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AEA Ministry *Spotlight*

AEA on the web: www.aeaintl.org

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Chaplain Services

Spiritual, emotional and relationship challenges often seem overwhelming and sometimes separate us from the joy of the Father, but as with all of life's trials and burdens, God often provides clear direction and guidance for overcoming life's circumstances through the advice of wise counsel.

Our Ministry Chaplains are prepared to help and assist you in these challenges through prayer, Scripture, and biblical precepts. Members can access Chaplain Services through a toll-free number, 7 days a week by calling 1-877-872-2735.



Healthy Small Fellowships

By Tom Snyder

In my 37 years of experience with home-based Christian fellowships, many of my closest friends and I have been deeply impacted by our loving, committed relationships, seeing good changes (transformation) take place in our lives. But during those years I have also noticed that other friends, who have only attended weekend traditional church meetings, have not experienced nearly as much transformation - in many cases, very little. They also seem to lack close, committed friends who sacrificially love God and others, so they turn to some ministry they believe God has given to them and pour themselves into that, hoping they can function well without deep connections to a few members of Christ's Body.

Although there are many benefits from attending traditional church services, I'd like to share what I believe distinguishes small church fellowships. Each type of Christian gathering, the traditional and the small group, provides something that the other cannot.

The small group venue usually provides ongoing, relational, pastoral care frequently offered not just by one man ("The Pastor"), but in various ways by members of the group. Each one cares for all the others, lovingly, carefully, delicately, and wisely according to his or her particular gifting and calling (Romans 12: 6-8 and Ephesians 4:11-13), benefiting all.

Relationships in such groups are supportive, very much "there for you" when you need it. Discipleship "up close and personal" effectively occurs and as this goes on, true, godly, lasting friendships develop.

Healthy Small Fellowships

Here we learn how to walk after the leading of the Holy Spirit, being the recipients of His gifts and vessels through which He will move by His manifestations. In this small setting, it is easy over time to recognize individual ministry callings as each person functions without titles or elevated position. And because of the small size (6-12 people), we can learn to hear God, and practice becoming able to distinguish His voice from that of the world, the flesh and the Evil One.

In this small setting, it is easy over time to recognize individual ministry callings as each person functions without titles or elevated position.

With a small group, learning goes deeper and is applied in a personal way during Bible studies. People have fewer tendencies to hear, enjoy, but walk away and forget what has been studied. In small groups, prayers are more specific, answers are celebrated, and faith grows. We share personal struggles more easily, more effectively, in a safe, small meeting. For those who request it, accountability is provided and thereby emotional and spiritual growth accelerates among a small company of believers. Observing the scriptural passages that relate to community deepens our love for one another, especially in situations where people have never experienced the family nurture and learning that should have blessed their earlier years. For singles, single parents, and the divorced, supportive, safe relationships deal with loneliness and its resultant temptations.

While nearly impossible in larger church meetings, in this context good shepherds can fulfill God's desire: "His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints, that they should do the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body" (Ephesians 4:12). Another great benefit of these kinds of relationships is that inner healing can happen over time. This means that many of the needs that send people to professional counseling are met Biblically and in an atmosphere of love.

These supportive relationships are also connections to people that will allow the Jesus-modeled deliverance ministry to function when required.

God often leads members of a small group to start new groups in their own homes, thus multiplication occurs organically as it does with families. In groups that have wise leaders, numerical growth is not driven (neither is multiplication of groups) so as to frustrate the blessings of committed community. Over time, capable leaders will easily be identified and enabled by wise overseers to provide training for others. The more that believers are associated with ordinary people, who are doing a good job of helping and leading others, the more they will acquire a hope and confidence that they too can lead and assist others in their spiritual growth.

There are no barriers to the growth in numbers of these fellowships. A whole city of any size could be reached without the expenditure of one additional dollar. This has an enormous impact on the ability of the church to appropriately respond to God's outpouring of His Spirit on our cities. Under such circumstances a church facility that will hold 3,000 believers could be used 7 nights every week to gather 300 different small fellowships. This would enable just one such facility to serve 21,000 saints. Not insignificant is that this model looks very much like the successful experience of the churches described in the Acts and other New Testament letters. Churches that meet in neighborhoods can readily invite neighbors to their fellowship suppers and find a receptivity that is



Healthy Small Fellowships

likely not found if the same people were invited to a large traditional Sunday morning church service. (They're welcome to come in their T shirts, jeans or shorts.)

