

CAPACITY

HOMECELL LEADER DEVELOPMENT COURSE **SESSION FIVE**

VISITOR GOALS AND REACHING VISITORS TO BRING TO OUR HOMECELLS

INTRODUCTION:

Nothing happens if we do not MAKE IT HAPPEN - God gave US the responsibility and authority to establish His Kingdom on earth, so:

- HE wont/cant do it!
- The pastor cannot do it alone!
- So, WHO will do it!?!?! WE ARE RESPONSIBLE!
- Our homecells will not and can not grow, unless each leader does not take up the responsibility for their homecell to grow.
- Whoever takes up responsibility, also carries the authority to MAKE IT HAPPEN! We have been given power and authority from Jesus to win souls and make disciples.

Matthew 28:18-19 Amplified Bible

*Jesus came up and said to them, "All authority (all power of absolute rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **Go** therefore and make disciples of all the nations [help the people to learn of Me, believe in Me, and obey My words], baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

WHY ARE WE AS A CHURCH FOCUSED ON REACHING VISITORS/WHY DO WE HAVE VISITOR GOALS?

We have been commissioned, commanded BY JESUS to GO - The Great Commission - to GO INTO ALL THE WORLD and make disciples of all the nations.

Matthew 28:18-19 Amplified Bible

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Mark 16:15 Living Bible

And then he told them, "You are to **Go** into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.

Making a disciple starts with reaching a visitor, that is a soul that needs salvation with whom we can make a connection and bring them into a place where they can hear the gospel, experience the Presence of God and be saved.

MAKING DISCIPLES: GOD'S 'WORK/RESPONSIBILITY' VS OUR 'WORK/RESPONSIBILITY'

Jesus invites us into a partnership to lead others into true life with Him.

As a followup to what we discussed in Capacity Week 2, let's read the story of Lazarus again in John 11:

John 11:39-44 Amplified Bible

Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be an offensive odour, for he has been dead four days! [It is hopeless!]" Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe [in Me], you will see the glory of God [the expression of His excellence]?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised His eyes [toward heaven] and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. I knew that You always hear Me and listen to Me; but I have said this because of the people standing around, so that they may believe that You have sent Me [and that You have made Me Your representative]." When He had said this, He shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" Out came the man who had been dead, his hands and feet tightly wrapped in burial cloths (linen strips), and with a [burial] cloth wrapped around his face. Jesus said to them, "Unwrap him and release him."

In bringing people to NEW LIFE, there are 3 parts of the process, ie:

- a. Creating the connection between Jesus and man; creating opportunities for Jesus to be able to get into the tombs/death of the unsaved person, then
- b. Jesus saving the person, then
- c. The responsibility on us to disciple the person, ie releasing them from their burial/death cloths.

SO THE VERY FIRST PART OF OUR WORK/RESPONSIBILITY IS TO CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JESUS TO GET TO 'DEAD' /UNSAVED PEOPLE!!!! THAT MEANS VISITORS VISITORS VISITORS!!

Luke 10:1 New King James Version

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

VISITORS TO HOMECCELL

FINDINGS FROM A STUDY OF THE 8 MOST PROMINENT CELL BASED CHURCHES IN THE WORLD (BY JOEL COMISKEY) REVEALED 10 TOP KEYS TO HOMECCELL GROWTH & THE FOLLOWING 3 KEYS RELATE TO VISITORS TO A HOMECCELL:

The number of visitors to homecell & weekly encouragement to homecell members for visitors to the homecell were key to homecell multiplications:

- The more visitors to homecell, the more times the leader multiplies the homecell.
- PLEASE NOTE - VISITORS TO THE **HOMECCELL** CAUSED GROWTH!!
- The difference between growing and stagnant churches/homecells = INVITE.

STUDY STATS:

Cell evangelism is team evangelism and the effectiveness of the cell leader in keeping the **MAIN purpose (caring & discipleship is key, but secondary to evangelism) **of the homecell as evangelism** and engaging the whole group in this purpose directly relates to the successfulness of multiplication of the homecell (THIS IS A BIG KEY!!!)*

Another key was the amount of time, ie how often, the homecell leader contacted new people:

- The more contact from the leader with visitors and new people, the more chance of homecell attendance, and the more times the leader multiplies the homecell.
- Set a goal, ie visit 4-8 new people every month.

