

A Life2life

Ministry Declaration

It's All about Relationships

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for a group of people to dissolve certain ministry assumptions and practices, a declaration of causes and principles should be stated describing this dissolution. This Ministry Declaration is a summons to think and minister in life2life ways

Contemporary churches are on the hunt for the holy grail of ministry success, seeking freshly marketed programs to turn congregations around. Ministry successes are packaged and franchised, creating marketing lines of books, T-shirts, and specialty Bibles. In the pursuit of turnkey programs, ministry is easily reduced to techniques and curriculums. We have lost the importance of ministering to people life2life.

God intends ministry to be more than a commodity to purchase or a technique to perfect. Life2life ministry is the hidden work of the Holy Spirit, when one life touches another life through a Christ-centered relationship. We minister life2life when we live authentically – displaying love, truth-telling, vulnerability, and authenticity. God is not looking for better programs but for simple, sustainable, relational strategies.

People who practice life2life ministry hold the following truths to be self-evident.

- **Life2life ministry believes each life is valuable.** Whether it was a nomadic tribesman (Abraham), a destitute widow (Ruth), or “unschooled, ordinary” people (the Apostles), God values the worth of each person.
- **Life2life ministry is about relationships.** When Jesus saw desperate people crowding for help, He didn't talk of programs or seminars. Instead, He saw the need for caring alongsiders (laborers), who assist in the harvest (Matthew 9:36-38). He invites us to come alongside people in relational ways, to care for and build others up in the faith.
- **Life2life ministry is marked by authenticity.** Jesus came alongside his disciples and modeled love (John 13:1; 15:12-13), transparency (Luke 22:28), and vulnerability (Matthew 26:38-39). This is not done from a pulpit or a position but in up-close and life2life ways.
- **Life2life ministry is planted in the splendor of the ordinary.** Jesus “moved into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, MSG), inviting followers to experience weddings, funerals, meals, and worship together. Life2life ministry happens in a workplace, an inviting kitchen, or the bleachers of a child's soccer game – wherever God is present.
- **Life2life ministry happens in face-to-face community.** The New Testament is full of one-another, get-up-close, admonitions. We're to serve, teach, love, and forgive one another. We experience this in face-to-face community, not between the impersonal walls of a classroom. C.S. Lewis writes, “We are not here to sell intimacy. We are here to be intimate.”
- **Life2life ministry marks an alongsider.** Spiritual mentoring, coaching, or discipling is as old as Moses with Joshua, Jesus with the twelve, and Paul with Timothy. Life2life ministry is pretty simple; it happens when we earn the right to intentionally come alongside people, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, helping them wholeheartedly follow Jesus.
- **Life2life ministry is missional.** We live on mission in the quiet routines of daily life, winning the respect of “outsiders” (1 Thessalonians 4:11). Our internal compass points towards others, not ourselves. We serve and witness, to the poor and not-so-poor, in relational and life2life ways (Mark 5:19). God's mission is accomplished in simple, sustainable, relational strategies.

In support of this declaration, and with a firm reliance upon the Holy Spirit, we pledge our time, talents, and treasure to advancing the gospel and building God's church in life2life ways.

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