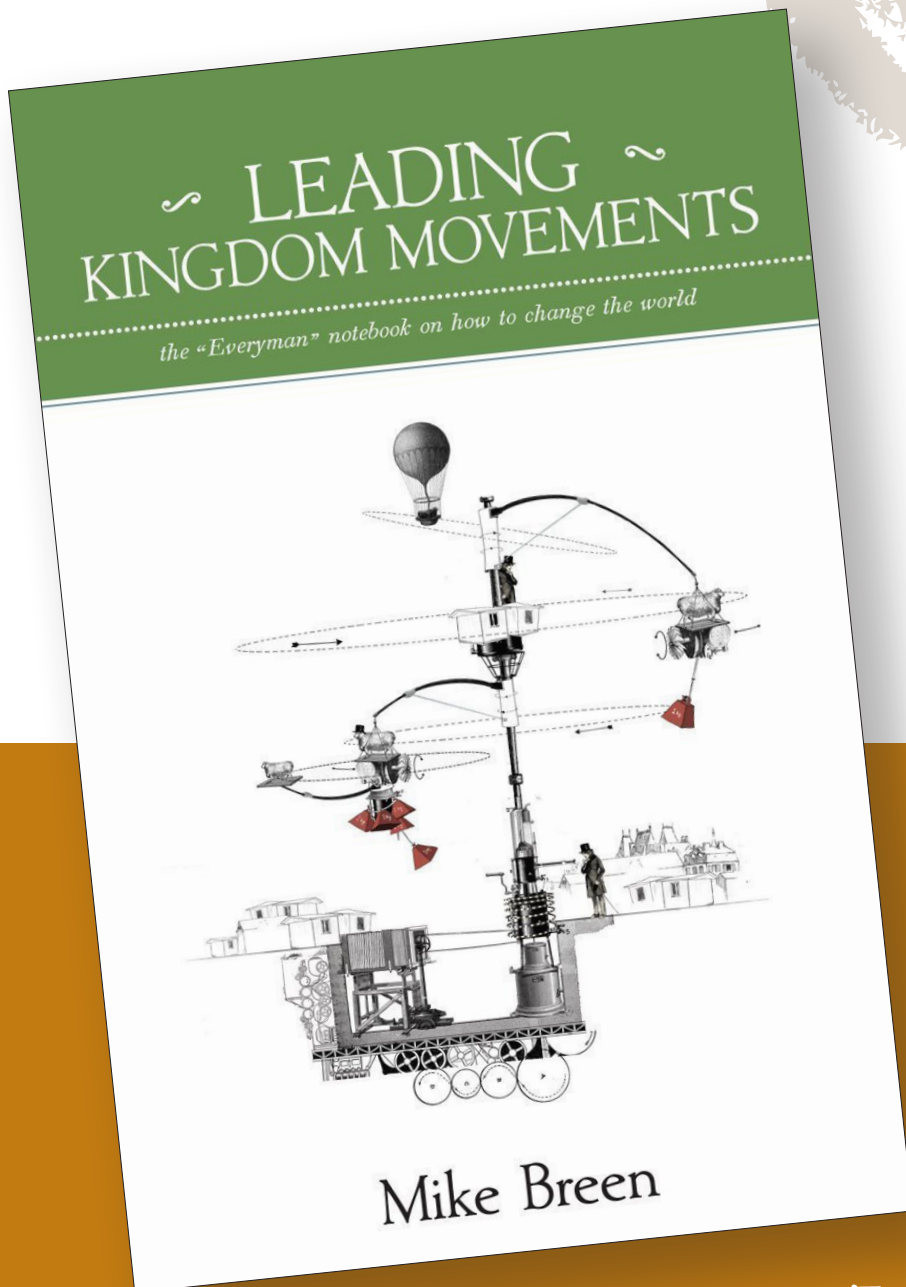


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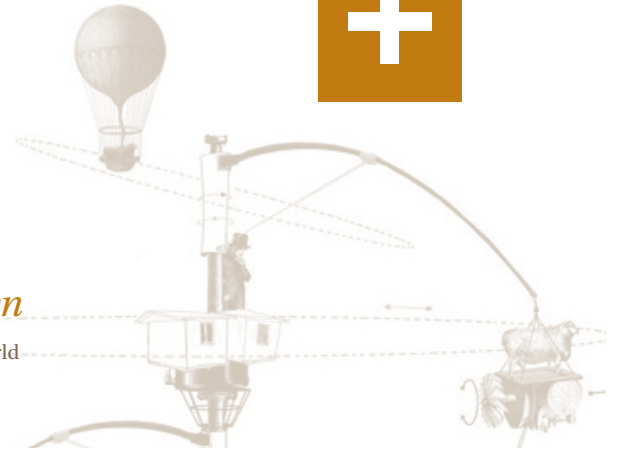
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Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen*

Leading Kingdom Movements: The “Everyman’s” Notebook on How to Change the World
3 Dimension Ministries: Pawleys Island, SC, 2013. 259 pages.

