

## Year-Round Mentoring for Pastors

*with John Kirkpatrick, Jim Crooks and Paul Coulter*

### Leaders



**Jim Crooks** is an Associate of Living Leadership in the UK providing support to Pastors. He was a Pastor of an independent church in Perth (Scotland) for many years but retired from that role in December 2020. Previously, Jim had a long career in senior management in Colleges of further and higher education and latterly as Principal of colleges in Northern Ireland and Scotland. He is committed to leadership development in others – and himself. Jim has also served as a lecturer and co-ordinator of part-time theological provision at Tilsley College. Jim also teaches and preaches in Scotland and around Europe.



**John Kirkpatrick** studied theology at Queens University and Union Theological College, and served as a pastor in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland in inner city, rural, and town churches. Since 1993 he has been the pastor of Portrush Presbyterian Church. Here, along with the regular work of the church, he oversees an apologetic course called Reality316, which provides training in apologetics and the biblical worldview. He serves as a chaplain in the sport of motorcycling.



**Paul Coulter** is Head of Ministry Operations with Living Leadership, a network in the UK and Ireland that trains and supports leaders to live joyfully in Christ and serve Him faithfully. He holds degrees in medical genetics, medicine and theology (to PhD level) and has previously worked as a medical doctor, a pastor across cultures and within his own culture, and a lecturer in practical theology and missiology. He preaches widely for churches across his home region of Northern Ireland and is also the director of the Centre for Christianity in Society, which aims to connect Christ with contemporary culture.

### Overview

Pastoral Ministry is one of God's means to fulfill his purposes for the Church. Pastors/ministers are in the forefront of the action – or they should be. They will experience some wonderful adventures as they see God at work. They will also experience many trials, and the nature of their role can sometimes leave them exposed and vulnerable. Temptations will present themselves, often in subtle ways. How can we be sustained, fruitful, flourishing, and useful in the midst of these pressures?

We believe God has provided simple and accessible means within the body of Christ, through one another. Just as 'safe houses', and even the biblical 'cities of refuge', are models of survival in the pressures of life, this Year-Round Mentoring Initiative aims to provide a safe place for pastors in the form of a small 'band of brothers'.

**GOAL:**

To gather, mentor and cultivate a small community of pastors who will have the courage to be honest with themselves and transparent with each other so they can be strong and find strength from others.

**TARGET GROUP:**

Pastors and pastoral leaders who treasure pastoral ministry as a strategic means of God and would value mentoring within a band of brothers. Participants will be separated into two streams:

- a) *Starting well* – up to seven men in the first seven years of pastoral ministry who would value support and encouragement.
- b) *Continuing well* – up to twelve men with over seven years' experience in ministry who are seeking refreshment in their ministry heart, values, and priorities.

**PLAN:****1. Online meetings during the year between May 2022 and May 2023****2. December 2022 three-day retreat (from noon to noon on 6-8 December)**

We plan to meet in-person as a group in Spain in December, along with other Year-Round Mentoring Groups of the Forum. The participant fees for the retreat are 150 Euros, or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option of paying 190 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

**3. Pre-Forum Conference at the 2023 Forum, May 19 and 20, 2023** (Participants will still need to apply for the 2023 European Leadership Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.).**COMMITMENT:**

Candidates will need to submit an application, which includes a commitment to:

1. Attend a Pre-Forum Seminar in Wisla, Poland on Saturday, May 21 at the 2022 ELF (14:00-17:30 CEST).
2. Participate in all webinars during the year and the retreat on 6-8 December 2022 in Spain.
3. Attend a Pre-Forum Conference at the 2023 Forum, on May 19 and 20, 2023 in Wisla, Poland.
4. Pay the necessary fees for the 2022 December Retreat and the 2023 Pre-Forum Conference. For the 2023 Pre-Forum Conference, the fees are 80 Euros for a Double Room and 90 Euros for a Single Room (or 68 Euros for scholarship recipients).
5. Attend meetings at the 2022 Forum to shape the content for the year.
6. In order to be accepted to next years' European Leadership Forum all Year-Round Mentoring participants will need to nominate two other leaders for the following year Year-Round Mentoring which includes personally contacting and recruiting them by email.

## Content

In addition to the content detailed below one-to-one mentoring sessions may be offered to participants who need and request it.

The content for the programme is flexible and not rigorously pre-determined. Specific content for this year will be decided during daily meetings of the group at the 2022 Forum, which aim to:

- Build relationships;
- Listen to concerns and needs;
- Investigate relevant subjects together;
- Plan together a relevant and tailored programme for the year between Forums;
- Determine the best means for mentoring each individual using digital tools (e.g., Zoom, WhatsApp) that will help build relationships throughout the year.

### A] STARTING WELL STREAM

In the years that this programme has run (since 2017-18), a body of material and potential reading has been developed that can help pastors with a range of issues in their personal development, including:

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|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Resilience                  | • Mentoring                      |
| • Self-Care                   | • Pastoral Care                  |
| • Trials and Temptations      | • Work Life and Family Balance   |
| • Developing a Gospel Culture | • Home Insurance                 |
| • Courageous Leadership       | • Your diary as a spiritual tool |

Content for this stream will include elements from this material as well as new material shaped around the relevant needs of each participant in the stream.

### B] CONTINUING WELL STREAM

The content for this stream includes content shaped by participants through the meetings at the Forum and reflection on personal experience in light of 2 Corinthians and the book *Reset: Living a Grace-Paced Life in a Burnout Culture* by David Murray (Wheaton: Crossway, 2017), which participants will need to purchase.

There will be four webinars across the year, each tackling a core theme in the personal and relational life of the leader. Additional pre-reading may be set based on needs identified in discussion with the group.

### Webinar One: Integrity and Transparency

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Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 @ 14.00 – 15.30 GMT

Preparatory reading: 2 Corinthians 1-2

Exploring the importance of practical strategies to maintain integrity and transparency in ministry.

### **Webinar Two: Gospel and Frailty**

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Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 @ 14.00 – 15.30 GMT

Preparatory reading: 2 Corinthians 3-4

Growing in confidence in the power of the gospel as well as understanding of our physical limitations.

### **Retreat: Fear, Love and Joy**

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From noon to noon on 6-8 December 2022 in Spain. Please schedule your travel so that you arrive on time and depart after all sessions are over.

Preparatory reading: 2 Corinthians 5-7; *Reset* by David Murray

Our focus will be on our motivation in ministry. We will learn together from 2 Corinthians 5-7 and will work towards developing personal plans for ministry and appropriate boundaries to sustain faithfulness.

### **Webinar Three: Grace and Generosity**

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Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 @ 14.00 – 15.30 GMT

Preparatory reading: 2 Corinthians 8-9

Appreciating the grace of God as a foundation for generosity in ministry and our leadership of others.

### **Webinar Four: Weakness and Power**

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Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023 @ 14.00 – 15.30 GMT

Preparatory reading: 2 Corinthians 10-13

Admitting our weakness while remaining confident in God's power to work through us.

## **Application Process**

1. Complete the [online application](#).
2. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the programme within four to six weeks.

*If you have questions, contact us at [initiatives@euroleadership.org](mailto:initiatives@euroleadership.org)*