Q: What church do you belong to?
A: Global Spheres Center

We are now in one of God’s new seasons.

Q: Do we want to move with him?

The new season started in 1900 in Africa.
I call it The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR)

- The largest segment of non-Catholic Christianity
- The only segment of the Church growing faster than the world population and Islam!

The Second Apostolic Age began in 2001.

Many changes

One change: Apostolic centers replacing some local churches.
Dutch Sheets in 2007:

“I don’t want to pastor a local church. God is calling me to lead an apostolic center for kingdom ministry.”
Chuck Pierce
Liberty Park, May 2008

• Extended revelation from God
• Saw every state but only 21 aligned with Him.
• The America of the future not the same as the America of the past.
• God is raising up a “triumphant reserve”
• They will be forming “freedom outposts”

“freedom outposts” = “apostolic centers”
Chuck Pierce in a form letter, June 29, 2012:

This is a time to break out of the shell of our last identity, whether good or bad. God is doing a new thing with His people and creating a new model of kingdom authority on earth. You are a part of this!
We’re moving into the new.

Let’s keep a **biblical** perspective on the old.
Let’s make sure we have the right **attitude**.

Nor do people put new wine into old wineskins,
or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled
and the wineskins are ruined. But they put new
wine into new wineskins and both are preserved.
Matthew 9:17
God loves the **old** wineskins. They were once His **new** wineskins.

Not all local churches should become apostolic **centers**.

The apostolic center is most frequently the **hub** of an apostolic **network** of churches.
This is a functional substitute for **denominations**. Denominations are **legal** or **territorial**. Apostolic networks are **relational**.

We need local churches!
But how do they **differ** from apostolic centers?
How do you tell a local church from an apostolic center?

My credentials:

• I planted and pastored a church back in 1957
• I was professor of Church Growth in Fuller for 30 years.
• I have written a number of books on the local church.
• I have researched and ministered in several modern apostolic centers and written books on apostolic ministry.
A disclaimer:

• The differences between a church and an apostolic center are not all black and white.
• There are many shades of gray in between.
• I’m constructing what sociologists call “ideal types” of the local church and apostolic center.
• “Ideal” does not refer to perfection, but to the word “idea.” My idea of what they are.
• Every ideal type is fiction – not empirical research
• No local church or apostolic center will fit perfectly in my description.
4 Categories of Analysis:

- Name
- Government
- Focus
- Operation
1. Name

- “Church”
  - A destination for Sunday worship.
  - Go to church = centripetal

- “Apostolic Center”
  - A launching pad Kennedy Space Center
  - Moving out = centrifugal
2. Government

**Pastor**
- Cares for the sheep
- Ministers
- Elders supervise the pastor
- Final authority with group

**Apostle**
- Mobilizes the army
- Equips others to minister
- Elders support the apostle
- Final authority with individual
NAR: The most radical change in the way of doing church since the Protestant Reformation.

The most radical change: \textit{The amount of spiritual authority delegated by the Holy Spirit to individuals.}

Operative words: “authority” and “individuals”
Staff

- Pastors with specialties
- Teachers
- Prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers
Leadership Team

• Atmosphere of **conformity**
• Leader is **rule-follower**
• Tries not to make mistakes
• Keeps things clean
• Monotasks – in church every week.

• Culture of **creativity**
• Leader is **risk-taker**
• Prepared to make mistakes
• Cleans up the mess
• Multitasks – in church often.
3. Focus

- Focus on the congregation
- Focus on the kingdom
Three steps up the kingdom ladder

First step: Focus on 

Second step: Focus on 

Third step: Focus on 

Courtesy of Bruce Cook
• Kingdom ladder 1 & 2
• Self centered (people & church) = small vision

• Kingdom ladder all 3
• Kingdom centered = vision for the future
If focus is on the church:

- The pastor is an employee
- Pastor can be hired and fired
- Pastor supports the church
- Pastoral tenure 2 to 10 years.

If focus is on the kingdom:

- The apostle is the leader
- Apostle cannot be hired and fired
- Apostolic center supports the apostle
- Apostolic tenure = lifetime
(Note: The apostle is aligned with another apostle and is accountable to him or her.)
Niche in Society

Religion Mountain

All Seven Mountains
Reproduction

- Spiritual **birth** control
- Phobia concerning “**splits**”
- **Retain** members
- Encourage denominational church planting

- **Aggressive propagation**
- Promote “**hiving**” off
- **Release** members
- Spawn new apostolic networks
4. Operations

Both the church and the apostolic center need to fulfill the social expectation of a “church.”

- Worship services
- Preaching
- Offerings
- Marriage counseling
- Funerals
- Child care
- Youth ministry
- Care of sick and needy
- Weddings
- Baptisms
Fact: Many apostolic centers have difficulty in covering all of these bases.

Apostles admit this!
Corporate Nature

- **Fellowship** group
- “Believers Fellowship”

- **Ekklesia** = Legislative body
- Agent for social transformation
Profiles of Members

- More **passive**
- More **peaceful**
- Weaker – more needs

- More **active**
- More **aggressive**
- Stronger – self-starters
Prayer Emphasis

- **Petition prayer**
- **Avoid** the devil
- Few pastors attract spiritual warfare on higher levels

- **Proclamation prayer**
- **Attack** the devil
- Apostles stir up principalities over a region – have targets painted on their backs
Worship

- **Bedroom** worship
- Intimacy
- Loveaholics
- Feminine

- **Throne room** worship
- Industry (production)
- Workaholics
- Masculine
Let me explain “feminine”

• Our worship world has **changed** in my lifetime
• I remember “Onward **Christian Soldiers**” – not found in new hymnals
• John Wimber: “We sing **love songs** to Jesus.”
• Chuck Pierce & John Dickson
• Why do our churches have 60% - 70% women?
Some worship lines:

• I’m desperate for you, I’m lost without you
• You’re altogether lovely, altogether wonderful for me
• Oh Lord, you’re beautiful, your face is all I seek
• And now: “A sloppy wet kiss!”
“Think of the mental gymnastics that must take place inside a man’s subconscious mind as he sings lyrics like these. He’s trying to express his love to Jesus, a man who lives today, using words no man would dare say to another.”
Revelation or Hearing from God

- Interpretation of the written Word
- Written Word plus prophecy
Finances

- For maintenance
- A committee spends it

- For outreach
- The apostle spends it
Training

Both believe in equipping the saints; but for what?

- To fit the church program
- Do what we always do with more excellence

- To move into God’s destiny for their lives
- Equipping becomes empowering
To activate the transformation of local churches into apostolic centers and link them into apostolic networks in order to establish alignment for territorial transformation.