

How to accompany and shepherd saints in the church life

1st Tim. 4:16 Keep a close watch on yourself and **on the teaching**.
Persist in this, for **by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers**.

The Bible teaches that the saint who accompanies and shepherds people is the 1st person to be saved by the Lord, and then the saint being accompanied or shepherded by him.

Mark 6:7 And he called the twelve and began to **send them out two by two**, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits.

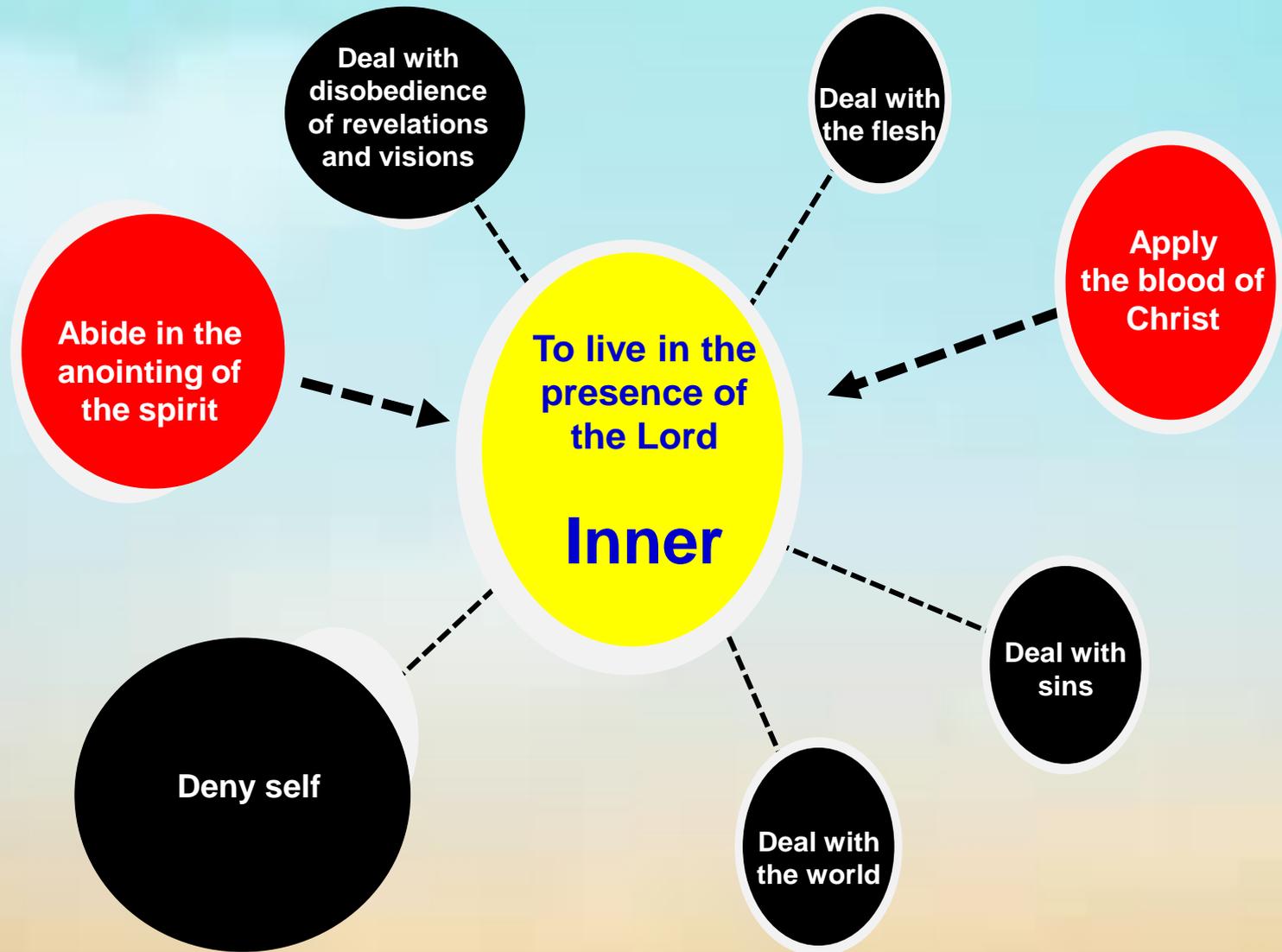
Luke 10:1 After this the **Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them** on ahead of him, **two by two**, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.