When we compare the benefits of the larger gatherings of the saints with the many advantages of these smaller gatherings we readily see that weekly meetings of small, usually home based fellowships, scripturally designed, are a necessity for the maturing of the Body of Christ. Clearly, those who have been hurt or disappointed by the churches they have joined will not heal and grow as God intended by staying home and watching their favorite ministers on TV or even by traveling great distances to see and hear gifted preachers, teachers, prophets, evangelists, shepherds, or apostles. It takes committed relationship to restore, heal and mature the saints. There are no exceptions. It's by way of tackling the tough stuff in life that saints become like Jesus. And, after all, isn't that God's first priority for his children?

If you are interested in starting a small group in your area and need assistance in any way, please contact Tom Snyder at (321) 751-5356 or E. John Reinhold at (888) 526-3751 or (321) 308-7770 extension 201.



Bibles Needed!

Times of Refreshing Ministries, Inc. (TORM) collects and recycles used Bibles, Christian books, commentaries, dictionaries, etc. to ship to overseas missionaries and pastors in English speaking countries. In addition, they donate to prisons, prison ministries, inner-city ministries, truck stops and churches.

According to one Bible recycling ministry, 80% of Christians outside the U.S. do not have a Bible. Please send your used Bibles, Christian books, etc. to:

Times of Refreshing Ministries, Inc.
2187 Hillsboro Rd, Suite 203-205
Franklin TN 37069
~or~
TORM
PO Box 682292
Franklin TN 37068-2292

Any questions may be directed to Al Jaynes at (615) 790-4686.

New Book!

From Darkness To Light
By Jeff Harshbarger

"Jeff has given us a great gift. With wonderful skill he has managed to provide us with unvarnished truth on a subject about which few have real knowledge. Satanism has always had a certain mystique to it. It is further compounded by the exaggerations of Hollywood as well



as the Christian uninformed. As we follow Jeff's personal journey we gain insight into how the Satanists think. We begin to understand what is behind their motivation to embrace this way of life. In coming to that understanding we can then see how they can be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Forget the stereotypes - this is a no-nonsense presentation that will keep you wanting to know more. You will also appreciate, once again, the great love of God to reach down and save us from our own devices. This is a must read for those who want to have an impact on the many who are being drawn into Satanism and the Occult".

- *Chris Hayward*
President
Cleansing Stream Ministries.

"I am delighted to say that I can wholeheartedly recommend your book. It is excellent!"

- *Robin Brace*
Muselt of CounterCult and
Apologetics UK

For a donation of \$15, you will receive an autographed copy of *From Darkness to Light*. For a donation of \$30, you will receive the book, plus a DVD of me sharing my testimony at a conference! To order, contact Jeff Harshbarger at (706) 843-9338 or email: far468@bellsouth.net.

Asia Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation Project



More than 126,680 people across south Asia were killed on December 26, 2004 after one of the most powerful earthquakes in history triggered massive tsunami tidal waves that slammed into coast lines in India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia.

Tourists, fishermen, hotels, homes and cars were swept away by walls of water unleashed by the earthquake centered off the west coast of the Indonesia Island of Sumatra. However, the scope of the disaster became apparent only after waves as high as 20 feet crashed into coastal areas throughout the Indian Ocean and Andaman Sea.

Indonesia is an archeology of 17,000 islands. It has had as many as 32 earthquakes in the last decade, but this earthquake measured 8.9 on the Richter scale making it the most powerful in the world over the last 40 years. More than 80,000 people died in Indonesia. More than 12,000 people were killed in India, and Sri Lanka's death toll stood at 24,700. Additional deaths occurred in Thailand and Malaysia.

