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HOME CELL GROUP AS A STRATEGY FOR CHURCH GROWTH

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## ABSTRACT

This work, Home Cell Group as strategy for Church Growth is designed to create awareness on the need for Churches to experience growth as the Lord of the Church desired it. Many churches today are slow, stagnant or retarding with respect to growth. Various ideas, methods and principles of church growth have been employed but with little or no result. The Church is in the midst of the greatest harvest of souls that Christian history has ever recorded. More people are being born again and more churches are being multiplied than anyone could have imagined only a few years ago. That is the good news. The bad news is that many of the fruits being harvested are not fruits that remain. While one rightly rejoices over the current expansion of the kingdom of God, those in the know realize that it should be expanding even more than it actually is. This essay provides valuable background material on how to adopt Home Cell Group for effective Church Growth. The researcher adopted a historical interpretative method for this work, such as books, Bible, encyclopedia, dictionaries, journals articles, Magazines, Pamphlets as well as internet materials were consulted. Having gone through the desires of God for his church to grow and the biblical strategy for growth, which is still highly effective today, the following recommendations are suggested; the primary motivation for cell ministry should be evangelism and church growth. Reproduction (multiplication) should be the major goal of each cell group. Cell ministry should be promoted as the backbone of the church. Cell attendance should be expected of everyone attending the church. The head pastor should give strong, visionary leadership to the cell ministry. There should also be clearly established leadership requirements for those who are entering cell ministry.

The researcher covers the basis for home cell groups which include Biblical, historical, socio-cultural and scientific bases. It treated reasons for home cell groups and it also analyzes cell group structures today. It covers the G-12 model, Covenant model, Cho Model, Pure Cell model, the Meta model, and other important small group models of ministry.

The church growth phenomenon is biblical, the researcher analyzed important principles and patterns that might help to understand how to more effectively implement cell-based ministry in our churches.

Small group evangelism is becoming popular as a strategy for Church growth and the most effective way of winning souls as the cell network is viewed in terms of 'net fishing' rather than fishing with a single hook. It explored the place of friendship evangelism and aggressive or urgent evangelism in the cell group. This research also analyzed the goal of cell group evangelism, namely cell multiplication as one of the key principles that sets apart effective cell-based ministry. The step-by-step of how to establish Home cell groups was fully discussed. The importance of home cell groups was not left out in this topic.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, we are reminded that the whole world, at this time in history is ripe for the harvest. The church needs culturally relevant tools to assist it in reaching the masses of its ever growing urban centers with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We have seen that cell-based ministry is, in fact, producing exciting results throughout various parts of

the world. This study has sought to analyze cell-based methodology with the hope of placing in the hands of Christian workers important tools and information for the furtherance and growth of Christ's church.

Churches will be considered cell-based if at least sixty percent of the regular adult attendees are also involved in a church related small group which regularly meets for the purpose of edification and evangelism. The cell group ministry is not considered to be just another program in the church but is viewed as the very heart of church life and the primary method of evangelism and discipleship.

Cell ministry is an important tool for individual caring. It is not uncommon for churches to name their small groups, "Kinship Groups," "Tender Loving Care Groups," "Shepherd Groups," or "Care Groups". These names reflect the indispensable calling to care for one another. When new people are linked with members who care, they are much more likely to continue the discipleship process. It is because of lack of care that new believers in so many churches "fall by the way side."

Cell churches around the world care for their new converts through the cell ministry. Oftentimes this care is accomplished first, through directing the new converts to a cell group in accordance with their location, age, and/or civil status; second, contacting the new convert immediately through a visit from a member of the cell group; and third, assigning the new convert to someone in the group who will help him become established in his or her Christian walk

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Having gone through the desires of God for his church to grow and the biblical strategy for growth, which is still highly effective today – Home cell groups. The following is hereby recommended by the researcher:

1. The primary motivation for cell ministry should be evangelism and church growth.
2. Reproduction (multiplication) should be the major goal of each cell group.
4. Cell ministry should be promoted as the backbone of the church.
5. Cell attendance should be expected of everyone attending the church.
6. The head pastor should give strong, visionary leadership to the cell ministry.
7. There should be clearly established leadership requirements for those who are entering cell ministry.
8. A cell leadership training course should be required for all potential cell leaders.
9. Cell leadership should be raised up from within the church itself, at all levels.
10. A “Jethro model” care structure for each level of leadership should be developed.
11. Cell leadership should be promoted to higher leadership positions based on past success.
12. It is essential to understand that effective cell ministry demands a high time commitment on behalf of all cell leadership, and the church should prepare accordingly.
13. Cell groups should meet in the home (at least outside the church).

14. The follow-up system of visitors and new converts should be administered through the cell groups.

16. Offerings should be taken within each cell meeting.