

# NBCF will not be a church given to a *western world's* definition of church—we are an apostolic prophetic center—with an apostolic prophetic (New Testament) vision and dimension for these Last Days.

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An apostolic prophetic center is not just a church with a prophet or apostle oversight, of course it does include that, but it is much more. *It is the New Testament Church in full operation as the Bible records it with an apostle and prophet at the head (just as like the first New Testament Church).*

It is apparent in our western world church that many do not understand the existence or operation and mission of the position of 5-fold ministers according to Ephesians 4:11-13:

*“It was He [Jesus Christ] who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>TO PREPARE GOD'S PEOPLE FOR WORKS OF SERVICE, so that the body of Christ may be built up <sup>13</sup>until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*

The 5-fold ministers mentioned in Ephesians 4:11-13 are to prepare God's people for works of service. They are to perfect, equip, train and get ready the Saints for works of service.

In apostolic centers, God is now *forcefully* restoring the ministry of the 5-fold ministers to the church and in that He is restoring the Saints to their *priestly position*—He is preparing, perfecting, training, and equipping His people—the born-again Saints—average people with their God-given gifts—for works of service.

The Spirit of God through the prophetic apostolic dimension is transforming our motivations, orientations, and specifically the way we look at the local church and our ministries.

## **Apostles and prophets are agents of change.**

We are in a time of apostolic and prophetic change, transition, and restoration—that means we can expect to see and experience change, transition and restoration in the local church and the true Church worldwide.

NBCF is going into its FOURTH year. Four means the world/earth (4 winds 4 corners). It also means, rule and reign over the earth; global implications such as east, west, north, south; territorial specific realm implications.

We have had a prophecy from Apostle/Missionary Roland Jones that NBCF would begin to prepare to go into other areas of the world this year (2009).

Taking the “ruling and reigning” aspect of the number four: Only those who know *who they are in Christ* will rule and reign in their territorial places and rights during these last days! Church, you must:

***Know Who You Are!***

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God has appointed and given NBCF a territory that we are to take for Him. We are not to give up or give in.

## Defining Apostolic Center

To define an apostolic prophetic center, we have to look at the function of the first-century apostle, which will help us understand the 21<sup>st</sup> century apostle. In other words, the function of apostle has not changed!

## Functions of First-Century Apostles are Anointed Men and Women Who:

1. Take the gospel to unreached areas (Rom. 15:20, NIV).
2. Plant churches upon the foundation of Christ and helping established churches return to this scriptural foundation (1Cor. 3:10,11; Gal. 1:6-10; 3:13; Rev. 2:15).
3. Appoint and train the initial leaders of a church (Acts 14:21-23; Titus 1:5).
4. Deal with specific problems, false doctrines (apostasy) or sin (1Cor. 1:1-16:24; Acts 15).
5. Promotes unity in the Body of Christ and desires to help churches network (Eph. 4:1-16; Acts 11:27-30; Rom. 15:25-27; 1Cor. 16:1-4; 2Cor. 8:9).
6. Demonstrate and impart the supernatural dimension of the Kingdom of God (2Cor. 12:12; Acts 4:33; 8:4-20; 10:44-46; 19:16; 2Tim. 1:6-7). I.e. signs, wonders and miracles.

***These functions have never changed.*** God has never changed His mind about the functions of His 5-fold ministry let alone the apostle. The Church has changed its opinion of the apostle—it has removed the apostle, but God’s says, “No more! It’s time to Restore [fully]!”

***Apostles are totally Vision minded. Their God-given Vision is what drives and moves them.***

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## Defining the Prophetic Center

Where does the prophetic fit in? The prophetic in this case is not referring to having the Manifestation gift of prophesying operating—it is referring to the *Office* (5-fold ministry gift) of Prophet operating.

The Prophet operates by hearing the voice of God. ALL Believers have the capacity to hear the voice of God for themselves because all Believers have the Holy Spirit of God. The Prophet’s gift is to the Body of Christ (not for themselves)—so they hear from God for or on behalf of the Church (over all) in different and specific capacities and areas.

