

The Morphing of ATM

By Dr. [Ron King](#) | [August 6, 2012 - 12:47 pm](#) | [The Voice Newsletter](#)

OUR JOURNEY

We have always said the following: (1) "Change is here to stay" (2) "The one constant you can count on is change" (3) "We will either be a change agent or become the victim of change"
From our inception and throughout the years ATM has always chosen to be a "change agent" rather than a victim of change. This has kept us on the positive edge versus the negative edge of change. While change is always cutting it is another thing to remain on the "cutting-edge." No one can remain unaffected by change. While the Lord does not change because He is perfect we are in "tow" or process and are mandated to change.

*So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we **are changed** into his glorious image. 2 Corinthians 3:18 NLT*

ATM has been in the cocoon and process of change over the past several years. We have had many discussions, examining the Word and times in the Lord's presence to hear His voice for us. The church of our Lord Jesus has been on a similar path. She is in the cocoon and process of change (transformation) as well. Only those who are willing to remain in the cocoon submitting to the Lord's design and process no matter how comfortable or painful that may be will be transformed. Those who do not choose to remain in the cocoon of the Holy Spirit will become victims of change rather than change agents. The change agents will be directed and used by the Lord in assisting His church through that same process.

By God's grace may we continue!

OUR HISTORY

The cultural upheavals of the 1960's combined with the spiritual impact of the charismatic renewal and the Jesus Movement caused thoughtful Christians throughout the body of Christ to reexamine contemporary forms of church life in the light of the New Testament. In the context of this spiritual climate, many men began to explore the ministry of apostles and prophets in relationship to the Church. These men were used of God to pioneer the apostolic and prophetic movements that are continuing to reshape the Church today.

In the mid-seventies, three such men, Roger Pugh, Ron King, and Gary King, who were planting churches, were drawn together by the providence of God. The Lord would use them in the pioneering and formation of what is now referred to as Apostolic Team Ministries, International. This was the beginning of a wonderful relationship of men who shared a common vision to see the restoration of the New Testament Church.

In 1980, Gary, Ron, and Roger incorporated their efforts under the name Apostolic Team Ministries (ATM). Between 1984 and 1987, the men associated with ATM, along with Ted Evans, who previously had apostolic input and worked together with Gary and Ron King, began considering forming a more

formal network of churches. It became clear that by coordinating their outreach efforts, they would be able to have a greater national and international impact. In June, 1987, a congress of church leaders related to these men resolved to become a network of churches. With this decision, Ted Evans was added to the directorship of the newly expanded Apostolic Team Ministries, International. George Barrett, Steve Neptune, Bill Lewis and others were added to the leadership of ATM throughout the years.

From our history to the present, ATM has been faithfully serving the Lord.

To God Alone be the Glory!

FRUIT OF OUR SERVING HIM

ATM [those who have been a part of ATM throughout the years] has sent teams into over 100 nations and has served hundreds of churches and been an initiator and influence in the planting of many more churches. We have left the imprint of our Lord Jesus Christ on every continent but one (Antarctica).

This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15:8 NIV

ATM has been an influence in facilitating genuine unity in the body Christ through initiating, hosting and serving city-wide gatherings, pastoral forums, apostolic/prophetic roundtables, and national and international conferences.

We have been equipping and training many for the work of the ministry through personal discipling. We have raised up many sons and daughters in the faith who are faithfully serving Jesus throughout the world. We have help start and serve Christian Schools, Home Schooling Movements,

Orphanages, Christian Colleges and Seminaries, training missionaries and five-fold ministries both in this nation and in many other nations as well. The Lord has been so faithful to us! We owe everything to Him and honor Jesus for His work in us and through us by His Spirit.

All of this fruit is because of Him! This fruit of the Spirit brings a blessing and spiritual inheritance to our sons as well. For the promise of His Spirit and the fruit is passed on to our children and our children's children. Amen!

While we are eternally grateful for what He has done we also know He is not finished working in and through us. We have a great history and much fruit BUT the BEST is yet to come for ATM. We have a present and a future and this is what we must stay focused on while appreciating the fruit of our past years.

OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE LIES IN OUR PAST

A kingdom culture is an ancient-future culture. It exists from eternity to eternity. However, we can only experience it in the present. Tomorrow can only be experienced when it becomes today.

Today we are experiencing another generation in leadership of ATM. These are spiritual and natural

sons in the faith. Truly the transgenerational vision we have espoused over the years is becoming a reality. The Kingdom Mandate cannot be fulfilled without restoring the Malachi Mandate. The very last verse of the Old Testament would establish Father's heart and purpose for the very first verse of the New Testament. The intertestamental 400 year period between the Old and New Testament was a deafening silence that was awakened by a "VOICE" not an echo preparing the way. The silence was defeated with the appearance of the "Lamb of God" as well as another "VOICE" from heaven declaring Jesus' Sonship. It would be this Son (the last Adam) who would fulfill and initiate the ongoing fulfillment of the Kingdom Mandate through the Malachi Mandate producing many sons.

