

Spring 2024



The Call

Relational Mission – A Way of Life



About us

We are Relational Mission, a family of 75+ churches based in the UK, mainland Europe and increasingly across the globe, led by a team of three apostles. Our movement is marked by a unique way of life that includes prayer, church planting momentum and authentic relationship. Together we preach Christ, and plant and strengthen churches to the ends of the earth.

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Dates for your diary

1 May Pacific Rim Conference | South Korea
For all with a heart for a Pacific Rim nation

16 June Call Campaign: Gift Day | Local
Churches committed to financing gospel advance

28 June ENOUGH Prayers of Many | Local
Gathering in local communities to pray

9 July – 2 August Newday 2024 | UK
A Christian festival for youth aged 12–18 years

23 – 26 August More Together Festival | UK
Fun and fellowship for RM churches in the UK

25 – 28 September Pioneer Europe | Spain
*For current, future and exploring church planters,
and their leaders and supporters*

Further details at relationalmission.org/events



Dear Relational Mission family,

At a recent gathering of leaders drawn from different groups, networks, and denominations, there was an awareness of the many challenges the church faces.

Yet nearly all reported inspiring stories of individuals coming to faith - many as a result of God powerfully at work. Amongst us as a family of churches I am hearing similar reports. Let us be encouraged! God is on the move, bringing people to know Christ as their Saviour across the nations.

How can we respond? Our website www.thecall.world details three key actions:

- **Pray** For seven years we invested in 'ENOUGH', a humble attempt to shape a culture of corporate prayer amongst us so that, as in the days of William Carey, we could say 'prayer became a contagion!' We are definitely growing in this, with corporate prayer at the core of every new initiative of mission. *Visit the website to explore many different opportunities to join with others to pray.*
- **Grow and Go** Training and equipping opportunities for all of us across the Relational Mission family are increasing. *Check out the website for ways to get trained and involved in mission!*
- **Give** Imagine the potential impact for the gospel as we each give our time, treasure and talents into God's hands! Giving is much more than money, but finances are still a vital part. *Discover ways you can support key areas of mission on the website.*

Mike Betts

Apostle, Relational Mission



Coffee, cake and transformation

What does it look like when God gives you a vision?

For Becky Meadows and her team in Rochester, UK, it looks like serving coffee and scones in a bustling café.

Six years ago, Becky and a few others from Cornerstone City Church had a vision of a community café, a hub for all kinds of activities. They wanted to combat isolation and loneliness—something Becky had experienced as a first-time mum—and especially wanted young mums to feel welcome.

Rochester, however, is a historical town and rent is expensive, but after running a variety of pop-up cafés in the church Becky thought, “We can do this.”

One day Becky received a call from Suzie Voke, “The Adult Education Centre Café has shut down!” The Centre, set on Medway’s high street, served many people including many Supported Learners. Its council-run café had been a place where people could relax between courses. Now it was closed.

Becky and her team approached Medway Council with their vision. The initial response was scepticism. *How would a church run a café?* For the next two years they brought ideas, wrote proposals and shared interviews with people from the Adult Education program asking for a café. Finally, the council approved.

In September 2019, Cornerstone City Church launched Jaspers Café with Becky and one other paid staff member. Miraculously, the council did not charge rent for the first year, helping them get established. Four years on, Jaspers has grown into a thriving community resource, the heartbeat between the education centre upstairs and the library



The team of volunteers and staff



Ron (left) could not have known how his life would be changed by a visit to

Jaspers



receive a visit from the Mayor of Medway

downstairs, supported by a team of volunteers. True to Becky's vision, the café isn't just about coffee. It is a hub of community activity.

Jaspers runs a weekly Chatty Café, a nationwide scheme to provide conversational spaces to help reduce loneliness and isolation. It is now home to a close-knit group, several of whom now volunteer.

The café also hosts Cornerstone's Connect Groups, where people over 50 can learn more about faith and Christ, and connect with a church community.

Ron was one such gentleman. In his late 80s and estranged from

his own family, he first joined a Connect Group, then a community group, before requesting to be baptised. When Ron passed away, Cornerstone helped to organise his funeral and memorial. In his words, "The last years of my life have been the happiest years of my life."