***Prophets are Vision minded—are given to God-given Vision.***

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## The Overall/Reader's Digest Version of What the Prophet's Job Description or Function in the Local Church is . . .

1. To train people to hear the Lord for themselves.
2. To teach believers how to find and live in the will of God for themselves.
3. To instruct and train people in the gift of prophesy and to help churches establish the right framework and protocol for the gift.
4. To bring the Word of the Lord either in inspired preaching or by supernatural prophetic utterance.
5. To confront (meet & challenge) the Body (through the inspiration/leading of the Holy Spirit) with God's holiness and righteousness to help prepare a Church without spot or wrinkle—blameless for the Second Return of Christ. (It is the nature of the Prophet to defend God's holiness/righteousness.)

*The Prophet is invaluable in the local church.*

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## The Prophet in the Local Church . . .

1. Can restore people's dignity and self-respect.
2. Can awaken and activate the saints to the purpose of God for their time. To help them develop and grow in their personal God-given Vision and dreams.
3. Can bring correction and warning. Yes, 2 Timothy 4:2 AMP.—*"Herald and preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking and correcting, warning and urging and encouraging them, being unflagging and inexhaustible in patience and teaching."*
4. Can provide direction and enhance vision. There is a difference between "direction" and "guidance." There is "directive" prophecy. It is an unsought word, sovereignty imparted by the Lord into our lives to bring either confirmation or to completely open our lives to some new purpose. The initiative lies completely with the Lord. However, we are to judge and weigh everything in a responsible manner.
5. Can provide an agenda for prayer—Intercessory Prayer. Is vital to spiritual warfare.
6. Can stimulate and provoke spiritual growth in individual members.
7. Can work with the pastor and teachers in implementing prophecies relating to the Vision of the church, the spiritual growth, or the spiritual welfare of the church by transitioning the prophecies into teachings and preachings. *Peter took Joel's prophecy and preached on it!*
8. Can help train up the prophetic ministry in the church. *Real Prophets promote ministry and have a passion to train and release others.*
9. [A mature trusted Prophet] can help raise up those with the Motivational Gift of prophecy (developing prophets) and oversee (direct, judge/weigh, etc.) those operating in the simple Manifestation Gift of prophecy.
10. Can provide evangelistic breakthroughs.
11. Can bring foretelling and prediction. *Foretelling*—communicating the future as it is perceived in the mind and heart of God. This is used to shape the direction of the church; to cause a desire for godliness; to empower and release people. This declaring can come via teaching, preaching, the spoken prophetic

word, vision and interpretation and symbolic acts. It will exhort, edify and console as well as admonish, provide warning and bring reproof (Rev. 2-5)

12. Can release the church into new doctrine or practices.
13. Can provide insight into counseling situations. Through Word of wisdom/knowledge.
14. Can provide a spirit of thanksgiving and praise.
15. Can help prepare the way for a visitation of God [Revival] by addressing oppositions and difficult issues not able to be dislodged by other 5-fold ministries.
16. Can bring/release a spiritual alertness.
17. Can hear from God in unique ways (dreams, visions, angelic visitations, etc.) and bring *clarity and perspective* to the church in difficult days.
18. Can help TURN the Church who may be out of God's will or failing in Vision—pointing them back to God through Repentance.
19. Can bring forth NEW and NOW revelation understanding from the Word of God imperative in provoking the church to holiness and in doing so PREPARING—making ready [keeping their lanterns full] the church for the Second Coming of Christ. Part of that preparation is the receiving and imparting of specific revelation to the earth. Also the *interpreting of signs correctly*.
20. Can sound the alarm in times of transition, judgment, expansion and warfare.
21. Can provide a faith injection.
22. Is to be a governmental [administrative/directional] ministry with the apostolic ministries. (Prophets often bring directional and structural adjustments to churches, movements and even governments, which is usually administered through local apostolic leaders.)

NBCF will move by the Voice of the Lord [the Holy Spirit]. In other words, we live, move and have our being in Christ and what He is speaking to us. We say what He says, we move when and how He says to move. That takes a “hearing” with surety—not guessing. We don't have time to guess!