That same mandate that was restored through and by Jesus Christ has once again been made silent over much of the past 2000 years of church history. The church has covered up, hidden, distorted and silenced both the Malachi and Kingdom Mandates. Whether this was done through deception, ignorance or intentionality they are all the result of disobedience. This act of disobedience produced an "orphaned (fatherless) culture" within the church. A patriarchal culture was never intended to be replaced with a didactic (teaching/tutoring) or a "fatherless" culture. It is only at the death, disappearance, or rejection of fatherhood do we see a tutoring culture replace a fathering culture. *Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:1-7 NKJV*

While there is nothing wrong with teaching it was never intended to replace fathering.

*For even if you had ten thousand others to teach you about Christ, you have only one **spiritual father**. For I became your **father** in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. 1 Corinthians 4:15 NLT*

A fatherless (orphaned) culture produces an entitlement mentality and culture. We see this truth played out before our eyes as we look at the natural realm around us. America has become a fatherless, orphaned, entitlement culture. We expect someone else to work for it (whatever "it" is) and to give "it" to us.

Christian leaders and saints are spending more time watching "Christian TV" and Christian DVD's and reading Christian books than spending time in His Word and Presence! Those who are doing this are destined to be an "ECHO" and not a "VOICE." This includes those who are camping around present day truth and revelation by reading, listening to and watching others more than spending time with Jesus.

While we can appreciate the plethora of Christian media today it has become both a blessing and a curse to the church. Rather than studying (2 Tim 2:15; study/ Grk. Spoudadzo...to use speed, make effort, be prompt or diligent, labor) the Word we watch a video or read a book. Many times the person who we are watching or author we are reading got their information by watching a video or

reading a book. This process leads the church further and further away from the Source and Truth, Jesus Christ. We become a repeater and imitator of others. We become an echo instead of a voice. An echo is a repetition of sound whether our own voice or someone else's. While gathering information from videos, TV, and books may present us approved unto men it does not "present us approved unto God."

Those who are a voice receive revelation from God. Jesus said His church would be built on the REVELATION not INFORMATION of who He is. Many today are but an echo. ATM was built on the revelation of who He is thus being a voice.

I have said all of this to establish a truth, the reality of our present and future lie in the spiritual DNA of our past. The fathers of ATM are men who have been born out of season for such a time as this (i.e. the present and future). Any attempt to destroy one's godly heritage only ends up destroying their spiritual inheritance, identity and destiny. God's Kingdom is a culture of honor that flows vertically and horizontally thus the bearing of our cross.

The spiritual DNA of the fathers of ATM came about through the overshadowing of Holy Spirit. We did not have spiritual fathers as we are seeing restored today (which is a God-thing). We did not get it through books or videos or TV. Nothing was available to us except the Word and Presence of the Lord.

*Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds — his name is the Lord — and rejoice before him. A **father** to the **fatherless**, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling. Psalms 68:4-5 NIV*

While the Lord is a father to the fatherless this was not His original design. It was the result of the fall. His original and restored design is to be a Father to fathers and the fathered. He does not want a fatherless culture. Fathers teach sons to be a voice not an echo. Then they help build platforms for that voice to be heard. They teach sons to be priests who can minister to the Lord and minister to others from being in the presence of the Lord.

God does not hear our echoes He hears our "voices."

*In the morning, O Lord, you hear my **voice**; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation. Psalms 5:3 NIV*

We must nurture and maintain the DNA of ATM which comes from the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and Presence of God. We must continue to impart that DNA throughout the generations. Our Heavenly Father has no grandchildren.

QUESTION: Am I an echo or a voice?

- If you are influenced more by the world than the Lord you are an echo.
- If you spend more time watching "Christian TV" than you do in the Word and Presence of the Lord, you are an echo.

- If you spend more time reading Christian books than the Bible, you are an echo.
- If you sit and watch more Christian DVD's than sitting in the presence of the Lord, you are an echo.
- If you spend more time listening to a particular speaker on a particular subject [e.g. holiness, faith, grace, destiny, etc.], you are an echo.

*For I have not shunned to declare to you the **whole counsel** of God. Acts 20:27 NKJV*

Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the [King] Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him. Acts 28:30-31 NKJV

We are only a voice when we become His voice. It is His voice that carries His Kingly authority that roars over the earth to see His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.