AEA's Trinity Mission Trust is a registered national, non-profit, interdenominational cross-cultural and faith missionary organization. The Mission's main priorities are: (1) Evangelism - preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ among the most unreached and unevangelized people groups in North India. (2) Church Planting - to plant churches in remote areas. (3) Children Care Ministry through our Orphanage (Christian Care Home) where they are taking care of poor, needy and orphan children, providing food, shelter and education. Other projects such as camps, campaigns, revival meetings, disaster relief programs and awareness programs have been initiated and are being implemented successfully in order to fulfill the great commission of our Lord Jesus Christ.



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Asia Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation Project

AEA's Christian Care Medi-Share members responded to the tsunami disaster need with many thousands of dollars that were wired to Pastor Philips Das in January. The following is an appreciation letter from Pastor Das:

“I sincerely offer my thanks from the core of my heart for the gift for the disaster affected people in India. We are so grateful and thankful to our Lord for your partnership, prayer and help. We sincerely offer our heartfelt thanks to the donors who support us. Blessed is he who considers the poor.

Convey our warm regards and thanks to your family, staff and donors. May God bless you more abundantly.”

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Philips Das
Trinity Mission Trust
Kalahandi (Orissa) India



Additional Thanks for Tsunami Funds

This money was enough to finance one of the groups of about 40 from the church that went up to Aceh to help with the Relief work. This church was one of the very early ones (within days) that responded to the need. They are still sending groups almost every week. We were with the current group during the last two days. They are going to the camps to help with medical needs and to give out food packets to the families. They are also planning for long-term help in the villages, such as job training and development, farming and education for the children.

Keep them in your prayers! Thanks again for you help.

In Christ,
Danny Armstrong
Globe Missionary Evangelism
Phone: 803-221-9609
jdjl@mail.com



Christians Great Need for Church Planting

By Dr. Tony Dale

“In the last days God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh,
And your young men and young women shall prophesy.”
The prophet Joel as quoted by Peter on the day of Pentecost.

Something is happening all over the country, and Christian leaders everywhere are trying to come to an understanding of it.

The January issue of Charisma had as its cover article an examination of why so many Christians are not to be found in church on a Sunday. It quoted a well known revival teacher from New Zealand, Andrew Strom, as pointing out that these are not back-sliding Christians, but often mature leaders.

A Southern Baptist professor and author, Reggie McNeal, in his new book, *The Present Future* raises the same questions. As he examines six tough questions that the church must ask itself as it moves into the future, he points out that this may be the first generation when Christians are leaving the church to preserve their faith. What is happening?

Is the Holy Spirit preparing the church in the West for the sort of rapid growth that is being experienced through such movements in Africa and Asia?

Just before Christmas, a gathering of Christian leaders met together for two days at the Campus Crusade for Christ headquarters in Orlando, Florida to examine some of these issues and to explore how the great commission can be fulfilled in the coming generation. All of these leaders were asked to read four books in preparation for this 48 hour think tank. All four books looked at Church Planting, and three of the four books clearly postulated that church planting needs to happen in new ways to be effective here in the West. The most clearly Biblical way to do this is through the emergence of simple, reproducible, lay led movements that involve all of God's people.

Suddenly, everywhere people are talking about church planting movements. These are lay led, rapidly spreading, house church movements that begin to impact whole population segments. Is the Holy Spirit preparing the church in the West for the sort of rapid growth that is being experienced through such movements in Africa and Asia? We cannot answer this question for sure, but we can point to growing evidence of God being on the move in this fashion.

Christian researcher and author, Wolfgang Simson, who wrote the best-seller, *Houses That Change the World*, has this to say about simple church movements in the States. By his estimates the house church movement in the United States has multiplied by a factor of 10 over the past three years. 200 house churches have now multiplied out to become closer to 2000. Exact numbers are not known clearly, but the evidence is overwhelming. What began as a trickle is now turning into a flood. At this rate there will be 200,000 of these small group churches across the States by 2010. Let's look at a few examples of this phenomenon and see if there are any lessons that we can learn.

In the late 1990's, Neil Cole, a church planter with the Grace Brethren denomination began pursuing such church planting movements. Four years later, they have seen one house church in Long Beach plant daughter and granddaughter churches that have now spread out to represent over 400 churches nationwide.