*Leading Kingdom Movements is a book about movements,
but not just any kind of movements.*

Kingdom movements.

In three years Jesus unleashed a movement that would change the course of human history. What we see in the early church, and specifically in the person of Paul, are people who did something very simple that has profound meaning for us today: they did what Jesus taught them to do.

Jesus taught his disciples how to lead a movement that would change the world – and it worked.

What if we could learn those lessons again?



Part 1: The Age of Earthquakes

If an earthquake occurred in your city tomorrow and left devastation everywhere, what would you do? Emergency workers are taught some very specific steps to follow when they triage a disaster situation.

We all know that earthquakes are not confined to the physical realm. We are in the midst of social and cultural upheaval. The fault lines obscured below our culture and our communities are revealed as hidden powers move.

Interestingly, the writer of Hebrews lists a similar “triage” path for believers to follow when everything around them is shaking.

The world in which you find yourself is in upheaval. You need to prepare for seismic change. As you do so, you need to attend to some basic things. That’s because in a world of shaking and change, you can become self-centered. But you are to keep the **Compassion** (Hebrews 13:1-2) of God burning in your hearts.

Remember to love and to embrace those in greater need. You need to turn away from self-interest and turn toward the **Community** (Hebrews 13:5) you are a part of. When everything else is being broken, you need to tend to community.

Remember that as everything is shaken to its elemental parts, there is a **Connecting Story** (Hebrews 13:5-6) that connects you to all of the people of God down through the age.

And then, in the midst of upheaval and social transformation that can best be described as chaos, remember that you can find your way because there is a **Compass** (Hebrews 13:8) that is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

We are the people of God. Remember who you are.

Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen (cont'd)*

2

Part 2: My Story

In Part 2, Breen lays out a very personal and compelling narrative of his life that serves as both an introduction and a bridge to the core content: what it takes to lead Kingdom movements.

He develops this concept through the following major events of his life:

- The Breaking
- The Spirit
- Grace and Faith
- The Multiplication Years
- The Two Towers Fall

People are not born movement leaders. According to Breen, the people who go on to help lead Kingdom Movements are those who have been willing to embrace an unbelievably difficult breaking experience in which God was able to form something deep within them by constantly returning them to this truth: "Remember, my power is made perfect in your weakness."

At the end of the day, you are not smart enough, gifted enough, charismatic enough, relational enough, strategic enough, disciplined enough, or loving enough to release a Kingdom movement. You simply don't have it within you.

The question is not necessarily whether you've had breaking experiences in your life, but what you did with them.

3

Part 3: The Journey Within

Any sustainable Kingdom movement starts in the heart of a leader. Does he or she have the character and competency to be a movement leader in the way that Jesus envisioned it?

To illustrate what this journey might look like, Mike Breen uses a life-long study of the life of Paul to understand how he was able to sustain the work in his inner life against all odds.

Something was shaped in the heart and character of Paul that created the space for everything that was to come.

Breen used the following major points to develop this understanding of Paul as a biblical example in movement leading:

- Paul: A Man with a Mission
- Paul: Message
- Paul: Method
- Paul: Miraculous + Movement
- Navigating the Spiritual Terrain

Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen (cont'd)*

The life of Paul powerfully demonstrates that we must never think that God is unable to work though the restrictions of our lives.

4

Part 4: The Mechanics of a Movement

It may not sound revolutionary initially, but it is: **Paul's missionary life was laid out in orbital patterns.**

If you read Acts 11 through 21, you will notice, over and over again, certain patterns guiding Paul's life.

For instance, as someone who was part of something larger than himself, after every missionary journey, he orbited into his missional sending center. He always returned to Antioch or Jerusalem. Each time, he'd spend at least a year before going out again.

He set up similar orbital patterns for members of his team and seemed to do this in three distinct ways.

