

Bootcamp Training



How to Begin a Home Congregation in your Community

Omega Kingdom Ministry
Russ Wagner



Welcome to Boot Camp! We are very excited to share this hard copy version of Ekklesia Bootcamp. We thought it would be wise to prepare a hard copy version of Omega Kingdom Ministry's Ekklesia Bootcamp training in case there is a disconnection from our online resources, videos, classes, etc. So welcome to this hard copy training! We hope and pray that this format will be useful to you as you advance God's Kingdom through home congregations.



This chapter is an introduction to our bootcamp training. The format that we have used online is a six week training and coaching to help you begin a home congregation in your community.

We offer this training because we are instructed to do so in Matthew 16:18. Jesus said I will build my... wait a minute, He didn't say church. I know that's what it says in your Bible.

But the word church was never on Jesus lips. What he said was I will build my Ekklesia.

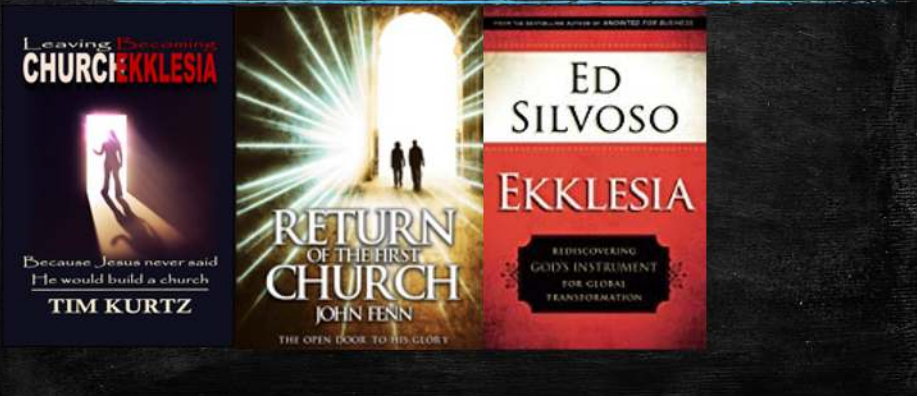
Ekklesia and church are not the same thing. In fact, the word church was not even in the Bible until just about 400 years ago, when King James had the Bible translated into English. Did you know that it was King James who had his translators write the word church into the Bible? He did this in order to validate and give a biblical foundation for the system that men had built. And that he had become the head of in England. He removed the Pope and made himself the head of the church of England to perpetuate it throughout the world.

Years before the King James Bible was translated, William Tyndale translated a version of the Bible. When he came to this verse, he said, Jesus' word's were, "I will build my Congregation." That's why we use the word congregation. We are going to help you learn how to build a home congregation, a home based ministry where you live, in your community.



This is a six week course. During the six weeks, there is one required book to read, it's called *Ekklesia Rising*. It is written by Dean Briggs. Dean is a good friend of Omega Kingdom Ministry. He spoke at our rally in Plymouth and has also shared with our graduates on several occasions in our graduation ceremonies. Tim's book is excellent. It lays the foundation for Ekklesia. The subtitle of the book is, *the authority of Christ in communities of contending prayer*. If you sign up for the course or read this bootcamp guide, we will study this book together, discuss it online with a coach and apply its principles and the teachings.

Optional Reading



There are some other books that are optional and not required for the class. These are helpful if you would like to do some extra research and study on the subject of Ekklesia. We suggest three optional books.: The first one is *Leaving Church Becoming Ekklesia* by Tim Kurtz. Tim is a good friend of mine who lives in Michigan. We first met in 2002. Around that time, I was doing a seminar in Coldwater Michigan. Tim, who lives in Albion Michigan attended the seminar on House Church.

He went home from the seminar, put what had learned into practice and started a home congregation. Tim had been pastoring a traditional black Pentecostal church for a number of years. Since then, he has transitioned into a network of ekklesia in the community of Albion, Michigan. Tim's book is also a very good book. It is subtitled: *because Jesus never said he would build a church*.

