

Building Apostolically

Building your church, business or life outward

It is a word that sounds fairly complicated. Some in their over educated mind have tried to confuse it, others have tried to own it by naming themselves it or their church. But God simply wants us to outwork it by living it. Over the last 15 years I have endeavoured to do this. You can live and out work apostolically in every arena of life and every sphere of creation, business, arts, sports, medical. It can be best summed up in this quote:

"What makes people as being apostolic?" These people have an eternal call on their lives to enter into the spheres of creation their work engages, and begin to unearth the creation purpose of God for that sphere. They are given sight to see things that many others do not yet see. Yes they see in part, but something moves them towards the cry, into an inheritance they know is there for themselves and others. These people are groundbreakers and pioneers, combining truth with life and faith with work to see the inheritance gathered into the body of Christ.

In this move, they travail more than others, they are often not understood, and are called maverick and somewhat reckless. They often experience difficulty fitting into current church culture. They make mistakes for which others, who do not see, disqualify them. They are moved to ignite something, and are restless, vulnerable, strong-willed and weak. They are a mix that no one can quite sum up. One thing's for sure—to this day, they are mostly unaffirmed and unrecognised by pastors. James Thwaites

Barnabas

The person I find that outworked and lived what it means to be apostolic is Barnabas. He was a disciple from Cyprus and in many ways I see him as a businessman entrepreneur with a priestly call. The bible says he had a nick name of Son of encouragement. I believe he moved and released the early church into the apostolic. His life and nature moved the church beyond its boundaries of Jerusalem and into being missional, this causing

the multiplication effect.

What was it about his life that made him Apostolic?

He is only mentioned in the bible about six or seven times but his life and work had a profound effect on where the church ended up. Let's take a look:

1. Barnabas was generous

"Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet." Acts 4:36-37

Generosity is at the forefront of what it means to be apostolic without a generous and liberated life of giving, nothing advances.

You can see it clearly in Proverbs 11:24-25: *"One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."*

- **Give Freely** yet gain
- **Generous** will prosper
- **Refreshes** will be refreshed

It has the double fold effect of sowing and reaping that just moves everything forward. This is what releases the apostolic having a liberated spirit in all that you own. This is where the lordship of Jesus can truly work through this type of person. He was generous with his property, his money, his time, his reputation, his ministry, his success, that is why Barnabas' name kept living on and prospering through Paul and Mark whom he raised up and released.

But as for the couple mentioned in the verses straight after, Ananias and Saphira in Acts 5:10, they withheld and came to nothing. There is no mention of them and their work after verse 10. People who are stingy come to nothing, they never advance, move forward or break through. The verse in Luke says it well:

"Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much." Luke 16:10

This verse is right in the middle of Jesus speaking about reaching lost people. Over the years we have given much into missions locally, nationally and globally. The reason God has given us a voice and

influence on all of these levels we have given. One time we invested into a 1000 seater tent and truck and set up cost us over \$100,000.00. It cost us \$60,000.00 a year to run it. That investment allowed us to touch the nation and see thousands come to Christ, churches built up and planted, evangelists released that are still in ministry today. In the 6 years there were over 100 crusades conducted. Even now we are pouring thousands into serving and ministering to the needy of our community and God is giving an increasing influence in the city.

2. Barnabas was inclusive and not exclusive

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus." Acts 9:26-27

You think about it, if this was a business and Barnabas was on a commission he would have topped the sale that month and got the set of steak knives as well. What a person to embrace when everyone else didn't want to touch him. They didn't see the potential **but** Barnabas did. Who do you need to reach out to, embrace or connect to? Being apostolic is not just about embracing the same kind of people but being big enough to embrace others that are out there. I think of some of those I have embraced and included - the kingdom of God is bigger, richer and more flavoursome because of them that is certainly what happened with Paul in 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

3. Barnabas was a mover and shaker

"News of this reached the ears of the church at Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord." Acts 11:22-24

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He wasn't a sitter or stayer. He was willing to step into untrod territory to connect with a group of people that aren't being reached. He went to Antioch into an area the church were not reaching as he went he saw the grace of God working and moving them and he encouraged them. Being apostolic is about going boldly where no one has boldly gone before. Pioneering new horizons, breaking new ground.

It wasn't long after that in chapter 13 he was doing mission trips with Paul. At Life church we are continually looking for new opportunities to move into so that we can reach people that aren't presently being reached. A local restaurant owner phoned me last year. He said: "I've got another thing you should be working in—OzHarvest." which is simply collecting food from the restaurants, corporate functions and supermarkets and delivering it to the needy (local charities), so they can reduce their costs and put the money elsewhere, oh and it also reduces land gas emissions (so we've just gone green).

I said: "yes and we will work out the details later." We needed a refrigerated truck, a paid driver and some big supporters—well we have all this and today we are delivering up to approximately 2,500 meals a week and this is increasing all the time.

