

Mike writes... Find Your Tribe!

Erwin McManus in his book 'the last arrow', which I highly recommend, speaks about finding your tribe. Find a bunch of people you can do life and ministry with. People who have no selfish agenda, people who want the same thing as you, people who epitomize humility, grace and love. People who 'get you' and want you to succeed, invest deeply in the people God puts on your path.

Erwin says when he spends time with anyone 'he wants their greatness to be contagious' - he wants to learn from them and allow their learning's to bless his own journey and ministry.

To think we cannot learn from anyone is hugely arrogant and actually a little sad. I find myself wanting to literally steal ideas and inspiration from people wherever I go. We all know there is no such thing as a new idea, just one that is taken, tweaked and passed off as our own idea!!

And please don't think I am saying try and work with everyone, because that could be exhausting and maybe not sustainable. But seek out people who share the same fire, those who ignite you, those who can you ignite!

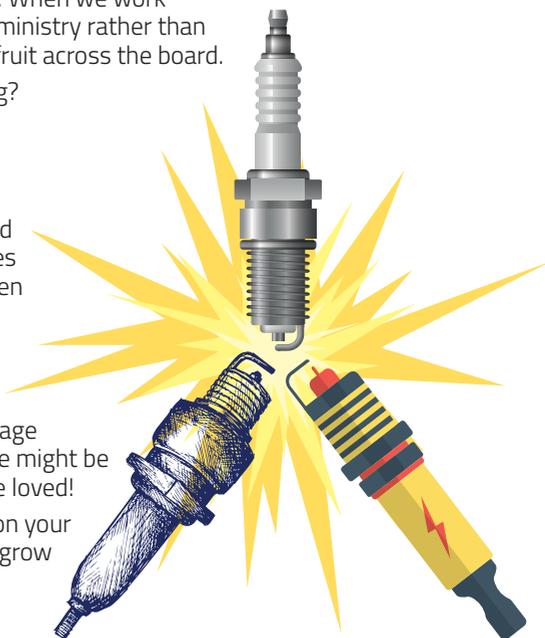
And it's worth noting here I am not saying find people who are 'like' you. That is one of the problems we are facing as Christians, we are not listening to enough different voices, we are in danger of becoming a little one dimensional. Find people who share the same fire but who also come at things from a different angle.

I want to surround myself with people who have a similar heart and mind when it comes to youth and children's ministry. When we work together, when we prefer one another's ministry rather than just our own, we will see so much more fruit across the board.

- Who can hold you when you are limping?
- Who can get the best out of you?
- Who cheers you on when you win and not be jealous?

In our 267 network we have been blessed to work alongside a vast array of churches and workers; and we have learnt, and been blessed, and wrestled through different approaches. But at our core we all share the same heart, to seek purpose and wholeness for one another, to tell kids and young people about Jesus, to encourage everyone to meet Jesus and hear what he might be wanting to tell you; the truth that you are loved!

Find your tribe, invest in your tribe, lean on your tribe. They will enable you to last longer, grow significantly and be more fruitful.



Thanks...

- FUEL in February took place at Forest Town Church. We had 56 young people from 8 different churches, which were from 5 different denominations. It was a real time of unity, joy, pizza, popcorn, worship, celebration and an outstanding talk from Joné, one of our awesome young leaders
- Our 'Tribe' is growing, 25 people came to our networking breakfast in February
- God continues to bless us with amazing events, a deep sense of unity among our tribe and very generous supporters. Thank you.
- XSITE in Harpenden and St Albans happened in the first half of the term and we had over 90 kids attending across the two venues. This ministry is such a joy and is being so fruitful.
- The Haven continues to be such an incredible and essential area of ministry. We give huge thanks to Claire and her team for pouring themselves into this. We also give thanks to God for so many schools allowing us in to share The Haven
- Mike had the opportunity to speak at the St Albans Vineyard weekend away. Over 100 young people went away to Carrotty Wood. We give thanks for Henry and Mark and the deepening friendship of 267 and Vineyard



Our 267 'tribe' at our monthly breakfast gathering



Some scripture that is encouraging us at the moment:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: if either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.

But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Please...

- FUEL in March is visiting St Luke's Cell Barnes Lane. Pray especially for this event as it is our outreach-focused gathering where we invite people to bring their friends. Pray also for Sam, one of our phenomenal young leaders, who is doing the talk
- We still need some new storage space after leaving our Wheathampstead venue in January. If you know of a 'garage-sized' space we could rent (or have for free!) then let us know
- On Saturday 29th February it is our annual fundraising Wine Tasting evening. Pray for all the practical elements to fall into place and for people to have the best time ever. This event has always raised a significant amount towards our ministry and we hope that this year will be no exception.
- Pray for Mike, Liz, Claire, Ellie and Ben as we spend time as a team and also on our own individual areas of responsibility. Pray particularly for Ben as he continues to serve us while away at Uni
- At the beginning of March we have our Weekend Away for school years 3, 4 & 5. Our theme is 'Find Your Flock' and we are talking about belonging. Pray for the 36 kids and 12 leaders
- Pray for Ellie as she builds the new 267 Welcome Pack which we hope will reach out to, and enable us to support, a whole new bunch of churches and groups.
- In March we also have our training evening 'The Conversation'. Pray as we share about a hugely important topic; "how to look after, and energize your own faith, as you serve others!"



Ellie and her 267 'baptism' at Xsite!

If you would like to volunteer with the 267 project then drop us an email – director@the267project.com or pa@the267project.com
Thanks

Diary

- Tuesday 25th February – 267 Trustees meet
- Saturday 29th February – 267 Fundraising Wine Tasting Event at St Saviours Church
- Thursday 5th March – 267 Breakfast at Christ Church St Albans. 9.30am – 11.00am
- Friday 6th – Sunday 8th March – 'Year 345' Weekend Away at Felden Lodge
- Tuesday 10th March – 267 Trustees meet
- Thursday 12th March – The Haven at High St Methodist Church. 4.30pm – 6.00pm
- Thursday 19th March – The Haven at St Paul's St Albans. 4.30pm – 6.00pm
- Friday 20th March – CHARGE at St Paul's St Albans. 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- Sunday 22nd March – FUEL at St Luke's Cell Barnes Lane. 7.00pm – 9.00pm
- Monday 23rd March – 'The Conversation' at St Paul's St Albans. 7.30pm – 9.30pm
- Wednesday 1st April – 267 Breakfast at Markyate Baptist Church. 9.30am – 11.00am
- Wednesday 22nd April – 267 Trustees meet
- Sunday 26th April – FUEL at St Helens Wheathampstead. 7.00pm – 9.00pm



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- **Important Future Date – 267 Golf Day – Friday 12th June 2020**

Important date:

267 Fundraising Snowdon Climb: 3rd – 5th April 2020

Fundraising Page:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising-team/267-climb-snowdon>

In 2020 we are going to embark on a variety of "challenges" to raise the profile, and some funds, for our long term vision of having our own venue/office/retreat-centre/storage/coffee-shop/training-space/hub/youthleaderhotdesk/havendrop-in!!

Over the past 13 years 267 has spent a huge amount of time building a network of leaders, young people, kids and volunteers who have been able to benefit from the ministries we run. We now believe we are at a time, and have a support structure, where we could grow ministry in an even deeper more significant way by having a physical space of our own. At the moment it is just a dream but this idea is designed to inspire and excite our tribe and our supporters and give us a pathway to move this 'dream' to become a reality. We would love you to journey with us. Do chat to us more if you would like to as we would love to know what you think and any ideas you might have to help us achieve this adventurous plan.