The second optional book is *Return of the first church* by John Fenn. John and I have been friends since 2001. He has a network of home congregations in over 20 nations. John's book has one chapter on Ekklesia, but it has a lot of other good information on how to minister from the living room model instead of the auditorium model. There is some really good reading in this book as well.

The third optional book is called: *Ekklesia. Rediscovering God's instrument for global transformation* by Ed Silvoso. In this book, Ed takes Ekklesia into the marketplace and applies it to the daily life of someone who's working in the world and establishing Ekklesia in the workplace and the work environment. This is a very good book as well. These three books are all optional, not required reading, but if you want to do more research on Ekklesia, they are good books to have.

You Will Also Need



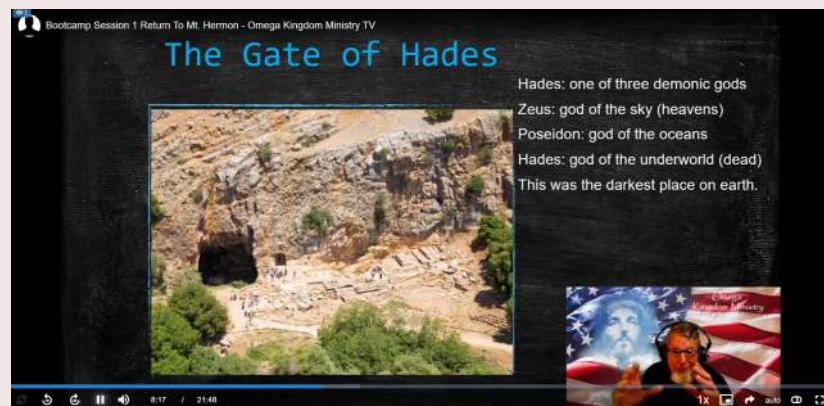
- ✓ A Study Bible
- ✓ A highlighter & Bible pen
- ✓ A notebook
- ✓ A Laptop, smart phone, or pc with camera and microphone
- ✓ A good internet connection