Younger people find connection and support too. The Lanterns Group serves solo parents, providing cooking workshops and DIY activities alongside innovative childcare activities. Jaspers also works with the local council to provide community services such as safe, nurturing work experience opportunities for adult students. One young man received one-year mentoring at Jaspers and his support worker commented, "I cannot believe how he is here compared with how he is in school. His confidence grows and he engages."

Today, Jaspers has five staff, 25 volunteers and is open five days a week. Pray for Becky and the team as they continue to serve, make connections, and introduce people to the love and gospel of Christ.

God wants to speak to us all the time! Consider putting aside some quality time in the next few weeks to listen to what He wants to say to you. Who knows what He might be calling you to?

To the ends of the earth

Dutch couple Jaco and Janneke Meijers are enthusiastic about planting churches across the Netherlands – and beyond.



Their story began at *Wijnstok-gemeente*, an RM church in Berkel. In 2003, they joined a group to plant a church in Reeuwijk (just east of The Hague), that became *Christengemeente Elim*.

Around that time Keith Hazell, a prophet who served RM for many years, gave the Meijers a word: “You will be church planters – go south.” Directly south of Reeuwijk is Gouda – famous for its namesake cheese! – so in 2006 they moved to Gouda, and *Goudse Familiekerk* began meeting in 2018.

A year later, two couples moved to the province of Zeeland – 90 minutes south of Gouda – both carrying prophetic words about its capital, Middelburg. Surrounded by sand dunes and beaches, they couldn’t help wondering, ‘*Could we start a church here?*’ On a visit to Middelburg, the Meijers spotted a beautiful home. Again, prophetic

words encouraged them to take a risk. They made an offer and, three weeks later, they had the house!

The congregation in Gouda was still growing. The Meijers remained on the leadership team and, to better focus on establishing the two new churches, Jaco took early retirement and Janneke quit her teaching job a year later. They currently divide their time between *Goudse Familiekerk* and the newly planted *Familiekerk Walcheren in Middelburg*.

Their long-term vision is to see churches planted into every province in the Netherlands, and it requires many more people. Together with other Dutch leaders in RM, the Meijers’ dream is to see many more new leaders sought out and discipled; men and women who will write new chapters of the church planting story of the Netherlands – to the glory of God.



Want to uncover Jaco and Janneke’s five top tips for planting a church? Head to www.bit.ly/churchplantingtips

The power of kindness

Visit the iCaf in King's Lynn, UK and you'll see Leviticus 19:34 in action: "The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself..." (NIV)

In April 2022, Gateway Church relaunched iCaf (International Café) with a simple vision: to welcome internationals with conversational English and a cup of tea.

Three weeks later, they were crowded with Ukrainian refugees: the first wave fleeing war. What had begun as an informal set-up with a single kettle was suddenly serving 25 refugees and many others internationals.

Refugees escaping war are finding the greatest peace - in God



As well as Ukrainians, iCaf began to attract Uzbeks, Turks and others; many calling it 'the only consistency in our lives'.

The team expanded to teaching English and helping refugees search for jobs, all the while sharing the gospel - and three people have come to faith so far! After running an Alpha course with Ukrainian subtitles, one lady prayed to receive Christ and exclaimed, "Tomorrow is my birthday, but today is my new birthday!"

Refugees are still arriving, fleeing the terror of war, but in the words of Mike Betts: "Churches have one of the best tools for people to recover from trauma: kindness."

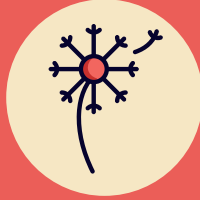
Paul tells us: "Clothe yourselves with kindness" (Colossians 3:12). How can we make a habit of 'wearing' kindness as we interact with our community?





Pray

Learn how you can pray by signing up for updates from across our family of churches.



Grow and Go

Discover how to invest in your own growth to help you go and make disciples.



Give

Play your part in raising £1M to help plant 20 new churches and strengthen existing ones.



www.thecall.world