

Save A Life – Change A Life

The Power of Small Groups Within A Church Community

By Bret Dobbin, January 16, 2016

The Power of Small Groups Within A Church Community

- **History:** Small Groups in Old Testament and early Christian era
- **Progress:** Modern Groups in 1980's/1990's & 5 different models
- **Benefits:** Why Small Cell Groups work within large churches
- **How To:** The 4 ways to ensure intentional growth for groups
- **How To:** The 10 ways to grow/replicate a small group
- **Call:** Ask for local leadership volunteers
- **Future:** Thunder in the Holy Land ... HHSDA 2016-2017

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- **Old Testament Example ... Jethro/Moses**
- **Exodus 38:26 ... Israel Population**
- **Dueteronomy 1:12 ... What Can One Man Do?**
- **Exodus 18:21 ... Small Groups, Cell Division**
- **Endure Pressure, People's Rep, Peace for All**

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- **New Testament Example ... Peter/Paul**
- **Matthew 1:21 ... Jesus Came to Save**
- **Luke 6:12-16 ... What Can One Man Do?**
- **Matthew 13:44-52 ... House Churches**
- **Acts 18:4-8; 1 Corinthians 16:19; Philemon 1,2**

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- **Modern-Day Progress:** 1980's/1990's
- Small Groups, Cell Groups, Fellowship Groups, Home Groups, Life Groups, Connect Groups, Care Groups, Growth Groups, Study Groups
- Interactive home groups that meet weekly in addition to a church setting and focusing on worship, instruction, evangelism, expression.

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- 5 Different Models for Small/Cell Groups
- a) Covenant Model ... Roberta Hestenes
- A closed-cell group designed for those with an existing, strong, dedicated, biblical focus, and who intentionally limit their goals to personal growth and spiritual maturity

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- 5 Different Models for Small/Cell Groups
- b) Serendipity Model ... Lyman Coleman
- An open-cell group designed to nurture those within the immediate neighbourhood of the church building so that they may readily find an open door for easy access/entry to church

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- 5 Different Models for Small/Cell Groups
- c) Meta Model ... Carl George
- An open-cell group designed on simple third world concepts adapted for North American context with the key idea based on Jethro advice to Moses for delegation/replication

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- 5 Different Models for Small/Cell Groups
- d) Cho Model ... Yonggi Cho
- An open-cell group designed to expound upon the weekly church pulpit message and mostly geared to existing church member nurturing with emphasis on service and commitment

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- 5 Different Models for Small/Cell Groups
- e) Church Growth Model ... Joel Comiskey
- An open-cell group designed to be church growth oriented, act as a pragmatic servant of the church, flexible in its format and also in its implementation, simple but effective

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- **S = spiritual**
- • Personal goals of growth in Christ for each member of the group
- **E = evangelism**
- • Pray for at least three households within their neighborhoods
- **R = reproduction**
- • Each group welcomes new people; always have one leader in training
- **V = volunteerism**
- • The cell group promotes the local church
- **I = international missions**
- • The cell group supports one international mission's project
- **C = care**
- • Commitment to one another, confidential sharing
- **E = extending compassion**
- • Commitment to on-site compassion projects per year

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- **Benefits:** Why Small Cell Groups Work Well Within Large Churches
- Entry Point into Church (casual setting, personal connection)
- Effective Evangelism Tool (opportunity to ask Bible questions)
- Ability to Care for Participants (confidentiality, problem-solving, ministry)
- Accelerate Spiritual Growth (accountability, nurturing, maturity)
- Member Ministry (empowerment of lay persons, positive impact)

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- **People Need:** According To A Recent Gallup Poll, There Are 6 Needs That People Have:
 - 1 – To believe that life has meaning/purpose
 - 2 – To have a sense of community/relationships
 - 3 – To feel they have been appreciated/respected
 - 4 – To see evidence that someone listens/hears
 - 5 – To feel that they are seeing change/growth
 - 6 – To get help in belief development/ maturity

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- **How To:** The 4 Ways To Ensure
 Intentional Growth For Groups
- A: Safe-To-Share Environment
- B: Cater Curriculum To Member Needs
- C: Remain Open To Holy Spirit Impressions
- D: Move From Knowledge To Application

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- **How To:** The 10 Ways To Grow
Your Small Group
- 1. be clear about the purpose of the group
- 2. make sure you have good teacher/facilitator
- 3. enlist leaders who want to multiply groups
- 4. train teacher/facilitator to think like guests
- 5. be aware of the 80% rule – space matters

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- **How To:** The 10 Ways To Grow Your Small Group
- 6. use nametags for all members and guests
- 7. always have extra copies of curriculum
- 8. train a pastoral care teach for each group
- 9. enlist a group outreach leader for projects
- 10. pray for people who have never attended

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- **Call:** I Need Your Help ... Today, I Am Asking For 12 Local Leadership Small Groups Volunteers
- *Weekly meetings in your home*
- *Minimum 4 people, maximum 16 people*
- *Free training, free tools, free rewards*

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