

December, 2014

home base

Our Mission:

To experience Christ through simple churching and to pass it on.

Our Vision:

To advance the gospel through households of faith who live among the lost and make disciples.

APEST Team*

(aka Board)

Rev. Ray Klassen
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An 'organic church' newsletter update among friends of Pathfinders

living out the gospel ... undercover

I am always intrigued by the idea of undercover police and what they are able to do by not being visibly identified as law enforcement officers. They still have the full role and responsibility of public officers but their stealth posture in all kinds of circumstances gives them a unique advantage and opportunity.

Similarly, undercover believers have a chance to live out the Message and share Christ among others, in a way that is different from those whose main way of identifying with Christ is by promoting congregational programs, Christian media, Christian Facebook posts and sometimes fish symbols on their car, etc.

My Dutch opa had a cousin who was part of the *underground resistance* in Holland during WWII, engaged in protecting Jewish people from the Nazis. Lives saved, but at a cost. He lost his life, betrayed by a Dutch collaborator with the Nazis.

Today, I believe we need a new army of *undercover Jesus followers* ... ones who can live in unbelieving, even hostile, environments with neutral identities where the light of the gospel shines relationally ... not through "big meetings, big budgets and big shots" as often passes for the church, as Neil Cole puts it. High visibility Christianity in the west has typically not been synonymous with discipling, the movement of the gospel or spiritual generations. We must create new pathways.

But there is a cost. *Undercover believers* are often misunderstood, sometimes rejected, by Visible Christians. Yet, in a secularizing culture, where the church is on the margins, we believe the greatest need is to help more Jesus followers find pathways into daily living and 'Kingdom plant' there, where they are. For me, that has involved setting aside 26 years in a clergy identity and rebuilding with a marketplace identity, in my case renting office space to small businesses ... living missionally, touching many more lives than as a clergy.

Where do you *live*? Where are you *planted*? May God bless your undercover walk, work and witness!



"A nation cannot be reached with the gospel, unless the marketplace is impacted."

Disciplemaker, Brian Thatcher, Founder of Convene CEO Roundtables, which now impacts 425 marketplace leaders in the US, came to Canada to tell his story and encourage business leaders here.

FaithFM, 99.9 out of London, Ontario taped an interview with him which traces his story as a raw unbeliever who discovered Christ and has been impacting others ever since.

Check out this link for an inspiring, hard-hitting 30 minute interview.

<http://www.pathfindersfellowships.com/marketplace/>



eager to learn the basics of home-based ministry?
desire to engage seekers with the Scriptures?
ready to 'make disciples' and plant a micro-fellowship 'where you are'?

Greenhouse Story 1 with **Neil Cole & Phil Helfer**

January 16-18 Mississauga, Ontario

What a great opportunity we have with Neil AND Phil coming! Workshop training for those wishing to learn how to build small organic fellowships among unreached people in your circle of influence and then disciple them into a practicing community. Only \$65 per person for registrations received by Dec. 31st. (\$85 after Jan. 1) Circle the dates in your calendar. Questions or to pre-register write info@pathfindersfellowships.com



on the path

We welcome Ragnar Oborn, of Fredericton, New Brunswick, to our leadership circle ... with a wonderful heart for God, a discipling vision and a keen desire to advance the gospel to the nations.

Ragnar and Sue would deeply value your prayers as they develop their many relationships among seekers and broad outreach through their Gospel On Web work. We are looking for volunteer translators for multiple languages ... contact info@pathfindersfellowships.com

What are Pathfinders about? We are an association of people who are finding our paths forward toward a more organic/missional approach to how we 'do church,' by affirming the headship of Jesus in community, focus on making disciples, active labouring from the moment a person comes to faith and the dynamic functioning of Ephesians 4:11-12 roles* at the local and trans-local level. Our dream is to find new trails so that more unreached can discover the Jesus life.



"The gospel is only good news if it gets there in time."
Carl F. H. Henry.