People phone me and say: "Kevin I want to plant a church will you help us?" I just say yes—four churches in the last five years who have been inspired and helped by Life Church and all we did was support, travel in and help give advice and send some money on occasions. What new territory are we going into and what new ground are we breaking?

4. Barnabas partnered with other key people.

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people. The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch." Acts 11:25-26

Apostolic partners are people who bring enlargement to the team. It is similar to No. 2 point but slightly different because one is embracing the other is incorporating or partnering. We are the sum total of all we place around us, hopefully making our sum total bigger and richer because of their involvement. Yes if you want to run faster, run alone but if you want to run further and more effective, run with others.

Who we partner with can actually sink us or sail us, so we need to be very discerning who we choose but at the same time we need to embrace, trust, believe in the potential of others as it will bless our world and enlarge our reach and effect.

5. Barnabas was a releaser

"As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath." Acts 13:42

It is obvious that there was a change in the roles of Paul and Barnabas as in the previous verses it always introduced them as Barnabas and Paul, but in verse 42 there was a role change. It was like Barnabas had said: "hey Paul it is obvious God is releasing you into bigger places and you need more freedom, and leadership and I need to step back. This is true apostolic leadership. You can always tell true apostolic leadership when the building or organization is up and running—the true apostle isn't sitting on the roof but he is in the foundations.

Who are you releasing into their call and gifting. One of the greatest joys to me has been releasing

many people into ministry, church planting and missions—business people, leaders of all kinds.

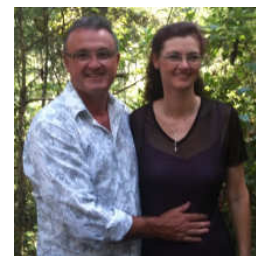
It doesn't matter if some have left wrongly or I upset them, because of our humanness. Paul and Barnabas didn't leave on the best of terms but he was released in to the greater call upon his life (Acts 15:36-41).

Who must you release into their call? I believe it was this act on Barnabas' side that moved the church from addition to multiplication, from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, from pastoral to apostolic, from church to being missional.

So:

- Be generous
- Be inclusive
- Be a mover and shaker
- Incorporate and
- Release

and what I am meaning in the word apostolic will be released in your sphere of influence.



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Follow Kevin on TWITTER
<http://twitter.com/KevinWilcock>
Or Facebook

Photos of Kevin in the process of making his Chambourcin Wine



Chambourcin Grapes



picking the vines



the stomping



and the tasting

KEVIN'S TRAVEL

- 24th to 27th March**
- 9th April**
- 12th May**
- 15th to 16th May**
- 28th to 29th May**

- Perth**
- Blue Mountains (The Father's House)**
- Brisbane (Ministers Meeting)**
- Canberra (AOG Church)**
- Scotts Head (Men's Camp for the COC)**



GlobeReach some of the works we support overseas

CAMBODIA/BURMA – Donna Byham

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise..”
1Corinthians 1

- ◆ An elderly woman tells me I look “nice man” as I walk down the street in local clothes
- ◆ Two young Buddhist monks stop me to practice their English. One of them, at only 20 years of age, has been a monk for 13 yrs already.
- ◆ A roadside vegetable market disappears in minutes, as the alert comes that police are on their way.
- ◆ People are quick to smile when you smile at them.
- ◆ I love “kauk sway”, local noodles you can get anywhere, anytime
- ◆ Walking, walking and more walking
- ◆ Telling a neighbour I ate Merchant Rd.
- ◆ Meeting an orphan boy who served in a roadside rice shop, He gets very little money but is satisfied as he gets food and a place to stay.

- ◆ Bus rides are crowded and hot, but lots of fun with the locals being very helpful.
- ◆ Tea and 3 in 1 coffee...and more tea and 3 in 1 coffee.
- ◆ Learning my “a, b, c’s” of the Myanmar language with a local primary school teacher and her children.
- ◆ Many power cuts, many, many power cuts.
- ◆ An 89 yr old grandmother inviting me to sit next to her to eat lunch, she has Irish and Australia blood in her and thinks the Japanese are good.
- ◆ Pigeons and crows everywhere.
- ◆ Many red stained mouths from chewing Betel nut.

As I walk the streets and meet the people I think how easy it will be to fall in love with this country, in fact I’ve already begun. Other times, especially in the throws of vomiting and diarrhoea, I catch myself wondering “why am I so stupid,

God have mercy on me in my stupidity”. The hard work of finding myself and finding others in this city can seem very daunting, but the reward and satisfaction of becoming a part of a new family, a new life and a new country will be worth it. These are some memories of 14 days in Yangon, Myanmar.



