

## Nurturing and discipling future leaders -

Growing through deliberate people development  
and systematic training.



### Significant Biblical Paradigms

- ▶ Moses & Joshua
- ▶ Naomi & Ruth
- ▶ Elijah & Elisha
- ▶ Jesus & Peter (& the Apostles)
- ▶ Barnabas & Saul
- ▶ Paul & Timothy

### Seismic shifts in Christian mission

Acts 11-13 - A change-over from:

- Peter to Paul
- Jews to Gentiles
- Disciples of a Jewish Messiah to "Christians"
- Jerusalem-centred to an Antioch base

### Not another Joseph ... !

Acts 4:32-5:11

- ▶ From Cyprus - Jews in the Diaspora
- ▶ A Levite - someone who knew and could give evidence of his heritage
- ▶ Owner of a Jerusalem field - a personal grave yard!
- ▶ Grasped the reality of the resurrection - no need for a burial space on earth, better to feed the hungry than polish up the mausoleum.

So they called him "bar-nabas"

### "bar-nabas" - encouragement is in his DNA

Acts 4:36; 11:22-24

- ▶ An Encourager - thro' fields and thro' "Sauls"
- ▶ A Good man
- ▶ Full of the Holy Spirit
- ▶ Full of Faith:-
  - Faith in God
  - Faith in what God can do through others

### Taking risks with new believers

Acts 9:27

- ▶ Take people at their word
  - you WILL get ripped off (cf Ananias & Saphira) but "better to be cheated or wronged" 1 Cor 6:7
- ▶ Share and stand by their testimony
- ▶ Use your credit to enable other people's acceptance

**Understands the need for Teaching**

Acts 11:25-27

**Barnabas**

- ▶ Knew his limitations
- ▶ Recognised the greater gifts of others and gave them space to work
  - gets Paul over to lead the teaching

**Mission & growth needs Teachers**

**Building-in Biblical knowledge and Theological understanding**

- ▶ Disciplines of Personal Bible reading & study
- ▶ Systematic church teaching programmes
  - Bible in 3-5 years
  - Children & Youth teaching programmes
- ▶ Theological/Biblical classes
  - Joshua/Pillars,
  - Hermeneutics/Homiletics
  - Apologetics
  - Contemporary Ethics
- ▶ Specialist training programmes
  - Counselling
  - Youth work

**Open to the person & work of the Holy Spirit**

- ▶ Baranabas - full of the Holy Spirit

Acts 11:27-30, 13:2

“In the church at Antioch there were prophets ... While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “... ”

**Mission & Growth needs prophets**

**Guidelines for discerning prophecy**

- Essentially a means of guidance
- Each may hear and speak
- Need to test everything
- Hold on to the good
- Reject the rest

1 Corinthians 14:26-33  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-22

Timothy's gifting known and affirmed through prophecy by the elders & Paul  
1 Tim 4:11; 2 Tim 1:6-7

**Mission & Growth needs the Power of Holy Spirit Intervention**

Acts 13:4-12

Then Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, said, “ ... ”

**The Moses-Joshua Paradigm**  
**The God-dimension**

- ▶ Experiences God as part of Moses' interaction with God Ex 24:13-18 ff, 32:17  
Joshua lived in the “Tent of Meeting” with God!
- ▶ Exposed to and develops in a direct personal experience of God and spends time in His presence Ex 33:7-11
- ▶ Experiences the Holy Spirit in his life Num 27:18; Deut 34:9
- ▶ Experiences the crucial power of intercessory prayer Ex 17:10-13

**Understand the power of Modelling**

Acts 11:27-30

“So the disciples, **each in accordance with his financial ability**, decided to send relief to their brothers and sisters living in Judea.”

Ref Acts 4:36

**Evidence of Barnabas' discipleship traits !**

**Barnabas the Team player**

Acts 11:25,30; 12:25

- ▶ Teaching in Antioch
- ▶ Representation to Jerusalem
- ▶ Increasing the team size - John Mark

**Evolving team dynamics**

Acts 13

- ▶ Barnabas & Saul to Cyprus vs2-12
- ▶ Paul & his companions to “Turkey” v13
- ▶ Paul & Barnabas v42
- ▶ Zeus (Jupiter) & Hermes (Mercury) 14:12

**Barnabas the quiet leaders ....**

**Evolving team dynamics**

Acts 13-15 - Willingness to:

- ▶ work in a team with those he is training
- ▶ Bring in those who are better gifted in a similar area (teaching)
- ▶ Accept equal recognition with younger recruits
- ▶ Allow the younger to speak for you
- ▶ Serve under the younger
- ▶ Be in the background for an extended period of nurturing, sponsoring and protecting

**Barnabas the quiet leaders ....  
Acts 15:25**

**Opposites can work !!**

**Conflicting perspectives**

**Paul**

- ▶ Task orientated
- ▶ Loyalty to mission
- ▶ High standards of character
- ▶ Short term success
- ▶ Global vision
- ▶ A Do-er

**Barnabas**

- ▶ People orientated
- ▶ Loyalty to people
- ▶ Willing to work on character
- ▶ Longer term success
- ▶ More local focus (Gal. 2:13)
- ▶ A Trainer

**No flaws .... ?**

- ▶ a little too nepotistic? - Acts 15:40
- ▶ a little to judeo-centric? - Gal 2:13
- ▶ a little too swayed by other people's opinions - Gal 2:13

**Know your own flaws & weakness  
... they will also be reproduced !**

**Long term track record**

- ▶ Social care of many in Jerusalem
- ▶ A Saul who becomes a Paul
- ▶ A paradigm shift in church & missions (Antioch)
- ▶ A deserter changed into a Gospel writer

**Behind every good Gospel and Letter writer is a Barnabas !**

**Appendix**

**The Moses-Joshua Paradigm**

- ▶ Function as “Moses’ assistant”
  - Ex 24:13 - in a mentor or apprenticeship relationship (Moses aide);
  - Num 11:28 - from his youth
  - Deut 1:38 - Moses charged by God to prepare Joshua to lead the people

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**The Moses-Joshua Paradigm**  
**Given Responsibility early on**

- ▶ “projects” e.g. to chose soldiers and to fight the Amalekites - Ex 17:9-16
- ▶ and “vocational” e.g. to take up long term leadership - Deut 3:21,28

**The Moses-Joshua Paradigm**  
**Functioning in Teams**

- ▶ Opportunities in Team work, shared responsibility
  - Num. 14:1-9 - spying out the land
  - Num. 32:28; 34:17 - joint responsibility to monitor the Gad-Manasseh situation
- ▶ Exposed to public choice situations where confidence in God and obedience to His will are clarified - Num. 14,6,30,38; 32:12

**The Moses-Joshua Paradigm**  
**Transitioned into Leadership**

- ▶ Publicly affirmed in his future role Num 27:18-22, Deut. 31:7-8; 34:9
- ▶ Receives clear instruction as to what to do Deut. 31:14-15, 23
- ▶ Functions in shared leadership with Moses e.g. singing of the song Deut. 32:44