*"At this my heart pounds and leaps from its place. Listen! Listen to the roar of his **voice**, to the rumbling that comes from his mouth. He unleashes his lightning beneath the whole heaven and sends it to the ends of the earth. After that comes the sound of his roar; he thunders with his majestic **voice**. When his **voice** resounds, he holds nothing back. God's **voice** thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, 'Fall on the earth,' and to the rain shower, 'Be a mighty downpour.' So that all men he has made may know his work, he stops every man from his labor. Job 37:1-7 NIV*

*Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning. The Lord thundered from heaven; the **voice** of the Most High resounded. Psalms 18:12-13 NIV*

Ascribe to the Lord, O mighty ones, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.

*The **voice** of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord thunders over the mighty waters. The **voice** of the Lord is powerful; the **voice** of the Lord is majestic. The **voice** of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, Sirion like a young wild ox. The **voice** of the Lord strikes with flashes of lightning. The **voice** of the Lord shakes the desert; the Lord shakes the Desert of Kadesh. The **voice** of the Lord twists the oaks and strips the forests bare. And in his temple all cry, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace. Psalms 29 NIV*

May we continue by His grace to be the voice of the Lord preparing the way for the consummation of His Kingdom!

WHAT DOES THIS MORPHING DO TO THE PRESENT

I am now going to submit what I believe the morphing process has been and is continuing to transform us into. I believe the Lord is transforming His people from a self-centric [bless me], a religion-centric [bless "my" beliefs], a church-centric [bless "my" church], a network-centric [bless "our" network] to a Kingdom-Centric [Isaiah 9:7 NKJV Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with

judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.]

He is the lord of Hosts or other translations say Almighty. The Hebrew word for Host or Almighty is 'tsaba' (tsaw-baw') which literally translates as a mass of people organized for war. I believe this speaks of a kingdom army ready to battle on behalf of His kingdom. I believe God has raised us up for such a time and day to be apostles, prophets and generals with strategies for warring for His kingdom. Our vision must be expanded. The vision we once embraced for ATM was for a time and season BUT now it must be ENLARGED. It must become kingdom-centric in all aspects. We must focus on preparing an army of kings and priests. We know the battle will only intensify, that many will have the form but not the power. We also know that the love of many will grow cold and there will be a great falling away. Yet the Gospel of the KINGDOM must be preached to all nations. The church will not proclaim the Gospel of the KINGDOM until we first receive it. Therefore, we must proclaim the Kingdom to the church as well. What the church has received as the Gospel is, "that Jesus died for them to get them to heaven." The Gospel of the Kingdom says, "Jesus died to get heaven to earth through the Corporate One New Man [Christ]. He has re-inaugurated the kingdom. "The kingdom is here and now but not yet and future." This statement becomes a revelation for the Apostolic/Prophetic hermeneutic. We, the church, have been enculturated in a Greco-Roman mindset and have become philosophers of doctrine by reasoning and intelligence rather than by Holy Spirit, mystery, and revelation. It is not the soul that enlightens the spirit. It is the spirit that enlightens the soul. This references our DNA and the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and Presence of God. Our DNA changed addresses from the natural to the supernatural. It was this DNA that gave us insight to see His church differently than most others or to understand covenant and love for each other different than others. Most Christians understand love from a 2-dimensional view, its breadth and width which can be understood through natural DNA. It takes supernatural DNA to understand from a 4-dimensional view [mystery] in its breadth, width, **height and depth**. This is the understanding of the law of the kingdom.

I believe ATM is to be a VOICE in seeing this reality. Even as we were a voice in the 70's, 80's, and 90's we are to be a voice for the new millennium [the 3rd day generation].

What might this look like if we were to reference the ATM Booklet? To do this I will compare where we were to where I believe we are going. I believe it will simplify our understanding.

Where we were.

PURPOSE:

We of ATM believe our primary reason for existing is to love the Lord with all of our being. Our love is expressed in our obedience to Him (John 14:15). In so doing we glorify the Lord (John 17:4). Thus, our purpose statement is:

ATM exists to glorify God by loving Him with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength – and by fulfilling the Great Commission.

VISION:

Driving our sense of purpose at ATM is the vision that consumes our hearts. That vision may be defined in the following manner:

We see ATM as an expanding network of individuals and churches who are joined together in the planting of local churches throughout the world. Through the synergism of our committed relationships we realize an increased potential for

1. Recruiting, training, sending, and supporting apostolic teams in our worldwide church planting efforts,

2. Strengthening, envisioning, and equipping ATM affiliated churches to reflect...

1. The Fatherhood of God in Christian community,

2. The Lordship of Jesus Christ in faithful obedience, and

3. The power of the Holy Spirit in anointing, gifting, and fruitfulness, and

(3) Networking globally with other Christian brethren to share together in the fulfillment of the *Great Commission*.

ATM's MOTTO:

JESUS' LAST COMMAND—OUR FIRST CONCERN

Where we are.

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VISION: Vision is what we "see."

Simply stated: **We see the Kingdom of God**[Mat 6:10a]

MISSION: Mission is what we "do."