1. His team orbited into times with him each and every day before being sent out each day.
2. He (and no doubt his team) regularly visited the growing number of distant households multiplying across the city.
3. He had his team do the same thing in microcosm that he did after each missionary journey. He sent his teams off to plant churches, carry letters, and represent him—only to orbit back into the missional sending center he was building in Ephesus.

Paul reproduced himself in his leaders, and they continued to orbit into his life regularly. These orbital patterns were then extrapolated into the whole missionary enterprise.

Reproduction doesn't have to mean disconnection where you're constantly saying goodbye. In a healthy reproducing movement, you're never really saying goodbye; instead, you're saying see you later. You will be seeing these people again. No matter how big the enterprise, you should always orbit into something that is bigger than **your thing**.

Predictable rhythms of orbiting patterns are the only thing that can give us the 'freedom in the framework' we need to birth a Kingdom movement.

At the beating heart of all of these orbital patterns should be a missional **oikos** – itself formed by orbital patterns. When we build the orbital patterns of movement in this way (and with oikos at its heart), we get closer to the genius and success of the early church.

Oikos - an extended family on mission - is the beating heart of the movement.

Will the orbital patterns change? Of course. Will these people go on to start things of their own, reproducing what you have taught them and starting their own oikos? Of course – that's the point!

But you will be family with them for the rest of your life. And if you are able to build your life on these orbital patterns, always connecting you and your oikos, you will find it has the capacity be ever expanding, joining a movement that is changing the world—one that is bringing heaven to earth.

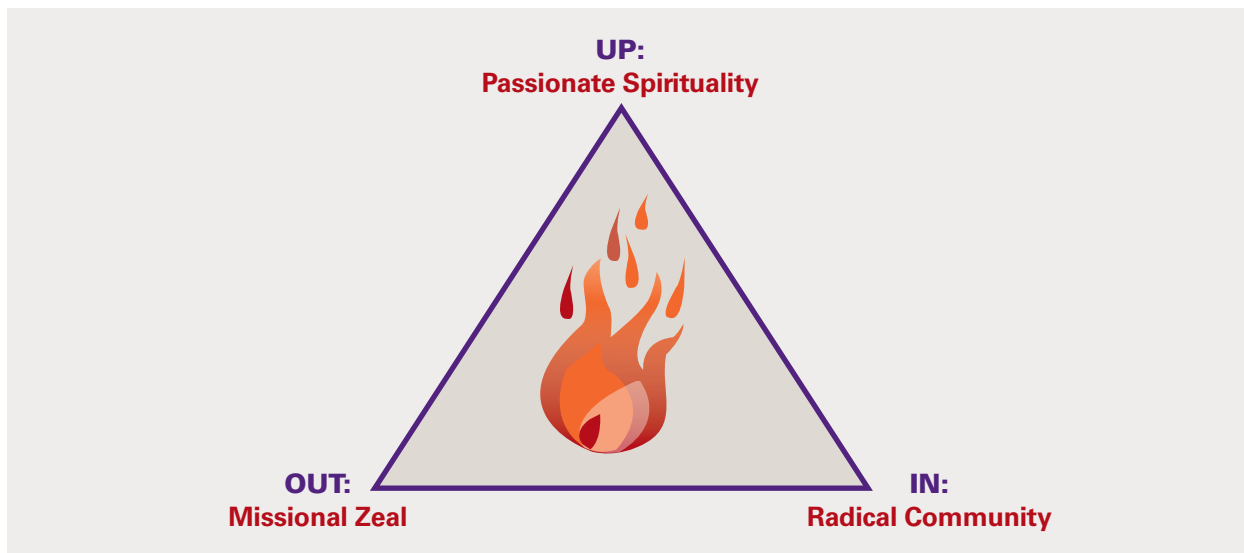
Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen (cont'd)*

As we enter the field of God's presence and power in the life of a particular community (however large), we are formed by it and empowered for greater impact in the world.

That person or that community isn't the point. The gravitational field of spiritual mass isn't the point. The point is that **Jesus is at the center**, welcomed and honored, and he becomes the gravitational force that draws and the centrifugal force that sends out. Jesus is always about invitation to community and challenge to change the world!

