

APEST OVERVIEW

By: JR Woodward

	APOSTLE Dream Awakener	PROPHET Heart Revealer	EVANGELIST Story Teller	PASTOR Soul Healer	TEACHER Light Giver
OVERVIEW	<p>Apostles: Catalyze and co-mission. Apostles are catalysts who start new works, and they co-mission others to join God in the renewal of all things. They are pioneers, always moving into new territory. Apostle literally means, “sent one.” They help cultivate a thriving environment in the congregation and love crossing boundaries. I nickname them “dream awakeners” because they help people discover and live out their calling. They cultivate a discipleship ethos in order to see the multiplication of disciples, ministries, churches and movements.</p>	<p>Prophets: Expose and embody. Prophets expose false claims to authority and power, demonstrating how they are not able to keep their promises and uncovering the direction their claims will take us if there is no repentance. They also embody a counterculture community, calling people to live under God’s reign. They have a passion for social justice and seek to cultivate a liberating environment, liberating people from personal sins, speaking truth to power and social sins. I have nick named them “heart revealers” because they reveal the heart of God and the heart of the people. Prophets call the church to God’s new social order and help the congregation to stand with the poor and oppressed.</p>	<p>Evangelists: Invite and Excite. Evangelists have a knack when it comes to inviting people to live in the kingdom of God and they are able to excite the people of God to be witnesses. I have nick named them “story tellers”, because they share God’s story in such a way that everybody realizes that they are a part of it, either as villains or heroes. They help people want to be heroes or heroines. Evangelists help the church to proclaim the good news by being witnesses and redemptive agents. They cultivate a welcoming community, helping the community to practice hospitality as a way of life.</p>	<p>Pastors: Guard and guide. Pastors guard the community from the wolves and guide them toward still waters. They are nurtures and protectors. I call them “soul healers”, for the cultivate a healing environment and help us work through our past hurts and move toward a sense of wholeness in the context of community. They have a deep sense of the brokenness within us and help us to cultivate a life-giving spirituality and embody reconciliation. Pastors create a sense of family within the group, they seek to protect people and create environments where people can feel safe to be vulnerable.</p>	<p>Teachers: Interpret and inform. Teachers are good at interpreting the text and informing others. They are great at gathering knowledge and passing on wisdom. I have nick named them “light givers”, because they shed light on the scripture and help people understand it in a life-giving way. They help us inhabit the text, immerse people in God’s story, as well as teach people how to dwell faithfully in God’s story. Teachers cultivate learning environments so that the whole body is growing in knowledge, wisdom and maturity.</p>

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MISSION What is their primary mission?	Apostles help to create a discipleship ethos and call people to participate in advancing God's kingdom by awakening people and communities to discover and live out their calling in life. They are church planters who take the church into unreached territories and often found new movements of God.	Prophets help people pursue God's shalom by calling the church to live in God's new social order and stand with the poor and the oppressed.	Evangelists help the congregation to proclaim the good news by being witnesses and redemptive agents, redeeming every aspect of society.	Pastors help the congregation pursue wholeness and holiness within community through cultivating a life-giving spirituality and helping them embody reconciliation.	Teachers help the congregation to inhabit the sacred text by encouraging the community to immerse herself in the scriptures and live faithfully in God's story.
HEART How do they reflect the heart of God?	Dream awakeners have a deep desire to see God's kingdom become more tangible in the world through the church, and they do whatever it takes to see this come about.	Heart revealers have a deep desire that people experience the divine romance and have an intimate walk with the Spirit. They are the "conscience" of the church.	Story tellers have a deep passion for reconciliation. They have a love for all people and desire to see what was lost at the fall be mended - people's relationship with God, each other, themselves and all of creation.	They have a deep desire for people to experience the life-giving fellowship of authentic community as modeled by our triune God. They also seek to protect the flock from wolves in sheep's clothing.	Teachers have a deep desire that God's people would be nourished by the scripture so that they might better understand the ways of God and build their lives on the solid rock of His Word.

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FOCUS What are the issues that deeply concern them?	Their deep concerns are the health and faith of the church, the future direction of the church, the atmosphere and attitude of the community, identity in Christ, organizational dynamics, individual and communal callings, connecting with the churches they helped to start and other planters, lifecycles of ministries, forward movement with the big picture in mind.	Their deep concerns are social justice, prayer, developing God centered contrast communities, true worship, holiness, practicing God's presence, listening to God's spirit, spiritual practices, spirit-formed people, global consciousness and downward mobility.	They are concerned for the missional church, missional living, philosophy, culture, redeeming - lives, culture, vocations, social systems and creation, short and long term missions, how to be a faithful church in a pluralistic world, how to share our faith respectfully, intelligently, lovingly and contextually, cross cultural living, apologetics, practicing hospitality, and blessing the neighborhood.	Identity in Christ, conflict resolution, self awareness, emotional healthy living, healing of past wounds, living in brokenness and vulnerability, receiving the gift of limits, embracing grieving and loss, loving well, spiritual friendships, spiritual direction, family life, peacemaking, soul mapping, counseling, coaching, living confessional lives sharing our victories and failures, and helping the congregation join in the table fellowship of the Trinity.	Theology, ethics, practical theology, hermeneutics, philosophy, the torah, the prophets, the writings, the gospels, the early church, narrative theology, systematic theology, creeds, truth and error, wisdom, word studies, languages, memorization and meditation of scripture, current theological trends and hot button issues.

