

Year-Round Mentoring for Working Class Ministry

with Martin Erwin and Stephen McQuoid

Leaders



Martin Erwin studied at GLO in Scotland (now Tilsley College) and then joined the Counties training programme in 1991, subsequently becoming the Counties evangelist for Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Involved in local church missions, schools work, and agricultural show outreach, Martin also planted Challenge Community Church in Hereford, and until taking up his role as CEO at Counties (June 2016), he was on the leadership team at Challenge. Counties is a national network of evangelists and church planters, as well as an organisation that provides significant resources to support work in schools. In 2019 Counties launched Counties Planting Network, which provides the national leadership for the development and implementation of M4UK. Martin is married to Rachel, and they have three daughters, Keren, Anna, and Emily.



Stephen McQuoid grew up in Ethiopia where his parents were missionaries. He then lived in Ireland where he worked for the NHS before going on to study theology. He has a Dip.Th. from Belfast Bible College, a BA in Biblical Studies from Trinity College, an MA and a PhD in Theology from Trinity Theological Seminary, and an MTh from the University of Wales. He has also written more than a dozen books. Stephen is the General Director of GLO Europe, travels widely both preaching and lecturing, and has also been involved in church planting. He is married to Debbie and they have three children. His interests include motorbikes, football, SCUBA diving, and reading.

Overview

GOAL: To mentor and provide Christian leaders, evangelists, and Christians in ministry with the tools to effectively engage with working class communities so as to build effective and vibrant churches.

PLAN: a kick-off session, a series of four webinars, each of which will be two hours in duration. There will also be a three-day retreat in Budapest in December 2022 and a Pre-Forum Conference at the 2023 ELF.

PARTICIPANTS: Ten to twelve Christian leaders and evangelists who are willing to commit to becoming part of a learning community and have a desire to bring the gospel to working class communities.

QUALIFICATIONS: All participants will be actively involved in evangelism and discipleship with working class communities and will be spiritually mature Christians.

COMMITMENTS: In addition to submitting an application, in order to be accepted as a participant, you must commit to:

1. Attend all sessions, including the kick-off session, the retreat in Budapest (6-8 December 2022), the four webinars, and the Pre-Forum Conference in Wisla, Poland (19-20 May 2023).
2. Access all webinars on a computer with a good broadband internet connection.
3. Complete writing and/or reading assignments before and/or after each webinar.
4. Pay the necessary fees.
5. 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.

2022 RETREAT: All participants will meet with Martin and Stephen in Budapest for a three-day retreat from noon to noon on 6-8 December 2022.

Participant fees for the retreat are 150 Euros, or 100 Euros for scholarship recipients. For the retreat, non-scholarship recipients also have the option, which must be chosen in the application form, of paying 190 Euros in order to stay in a single room. Participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.

2023 PRE-FORUM CONFERENCE: All participants will attend a Pre-Forum Conference before the 2023 ELF in Wisla, Poland, on May 19 and 20, 2023. Participants will still need to apply for the European Leadership Forum and will be responsible for paying Forum fees in order to participate in the 2023 Forum. Participants must also pay for their own travel expenses.

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.

Webinars

Each webinar will contain different elements. These will include some presentations, discussion groups, feedback, reflective projects, and personal testimony. The focus will be on the reality of everyday practice rather than just theoretical models. There will be reading, writing, and field work assignments that participants will be expected to complete beforehand, so please plan on putting in 3-4 hours of work in preparation for each webinar.

Webinar 1: Exegeting Working Class Culture

Date & Time: TBD

This webinar will attempt to identify some of the characteristics of working-class communities and some of the challenges and opportunities that these present to church planting and evangelism. It will investigate issues such as:

- The impact of poverty on a community
- Working class prejudices and hang-ups
- The impact of a lack of educational and work opportunities
- Localism and community – the good and bad
- The gospel and non-book culture

Webinar 2: Good News for the Poor

Date & Time: TBD

Participants will be encouraged to do some theological reflection on the place of the gospel among the poor. Specific issues will include:

- The foundation of all people being made in the Image of God
- The Old Testament prophetic call for social justice
- Jesus' ministry to the poor
- The example of the caring church in Acts
- Paul and other New Testament writers encouraging Christians to care for each other and to be of support for each other
- The response of the gospel as an answer to the social, political, and economic injustices of our societies

Webinar 3: Social Action and Rice Christians

Date & Time: TBD

This webinar will highlight the difficulty of evangelizing in areas of social deprivation unless the love of Jesus is demonstrated in practical ways. This expression of love has often included everything from food banks to education classes and family support projects. The downside will also be highlighted. These include the commitment required to maintain social action projects, which can deflect the evangelist from gospel proclamation, and the dependence culture that can build up.

This webinar will look at the balance that needs to be maintained between social action and gospel proclamation and will also suggest practical ways in which these difficult paths can be navigated.

Webinar 4: Developing Leadership in a Working-class Context

Date & Time: TBD

This webinar will explore how many people living in working class contexts are used to taking orders, but not giving them. This can often mean that leaders can be hard to find. However, local leadership is vital for long term credibility and sustainability. Even when the church planter or evangelist does

find people with leadership gift, they have not had the educational opportunities and professional experience that is taken for granted in other contexts.

This webinar will look at leadership identification and affirmation, skills development, mentoring, and role modelling.

Mid-Year Retreat, 6-8 December, 2022, Budapest

During the retreat, time will be given to prayer and sharing. Participants will talk about their joys and struggles and allow for mutual advice and input. There will also be some specific skills sessions which will be a mixture of teaching and group discussion. Subjects will include:

- Evangelistic preaching that communicates
- Dealing with wounded people
- Engrained habit patterns of sin
- Basic principles of discipleship
- Working with the whole family
- Church life and the broken

How To Apply

1. Fill out an online application by clicking [HERE](#). Please be sure to fill out every field.
2. Once we receive your online application form, your application will be considered complete. We will review your completed application and let you know if you are accepted into the program within four to six weeks.

If you have questions, contact us at initiatives@euroleadership.org