We can accompany and shepherd the saints to become our spiritual companions so as to grow and serve the church together. Avoid being independent. Please also see the Bible homework “spiritual companions _ teams.**”**

How to accompany and shepherd saints?

- * To accompany people is not just to accompany them to have the Bible studies and prayers, but to help the person to pass some levels of the barriers in life of Christ (such as studies, work, marriage, family life ..)
- * To accompany people, do not be afraid to say what should be said (due to the Lord's burden and leading). If we do not serve well, then the church's culture may be negatively affected. Leaders cannot act as just "a good person" (if one is not careful, his own love and consideration put off the Lord's leading and burden).
- * There are so many things to be served in the church. If one is not careful, often just leads people to do things and do the Lord's work, and forgets to accompany them to have the Lord's presence.
- * When a new serving one joins the church, we should first consider not how to add him to the existing operations, but how to create a new field suitable for him, so that he can learn to share responsibilities and be developed through it.

When I accompany and shepherd people, can I bring him or her to a higher level of life of Christ?



1st Tim 1:2 To Timothy, my true child in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

2nd Tim 1:2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1st Cor. 4:17 That is why I sent you **Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord,** to remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach them everywhere in every church.

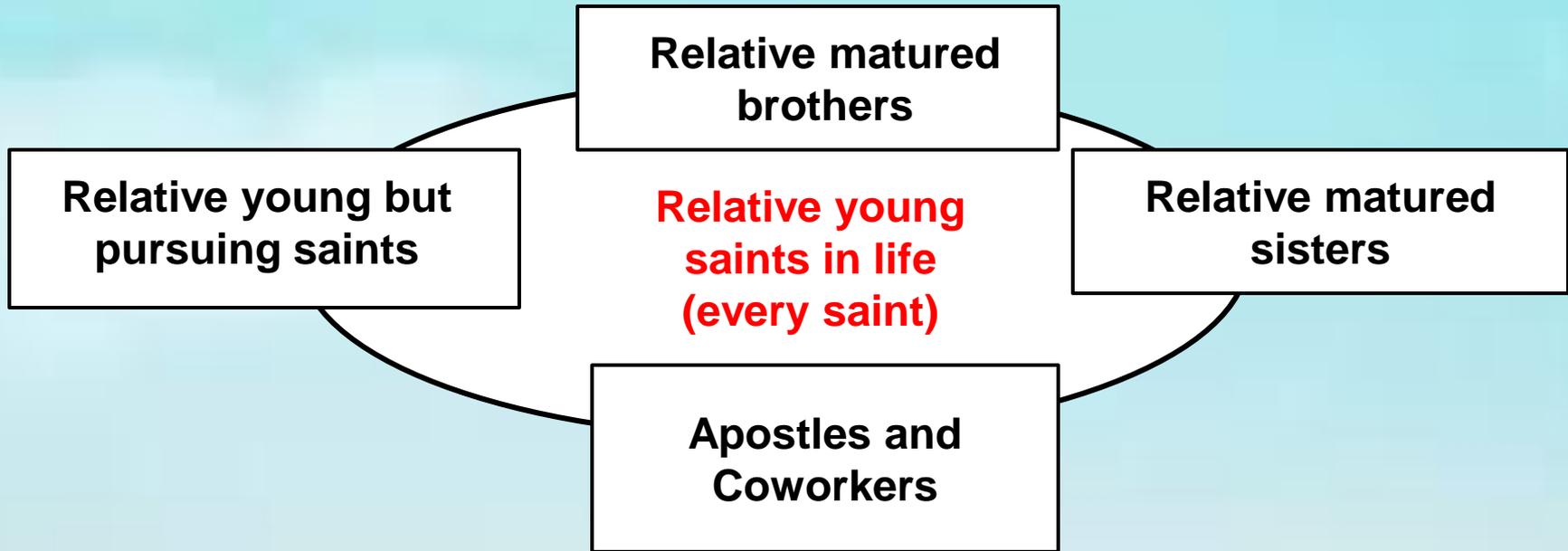
Phil. 2:22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how **as a son with a father he has served with me** in the gospel.

Titus 1:4 To Titus, my true child in a common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior.