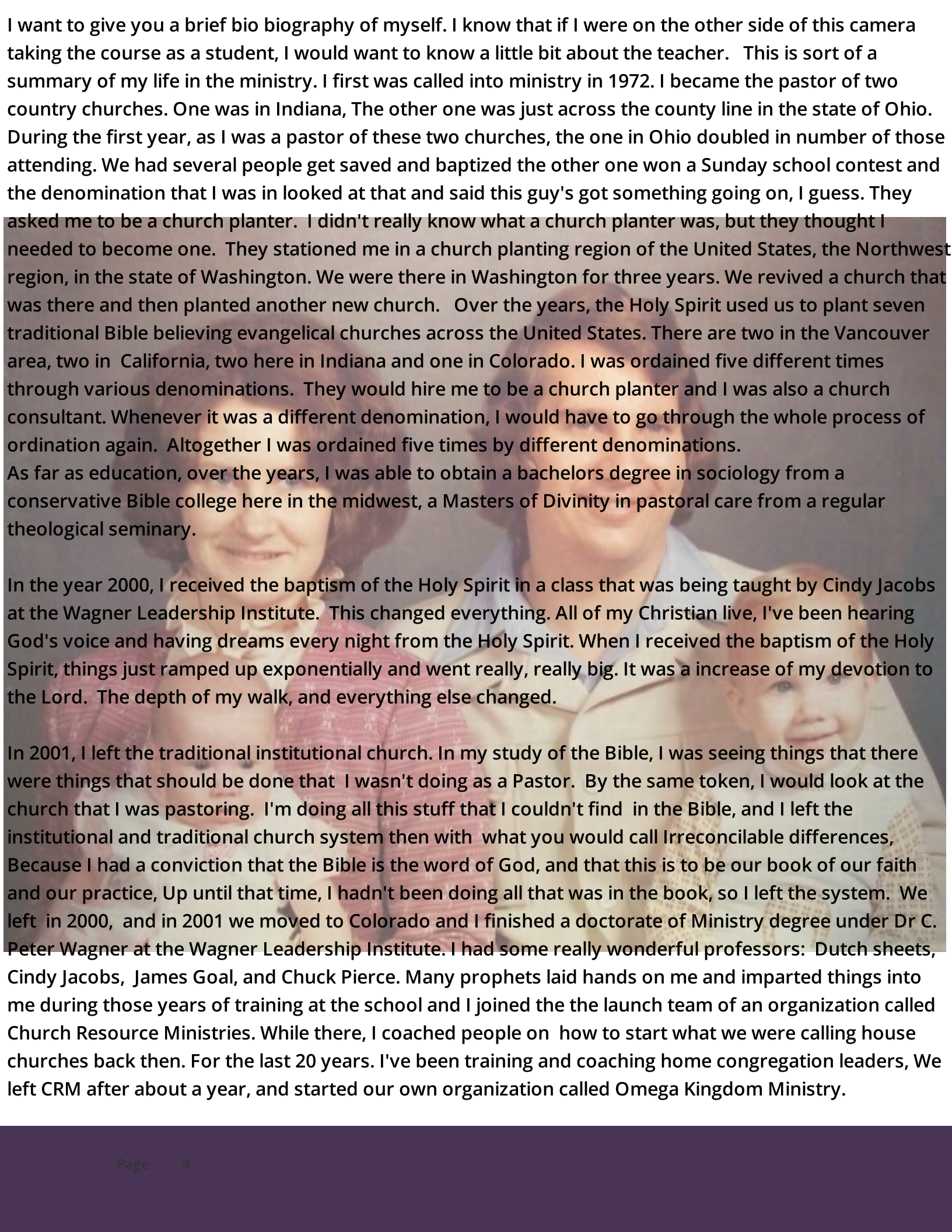
You're also going to need a few other things for this bootcamp training. First of all, you will need a good study Bible. The version and type is your choice. I happen to use a Spirit Filled Life Study Bible in the New King James Version.

You will also need to have a highlighter and pen to underline and write in some of the margins of your Bible, you're going to need a notebook. To connect to the coaching, if the internet is available, you will need a laptop, smartphone or your own personal computer or tablet. These will need to have a video camera and a microphone Because you will be in an online setting and the coach and other students need to see and hear you. Be sure to have a camera and a microphone for interaction and sharing. And then also a good Internet connection with a good modem to enable live audio and video.

There are twelve videos to watch for the bootcamp. If circumstances permit, you will be able to access the videos from our website. The 6 session class would require that you watch 2 videos for each session. The first video is returning to Mount Hermon, the second is What is Ekklesia? and the third is What is church? Next, The Authority, Mission and Message of Ekklesia. There are three videos

about the meeting of the Ekklesia, How it actually takes place in your living room . Then we talk about the Leaders, the five fold ministry of Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and also the multiplication of accuracy, how to how to divide. And keep producing more leaders.





I want to give you a brief bio biography of myself. I know that if I were on the other side of this camera taking the course as a student, I would want to know a little bit about the teacher. This is sort of a summary of my life in the ministry. I first was called into ministry in 1972. I became the pastor of two country churches. One was in Indiana, The other one was just across the county line in the state of Ohio. During the first year, as I was a pastor of these two churches, the one in Ohio doubled in number of those attending. We had several people get saved and baptized the other one won a Sunday school contest and the denomination that I was in looked at that and said this guy's got something going on, I guess. They asked me to be a church planter. I didn't really know what a church planter was, but they thought I needed to become one. They stationed me in a church planting region of the United States, the Northwest region, in the state of Washington. We were there in Washington for three years. We revived a church that was there and then planted another new church. Over the years, the Holy Spirit used us to plant seven traditional Bible believing evangelical churches across the United States. There are two in the Vancouver area, two in California, two here in Indiana and one in Colorado. I was ordained five different times through various denominations. They would hire me to be a church planter and I was also a church consultant. Whenever it was a different denomination, I would have to go through the whole process of ordination again. Altogether I was ordained five times by different denominations. As far as education, over the years, I was able to obtain a bachelors degree in sociology from a conservative Bible college here in the midwest, a Masters of Divinity in pastoral care from a regular theological seminary.

