

## **Michael Spence Bio as it relates to city transformation in Redding:**

I grew up in South Africa and Mozambique, coming to the Lord at 19 at university in Cape Town during a revival where His power shot through my body, shaking it visibly. Jesus' radical love changed my life forever — from a gender-confused, discouraged, suicidal and addicted person to a passionate Jesus-follower. I became part of a multinational corporation for ten years where I was sent to improve factory productivity by enhancing teamwork and leadership in different factories in Europe and Africa. I was offered positions as Technical Director of a large factory in France and as a Total Quality Management consultant, but I turned both positions down, sold everything, and came to the USA in 1994 as a "missionary." I had the blessing of my church leadership, but no financial support, to come to study at Fuller's School of World Mission under Peter Wagner and others. Before leaving, I helped mobilize prayer in Durban, South Africa; witnessed revival among young people; and participated in the miracle of the South African elections. I'd heard about the phenomena of supernatural city transformation occurring in Argentina through Ed Silvoso's ministry; Fuller's missions master's degree covered that approach and other spiritual/ leadership dynamics behind personal, city and national transformation. While studying, I did a pastoral internship at a Malaysian church plant in Pasadena that was experiencing revival and emphasized supernatural ministry. I met Rebecca, my wife, there; we now have three daughters, one of whom has just started BSSM. We served on the church's leadership team for several years, leaving in 2000 for my wife's pastoral internship (she completed her MDiv at Fuller).

I worked 18 months at a bank before joining, in 1998, the US office of an indigenous African ministry seeking Kingdom transformation in cities and nations. As their Director of Development, I initiated a city/nation Transformation Project to integrate the teachings I'd learned at Fuller with their existing ministry efforts. I raised funds to set up a relational partnership with Ed Silvoso's ministry and others. 26 indigenous evangelists/ministers from Africa and I went for training in Argentina, and an Ed Silvoso team came to South Africa to train more leaders. Pilot projects in the nation of Rwanda and the city of Port Elizabeth, South Africa were initiated, leading to very encouraging outcomes. After US office priorities changed, I started my own ministry, The King's Court Foundation, to continue the Transformation Project vision. In 2004 the Lord told me to start "Love Pasadena," and in 2007 we had our first citywide Global Day of Prayer event, involving many ethnicities, ministries and churches. I also traveled to Uganda to do research on organizations and communities supernaturally transformed by the Lord; this was for my missions PhD on the role of revival-prayer in transforming social systems. In late 2011 the Lord gave me a Blueprint for supernaturally transforming social systems, and in 2012 I started research, as a consultant, on how to establish a collaborative house of prayer at the US Center for World Mission in Pasadena, focusing on unreached nations.

In mid-2012 I came with my family to Bethel Church for their Kingdom Culture conference and to interview prayer leaders. I also met with leaders regarding steps to introduce a Kingdom culture at the US Center, twice attending Bethel's Wednesday team leadership gatherings. I later co-facilitated the US Center's leadership team going through Bethel's Apostolic Strategic Workshop Toolkit and developed a custom Kingdom culture matrix for monitoring progress. I shared the Blueprint with a Bethel leader and also Ed Silvoso's ministry and, based on their feedback, accepted a CEO position with a ministry previously focused on healing homosexuality in families. That ministry's Board agreed to refocus their ministry vision and mission on implementing the Blueprint, seeking to start a discipleship multiplication movement (DMM) among families struggling with sexual and relational brokenness. The Lord had healed a lot of sexual and relational brokenness in me, and the Blueprint embraced such an approach. The King's Court was responsible for creating the part of the Blueprint requiring a sustainable financial engine. Unfortunately, after only a few months, financial challenges in the other ministry brought the collaborative effort to a halt, at the same time I completed my PhD dissertation (early 2014). To pay bills, I started painting at Disneyland for six months until I found more part-time consultancy work through The King's Court. A service we offer non-profits is to raise funds by writing grants to closely-matched foundations and corporations. One client trains about 10,000 people annually for missions and the other has almost 6,000 kids go to camp annually.

After falling in love with Bethel in 2012, I began looking for homes to purchase in Redding, but only in December 2015 were we able to put in an offer for a house, moving up in late April 2016. Through divine encounters, I became involved with efforts to start DMM's in Redding, particularly in Boulder Creek with BSSM's revival apartments. I have also done networking with various groups in North State, seeking ways to establish a sustainable economic engine for city transformation efforts in Redding. By coming to Bethel, we feel we have arrived "home," and I was very excited to hear, after moving up, about some of the prophetic words for Redding to become a prototype city that will influence many other cities, locally and internationally. I want the lost in many nations to know Jesus' love and supernaturally rebuild their societal ruins.