1st Peter 5:13 She who is at Babylon, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings, and so does **Mark, my son.**

In the church life the most blessed way is to raise up spiritual children. Please refer to another Bible homework “spiritual children”. If a parent has no children, then their lives will most likely not grow much mature, because to raise up children is a real and practical way to grow life in our own family or in God’s family “the church”. But in the church life such an exercise needs tremendous amount of the time and energy of any serving one, often it is not practiced. Thus it is stated clearly in 1st Cor. 4:15 For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Any church needs to build up an organic service team to serve every saint



Apostles: To determine the breadth, length, height and depth of a healthy church.

Coworkers: To provide and support churches with the teachings and fellowship of the apostles.

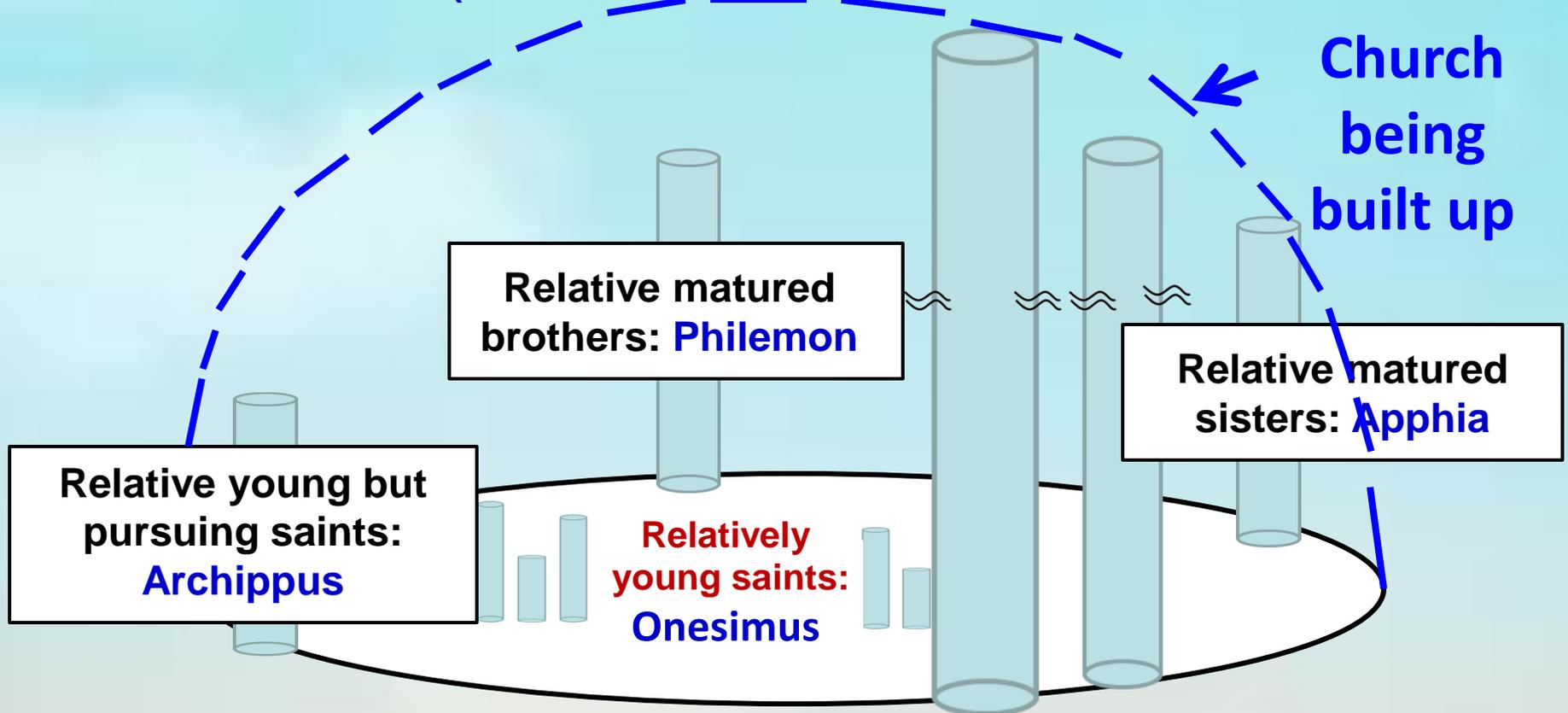
Relatively matured brothers: to fellowship with apostles and coworkers and obtain the fresh visions and revelations from the Lord so as to lead the church, and also fellowship with the nearby churches.

Relatively matured sisters: to support the relatively matured brothers to lead and operate the church .

Relatively young but pursuing saints: to be willing to grow in Christ life and fulfill the ministry received from the Lord to serve the saints.