In the year 2000, I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in a class that was being taught by Cindy Jacobs at the Wagner Leadership Institute. This changed everything. All of my Christian live, I've been hearing God's voice and having dreams every night from the Holy Spirit. When I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, things just ramped up exponentially and went really, really big. It was a increase of my devotion to the Lord. The depth of my walk, and everything else changed.

In 2001, I left the traditional institutional church. In my study of the Bible, I was seeing things that there were things that should be done that I wasn't doing as a Pastor. By the same token, I would look at the church that I was pastoring. I'm doing all this stuff that I couldn't find in the Bible, and I left the institutional and traditional church system then with what you would call Irreconcilable differences, Because I had a conviction that the Bible is the word of God, and that this is to be our book of our faith and our practice, Up until that time, I hadn't been doing all that was in the book, so I left the system. We left in 2000, and in 2001 we moved to Colorado and I finished a doctorate of Ministry degree under Dr C. Peter Wagner at the Wagner Leadership Institute. I had some really wonderful professors: Dutch sheets, Cindy Jacobs, James Goal, and Chuck Pierce. Many prophets laid hands on me and imparted things into me during those years of training at the school and I joined the the launch team of an organization called Church Resource Ministries. While there, I coached people on how to start what we were calling house churches back then. For the last 20 years. I've been training and coaching home congregation leaders, We left CRM after about a year, and started our own organization called Omega Kingdom Ministry.

In order to know really where we're at today and how I got to where we are today, I need to share another story with you of my life. In 2002, when I left the system, the Lord called me to a fast and I spent the 40 days fasting with no food, just liquids only. During the last six days of that. I shut myself in isolation. God wanted me to shut myself up with him. I turned off the computer, turned off my cell phone. I turned off the TV, turned off the radio. No records, no CDs, nothing like that. I didn't read any magazines, no newspapers, no books, I read nothing but the Bible. This was total isolation. I didn't talk to any other people, had no other appointments or engagement at all for six days. For the first three days I had this little Walkman, cassette tape recorder, and I had the New Testament on cassette. I put in the cassettes and put on the headphones. For the first three days and three nights, I listened to the New Testament on cassette. I put my mattress in the living room and slept on the living room floor so it wouldn't bother my wife. At the end of those three days, I turned the cassette off grabbed my journal and started writing things. I wrote down what the Lord was saying to me. He was talking to me, giving me input about the Kingdom of God about what he wanted the church to be like. His body on Earth. He spoke to me about the Book of Revelation and how the people in the United States are not prepared for the revelation because they're all looking for the rapture. I wrote all these things down in a journal.

Towards the end of those three days, Jesus spoke to me and he said, "Would you like to sit with me on the couch and hold hands?? And I thought, oh, wow, wow. I. I'm just finishing up a 40 day fast and six days of shutting myself in. You have to understand that during those six days, I didn't take a bath. I didn't shower, I didn't shave. I didn't brush my teeth. I didn't comb my hair. I didn't wash my face. I didn't put on any deodorant. I Didn't put on any clone. I mean, I was pretty rough. So when when the Lord spoke to me and asked me to sit on the couch and hold hands, I instantly rushed to the bathroom. I washed my face. I combed my hair, brushed my teeth. I put on some deodorant and cologne and I came back out to the couch and sat down. Jesus sat beside me. And he just held my hand. He didn't really say anything. It was more like healing of my inner soul. It felt like hot oil was flowing over me and just washing over me, like taking a jacuzzi bath and body lotion or oil it. It was just a soothing feeling washing over me.

