

ROCK: A Family History

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, a wide-spread move of God's Spirit across North America swept thousands of young people into the kingdom of God. Some called this revival the "Jesus Movement". For many years this radical group of believers fasted and prayed, convinced that this would help to increase His kingdom and glory in the earth. Jesus' faithfulness to them and their love for Jesus kept them believing in spite of personal mistakes, errant church leadership and disappointing setbacks. They were convinced that more of God's promises were to be realized, and that they were called to be a part of an apostolic and prophetic people, an international spiritual family who advance His kingdom in every sphere of life (personal, family, church, work place, social and civil arena). These now-seasoned "builders and boomers" who have weathered serious disappointments and victories are becoming the "parental platform" to help the next generations fulfill their destiny in God.

Many years before the Rock International Tribe was started, its founders, Tim & Janet Johns, had been hearing from God that a vastly different paradigm of church life would emerge. They were convinced that the church had to have authentic relational love, manifest kingdom solutions resulting in revival and social transformation, and be full of God's supernatural power if it wished to include the next generations of young people. They delightfully discovered that many others had been hearing the same thing and would be called to join them in the difficult task of leaving the established church context to shift into an entirely different paradigm. Flowing from hearts dedicated to bringing God glory in the nations and revealing His complete Father's heart, the church would change from an institutional, organizational model into trans local kingdom families led by apostolically and prophetically gifted spiritual fathers and mothers. They were asked by God to lay down their lives in order to help others discover their identities and fulfill their destinies. He directed them to join with others who would help raise up spiritual families to start new kingdom house churches and businesses by the power of the Holy Spirit.

For over 20 years, Tim & Janet Johns had received many confirming prophetic words regarding their calling to join others in providing spiritual parenting to an international spiritual family. One such prophetic word came from Cindy Jacobs on July 16, 1998. This occurred while Tim was in the process of writing his doctoral dissertation on the topic of the recovery of apostolic ministry and trans-local spiritual families. He was preparing to start a house church-planting "tribe" that would reach youth, poor and unreached people groups. During a doctoral class dealing with the subject of apostles and prophets taught by Dr. C. Peter Wagner (a Fuller Theological Seminary professor and author), Dr. Wagner asked Cindy Jacobs to teach about the prophetic and then model this ministry to the students. With a strong presence and power of the Holy Spirit manifesting, Cindy forcefully spoke these inspired words to Tim (verbatim from the tape recording):

“God is going to raise up through you hundreds and hundreds of churches. There’s been someone that you’ve been aligned to... God is changing it and you’re going to have your own network... so don’t be concerned about the change that’s come ‘cause its of me. In fact, ‘I rescued you from the hand of the Evil One, that was very painful’, but the Lord says ‘today I am doing surgery on you taking out that pain because I have called you to be a father of nations’. And I see a whole youth movement. You’re going to plant youth churches - generation X churches. I see God’s going to send you out. There are going to be churches just for that generation. They are going to be like halfway houses cause they can’t stand to go to regular church, so they are going to go to your churches. And the Lord says, ‘I’m going, even as I moved in the power of the Holy Spirit with the original move of the Holy Spirit in Kansas... Yes, ah, ah, ah, Yes Lord, Lord, ah, ah, ah, Ok, I got to use English here... Oh help me Lord. This is one of the few times this has been hard for me, Peter. (i.e. hard not to speak in tongues.) [There was a strong surge of God’s presence and power.] I’m usually pretty good at this (i.e. maintaining control and not breaking out in tongues due to mixed audience of denominational pastors).

I’m going to bring a move of the Holy Spirit and miracles and signs and wonders through you. So Satan’s attacking your physical body because there is going to be so many miracles... Twenty-four (24) hour watch of the Lord for miracles. You are going to pray for the terminally ill... those who have no hope. There’s going to be anointing to raise the dead from this church. And the Lord says, I’m going to give you resurrection power. So you have been on Satan’s hit list but the good news is he’s on your hit list and you have more authority and more anointing. And Lord I just pull out that fiery dart that happened to Tim when he was betrayed by that father in the gospel and Lord we thank you Father. Lord you’re going to use it for you’re glory, so he’ll never do that to a young leader. Father, and I thank you, Lord, in Jesus name, its going to be quick- hundreds and hundreds of churches are going to come to you and they are going to say to you, ‘we want to align with you, you are not going to know what to do with it, but ‘its not going to be paper work, its going to be covenant,’ says the Lord.”

Cindy had never met Tim. Yet, her words described his situation with exacting precision, and disclosed the clear calling he had received for many years.