Relative young saints in Christ life: every saint in the church life。 They are loved and shepherded by the organic service team (mentioned above), and then grow in Christ life.

An example of an organic service team (pillars) in a church (Church in Colossae) from the book of Philemon



The growth (length, breadth, height and depth) of life and ministries of the saints are closely related to the intimacy among this organic service team members and the degree of abiding in the teachings and fellowship of the servants of the Lord.

Apostles and coworkers:
Paul, Timothy, Epaphras,
Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke,

Team members of the organic service team in the book of Philemon

(Philemon was the leading brother of the church in Colossae)

Paul (was Saul): Saul means “desired”; Paul “small or little”.

Timothy: honoring God and being honored by God.

Philemon: one who kisses; friendly.

Apphia: fruitful.

Archippus: master of the horse; of ability.

Onesimus: profitable or useful.

The coworkers of Apostle Paul :

Four were positive and one negative in his later service life

Epaphras: lovely.

Mark: a defense.

Aristarchus: the best ruler.

Luke: light-giving.

Demas: governor of the people; It is a reminder that our serving is a narrow road bearing the cross of Jesus to please God and not aiming to please the people. Please refer to Col.4:14, 2nd Tim. 4:10.

The organic service team operates in one accord

Please refer another Bible homework “church corporate prayers, praises and thanksgivings”

Chapter 1 of the book of Ezekiel presents a beautiful picture of the operation in one accord

Eze.1:5 And from the midst of it came **the likeness of four living creatures**. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness,

Eze. 1:6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

Eze. 1:12 And each went straight forward. **Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went.**

Eze. 1:15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, **I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them.**

Eze. 1:16 As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel.

Eze. 1:17 When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went.

Eze. 1:20 **Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them,** for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

The above verses show that the Spirit has the authority (normally it comes from the corporate prayers in one accord) . The Spirit walks east, the east side of the team follows, then the west side of the team will walk entirely backward, also the south and north side of the team will walk sideways. How beautiful this organic team operates in one accord.

We practice together the following exercises during accompanying and shepherding the saints

To have

- A. **A fresh and growing Christ life**, → to generate vitality to serve Christ life to people ; → to reproduce (continue) and raise up (with a team or teams) pillars in the church.
- B. **The rich constitution of truth**, → to press on pursuing the Lord's word; → to supply rich Lord's word of spirit and life to others.
- C. **Revelations and burdened operations with companions and teams**, → not only to have blueprint for oneself to grow with clear food steps and directions, → but also lead the church to grow and operate; every one is not independent and the church is not independent and practice fellowship upon fellowship with saints and churches.
- D. **The enlargement and elevation of the personal measure (capacity)** , → not just to focus on serving the church in Montreal, →but also consider to spread the testimony to other Canadian cities →**and take heed to the ministry received from the Lord (Col. 4:17)**
- E. **The diligence and effectiveness of the labor**, → to labor and serve the saints desperately in a living of gladly spend and be spent (2nd Cor. 12:15).

An example of the duplication (continuation or reproduction) of a ministry (service) in the Old Testament

1st King 19:15 And Jehovah said to him (**Elijah**), “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus. And when you arrive, **you shall anoint Hazael to be king over Syria.**

1st King 19:16 And **Jehu the son of Nimshi** you shall anoint to be king over Israel, and **Elisha** the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah **you shall anoint to be prophet in your place.**

1st King 19:19 So he (**Elijah**), departed from there and **found Elisha** the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen in front of him, and he was with the twelfth. **Elijah passed by him (Elisha) and cast his cloak upon him.**

God asked Elijah to do three things:

- 1. To anoint Hazael to be king over Syria;**
- 2. To anoint Jehu to be king over Israel;**
- 3. To anoint Elisha to be a prophet to replace him (Elisha) .**

But Elijah right away shepherded (in a way of duplication or reproduction in life) Elisha. Later Elisha anointed Hazael to be king over Syria and Jehu to be king over Israel. Please refer the Bible homework “spiritual children”.

The aims and operations of

the organic service team and shepherding of the saints in the church life

Eph. 4:12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

Eph. 4:13 Until we all arrive at the oneness of the faith and of the full knowledge of the Son of God, at a full-grown man, at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

Eph. 2:20 Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;

Eph. 2:21 In whom all the building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

Eph. 2:22 In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Col. 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man full-grown in Christ;

Col. 4:17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you fulfill it.

Do you know your ministry received from the Lord?