

Church Leader, what is your next '4-minute mile'? Find out what I mean inside...

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Leadership Network *Advance*



3:16. What Does This Set of Numbers Remind You Of?

By Dave Travis

Perhaps a great verse in the Bible?

A recent death had me reflecting on that number set.

Iffley Road in Oxford is a site of a celebrated feat almost 65 years ago.

A few of the people involved were Chris Brasher and Chris Chattaway—those names probably don't ring a bell. They are somewhat forgotten in the history of this accomplishment.

The story is of a medical student, a man who had been a failed Olympian. He had decided instead to try and be the first man to run a mile in less than 4 minutes. His name was Roger Bannister, who recently died.

During the early 1950's he was not the only man on this quest. Several other runners were working toward the same feat across the globe.

In the popular imagination—some thought this feat impossible. In the world of track and field though—it was thought that with the right conditions and training, it would be possible.

Bannister's daily training took place during his lunch break at med school. He realized he could get to the track, change, run a certain set of intervals and finish in 46 minutes, leaving himself 14 to have time to eat a sandwich. (Oh for the dedication like that today) One little known fact: though a student at Oxford University, he had switched teams the year before his record attempt.

Training with his Oxford mates, which were the best collegiate team in that day, it was clear that he would not reach the 4 minute mark if he continued with them. They could

only take him so far.

Bannister began to train and run with the team of the British AAA—The Amateur Athletic Association. A national all-star team with stronger runners and athletes.

It was through the training with this team where he was able to put together a group of runners to attempt the four minute mile.

It was a new way of thinking that enabled this great feat to be accomplished. The strategy was to run as a team, with one person crossing the line to accomplish the feat.

The date was May 6, 1954—The Oxford Team against the British AAA at the Oxford Iffley road track.

I am now back to the two Chrises and how they fit in and the new thinking that enabled this accomplishment.

Chris Brasher was not a miler but a steeplechase racer and not a serious threat in a mile race. On the other hand, Chris Chattaway was a world class distance runner who was not quite in his prime and he knew it.

The race went according to plan. There were six men at the starting line. Three for Oxford and three for the British AAA. At the start, Brasher took the lead, Bannister dropped in behind in 2nd and Chattaway close behind in third. Brasher's task was to set a fast pace for the first 2 ½ laps to put some distance between their team and the Oxford team.

At 2 ½ laps, Brasher was spent and fell back, Bannister motioning to Chattaway to take the lead.

He did, also running his fastest to encourage Bannister along. Towards the middle of the final lap, Bannister pulled alongside his teammate to keep pace before lunging ahead on his final kick to the finish.

He crossed the line in 3:59.4.

He was the first man to run a recorded sub four minute mile. A feat remembered as an individual accomplishment, but actually a team accomplishment.

By the way, does anyone remember the second man to run a sub 4 minute mile?

Just 46 days later, John Landy of Australia, bettered the time.

What about the 3:16 you ask?

Within 3 years, 16 men, including Chris Chattaway, ran the mile in under 4 minutes.

They saw it could be done, and they saw how it could be done.

I want to talk about our work for a minute, for our work at Leadership Network is similar.

Our work has the component of finding the teams that may be great in their local context and help them find training partners from across the land that can help pace, cajole, compete and challenge them to the next level.

Sometimes the same running mates you have always had are holding you back.

We help you find new ways of thinking and acting to reach your goals and visions for the future of your congregations.

This is done in our Accelerator process.

We **ENCOURAGE** you in your own race and goals, not to change your God-given goals and aspirations. We give wise counsel to encourage and pace your efforts. We help you move from the teams of peers locally, which won't get you much faster or further, to a national team of those running a similar race.

We **ENHANCE** your ministries by helping them find the resources and tools to help them accomplish their vision. We add value by helping your formulate a better understanding, practical tools and measurements to chart your progress so you can see how you have grown in an area.

It is our job to **EXPAND** your ministries in the areas we are focused. We want to see ministry and kingdom expansion as a result of our work with you.

So what is your next "4 minute mile"?

Who are your running mates that will help you excel?

I would love to hear the impossible goal you are reaching for. Drop me a line at dave.travis@leadnet.org to share with me.



**BEATING THE INNER BATTLES
OF A LEADER**

Join Dan Reiland for our next
Lab session April 3rd

CLICK FOR MORE

Is MONTHLY Attendance the New Norm?

By Warren Bird, Ph.D., Director of Research

Seems like every church is noticing that their regular attenders don't come as frequently, and they're right. Churches across all traditions are reporting this downturn.

What's not known is the ratio: for every X people present last weekend, how many more noses were there across the entire month?

We built that question into our recently launched **Large Church Salary, Staffing and Benefits Survey** (which we warmly invite you to take at [this link](#)).

Here's my tentative answer, based on what the 291-to-date participating churches told us. We look forward to hearing your experience as well.

Your monthly attendance is 1.8x your weekly attendance. At least, that's the average. The 25th percentile is 1.3x and the 75th percentile is 1.9x.

So far, the average doesn't change much with size. That means this multiplier number is about the same for a church with weekly worship of 6,000 as for a church of 2,000.

Nor does it change with whether a church is multisite or not. Nor with age of the church, and nor with the age of the senior pastor.

I'll study the issue much further when YOUR church and others weigh in on the survey. Please do pass [this survey link](#) to whoever is privy to your church's salaries, attendances and other core metrics. As always, contact me at research@leadnet.org.



Things You Want to Know About

Opportunities and resources for you and your team

Hero Maker, a New Book by Dave Ferguson and Warren Bird

Who mentored you or believed in you before you believed in yourself? That person is your Hero Maker!

If you pick a recent day from your calendar, and review the ways you spent your time that day, how much were you the hero and how much did you make heroes of others? It's easy to let the spotlight come to ourselves, but it's so much more strategic to make heroes of other people that God is using on the front lines of ministry. Everybody wants to be a hero, but few understand the power of being a hero maker.

In *Hero Maker: Five Essential Practices for Leaders to Multiply Leaders*, you will learn how to bring real change to your church and community by developing the practical skills to help others reach their leadership potential.

Drawing on five powerful practices found in the ministry of Jesus, Hero Maker presents the key steps of apprenticeship that will build up other leaders and provides strategies for how you can activate gifts, help others take ownership, and develop a simple scorecard for measuring your kingdom-building progress.

You can [pick up a copy of Hero Maker at Amazon](#).

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