Jonah 3:5,10 *“So the people of Nineveh believed God, proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them “Then God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God relented from the disaster that He had said He would bring upon them, and He did not do it.”*

- *Zechariah 8:19* speaks of different corporate fasts.

“Thus says the LORD of hosts: ‘The fast of the fourth month, the fast of the fifth, the fast of the seventh, and the fast of the tenth, shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts for the house of Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.’”

- *Isaiah 58:6,7* gives us the reasons to fast and tells us to give the money that we don’t use for food to the poor.

“Is this not the fast that I have chosen: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, to let the oppressed go free, and that you break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and that you bring to your house the poor who are cast out; when you see the naked, that you cover him, and not hide yourself from your own flesh?”

Notice that another result of fasting is health springing forth speedily.

- In *Judges 20* we see the result of Gibeah’s crime from *Judges 19:22-30*. In chapter 20 we see Israel’s war with the Benjamites. They failed twice even though they had a yes from the Lord. But in *Judges 20:26-27* a corporate fast was declared and as a result they were now prepared to obey the command of the Lord and won the battle.
- In *I Samuel 7:5-6*, Samuel declares a corporate fast for atonement.
- Nehemiah fasted and prayed when he heard the walls of Jerusalem were torn down.

Nehemiah 1:4 “So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days; I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven.”

- *Acts 13:2,3* the Apostolic team corporately fasted and prayed before sending out anyone in ministry.

“As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. “Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.”

- The last great example of fasting is David. The Psalms are filled with promises and blessings for believers. They are a product of prayer and fasting. The utterances in the Psalms are not exaggerations. Only in higher realms of receptivity made possible by prayer and fasting, is this soul able to receive such revelations as *Psalms 35:13, 69:10, 78:18-32, 107:17-18, 109:22-26 and 2 Samuel 12:16-23.*

David sought God in long fasts; in fact he fasted so long at times that he looked like a skeleton.

Psalm 109:23-25 “I am gone like a shadow when it lengthens; I am shaken off like a locust. My knees are weak through fasting, and my flesh is feeble from lack of fatness. I also have become a reproach to them; when they look at me, they shake their heads.

So much fat was lost that he actually became a reproach to look at; his friends and neighbors shook their heads. No doubt some ceased to be his friends and began criticizing; this is just what happens today when an individual seeks God long enough in fasting and prayer. Some people say we should always go into the desert or wilderness to fast, like Moses and Christ. That is good, but here is an instance in which David did not care who saw him. This fast is also prophetic of Christ’s forty day fast. David must have fasted forty days or longer to have lost so much weight.

David said in *Psalm 35:13*

“I humbled my soul with fasting and my prayer returned into my bosom.”

If one wishes to hasten the effects of fasting at the beginning, a saltwater flush can be used to flush out the colon. (This should not be used after the first several days) To one quart of hot water, add two level teaspoons of salt and drink. This may be done at any other time on an empty stomach, when not fasting for cleansing purposes. To avoid cramps in the stomach and some other unpleasantness, hot or warm water should be drunk instead of cold water, unless the cold water is taken very slowly. Water drinking is a must, during a fast. Drink at least six glasses of water daily or enough to satisfy a thirst.

I highly recommend Dr Franklin Hall’s books on fasting. In his book ***Atomic Power with God with Fasting and Prayer***, Dr Hall speaks of people who were under weight fasting and weeks later their weight was restored to normal. He speaks of the power of fasting breaking the powers of unbelief. He also gives testimonies of people fasting that had hair loss and as a result of the fast their hair grew back.

VII. APOSTOLIC SWORD NETWORK STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, the product of the holy men of old who spoke and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The New Covenant, as recorded in the New Testament, we accept as our infallible guide in matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine. (*2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21, 1 Thess 2:13*)

2. The One True Godhead

The Triune Godhead is comprised of three separate and distinct persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are eternally self-existent, self-revealed and function as one entity. Jesus Christ, who is God manifested in the flesh, is the second member of the Godhead, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

3. Man: His Fall and Redemption

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "*Let Us make man in Our Image, after Our likeness.*" But man, through his voluntary transgression, fell and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. (*Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-21*)

4. The Salvation of Man

a) Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. On the cross, Jesus Christ became sin and sickness, providing both salvation and divine healing for all mankind (*Psalms 103:3*), being justified freely by His grace through faith.

Romans 3:24, Ephesians 2:8, Romans 10:9-10 "*Thy Word is nigh thee, even in Thy mouth, and in Thy heart: that is the word of faith, which we preach; That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart man believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*"

b) The Evidence of Salvation. The inward evidence to the believer of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (*Romans 8:16*). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness:

I John 3:23 "*And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as He commanded us.*"

c) Faith and Works. Salvation is by faith in Jesus Christ and not by human works. However, our works will determine the rewards in eternity. (*Acts 16:3; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, Romans 14:10-12 and 2 Cor. 5:10*)

5. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed as commanded in the Scriptures by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord.

In so doing, they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. (*Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48, Romans 6:4*)

6. The Lord's Supper

I Corinthians 11:24, 25, 28 *“And when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way also the cup, when He had supped, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.’ Let a man examine himself and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”*

The Promise of the Father

All believers are entitled to, should ardently expect, and earnestly seek the promise of the Father: the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. (*Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-8, I Cor. 12:1-31*)

This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. (*Acts 2:38; 10:44-46, 11:14-16, 15:7-9*)

7. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The full consummation of the Baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is evidenced by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and by the subsequent manifestation of spiritual power in public testimony and service. (*Acts 2:4, 10:44-46, 19:2-6, 1:8*)

8. The Church

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission.

Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the first born, which is written in Heaven. (*Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22, Hebrews 12:23*)

9. Total Prosperity

Spiritual:	John 3:3, 11; 2 Cor. 5:17-21 Romans 10:9-10
Mental:	2 Tim. 1:7, Romans 12:2, Isaiah 26:3
Physical:	Isaiah 53:4-5, Matt. 8:17, I Peter 2:24
Financial:	3 John 1:2, Malachi 3:10-11, Luke 6:38 2 Cor. 9:6-10, Deut 28:1-14
Social:	Proverbs 3:4

10. Blessed Hope & Resurrection of the Just

Jesus is coming again to gather all His Saints to Heaven. The angels said to Jesus' disciples,...

Acts 1:11, I Corinthians 15:51-54, I Thessalonians 4:16-17, 2 Thessalonians 2:1 *“the same Jesus...shall come in like manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.” His coming is imminent. When He comes, “...the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air...”*

12. The Lake of Fire

Those who have not accepted the redemptive work of Jesus Christ will suffer eternal separation from the Godhead. The devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet and anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. This is the second death, the lake of fire. (Rev. 19:20, 20:10-15)

13. The Millennial Reign of Jesus

The return of our Lord Jesus Christ, with His Saints from Heaven to rule and reign for one thousand years on earth as the Scriptures promise. (Romans 11:25, 27, 2 Thess 1:7, Rev. 19:11-16, 20:1-7)

After this, there shall be a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21)

VIII. ASN LEVELS/REQUIREMENTS OF ORDINATION/LICENSING

□ **Licensed/Ordained Ministers**

Requirements:

- Read 4 books from SMI & complete 2 page summary of information learned
- Complete ASN Application (see Forms section at the end of this manual)
- Sign the application stating that you have read and agree with the ASN Statement of Faith (Forms section)
- Have a Personal/Ministry Recommendation completed and returned to the ASN Office (Forms section) (Unless pre-approved by the directors of ASN)
- Complete Monthly Reports to ASN (Forms section)

□ **Ministers Not Yet Licensed or Ordained**

Requirements:

- Complete 20 Training Classes (Subject to previous training, experience)
- This can be done through video, correspondence or in-house training
- Complete 20 Assignments
- Read 4 books from SMI & complete a 2 page summary of information learned
- Complete the ASN Application (see Forms section at the end of this manual)
- Sign the application stating that you have read and agree with the ASN Statement of Faith (Forms section)
- Have a Personal/Ministry Recommendation completed and returned to the ASN Office (Forms section) unless pre-approved by Directors of A.S.N.
- Complete Monthly Reports to ASN (Forms section)

□ **Those Without Previous Biblical Education**

Requirements:

- * Complete the Correspondence Course
- * Complete 40 Training Classes at Supernatural Leadership Training Institute (20 weeks)
- * Complete 20 Assignments
- * Attend a minimum of 10 Revival Services
- * Complete the ASN Application (see Forms section at the end of this manual)
- * Sign the application stating that you have read and agree with the ASN Statement of Faith (Forms section)
- * Have a Personal/Ministry Recommendation completed and returned to the ASN Office (Forms section)
- * Complete Monthly Reports to ASN (Forms section)

□ **Evangelists**

Requirements:

- As per the above, plus
- Present the ASN Letter of Introduction to hosting pastors and request that at least one pastor per month complete the attached Ministerial Evaluation of Itinerant Ministers to the ASN office.

IX. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1. Question: What is the difference between Licensing & Ordination?

Answer: A License affirms your right, ability and accountability to minister to the public as a trained lay minister of the Gospel. An Ordination confirms your calling and faithfulness in ministry. It confirms your pursuit of the full-time ministry.

2. Question: What is a ministerial license used for?

Answer: A ministerial license in the State of Missouri is valid for performing marriages, funerals, entering ICU units at hospitals, prisons and gives ministerial credibility with most institutions & public functions

Commitment

Any believer can become a network member by paying a \$65 annual membership/license renewal fee and by sowing a monthly contribution into ASN. This amount is up to the individual and is considered an offering. As the networking relationship grows, we highly encourage you to tithe into the apostolic oversight that God is establishing through ASN or to your ministry association by divine connection. A minister who wants to be part of the network must first become a member (as above) and then determine whether he wants apostolic input and service in his church. This requires a free will monthly offering from the church itself. These contributions will build up a financial base for trans-local ministers to give input in churches. It will also facilitate monthly communications through newsletters and tapes. As the funds increase mortgages will become available for building churches or providing transport costs to attend vital conferences. Training will be made available through Apostolic Sword Network to all participating churches or other networks in association. It will be tapered to suit the requirements of each individual ministry, i.e. full time Bible Institute, part time or correspondence. The network can support joint ventures such as a national and international mission, etc.

May the God of heaven prosper us in this task of establishing a network and networks that will supply all the resources needed to strengthen ministerial fellowship: real brotherhood and true support and an opportunity to make a contribution to something greater than ourselves. Amen.

Partnership

Partnership is more than a decision—it's a call. My wife and I have asked God to "call" people to link together with the vision that God has given us for Sword Ministries. Your commitment to take a vibrant unlimited move of God to the nations multiplies our effectiveness and when any kind of victory is experienced due to our combined efforts as partners, everyone partakes in the blessings...this includes you!

As with any true spiritual partnership, you have every right to expect the anointing that comes from Jesus and flows through this ministry to be upon you and flow through you. As a network member with Sword Ministries, we commit to pray for you, send you newsletters, ministry updates and various seeds like tapes and videos to strengthen your Christian walk.

Foundation networking will begin with a bimonthly article entitled "Apostolic Perspective" for twelve months. You will also receive the seven tape series: "Establishing an Apostolic Power Base," one free thirty-minute video plus a questionnaire.