

Summer 2016



Discovering the True Purpose of Leadership

Identity is the mirror of purpose - what you centre your purpose on in life or vocation will shape your identity. Selfless, compassionate, generous attributes that flow from one's mission or purpose in life, shape our identity in the eyes of others. In that way our calling to serve as followers of Christ in our "work" makes us image bearers of God.

If as leaders we see life and people as God's intended creation needing stewardship, nurture and restoration, even renewal for future relevance or sustainability - that will shape our leadership to be one of service rather than ambition or personal conquest. This healthy separation between mission and ambition makes it possible for leaders to finish an assignment, moving onto a new assignment without the mental anguish of our identity being caught up or reliant on a particular role or appointment.

The reality is corporate failure often flows from hubris or arrogant complacency. Leaders become trapped by finding comfort in busy tasks and hyperactivity while forgetting to invest in team and relational equity that fuels empowerment and cultural alignment.

However there is a rare breed of leader - those who develop leaders. Like Barnabas, whose advocacy for emerging

leaders such as Saul (Paul) and John Mark resulted in their powerful impact of the gospel. Whilst Barnabas penned nil pages in the New Testament, his mentoring of Paul & Mark produced more than a third of the New Testament narrative.

As a leader (like conductors) we do not have to possess all the gifts or talent in our orchestra. Our job is to inspire and align around a common purpose or theme (mission). Transformative leaders engage the hearts and minds of the team, and that empowerment fuels the movement and momentum toward fulfilling the desired purpose. It's the way we change the world. Leadership that is transformative has never been about self promotion or popularity. No, it's about the purpose God has placed in our hearts to see justice and mercy touch every life. Leadership should not measure our worth, rather it's about service and nurturing our team for the benefit of others. Ask Barnabas!

George Savvides
Patron

The above article highlights some of what George Savvides shared at the recent Arrow Community Retreat as he reflected on his own journey of leadership.



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Mums are Leaders Too!

On day one, back in 2015, Julian shared with us (or you might say, forewarned us) that by the day of our Arrow graduation something like half of us would have moved jobs. Little did I know, that on my final Arrow residential (a month or so ago) I'd be feeding my now 6 month old baby, Zoe, in between (and sometimes during!) sessions on promoting the gospel in contemporary culture and workshopping how to start a conversation about Jesus with a not-yet-believer. I certainly have experienced the 'Arrow job change' effect!

Not only has the Arrow Emerging Leaders Program equipped me as a local church leader in ways that have been deeply transformational, impacting my ministry greatly and providing me with ministry formation second-to-none. On top of that I have been empowered and enabled to participate in Arrow whilst making the transition from full-time ministry to beginning my journey as a first-time mum. My husband, Charlie, was invited to attend the residential as primary caregiver in order to release me to engage fully in the program. I recently commented to someone in my church that there aren't many leadership programs where your baby is welcome, and even encouraged to come along! I am so thankful to have been able to participate in, and complete my Arrow journey and for the ways in which Arrow has created a space for me to do so as a new mum.

Megan Jung
Arrow 15

Above: Megan, Charlie and baby Zoe

The Stories of Indigenous People

It was a privilege to attend the Arrow Program Retreat, partnering with Australians Together, in August that had a two-fold aim: firstly to review the Arrow Emerging Leaders Program and secondly, to spend time listening, learning and living in an Aboriginal environment in North Queensland. Each day consisted of meeting Indigenous leaders, hearing their stories and taking time to reflect upon what we'd heard. We also reviewed every aspect of the Emerging Leaders Program, with the aim of keeping the program as impacting as possible for every incoming participant.

Apart from the sadness of the things we saw and heard on Palm Island, the thing that struck us most was the resilience and graciousness of the people we met. We enjoyed many days of 'yarning' with residents on the island. Upon hearing one of their stories, someone in our group shared our shame about not knowing about this history. The response was amazing grace in action - "Don't be ashamed of who you are - be proud!".

In relation to issues surrounding Indigenous Australia, it is time we stop coming up with quick, easy solutions and start listening to the stories of Aboriginal people, realising that each person has a different story to tell. There is no easy, quick solution. There are only next steps. Each of us has the opportunity to take our own next step to help shape a new history for all Australians.

Mike Stevens & Nathan McElveney
State Coordinators (Emerging Leaders)





Emerging Leaders Program Team at Palm Island

Our Year **at a Glance**

During 2016, our participation rates continued to grow, with over 150 Arrow Leaders being engaged and stretched in our programs and 70 leaders coming to the end of their program being released for God's purpose in the world. Men and women, emerging and executive leaders from the church, not for profit and education sectors were personally transformed in their leadership journeys.

We welcomed Zosia as Arrow Community Director, bringing focus to continuing leadership development and connection for Arrow Leaders once they are released from their program. We farewelled Susan after many years of faithful service to Emerging Leaders and repositioned Liesel to manage both Emerging and Executive Leaders Programs. Rachel also assumed additional roles, overseeing communications, recruitment and systems.

Julian and Peter continued to lead outstanding programs whilst Amanda faithfully and diligently continued to manage our finances. Broadening strategic perspectives, we welcomed Wendy Wade and Bishop Chris Edwards to the Board. Liam continued to bring strong leadership to the team always keeping his eyes open for new opportunities in leadership development.

We continue to celebrate the numerous praying, volunteering and financial supporters with whom we are privileged to partner. God answered many prayers this year including resourcing us with our goal of \$100,000 that was matched via our Partnership Fund.

In light of 2016, we are expectant and hopeful for what God will do in and through Arrow Leadership in 2017.



From Liam

As we approach the end of 2016, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for investing in Christian leaders throughout Australia. Arrow Leaders continue to testify to the transformation of their character and capability as a result of participating in Arrow. Their transformation enables and empowers them for transformation in their church, school or NFP, as they express their calling where God has placed them. Ultimately, communities experience the realities of the Kingdom of God as Arrow Leaders are led more by Jesus, lead more like Jesus and lead more to Jesus.

This Christmas I am reminded of Jesus - the life promise. *"Everything was created through him; nothing came into being without him. What came into existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by"* (John 1:3,4). Arrow Leaders, this Christmas, are leading more to the Life that is Light to live by.

Whether you support Arrow through the gift of your prayer, influence, encouragement, time, skills, giftedness or finances, you are making a profound difference. Thank you for believing in Arrow and the next generation of Christian leaders called to live, love and serve in Jesus' name.

Liam Glover
Executive Director



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Lasting the Distance, Making a Difference

At the conclusion of every Arrow final residential, we are always asked, "What's next?"



There is a sense that no-one wants their Arrow experience to be over and we know there are often times where our leaders desire to be back in the context of others who are walking the same journey.

So after ideas of reunions and even a "Residential 5", we decided to try something that's never been done at Arrow before! In November we launched our first **Arrow Community Retreat**, open to all NSW Arrow Emerging and Executive Leaders from the last 21 years.

Our theme was "**Lasting the Distance, Making a Difference**", and the Arrow Team, along with special guests George Savvides, Chris Edwards, and Ed Vaughan joined with over 30 Arrow Leaders to reconnect and share the challenges and triumphs of our leadership journeys.

In the beautiful setting of Peppers Manor House Resort in the Southern Highlands, we spent great time connecting as well as tackling some of the big questions ahead of us as we lead our ministries into the future. We look forward to many more opportunities to engage with our Arrow Leaders in the years ahead!!

Zosia Ericksson
Arrow Community Director



"The retreat has reinvigorated me in my leadership and passion. It has reminded me of the call that God has on my life, and that I am exactly where he needs me to be."