

VANTAGEPOINT³

The 2:10 Effect

IGNITING KINGDOM IMPACT

For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life. -Ephesians 2:10

A MENTORING WAY = JESUS' WAY

At VantagePoint3 our passion is to uncover leaders who are bound together by a more relational way of life and ministry. For 20 years this network of relationships continues to grow. We continue to discover afresh that Jesus' way of walking alongside others was deeply compelling then, and now.

One of our teachers is Pastor Jeff Russell of Kokomo, Indiana. Pastor Jeff helps us understand what a mentoring way of life and ministry actually looks like.

Jeff has been using the VP3 processes—*The Journey*, *A Way of Life*, and *Walking with Others*—for over 15 years in the church that he planted in 2002.

“When I became a Christian at 21, I didn’t have that many people who would spend time talking WITH me about my faith. A lot of people were talking AT me. I made a decision that I wasn’t going to be that kind of minister or person. I was going to listen and encourage.”

The winsome pastor continues, “The longer I live the more convinced I am in this more relational way. We live in a culture that confuses us. So we must unlearn some ways of being together so that we can learn afresh the Jesus way of walking alongside others.”

Pastor Jeff further unpacks what his mentoring way looks like. “I can offer an adult a book or offer them a relationship. There’s all kinds of books, but I can offer you myself if you want.” He continues to describe what he believes:



Pastor Jeff Russell

IDEALLY, MENTORING IS A LIFESTYLE. IT'S A WAY OF BEING AS A PERSON. IT'S NOT A PROGRAM.

"But sometimes a program, or process, can help adults discover for themselves what they have been missing—that they do have what it takes to mentor or be a spiritual friend to another person. It's not complicated." He adds, "I'm absolutely convinced that you don't make disciples in mass. Knowing God's truth and living it are two different things. It's about a way of life. It's got to be real."

Pastor Jeff emphasizes with a kind tone in his voice, "Until we unlearn some expectations and reclaim what we know to be true in our hearts about how God wired us for relationship and for friendship and for conversation and questions, we will need processes like VP3 to reclaim this more relational way—this Jesus way—of life and ministry."

A MENTORING WAY OF LIFE AND MINISTRY



Over six years ago Randy and I received an email from Eugene Peterson which would in time become the foreword to our book *Deep Mentoring* (IVP, 2012). Peterson wrote,

"The language of telling people what to think and what to do dominates most leadership paradigms in the church, with very little, if any, mentoring attention given to the actual details of being a Christian in the home and the workplace."

"There are, however, serious efforts being made up and down the line ... to recover a leadership of companionship and a spirituality of relationship."

I remember the deep resonance that we felt as we read through these words that late Spring afternoon – "Yes! Eugene is naming what we are up to at VP3!"

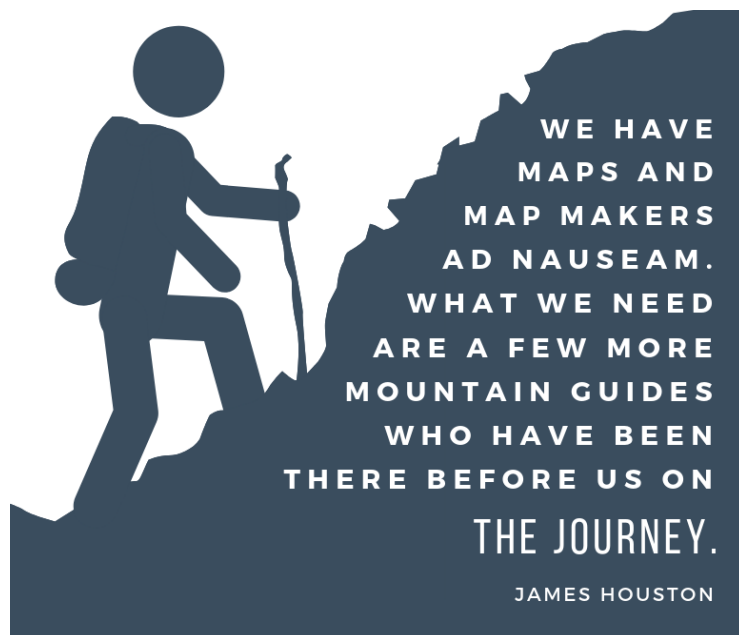
What has become absolutely clear over the almost 20 years of VantagePoint3's ministry is that a mentoring attention is required if leaders are going to help men and women "grow up into Christ in every way" (Ephesians 4).

Beyond simply telling people how to live, we must get close to "the other," moving from behind the pulpit or lectern, the mobile device or computer screen, and actually getting up close and personal. This is an intensely relational investment, and not common practice for most of us personally or in our church communities.

We, however, hope to do our part to steward the VantagePoint3 ministry by equipping ministry leaders, like Pastor Jeff Russell (front), to live out this mentoring way and to guide others to do the same.

The uncommon, faith deepening, and life-aligning set of VP3 processes—*The Journey, A Way of Life, and Walking with Others*—can be a real gift to leaders looking for a relational path to follow and invest in others.

Let the ripple continue...
Rob Loane



YOUR GIFT WILL BE A BIG DEAL TO US



We seek your support and investment in VP3 so we might push back the fast-paced, independent and often superficial experiences, that leave many people wondering why things are as they are and thinking—*there has got to be more to the Christian life than this.*

We desperately need leaders who befriend and mentor and guide and come alongside others; in short, people for whom walking with others becomes their primary way of life and ministry wherever they are placed.

As 2018 closes, we hope you will invest with us in this good work of equipping pastors and Christian leaders. About 25-30% of our annual budget depends upon generous contributions of any size. If you find yourself touched by, involved in, or resonating with the work we do, your gift will be a big deal to us.

The VP3 Team