Similar things are beginning to happen on campuses across the United States. At the University of Texas in Austin, a student prayer movement began about 7 years ago. Campus Renewal Ministry, as this movement is now known, has paved the way for a church planting move-



Christians Great Need for Church Planting

ment to begin to emerge on various campuses. At UT Austin, over 60 Authentic Faith Communities have emerged over the past 3 years. Continuing to look at Austin for a moment, it is estimated that this medium sized city, which had only half a dozen house churches in 1997, now has closer to 100, if you include the Authentic Faith Communities within the university structure. Could this type of growth be the harbinger of a new movement of God's Holy Spirit in this land?

For any who would like to learn more about this rapidly growing movement, or may explore the implications for seeing such movements impact the church that they are a part of, we would encourage you to go to the House 2 House magazine website at:

www.simplechurch.com
or www.house2house.tv.

On this site you can find information about what is happening in such churches and also see details of forthcoming conferences that they may have planned.

In the late 60's and early 70's, large numbers of hippies began finding the Lord. Powerful church planting movements grew out of this. Groups such as Calvary Chapel and Vineyard would be two such groups that have achieved national impact and prominence. Now again something is happening that is allowing hundreds, and maybe thousands of new churches to grow. And this time the movement has some very different characteristics.

- It is simple. Lay people, businessmen and women, housewives, even children are finding themselves starting churches.
- It is duplicative. Simplicity leads to the ability to be duplicated. As one Philippine church planter has been quoted as saying in the Getting Started Manual that is used by many to plant churches, I try not to do anything in church that cannot be done by a week old Christian. This makes it easy for new believers to see that they can also be involved in church planting.
- It is home based. By this, all that is meant is that no one looks for special buildings in which to meet. These groups meet in homes, in schools, in coffee bars, in business men's offices, etc.
- It is informal but looking for a 24/7 type of commitment to Christ. These groups are not looking for the latest program, but rather they are looking to see how they can be an impact for Jesus 24 hours a day.
- It is spreading fast. Websites such as www.simplechurch.com are alerting Christians to what is happening. Magazines such as the House 2 House are gaining in influence. Well known Christian figures, such as John Eldredge, the author of Wild at Heart and Waking the Dead are openly acknowledging that they are both living home church principles themselves and are encouraging others to do the same. The bands of brothers or fellowships of the heart that John talks about in his books are living expressions of house church life and practice.



Chairman's Corner



With Dr. E. John Reinhold

Can we fathom where the Lord is taking us? Would anyone have believed someone back in 1954 if they had predicted that AEA's ministries and members would be on all five Continents, in 94 nations and have a collective annual budget approaching \$60,000,000.00?

I can't help but believe that what the Lord has in store for AEA over the next decade, as we submit to His will, will in fact be exceedingly, abundant above that which we are able to think or to ask. While a guest at the "roll out" at Sand Point, Idaho of an airplane (Kodiak) designed by missionaries for missionaries, I was introduced as Chairman and President of AEA, the ministry that envisions a Communities of Care Fellowships on every block in America. I didn't plant that notion in Merv Witherup the person who introduced me, but it awoke in me "possibility thinking." Remember Bob Schueller asking the question, "What would you dream if you knew it couldn't fail?" I am reminded that whatsoever we ask, if it be according to His (the Lord's) will,

He WILL grant it. Is having an active Christian fellowship on every block in America His will? I think it is.

All that the Lord accomplishes through human organizations seem to start with a vision He plants. The vision must be nurtured with prayer, because if it is really His vision it cannot be accomplished through just human strength and resources. If it is His vision, then only He can accomplish it through us.

I was shown though a circumstance of needing financial funding for a Christian project back in 1972 that we must launch an inch beyond the circle of our own capability before we are operating in faith. Since the Lord operates with us when we are in the faith realm, we can be assured that through His direction we can see His will accomplished.

I invite you to join with Tom Snyder, the Director of AEA's Communities of Care Fellowships, to pray that we will catch the Lord's vision for AEA in this decade.

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