Donna Byham
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INDONESIA – Colin & Kim Crago

Colin and Kim Crago are back from a break and are available to come and minister in your church. Colin is 70 years old and is a workaholic and doesn’t want to have a break. Kim is in hospital during May for an operation and Colin wants to keep busy. They have had

40 years pasturing Australian Churches with the A.O.G.’s and the Church of Christ and now have been serving for 6 years planting Indonesian churches of which they have been very successful in. Colin is available from now until the end of May. Contact him, he is a choice

brother, I know them personally and have seen their work.

Email: colin.crago@gmail.com
Ph 0448 819 754
0415 032 137



PHILIPPINES – Alvin Bautista

Greetings from Philippines!!!

On February 12th to 13th we held our 5th Southeast Asian Global Conference at “The Elegant Pearl” San Jose Del Monta, Bulacan, Philippines with the theme of **CALL TO LEAD** and we were blessed to have Pastor (Papa) Ken Gibson from Life Church Australia and Pastor John De Asis (local pastor) who were able to encourage us and able to discuss this interesting topic with the power of the Holly Spirit. This event brought together 17 pastors from different churches and there were 90

people who attended this event. The conference went well and we just want to give all the Glory and Honour to our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.



Alvin Bautista
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Photo of Papa Ken preaching at the 2010 Conference.

Kevin will be attending the 2011 Conference on 9th—11th February.



OzHarvest ~ Newcastle

Saved from the bin

I haven't yet managed to [dumpster dive](#). The skips are either locked or behind gates that have to be climbed. It feels too much like stealing. So instead I have been researching the various food rescue organisations that save the food before it makes it into the bin – like [Oz Harvest](#), [Foodbank](#), [FareShare](#), [SecondBite](#), and the local Hunter based '[Food for Life](#)'.

These not-for-profit organisations distribute excess food, that would have otherwise gone into the bin, to the homeless and needy. And then today when gazing out my office window I saw this...



...an Oz Harvest van pulling up at the Aldi Supermarket across the road. I was pretty excited!. I thought OzHarvest only had a presence in [Sydney](#) and [Canberra](#). It seems they are now in Newcastle as well. I wish there were two of me. I'd love to [volunteer](#).

This was a random blog sent to us



Kevin & Shane shamelessly name dropping as they spend time with Australian of the year, Ronnie Khan. Ronnie has founded and set up OzHarvest of whom we are in partnership with.

Web Page: www.ozharvest.org

Ozreach Conference

When: Friday 15th & Saturday 16th October 2010



DARRYL GARDINER

Darryl has been involved in youth work for more than 25 years. He ran a boys' home for 16 years. He is part of Incedo, a national youth organization, an Anglican priest, and a married father of two children. He is a regular speaker and trainer in New Zealand and overseas. Has spoken in Singapore, Australia, Britain, Europe, America, Fiji, and South America. In his spare time, he likes to fish and scuba dive.

KEVIN WILCOCK & OTHER MINISTERS
TO BE CONFIRMED

Make sure you mark these dates in your diaries. This conference will possibly be held on the Central Coast.

Mates in Ministry

When: Friday 12th May at 12:00pm

Venue: To be confirmed (ph Kev for details 0407467798)

Speaker: Rod Irvine

Leaders, Ministers & business people welcome. **RSVP 0407 467 798**

Mates in Ministry

When: 15th April 2010 at 5:30pm to 6:30pm

Venue: Life Church, 15 Denison Street, Newcastle West

Speaker: Tim Costello

Mates in Ministry

When: Friday 16th April at 7:30am to 9:00am

Venue: Life Church, 15 Denison St, Newcastle West

Speaker: Dave Morse Senior Minister of Energizer Life

Leaders, Ministers & business people welcome. **RSVP Ph 4961 0211**

Huon Life Church ~ Malcolm & Antonia Weir

Local Tattooist and artist picked up her bible at home and began reading it and declared to her husband shortly after that she thought she was a Christian and needed to find a church. Being hesitant about being accepted she went to the classifieds and saw Huon Life Church add with the words "COME AS YOU ARE" and knew this was the place for her. Coming to church that weekend followed over the next few weeks by her husband and six children. The whole family

have come to Jesus—what a beautiful thing!

February 12th to 14th 2010, Huon Life Church—RALLY IN THE VALLEY. What a great weekend of Holy Ghost power. Friday we had ROCK CHURCH RALLY, Saturday we had REVIVAL CHURCH at the local pub and on Sunday REAL CHURCH with visiting evangelist Peter Loosemore and his wife Karen from Mackay in QLD preaching the powerful gospel message.

Peter went for souls, souls, souls. Many people responded to Peter Loosemore's message as he flowed in the gifts of the Holy Spirit having a number of words for people and words of knowledge on healings—testimonies of healing and breakthroughs in peoples lives over the weekend.

Malcolm & Antonia Weir

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