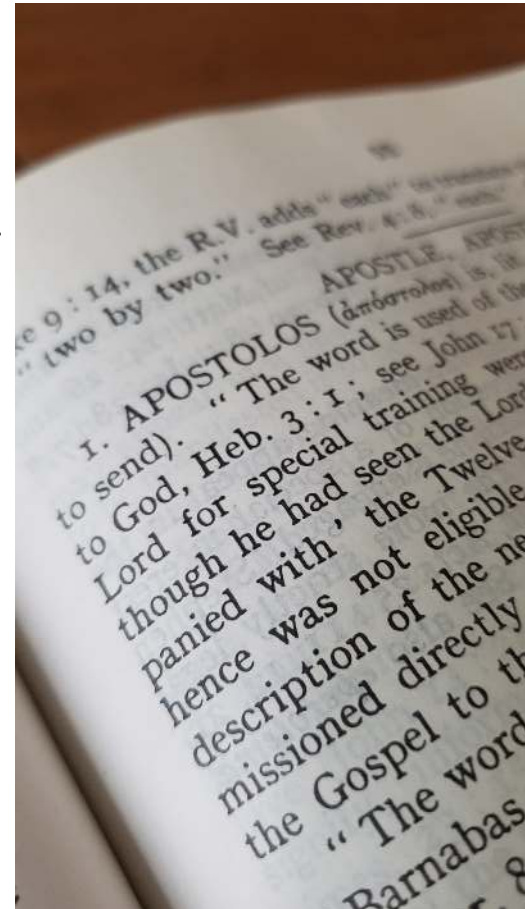
It is too incredible to to describe with words. Towards the end of that experience, I had a vision. right in front of my face. It was a like a map of the United States of America, and it had dots around the perimeter. I asked the Lord, What is this? What is this map all about? And he said that he wanted me to pray for those cities. As I began to pray for them, this map caught on fire. They began to began to blaze. It reminded me of an old TV show that I saw when I was a child called Bonanza. The show would start with the map of the Ponderosa on the tv screen and it would catch on fire and just burn up.



At the end of the vision of the map, the Holy Spirit called me and sent me out. He gave me a Commission, He spoke these words to me and I wrote them in my journal on February the 9th of 2002, here's what he said to me. "You are an apostle of the new paradigm, sent with plans, strategies, Commission and anointing. Now go and do as you've been instructed and I, whose name is Immanuel, will be with you. In every city you go to, there are people there who are already prepared for the message and the anointing you will bring to them. I've called them and prepared them for this new paradigm. You will have a brother who is a prophet of the new paradigm. He will go with you. Together you will dig a new foundation for my church to be built upon."

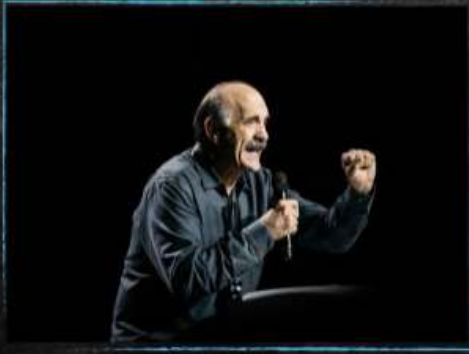
That was my journal entry on February 9, 2002. He sent me out as an apostle, but I want you to know that I don't think of an apostle or some big superstar, some rock star leading some big organization or network? I don't see myself as that. My definition of apostle is simply this. It's an individual who's been sent to accomplish a particular task. Jesus was sending me out with this message of the new paradigm. This comes from the Greek word apostolos, which means one sent, or a messenger. I am a messenger sent forth with a message of Ekklesia. The message of this new paradigm.

