

Rock International's Mission & Vision Statement

Mission and Vision:

Rock International Tribe exists to glorify God in the nations and expand His kingdom in every sphere of life by forming international apostolic spiritual families who by living in the power of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural realm of heaven are able to start and sustain relationally connected house churches, compassion ministries, businesses, and other kingdom enterprises committed to bringing individuals, marriages & families, cities, regions, and whole countries under Christ's Lordship and transformed into His likeness. In short, we are called to the "Reclaiming Of Christ's Kingdom".

Strategy for Achieving Our Mission and Vision:

Through God's mercy and grace by the power of the Holy Spirit, we will achieve our mission and vision by:

1. Establishing and sustaining house churches, ministries, and kingdom enterprises around the world which ultimately demonstrate the love of our Father to youth and poor in the context of a trans local spiritual family.
2. Helping the house churches, ministries, businesses, and social services grow and stay healthy by raising up trans-local apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, evangelists, intercessors, leaders, administrators, and other gifted servants who provide ongoing equipping and support for those in local service.
3. Creating 24/7 Prayer Furnaces, life-changing communications, publications and products, Rock Training Centers, Rock Outreach Centers (ROCenters), and World Outreach Kingdom Communities around the world to equip and send out God's sons and daughters as urban and cross-cultural missionaries and as agents of social transformation.
4. Helping maintain unity and love within both the Rock Tribe and the body of Christ by providing arbitration, conflict resolution, adjudication, and training in relationships.
5. Contributing to the reformation of the church and the social transformation of cities and nations by partnering with the whole body of Christ through prayer and combined kingdom strategies.

Our Ultimate Target Groups: Youth, Poor, and Unreached People

The Rock International Tribe has a commitment to reach every person with the love of the Father. We want people from every age group and socio-economic level to experience the love of their heavenly Father and enjoy being in a healthy spiritual family. The Rock International "Tribe" is an intergenerational (young & old), interracial, socially and economically diverse (poor & rich, and culturally diverse), and international. However, the Bible teaches us that there are certain individuals who are to receive special love and concern from God's people: children & youth, poor (including orphans, widows and aliens), and those in the nations who have yet to hear the gospel of the Kingdom of God. This is not to be interpreted as though we are indifferent to or place less value on other groups of people. It simply means that in the kingdom of God the stronger are called to serve those most vulnerable. We regularly emphasize reaching youth, poor, and the nations because this reminds and challenges the precious members of the Rock Tribe that we will gain our lives if we spend them on behalf of the "least of these" for Christ's glory. Christ was emphatic that children receive special love and ministry, "not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (Matthew 18:1-14). Jesus also taught that people will be eternally judged by how they treat those in need (Matthew 25:31-46). The Apostle Paul was told to "remember the poor" as a key part of his apostolic mandate (Galatians 2:10). Cornelius was told by an angel that, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God (Acts 10:4)." James taught, "Religion that our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world (James 1:27)." We must constantly remind ourselves that the youth, the poor, and the unreached in the nations are our ultimate target group for ministry.

Why We Are Called The "Rock International Tribe":

"Rock" is an acronym which stands for "Reclaiming Of Christ's Kingdom," the main focus of Christ's preaching and purpose (Matthew 4:17, 23). Rock is also a name used to refer to God (Deuteronomy 32:4) and Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4; 1 Peter 2:4-8), so our name always points us to the centrality and supremacy of Christ and Christ's mandate of advancing the kingdom of God. The Apostle Peter's name was changed to "Rock" (Matthew 16:18). This name change points to the possibility that every human being can be transformed into a child of God and be given an important destiny which affects others into eternity (1 Peter 2:4-12). "Rock" is the name of youth's favorite style of music. Rock sounds solid and unshakable like the Kingdom of God (Heb 12:27). One can do many

creative things with a rock. The word "rock" is used in youth slang to describe something neat or fun to do. A teen will say, "that rocks" if they like what is happening.

We use the word "International" to point to our ultimate calling, the expansion of God's glory in the nations (Psalm 96:3; Genesis 12:3-3; Numbers 14:20; Habakkuk 2:14; Romans 15:19; Matthew 28:18-20; Isaiah 56:7; Revelation 5:9; 7:9). This word also challenges us to fulfill the great commission by "making disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:18-20).

The word "Tribe" speaks of an extended trans local spiritual family. We believe a covenantal term needed to be added to our name because God is a Father and Son and builds his kingdom relationally in the context of spiritual family.