Regular social meetings outside of/ on top of the homecell meeting also rated as a top key to homecell growth:

- Those who meet socially outside homecell multiply their homecells more than those who do not regularly and often socialise outside of homecell - it is obvious that a healthy growing cell cultivates family & discipleship relationships around LIFE - not just on homecell nights.
- Social meetings are also more opportunities to connect new visitors.

HOW CAN WE REACH MORE VISITORS?

- **Be Proactive - We need to be SEEKING OUT the Lost!**

LIKE JESUS, OUR ROLE IS TO SEEK THE LOST SO WE CAN GET THEM TO JESUS TO BE SAVED!!

Luke 19:1-10 New International Version

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

*Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way. When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly. All the people saw this and began to mutter, "He has gone to be the guest of a sinner." But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. **For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.**"*

- **Go for Goals**

- Homecells are NOT social groups, but groups with PURPOSE - the main purpose is to WIN THE LOST AT ANY COST!
- We have goals to reach a certain amount of unsaved souls - our goals represent souls. We have to commit to reaching our goals; many people have good intentions but no actions/strategies to reach their goals.
- Share the goal/vision so your group knows you have a purpose.
- If you are **committed**, plans will come, and you will make it happen! Authority comes to those who take responsibility. Ps At says 'excuses are the crutches of the UNCOMMITTED'!
- If you are faithful with the small, ie one visitor per week, God will keep giving you bigger plans to reach more people.

- **Have a Homecell 'Target' List/Prayer Board**

- Prayer boards are the basics of homecell - list everyone in the oikos of every homecell member that you as a homecell can and want to reach.
- Pray over the list of people weekly and WORK on reaching the list of people weekly - pray as if you haven't worked, and work as if you haven't prayed, its FAITH & WORKS that gets the job done.
- Have strategies to reach the people on the list, ie socials, invitations, home visits.
- Be committed every week to make your visitor goal for that week.

- **Strategise and work OVER & ABOVE for Open House Sundays/Evangelistic events**

- List of 50 target invitees,
- Invite and confirm at least 16 people who said they will come,
- Do all you can to make sure those confirmed actually attend, ie travel with them, pick them up with your car, help with kids, etc,

- **Create Momentum for Visitor-bringing in your Homecell**

- Momentum needs to be created by FORCE!
- Create a culture of visitor-bringing in your homecell.
- Be committed to reach your visitor goal, week after week, not just sporadically, and it becomes a habit/momentum/snowball.

- Do whatever it takes to reach the goal, if you are faithful with the little, you will be faithful with the much, God will bring opportunities for more!
- Personal invitation is most effective - Street/stranger outreaches are on top - but do whatever it takes to bring someone!
- **Don't be Afraid, be Bold and Aggressive!**
 - Don't be afraid of persecution, rejection or confrontation!
 - Remember, when we are in the gap to mediate on behalf of God between Him and a person, we are standing between spiritual death and spiritual life, literally between life and death - there is bound to be conflict in the spiritual realm!
 - But you are just the vessel, so do not take it personal!

Luke 10:16

Then he said to the disciples, "Anyone who accepts your message is also accepting me. And anyone who rejects you is rejecting me. And anyone who rejects me is rejecting God, who sent me."

TOP OUTREACH/EVANGELISM TIPS & IDEAS

We always start first to reach out with the people in our own sphere of influence/oikos and then we start reaching further out.

Acts 1:8 Living Bible

But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection."

Reaching visitors as a team!

Homecell evangelism is TEAM evangelism. Just as Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs, so we are stronger and bolder when we work together as a homecell team to reach our oikos.

Luke 10:1 New King James Version

After these things the Lord appointed seventy others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go.

The cry of the lost drives homecells to share their community with others. 'Urban' people today are lonely! Today's broken society needs a loving family to become part of!

□ Hosting regular homecell socials

A homecell social is any kind of social event where we can bring unsaved people from our oikos into a relaxed environment to make a connection that can open a door for us to witness to them.

Some ideas for homecell socials:

- Any kind of social activity around food is always popular! Think BBQ, themed foods, ie Mexican, etc.
Pray that the Lord gives you and your members connections and opportunities to witness about Jesus and to invite people to your homecell/church.
- A movie night where your homecell invites friends and family; show a movie with a 'message' that afterwards can be a discussion and open a door for us to share a message pointing to Christ.
- Football matches/watching a sports game together/doing any other recreational event together and inviting anyone with similar interests to enjoy it together, and make connections that can lead to opportunities to witness to unsaved friends and family.
- Games nights - anything fun to bring unsaved friends and family into a community where we can connect and create an opportunity to witness.