What is it? What is a new paradigm? Well, I didn't really know, so I had to look it up after I had that encounter with the Lord. The word paradigm means a framework concerning the basic assumptions or ways of thinking and methodology that are commonly accepted by members of a community. In other words, it's a new mindset, a new way of thinking, or a new worldview. In reality, what we're teaching you is not new, but but if you've been in the church system and all you've known is. Sure. We to we update that and what we're gonna teach you in to we



Jesus did not say, "I will build my church, He said I will build my Ekklesia." Ekklesia and church are not the same thing. If you look up the word Church in a dictionary, your going to discover that its first definition is a building. It's an institution. It's an organization or it's a worship service. It's a denomination. That is how church is defined. That's not Ekklesia at all. Ekklesia is something totally different. This revelation really changes everything once you understand it because Ekklesia changes the way that we gather. Ekklesia changes the way that we minister. Everyone in the Ekklesia gets to Minister, everyone gets the prophesy. Everyone gets to pray. Everyone gets to exercise their spiritual gifts. This revelation changes our authority as we understand it. Christ has given us the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven, and He has commissioned us to bind on earth everything that's bound in heaven and to loose everything on earth that's been loosed in heaven. All authority has been given to us. Meaning the devil has zero authority to change this. Our message is not about church or joining the church or being a member, our message is about the Kingdom of God. That is the message that Jesus preached, and that's the message that we preach. The message of the Kingdom of God. This changes our mission. Our mission is no longer just to build a bigger church

Clarified By A Prophet



"Ekklesia Rising will fuel a flame of intercessory dominion in your soul. The revelation contained in these pages has launched me into a whole new paradigm which I believe can transform missions and bring back the King. Lou Engle

This call that he gave to me in 2002 was really clarified by a prophet just a few years ago. I was I was teaching people about House church for all of those years until about six years ago when I came across the book by Dean Briggs, *Ekklesia Rising*. On the cover of the book, there's a quote by the Prophet Lou Engle, he said, "*Ekklesia Rising will fuel a flame of intercessory dominion in your soul.*"

The revelation contained in these pages has launched me into a whole new paradigm which I believe can transform missions and bring back the King." When I read that the words new paradigm just jumped off the page at me and I knew I had the revelation of Ekklesia that he wanted me to take to go to the cities of America and and to raise up equity is everywhere. It was a confirmation and clarification of my call.

At the end of each video, there is an activation and application. We guarantee you that if you fully do the application and activation at the end of each video, you will see a home congregation rise in your community. Even in this introductory video, we have an application and activation. Here it is: We are asking you to order the book *Ekklesia Rising* by Dean Briggs. You can find it online on Amazon.com or some of the other book outlets. Then we ask you to spend some time in prayer together with your spouse or your prayer partner, seeking the Lord for direction. Because taking this course is a big step. You may get some blowback from the religious people and and say you're leaving the church. They may think that you are walking away from God. The fact is, you're you're getting closer to God and getting to know him on a deeper level. So we ask you to spend some time in prayer before you make this step. And make sure that this is what the Lord wants you to do. If the Lord says yes, then we suggest inviting some friends over to your house for a meal. Have a sit down meal with them. Order pizza or something. Begin to share with them your plans to transition from the traditional church model to a home based congregation and pray with them. Ask them to pray with you, asking the Lord if they should be a part of what He wants to do in your neighborhood and community.





But there are some other things you can do to get started. If circumstances in our nation permit, and you would like to enroll through our normal means, You can go to our website okmtraining.org. Once you're there, you'll see a button that says join a class. Just click on that button and a form will pop up.

Find A Class

Filters

Classes

Boot Camp

Coached by Tom Marchesani

6:30p - 8:30p ET

June 27, 2022 - August 8, 2022

Online Class

Boot Camp

Coached by Jan Coverstone

6:00p - 8:00p ET

June 7, 2022 - July 12, 2022

Online Class

Select a bootcamp that fits your time and schedule. The days and times will be listed there. Fill in the registration form and hit the register button. You will get another form to fill out asking for your name, address, phone number, etc. You will be asked to register using your email and choosing a passwordk. and you will then have access to the okmtraining.org website. There are three components to the class. These are the book, videos and the online coaching. We have already discussed the books and the videos. The big part is the third part and that's the coaching online, the coaching class actually becomes an Ekklesia. We have many classes that have graduated and they're continuing to meet because they became an online Ekklesia. We want to pray the Lords blessing upon you and we're so glad that you're joining us and becoming part of the Ekklesia movement worldwide