Simply stated: **ruling and establishing God's will on earth (our calling)**[Mat 6:10b]

MODEL: What we "duplicate."

Simply stated: **As it is in heaven**[Mat 6:10c]

VEHICLE: Means to get us there. [the ark]

Simply stated: **The Corporate Man** [Christ: head and body/Eph 2:15; Ph'p 1:27]

VOICE: What we "speak." Our message

Simply stated: **His Kingdom and Priesthood**

MOTTO: What we embrace as our "guiding principle."

Simply stated: **Advancing God's Kingdom** or we could leave it as is: **Jesus' last command—our first concern**. With the understanding that His last command is about advancing His kingdom not just converting souls.

STRATEGY: How we will "fulfill" the vision.

1. **REVELATION:** We must maintain the DNA of His overshadowing presence and be faithful to what He reveals for us. This same DNA must be imparted to the generations. It is hearing from the Lord that gives us a voice. [Heb 13:5b NIV...because God has said....Heb 13:6a...so we say with confidence...]

"The Lord our God has secrets known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of these instructions. Deuteronomy 29:29 NLT

- • Revelation of who He is
- • Revelation of who we are in Him
- • Revelation of His kingdom
- • Revelation of His priesthood
- • Revelation of our priesthood
- • Revelation of His church

1. **RELATIONSHIP:** We are first and foremost a *relationship-based* ministry. We are first of all related to the Lord and His Word. Second, we recognize that we are related to all that honor His Name. Third, we are related in a very practical, functional way with all who choose to join with us in our sphere of labors and doctrinal convictions. Fourth, we are related in a manner of servitude to all who receive us as servants of the Lord. Fifth, we are related as brothers to all the redeemed of the Lord.

We understand that relationship speaks also of accountability and responsibility. Because of this, those of us who work together as a team will relate through 3 principles: (1) submission (2) Deference (3) Preference.

Our Relationships include:

- Our relationship with the Lord
- Our relationship as a team
- Our relationship as fathers and sons
- Our relationship with other fathers and sons
- Our relationship with churches we have birthed or adopted
- Our relationship with churches who receive us as God's ministers
- Our relationship with kingdom-minded leaders within our sphere of influence
- Our relationship with other kingdom-minded leaders

1. **3. RESOURCING:** We acknowledge that as we have freely received we are to freely give. It is out of this revelation and principle that we are called to serve the Lord, His Kingdom and His church.

We are not saying that a laborer is not worthy of his hire or that the ox (ministry) should be muzzled. Those who minister for the Lord are to be honored but not worshipped.

We will help provide the following resources for building up the church and advancing God's Kingdom.

- 5-fold ministries
- Other ministries [e.g. worship, deacons, counseling, etc.]
- Literature
- Media
- Etc.

CLOSING REMARKS

ATM was never meant to be a lord dictating to the churches or saints rather it was always intended to be a servant to its teams, ministries and churches. There are those within ATM that have a fathering relationship with churches and speak authoritatively because of their relationship. The Scriptures uphold this authority for both elders and apostles of a church. Anyone who denies the apostle's authority is denying Scripture. [e.g. 2 Cor 10:1-2, 8-11; 12:11, 14-21] This authority is for building the church up not tearing it down. There is a tremendous difference between hierarchal authority and relational authority. ATM (the teams and ministries) have never, do not now or will we embrace the un-Scriptural view of a hierarchal system of governance. We have stood against this form of governance and a clergy-laity based system from our beginning. We are now and have always been a relationship-based ministry. When and where leaders have authority it is only because of relationship and calling established by the Lord.

Over the years ATM has morphed from its origin as a servant for a single team and ministry to a servant for many teams and ministries. It has now morphed into a servant that convenes the teams and ministries for **Revealing** [revelation], **Relating** [encouraging, exhorting, comforting] and **Resourcing** [sharing, giving, receiving, strengthening and establishing]. As such the directorship serves to convene and moderate not control or manipulate.

PERSONAL COMMENT:

As all of you know, I served ATM for many years as Administrative Director or administrative team leader. My responsibility was to facilitate the convening, the agenda, the communication, logistics and moderate the gatherings. As ATM became a network of many churches I was released to travel through the churches to represent ATM's vision and purpose and report to the churches the fruit of their collective support and labors.

Over the years ATM has morphed away from a network of churches to a network of teams and ministries who serve, lead and influence churches and ministries. It has become more decentralized in its operations and ministry. This will require a different wineskin than that of the past. What will best serve who we are versus who we were? What will this look like?

We will either master change or become its victim. All of us are change agents so we will master it. Change, like sin, is crouching at our door and we must master it.

While none of us has all the answers we have learned over the years to function as one collectively. Jesus has been and will continue to be faithful in leading and directing by his Spirit

Faithfully and lovingly submitted in deference and preference for all.