And here lies the problem for many of us: We can create orbital patterns. We might even be able to create an oikos. But that doesn't mean we have the spiritual mass in our community yet that would allow people to gain mass by orbiting through it and sending them out. Most of us don't have the faintest clue how to create spiritual mass

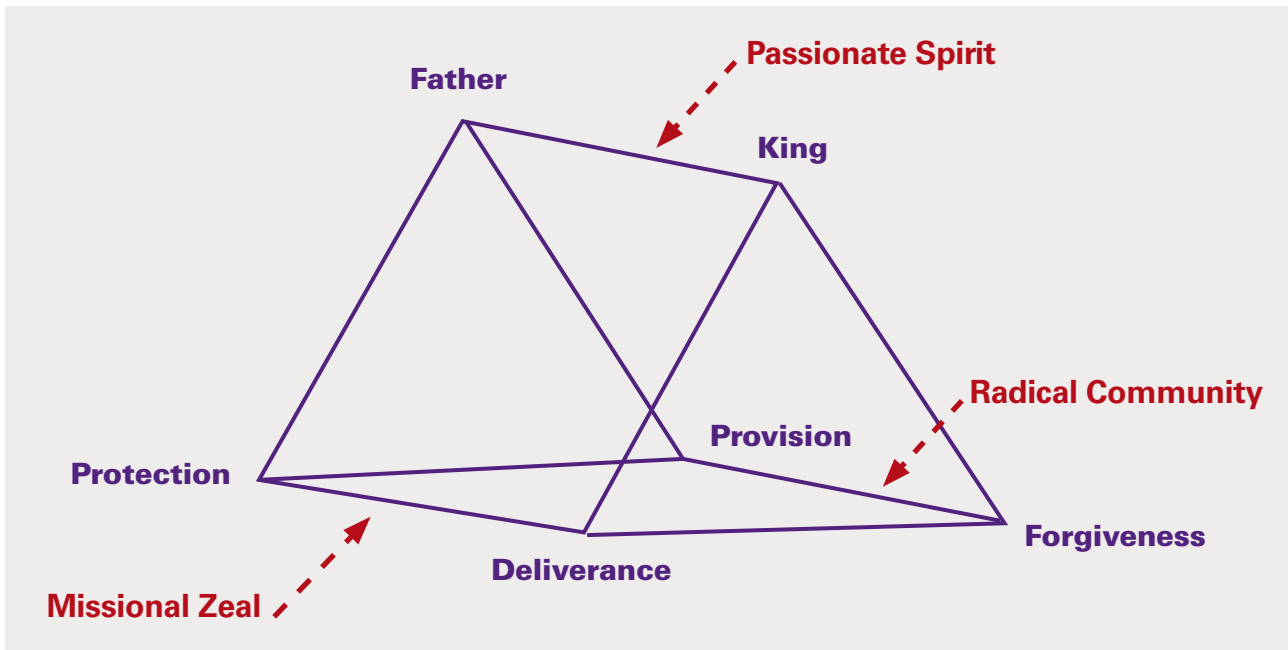
When you increase gravity and mass, you usually create heat. So when we think of the places we are orbiting, let's think of them as red-hot centers.



- **Passionate Spirituality:** In each place, the church was absolutely passionate about God. That passion was expressed in unbridled praise and worship, prayer, commitment to the teaching and obeying of the word, and lives oriented around fasting, feasting, and the breaking of bread.
- **Radical Community:** In each place, vibrant expressions of community existed. People were prepared to sacrifice and share life to levels that we would call extreme today, in order to be a family on mission together.
- **Missional Zeal:** We see a movement of mission develop in each place, with each having a slightly different flavor. In Jerusalem, the church saw people added to their number daily, and it seems like it happened more because of their life of radical community. Antioch enjoyed the presence of many missionaries and very large evangelistic gatherings. Ephesus sent out church planters and movement leaders in their own right.

Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen (cont'd)*

| What we see in this model are six points of focus that we can pray through over and over again: | |
|---|--|
| 1. The Father's Character: | Help us know you in such a way that we always know and experience the innate goodness of your character. |
| 2. The Father is the King of a Kingdom: | Help us to advance your Kingdom through your Holy Spirit in such a way that we fight "not against flesh and blood, but against the powers and principalities." |
| 3. The Father's Provision: | Help us with the things we need each day! Provide us the things we need spiritually, emotionally, and physically. |
| 4. The King's Forgiveness: | Help us to forgive others the way you have forgiven us, and in doing so allow us to accept and experience your forgiveness. |
| 5. The Father's Protection: | Help us to remain pure and set apart as we step out into a broken world each day. |
| 6. The King's Deliverance: | Help us to fight well against the principalities and powers with your Holy Spirit leading us. |



Building a red-hot center requires that you change the way you understand what your community is supposed to be doing in this world. That will require significant work in you as a leader, in terms of what the Lord wants to do in you and what he is able to do through you as a leader.