Also, not only do we move prophetically, but we are teaching prophetically. In other words, God knows **what** this church needs to hear and **when** they need to hear it. That's called prophetic teaching.

*An apostolic prophetic center will revolve around the restoration functions of the apostle and prophet while working equally with all the remaining 5-fold ministry positions of evangelist, pastor and teacher.*

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This next year NBCF will be intentionally and methodically moving into the transition of the apostolic prophetic center. (Remember, this is a process and not an overnight process!) A *center is the point around which everything revolves*.

Under the apostolic prophetic anointing, the Church will be a place of refuge, refreshing, celebration, and fellowship but also a place of leadership and general training, discipleship, spiritual and physically equipping, and the deployment of every Believer.

## The church as the apostolic center will restore [straighten out thoroughly to a natural, normal and greater condition] true ministry. There will be . . .

- The restoration of all 5-fold ministry gifts of apostle, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers working together to advance the Gospel.
- The restoration of apostolic team rather than the one-man only paradigm, lone ranger, or individual concept.
- The royal priesthood of all Believers.
- The importance of a local church where everyone is committed to being a *builder* rather than a *receiver* of knowledge only to advance one's personal interest.
- An apostolic structure where every willing and available Believer can function and minister outside the four walls of the local church.
- Discipleship (not just conversions) as the goal of evangelism.
- A fresh focus on Evangelism.
- Territories of spiritual jurisdiction.

### Quote: By Jonas Clark, *The Apostolic Equipping Dimension*

*"The gathered believers in a local apostolic center are the epic center of repentance, fervent prayer, prophetic decrees, apostolic establishment, spiritual warfare, revelation, praise, worship and spirit life.*

*". . . Many people don't understand the apostolic governing dynamic of a local church. Many believers have isolated themselves and seldom think about reaching beyond their own immediate families and into the harvest fields around them. Mostly church has been reduced to a Sunday morning routine. Many attend church only to hide from the cares of this world. Others because it seems to be the right thing to do. Others only to receive something. Therefore church attendance becomes a spectator, consumer, bless-me-only event void of builders. With this religious mindset one church seems to be as good as another. However, this is not the case in apostolic churches who understand their unique purpose. To them it is not about having church but being the church.*

*"With the restoration of the apostolic dimension and the priesthood of every believer, it is clear that apostolic churches will raise up teams and small groups as an effective strategy to invade and occupy a city.*

*"A true apostolic paradigm is one that . . . gathers, teaches, equips, assigns, targets, builds, shapes, deploys teams, and disciples."*

### Who Are You and Where Do You Fit in?

All Believers are a *holy priesthood* called by God to offer up spiritual sacrifices as priests (1 Pet. 2:5). All Believers are in essence a royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:9) and the sons of God (1 Pet. 1:3, 23; Gal. 3:26) through faith in Christ Jesus. They are all priests and kings (1 Pet. 2:9). All born-again Believers have received the call as

Ambassadors of Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:20).

*An Ambassador is the highest ranking diplomatic representative appointed by a country or government. THAT'S YOU!*

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Every born-again Believer is qualified to be spiritually equipped and deployed for works of service. You are an ambassador—you are a minister. *Where and how* we each minister are issues at hand—but we are all ministers. We are *not* all 5-fold ministers, but we are *all* ministers!

Every Believer has been given gifts of service that need to be put to use in his/her ministry as part of the Church! Therefore, every one of us has to get the mindset that we are not our own, but have been bought with a price and now are a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is time for Believers to walk in their Royal Priesthood! The restoration of the Church as a royal priesthood of all Believers will never be complete as long as the Saints do not come to minister, but to only be ministered to.

*“Somehow we got ‘deploy into the city’ confused with ‘gather to a building.’ We confused ‘equipped to do’ with ‘to have knowledge of without action’ and ‘go out’ with ‘hide out.’ . . . Success in ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will no longer be determined by how many are sitting in a building, but by how many have been sent.”* **Jonas Clark, The Apostolic Equipping Dimension**

As the mother eagle sometimes has to tear the nest apart to force her young eaglet's to fly, so God is making His Saints uncomfortable in order to get them to fly!