

European Apostolic Partners

March 2008

I. European Apostolic Partners (EAP) exists to partner with others in apostolic ministry to call out, authenticate, equip and coach an explosion of apostles for a lifetime of effective apostolic ministerial service in the West and the Nations.

A. EAP does not see itself as exclusive in this way, but rather one of many different types of apostolic groups that are called to fill the earth with Communities of the Kingdom.

B. EAP believes that there needs to be an explosion of Apostolic Ministry in the West if the Kingdom of God is going to regain the ground it has lost as well as reach the unreached peoples of the world.

II. European Apostolic Partners believes that there are two basic callings of apostleship:

Pauline and Petrine. (Galatians 2)

- ***Pauline***-type apostles are called to cross cultures and establish Kingdom Communities in cultures substantially different from their own. Paul is our model, who, though a Jew, was called to plant churches in gentile cultures.
- ***Petrine***-type apostles are called to establish new types of Kingdom Communities in their own cultures or near cultures. If there are churches in the culture then being apostolic involves starting new, innovative Kingdom Communities of a type that do not presently exist in the culture.

Although these two types of apostleship are distinct, they can learn much from each other and should network together wherever possible (Cf. Galatians 2, Acts 15). Since the Petrine apostles would have more contact with the Western churches, it will often be through them that Pauline apostles are called and initially equipped for their cross cultural calling. Pauline apostles will often be more innovative than Petrine ones since they are called to plant fellowships to fit distinctly different cultures. And thus the benefits of cooperation.

III. ***European Apostolic Partners*** exists to call out, authenticate, and equip new apostles.

- A. **Call out:** One of the responsibilities of apostles is to call out new apostles. Jesus was the first apostle and he called out the twelve and designated them as apostles.
- Apostles are called to serve in teams. Jesus always sent the apostles out two by two. EAP will be linked to local apostolic teams and networks where those who are recruited will get hands-on equipping.
 - The 11 replaced Judas' ministry with Matthias (Acts 1). Paul continually sought out new apostles (Acts 15,16), as did Barnabus.
 - Although the church did recognise and send apostles (Acts 13), apostles also took responsibility to recognise and call new apostles.
 - EAP believes that existing apostles, apostolic teams and networks need to take responsibility for calling out new apostles and reproducing new apostolic teams and networks.
- B. **Authenticate:** Apostles took the responsibility to recognise each other as well as raise up new apostles.
- Jesus formally recognised the first apostles (Cf. Mt. 28:18-20).
 - Peter formally recognised Paul (Galatians 2).
 - Paul continued to add apostles to his band and reproduced new teams.
 - Paul warns against self-appointed apostles (2 Cor. 10) and also presents his credentials when challenged.
 - EAP believes that apostles and apostolic networks should recognize one another and extend honour to one another by working together wherever

possible. Apostles should always be vigilant to authenticate new apostles. Apostles may also need to question the apostolic authority that some claim.

- C. **Equip and coach:** Jesus had an extensive time of equipping his apostles for the task to which they were called. His Holy Spirit was sent for ongoing equipping of the apostles.
- Peter continued to work with new ones and give them opportunity to enter into apostolic calling (Cf. Barnabus, Acts 11).
 - Paul extensively trained new apostles in several different venues: the Hall of Tyrannus (Acts 19), accompanying and participating in his team(s) (Acts 16, 20), and through coaching and letters (Titus, Timothy).
 - This led to an explosion of apostolic ministry (Acts 19:8-10, Romans 16) releasing new teams, some of which he had ongoing connection (coaching).
 - EAP believes that both formal types of training and ongoing coaching and mentoring relationships need to be the basis of a lifetime of learning for fruitful apostolic service. (eg. Training teams and coaching relationships)

Other Values:

Apostles are called to serve in dynamic, mobile teams which may network to form a larger apostolic community.

Apostolic teams exist to establish local Kingdom Communities of Jesus that will impact the culture. These contextual communities of the Kingdom exist to make visible the invisible Kingdom of God, bringing the love, joy and peace of that Kingdom to the visible world. Though contextual, they will be countercultural to the ways that the evil one has corrupted the local culture, instead bringing the appropriate redemptive elements to that culture.

Different Apostolic Communities may network together to form an Apostolic Sphere where these different entities can have synergistic impact. European Apostolic Partners is an attempt at establishing such an Apostolic Sphere. Example:

- An apostolic team reproduces and forms a network of teams.
- This network starts attracting apprentice apostles and so decides to add a training component to intentionally equip apostles.
- Older apostles decide to give the bulk of their time to training the new apostles and a training team is birthed for the Network.
- Several of these Networks decide to work together to reach a particular region or people group. With this in mind they decide to share resources and build some cooperating structure like European Apostolic Partners. This is what we are calling an Apostolic Sphere.
- This Apostolic Sphere could link with other spheres (for instance EAP with Frontiers where apprentices and apostles from one sphere can have different experiences in order to help new apostles clarify their calling as to Petrine/Pauline as well as get exposed to other apostolic teams and methods).

European Apostolic Partners exists as a sort of umbrella under which autonomous and independent organisations can network and relate. EAP is not a centralised organizational structure, but rather serves to network different apostolic initiatives who want to cooperate in bringing the good news to the world. Therefore things like the Fellowship of Kingdom Pioneers (UK), FCPT, Immerge, M-28 (Switzerland), individual Petrine and Pauline teams, Master Builders Initiatives, small or large organisations like Frontiers, GI, and whoever; can network for the purpose of calling out new apostles, authentication of existing ministry, and ongoing equipping.