Leading Kingdom Movements | *Mike Breen (cont'd)*

5

Part 5: The Conclusion

There is not a prescriptive way of understanding how to create and help lead a Kingdom movement. There is no magic formula in the sky. The stories found in *Leading Kingdom Movements* won't be your story. God will ask you to do different things that reflect what he needs to do in your life, in the life of your specific community, and in your particular city.

There may be things God asks that you do for the rest of your life; there may be things you only do for a season. The two questions Mike Breen keeps returning to, and challenges the reader with, are these:

- What is God saying to me?
- What am I going to do about it?

The world is aching to be changed. It's begging for it. Will you help change it?

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Recommended Resources

1. *Leading Kingdom Movements* author Mike Breen says that we can't lead people to a place we've never been, and we can't coach them to drive a vehicle we've never driven! **Read** his reasoning behind writing *Leading Missional Communities* in this brief article.
2. **Read** about "The First Step in Recovering Movement in Denominational Life" by Auxano Founder and Team Leader Will Mancini.
3. **Read** why the team at 3DM thinks that leading a Kingdom Movement is all about multiplication and not about the leader.

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Go Ahead Actions for Vision Clarity

by Mike Gammill

Vision Clarity Connection

Jesus' disciples led a movement that changed the world because they did what Jesus taught them to do. Mike Breen argues that we can do the same—if we learn and apply the same lessons from Jesus that the first disciples learned. These lessons inspire us to a pattern of upward, inward, and outward action, along with prayer centered on Jesus.

Breen reminds us of the critical importance to develop reproducing leaders. His creative yet substantive thought concepts, such as relational orbits and spiritual mass, demonstrate why he is a thought leader in the Missional Church movement.

Go Ahead

- 1. Identify and recruit reproducing leaders, and invest one meal a month.** Mentoring leaders increases your ministry impact by multiplication. In addition to instituting a formal leadership development process in your church, identify one, two, or even a small group, of upcoming ministry leaders. Then invest the time of one meal a month in their lives. The cost? An hour a month, a measure of vulnerability, and a measure of challenge. The return? Each person gets that much better at everything they do. The real win is when they do the same.
- 2. Identify your orbital ministry patterns.** Breen argues that an orbital pattern of ministry is evident in Paul's ministry. There is one in your church ministry as well. Meet with your ministry team and spend an hour performing a ministry audit. To discern your pattern of disciple making, list every activity in which people in your ministry are involved: daily, weekly, monthly, semi-annually, and annually. Identify the "oikos", or extended family on mission, that is the beating heart of your movement.
- 3. Increase your Spiritual Mass.** Breen associates spiritual mass with spiritual zeal and fervor, especially from those whose walk with a limp. There is nothing more powerful in a leader than the mature combination of humility and zeal. Such a combination only comes from walking with Christ through our brokenness to uncover how He wants to redeem it for His glory. Working with your leadership team, identify at least one person or group in your church exhibiting each of the following characteristics:
 - Passionate Spirituality
 - Radical Community
 - Missional Zeal
- 4. Conduct a Self-Diagnosis.** Any weakness in the three characteristics above is usually mirrored in your own life first. Individually, work through the following process to understand any weakness in your own community:
 - Start in your own life – How is your weakness mirrored in the culture you are creating?
 - Let the breakthrough spread – Once you have identified the weakness, work to intentionally spread it through your nuclear family
 - Breakthrough abounds – As you begin to see breakthrough in your personal life, in your family, and in your oikos, tell stories and invite others into this greater reality.



More About Mike Gammill

Mike has fifteen years of experience serving in the local church in multiple capacities. He started in ministry as an Associate Pastor in a small rural church in Montana and served most recently as an Executive Pastor of Discipleship in a 5000-member church in Northwest Houston. From his experience as a lone associate pastor and an interim Senior Pastor in smaller churches to his experience on a staff of over thirty, Mike has a passion for uncovering potential in the Body of Christ through Christ-like leadership. He specializes in leading collaborative discussions and designing missionally aligned strategies and organizational structures.

Mike has a Master's of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary and is an Ordained Elder in the Evangelical Church of North America.

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