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MINISTRY What are the primary ways in which they embody this gift in the church?	They help people live into the cultural web according to their calling. They engage in systems thinking and systems renewal, creating an atmosphere where good things can run wild in a synergetic way. They develop and help focus resources for the mission and monitor and cultivate discipleship in all four social spaces (intimate, personal, social, public). They cultivate the multiplication of leaders, missional communities, ministries and churches and explore ways to network with other churches. They train apprentices and build teams to help with these ministries.	Heart revealers help people, missional communities as well as the congregation develop a communal rhythm of life. They equip people to live Spirit-filled lives and practice the presence of God through silence, solitude and fasting. They cultivate the prayer life of the congregation and creatively speak truth to power and equip others to do the same. They give spontaneous words of encouragement, comfort and exhortation and help people move from a politics of exploitation and oppression to one of justice and compassion. They encourage the congregation to live more simple, sustainable lives, and find ways to stand with the poor and oppressed in concrete ways locally and globally. They train apprentices and build a team of people who help them with these ministries.	Story tellers live missionally and equip others in to engage in missional living as a way of life. They help people to meaningfully connect to missional spaces, which connect Christians with non-christians. They teach people how to live and share their story and God's story. They view the congregational life through the eyes of those outside of the faith and find practical ways for missional communities to meet and serve their neighbors and neighborhood. They help connect the congregation to what is happening in the neighborhood. They train apprentices and build a team of people who help them with these ministries.	Soul healers cultivate a life-giving spirituality within community so that the congregation can sustain herself in mission. They name areas of congregational need and help the congregation receive the gift of limits. They develop external and internal resources for wholeness and spiritual health, as well as help to create healthy structures and communication in the life of congregation. They train apprentices and build a team of people who help them with these ministries.	Light givers find multiple ways for the community to be shaped by the living word. They create, gather and share resources for the congregation so that people might learn and practice God's word. They teach, write books, write pamphlets on hot topics, and involve people in active learning. They create a hunger for the word, and help the congregation think and act in theologically sound ways. They help to develop the teaching calendar in a holistic way with the other equippers. They train apprentices and build a team of people who help them with these ministries.

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WEAKNESS What is their primary blind spot?	Apostles may find their value in achievement, instead of God and thus could value the mission at the expense of the individual.	Prophets potentially mistake their words for God's words and undervalue contextualization. At the adolescence stage prophets tend toward deconstruction rather than reconstruction.	Evangelists may engage in over-contextualization by identifying too closely with culture and not valuing the development of a contrast community. At the adolescence stage they have tendencies to exaggerate and engage in selective hearing and sharing.	Pastors could value the individual over mission, pitting the two against each other in such a way to create a false dichotomy between community building and mission.	Teachers in their desire to know the truth and make truth known, may put study above practice, and seek to master the text instead of allowing the text to master them.
EFFECT What is their effect within the body?	Apostles cultivate a thriving environment where they awaken people to join God in the renewal all things through discipleship and multiplication of leaders, missional communities, ministries, churches and movements of churches reaching unreached people groups.	Prophets cultivate a liberating environment that dares people to embody a holistic gospel by forming spirit-formed contrast communities for the glory of God and the good of the world.	Evangelists cultivate a welcoming environment and an outward focus toward the world for the sake of the world helping people to be and share the good news contextually.	Pastors cultivate a healing environment in which people learn to enter into a life-giving spirituality within God's new family, understanding their new identity in Christ.	Teachers cultivate a learning environment where people immerse themselves in God's narrative and engage in praxis – enacted reflection – as well as future oriented living.
SCRIPTURE What are some passages that talk about apostles?	Paul and Barnabus (Acts 14:4), Andronicus and Junia (Rom. 16:7), Paul and Apollos (1 Cor. 4:1-13), Paul, The Lord's brothers (1 Cor. 9), Titus (2 Cor. 8:23), James (Gal. 1:19), All the Apostless - different from the 12 (1 Cor. 15:5,7).	Anna and Simeon (Luke 2), Agabus (Acts 11:28, 21:10-12), Barnabus, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, Saul (Acts 13:103), Judas and Silas (Acts 15:32), Philip's daughters (Acts 21:9), Prophecy (1 Cor. 14).	John (Luke3:18), Philip (Acts 21:8), Philip the Evangelist in action (Acts 8:4-40), (Eph. 4:11).	Jesus (John 10), Peter (John 21:15-19), Pastors (Eph. 4:11).	Apollos, Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:18-28), Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen and Saul (Acts 13:1-3), Paul (1 Tim 2:7), (2 Tim. 1:11), You ought to be teachers (Heb. 5:12), Not many should become teachers (James 3:1), False teachers (2 Tim. 4:3).

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EXAMPLE Who are some mature contemporary examples?	John Wesley, Roland Allen, John Wimber, Dawson Trotman, K.P. Yohannan, Bill Bright, Loren Cunningham, Ying and Grace Kai, Amiee Semple McPherson, Julius Ebwongu.	Shane Claiborne, Tony Compolo, Marva Dawn, Walter Brueggemann, John Howard Yoder.	Lesslie Newbigin, David Bosch, Inagrace Deitterich, C. Rene Padilla, Craig Van Gelder, George Hunsberger, Darrell Guder, Alan Roxburgh, Andrew Walls, Cathy Ross, James R. Krabill.	Eugene Peterson, Larry Crab, Henri Nouwen.	N.T. Wright, Ellen Charry, Christopher Wright, Richard Bauckham, Johannes Nissen, Richard Hayes.