The Bible refers to all those who have been truly transformed into sons and daughters of God as members of the universal family of God. We call this the family big "F" (Ephesians 3:14). We also believe that a child of God must walk out the reality of their universal spiritual family with specific people Father assigns. We call this specific group of people our spiritual family little "f". A Biblical example of this is the apostle Paul and his relationship with spiritual sons like Timothy, Titus, and other spiritual children (Titus 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:2; 1 Corinthians. 4:14-17). It is in the spiritual family little "f" that we practically apply all the Biblical "one another" admonitions like loving one another, bear each other's burdens, confess sin to one another, have all things in common, etc.

The specific spiritual families little "f" do have definable boundaries of spiritual accountability, responsibility, and authority both before God and one another (1 Corinthians 9:2). God delegates spiritual authority to individuals who are responsible to help people love and obey Christ. Elders, deacons, apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, and pastors are roles and titles given to servant leaders in the body of Christ entrusted with protecting and feeding a specific segment (family little "f") of the universal family of God. Each governmental person has a specific sphere of authority and responsibility, a definable sphere of accountability before God to build his people (2 Corinthians 10:13, 13: 10; Hebrews 13:17).

While people are to connect organically and covenantally with a specific spiritual family little "f" led by assigned apostles and elders, they are never to cultivate an elite or superior attitude toward other specific spiritual families. That attitude is considered divisive (I Cor. 1:10), worldly and immature (I Cor. 3:1-23). On the other hand, we are not to over react and fail to acknowledge that spheres of responsibility and

authority do exist. Right after Paul confronts the Corinthians for having a worldly and elite attitude towards other spiritual families and leaders little "f", he goes on to exercise spiritual authority with his spiritual children in Corinth by actually judging them even though he was geographically distant from them (1 Corinthians 5:3-5).

Membership in the universal family of God does not exempt us from connecting covenantally with a specific spiritual family for the purposes of discipleship, unified ministry, and accountability. But membership in a specific spiritual family, does not entitle us to have an elite or competitive attitude toward other leaders or spiritual families little "f".

We can see an example of a trans local spiritual family in the New Testament. The apostle Paul along with other apostles like Barnabas, Silas, and Timothy functioned as the parental nucleus of a spiritual family that extended from Antioch to Rome. Paul refers to those they led to Christ as their spiritual children (1 Corinthians 4:14-17). The Apostolic fathers even coordinated the exchange of finances between local churches (2 Corinthians 9:1-15, 11:8-9) and the ministry offered by the translocal leadership (1 Corinthians 4:17; 2 Corinthians 7:15-16).

Paul had the responsibility of overseeing many churches that were interconnected (2 Corinthians 11:28). Roland Allen, in his book Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?, wrote:

In like manner, the churches of which they were members were not separate and independent bodies. They were not independent of the Apostle who was their common founder, they were not independent of one another. In St. Paul's mind the province was a unit. So, when his churches were established, he distinctly recognized the unity of the Church in the province. He constantly spoke of the churches of Macedonia, of Achaia, of Galatia, of Syria and Cilicia, of Asia as unities. For the purpose of the collection which he made for the poor saints at Jerusalem, the churches of Macedonia, Achaia, and Galatia were each treated as a separate group, and officers were appointed by each group to act on behalf of the province which they represented in the administration of the collection. This unity was more than a convenient grouping. The same bonds which united individual Christians one to another united the churches. They were not simply groups of Christians who, for mutual assistance and convenience, banded themselves together in face of a common danger. They were all alike members of a body which existed before they were brought into it. They could not act as if they were responsible to themselves alone. The churches were in frequent communication one with another. Visitors passed easily from one to

another and prophets soon began to spend their lives journeying from place to place preaching and expounding the faith.

We believe that heart connected relationships can transcend space and time. People can maintain very life-giving relationships over long distances, especially with the communication and transportation technologies like the internet, mobile phones, video conferencing, and jet airplanes. Experiencing the relational "life-line" that comes from being a member of an international apostolic "tribe" is especially important for those on the mission field.

Perspective On Maximum Kingdom Impact:

God has always longed to have a people whose heart motives, passions, and commitments accurately reflect and reveal His nature, a holy people devoted to expanding His glory in the nations. He wants a people who, like King David in the Old Testament, have "a heart after God". This will occur when God's people have a profound revelation and experience of Father's intense mercy, love and grace, and are captured not only by His will and ways, but the depth and breadth of His fatherly emotions toward them as His children even when they are immature and sinful. When the impact of God's love demonstrated in the cross and shed blood of Jesus touches us in the core of our being, and Father has convinced our minds, won our hearts, and healed our inner life, God's family will reciprocate that love and enjoy a pleasure in God that ultimately reforms and revives the church and transforms society. Because the church is falling short in its assignment to be "salt and light" in the world, and has lost ground both in quantity and quality, we cannot afford slow incremental progress. The extreme suffering among youth, poor, and lost, and the acceleration of evil requires a rapid and radical invasion of God's glory. We must have a catalytic explosion, a massive outpouring of God's manifest presence, love, mercy, grace, wisdom, power, compassion and justice. This dynamic eternal life of God (the "wine" of the Holy Spirit) must be conducted through an equally dynamic Biblical conduit ("wineskin") in order to maximize and preserve the impact. God is a Father, Son, and Spirit, so the only "wineskins" capable of revealing who He is and what His is like are healthy natural and spiritual families. Apostolically and prophetically led international spiritual families ("tribes") are the "new" yet ancient Biblical human agency for expanding God's glory in the nations in a rapid and qualitative way. When an apostolic people come into profound unity around Father's love and glory in the nations, the supremacy and centrality of Christ as Lord over all, the advancing of God's kingdom in every area of life, and will (because of love) totally abandon themselves for these values and purposes, we will witness a staggering expansion of

God's kingdom and glory resulting in the salvation of millions and the transformation of culture.

Rock International Tribe will help raise up a radical generation of white hot passionate lovers of God, who will be selfless enough to connect their hearts into an international spiritual Tribe, and sacrifice everything to revolutionize the world through Christ and His Kingdom.

Describing "Apostolic People":

The word "apostle" means "sent ones". It is a military term used in the Bible to describe certain individuals and those they lead who have been mandated and empowered by the King to expand His kingdom. It will take the supernatural grace of God to raise up an apostolic people. God will use weak and broken individuals because they offer the best backdrop to display His glory and power. The attributes of an apostolic people are:

1. Apostolic people are totally empowered by the Life of Christ within them versus their own strength. Abiding in Christ and His Word is a 24/7 lifestyle. Totally trusting and depending on Christ is evidenced by a life of prayer and fasting. They put a high value on faith and obedience to Christ.
2. Apostolic people don't live for themselves but for the glory and pleasure of God. Integrity, humility, holiness and the fear of the Lord are the foundational attributes of their character.
3. Apostolic people receive their identity, worth, and approval solely from their heavenly Father and not from people, success, or the world.
4. Apostolic people are committed to bringing everything into divine order, under the Lordship of Christ: their personal lives, marriages & families, churches, businesses, and civil governments.
5. Apostolic people submit first to the objective truth of the Word and also to the Christ living inside other believers, especially the leaders and members of their spiritual family. They understand that Christ mediates His grace through God-ordained and appointed human vessels like natural and spiritual parents/leaders.
6. Apostolic people deeply value intentional committed relationships. They understand the power of being connected in heart and mind, and to "have all things in common" as in the early church. God's

glory is poured out to create unity, so the world will be able to see and experience Father's love through His authentic family. Thus, they are active contributing members of a spiritual family. Church is a 24/7 family lifestyle carried out at work and in homes, not only in church buildings and programs. Starting, growing, and multiplying house churches is the agenda of all apostolic people because that is the Biblical strategy capable of allowing relational intimacy but expandable enough to absorb a large surge of new believers.

7. Apostolic people are highly committed, sold out, and abandoned for the expansion of Christ's Lordship, glory, and kingdom. This is evidenced in their use of time, energy, and money. Lifestyles are radically adjusted and simplified for the sake of the gospel. Tithing, for example, is a beginning level spiritual discipline.
8. Apostolic people are aggressive spiritual warriors who work in harmony with other members of a spiritual "army". They are committed to destroying the works of the evil one, to seek and save the lost, to be used as vessels for healing and deliverance, to make disciples of all nations, to plant and multiply house churches, to start kingdom businesses, to be godly citizens who insist on kingdom values, and to bring all of society under Christ and His ways. Every one is a minister possessing spiritual gifts and a "call" from God. They fight for justice and demonstrate God's love and compassion to youth, poor, oppressed, and unreached people. They are ground taking pioneers who are constantly expanding the boundary lines of heaven on earth.
9. Apostolic people live in the reality of eternity, the judgment seat of Christ, the spiritual realm and the supernatural, and have as their point of reference and resource "the heavenly realm", God's "throne of mercy and grace". Signs, wonders, and miracles are expected and normative, though not necessarily frequent or predictable.
10. Apostolic people understand that love means self-sacrifice and inconveniencing themselves as servants for the sake of others. Father may even ask them to love so extremely that it might involve risking their lives or even dieing in order to reach other's for Christ and bring them into the family of God.