In the nineties God began to gather some of these like-hearted people in Kansas City to unite together around Himself, His values, vision, and strategies. The founders asked God to give them a name that would constantly remind them of the supremacy and centrality of Christ and their mandate to help advance His kingdom. The name “Rock” came to them, an acronym for the “Reclaiming Of Christ’s Kingdom”. House churches (strategic kingdom family/platoons) became

the primary way these people help each other follow Christ, reach the lost, and expand God's kingdom. and mobilize them into missions.

On September 19, 1999, the Rock International "Tribe" was officially dedicated at the International House Of Prayer in Kansas City, MO. The first office was located at the International House of Prayer because the leadership knew this move of God's Spirit had to flow from a life style of intimacy with Jesus, plus prayer and fasting.

In the spring of 2000, the Rock International tribe began doing compassion ministries, outreaches, and house church-planting in the inner city of Kansas City, Missouri. Because of their international mandate, they knew that a missions base needed to be established among the urban poor and in the heart of the international community in the mid-west. They began acquiring properties that had once been owned by the Roman Catholic Diocese. The offices and ministries were fully shifted to the inner city during 2000.

In 2002, Rock International established a not-for-profit urban development corporation called Rock Solid Urban Impact (www.rsui.org) in order to facilitate social transformation on a practical level and help train urban youth in life skills. Rock Solid Urban Impact later bought the parochial school connected to the celebration center to be used for outreach and training. With a conviction that the kingdom of God is all-encompassing and the market place is a key setting for making disciples of Christ, Rock Solid Urban Impact is helping to launch kingdom businesses, beginning with Cold Cup Groundskeeping (www.coldcup.org).

Over the course of the first seven years, God has enabled the members of the Rock International Tribe to express His love by developing a loving family "culture". By His grace, they moved in signs, wonders and miracles and lived under His Lordship in their marriages, families, at work, and in social arenas. Kingdom businesses were started to bring Christ's Lordship to the market place, and provide economic empowerment to God's people and those they are called to reach. The house churches (small strategic kingdom family/platoons) began multiplying and have now spread into four states within the U.S.A. A "prayer furnace" has been established to facilitate worship and intercession for city transformation and world missions.

To bring about a greater kingdom impact in the nations, Rock International is launching the Rock Training Center and the World Outreach Kingdom Community in 2006 and 2007. The Rock Training Center will facilitate comprehensive training for God's people, so they will know how to love and commune with Father through Christ, love Christ so passionately that they completely obey Him, and can skillfully advance His kingdom in every sphere of life in any country in the world. The World Outreach Kingdom Community is a group of covenantally connected people who form an "Antioch and Ephesus type international missions hub" (Acts 11:20 13:1-3, 15:35, 19:1-41, 20:13-38) which

comprehensively trains this generation for holistic kingdom living, house church planting, all forms of ministry, and sends them into urban and cross-cultural missions.

The Holy Spirit directed the leaders of Rock International to spend the first seven years doing five main activities:

1. Prayer and fasting for the full expression of the Kingdom of God to manifest in our midst,
2. Building the foundations on the glory of God, the centrality and supremacy of Christ and His kingdom, and getting into our hearts, minds, and lives the three main values of the Rock Tribe.
3. Developing the overall “blue prints” of an apostolic tribe that advances God’s glory and kingdom in the nations,
4. Gathering, training, and mobilizing those who have been called into the same values, vision, strategies, and spiritual family,
5. Creating a missions base in the inner city of Kansas City that would be a prototype “Antioch Sending Center” which equips and sends out members of God’s family to extend His love and kingdom in the nations. During the last seven years of our formation, we have enjoyed a “stream” of Holy Spirit punctuated with many controlled explosions of God’s power.

We believe God inspired us in the first seven years to develop a comprehensive apostolic blueprint that would actualize into a real international family “wineskin”, so that we will be somewhat ready for when He decides to unleash mighty “rivers” (wine) of His presence and power in our “tribe” in the very near future.

It is our conviction that Father has called and is connecting many spiritual fathers and mothers to help provide corporate spiritual “parenting” to the next generation. It will take a large number of mature leaders flowing in unity and mutual submission with one another to effectively fulfill the apostolic and prophetic mandate given to the Rock Tribe.

Our spiritual “tribe” is in its infancy. All areas of our life together are just being developed or don’t yet exist. However, we are confident that Father will deeply connect us with many mature and gifted new family members who will be a vital part of this vision. Should the Lord tarry in His return, we believe that our “tribe” will have many generations of new believers and will extend Father’s love to all nations.

Perhaps you are being called by Father to join us in this amazing kingdom adventure. The history that is recorded in heaven but may never be known on earth will be made by faith-filled, risk-taking, self-sacrificing, radical lovers and followers of Jesus Christ who band together to advance His kingdom. We invite you to help us make history His Story.