The Homecell reaching out together to the oikos of new members

New people know people!

New people need support to reach their world.

Every homecell should actively be making **home visits and hosting socials** to connect with the family and friends of members, especially new members. Actively create opportunities to invite the oikos of new members to your homecell. Jesus did it and so should we!

Matthew 8:14-15 New King James Version

Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed

Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house, He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. So He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she arose and served them.

&

Matthew 9:9-13 New Living Translation

*As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at his tax collector's booth. "Follow me and be my disciple," Jesus said to him. So Matthew got up and followed him. Later, Matthew invited Jesus and his disciples to his home as dinner guests, **along with many tax collectors and other disreputable sinners.** But when the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such scum?" When Jesus heard this, he said, "**Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do.**" Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners."*

Inviting unsaved people to our church charity events or homecell charity fundraisers

Most people want to do good! And most people like people who try to do good, i.e. what they see as doing good (charitable works).

Inviting people to be part of something for a good cause is another avenue to get connected and possibly have an opportunity to witness to them or to invite them to homecell or church. So we accomplish 2 great things at once!

Families involving their children to reach the lost

Mum's can host children's play dates with school friends of their children and look for opportunities to witness to and invite the unsaved parents. As a family, welcome neighbourhood kids/friends from school into your family life.

Invite kids of neighbours or school friends of your kids to children's events at your church. Your ultimate goal should be to reach the entire family, but children often become the open door to speaking to others.

Reaching out to neighbours/your neighbourhood, ie beyond your homecell oikos

God definitely intends for us to get into our neighbourhoods - we are carriers of His Presence into an area. We are bringers of His light into our communities!

Where possible, start with learning the names of your neighbours. Pray intentionally for their salvation, at least weekly. If you don't yet know their names, at least pray over their door number! Ask God to help you connect with them and to grant you opportunities to tell them your story of faith. Ask for courage to speak when the opportunity is there.

Some ideas for neighbourhood outreaches:

- A neighbourhood street party to invite neighbours in order to make friendship connections which may lead to opportunities to witness to neighbours.
- Hire a coffee shop/restaurant and socialise, but also create an opportunity to share a message - afterwards make sure your homecell members connect with newcomers.
- On special days, ie Christmas/Easter, deliver gifts to your neighbours with a card and an uplifting message that could somehow open a door to witness to them.

- Offer to pray for your neighbours - people often carry heavy burdens behind closed doors, and they might welcome prayer support.
- Make a grid of the streets in your neighbourhood, do prayer walks and cover the entire area, then go knock on every door to share the gospel/or invite them to your homecell.
- Do random acts of kindness for your neighbours, ie cut their grass, wash their car, etc. They'll often ask why you do what you do—which then opens the door to talking with them about spiritual matters.
- Start or join a neighbourhood FB group where you can connect to neighbours and then create opportunities to meet up.

Inviting hurting people to join some of our church counselling courses, ie Keys to Freedom/FFI

People are broken and hurt, with mental health disorders rampant in our world. We can invite them onto a counselling course that helped us, and so find a way to get the message of Jesus to them!

Meeting tangible needs of unsaved people we meet

Pastor Yongghi Cho and his church practise an outreach 'method' they call 'Holy Eavesdropping'. Homecell members are always on the lookout for someone with troubles or a need. When they hear of such a person, they ask the Holy Spirit how they can be a vessel to connect the person in need to Jesus who can be the answer to their troubles! Read a testimony of a homecell leader who reached out to people in her block of flats from the book 'Successful Homecell Groups' by Dr Yonggi Cho - Pg 60

We must be willing to do anything to seek and save the lost! Winning the lost at any cost!

□ Continually following up and watering the seed of any connection you and your homecell members have previously made

Every seed you sow needs watering and nurturing, by 1) Prayer and 2) Doing whatever we can physically do to strengthen a connection.

For following up on fighting for the soul of a visitor who has attended a homecell or church service with us, please refer back to Capacity Session 3.

However, we need to water and nurture seeds sown into any person on a target list, and especially any person who has confirmed that they are open to attend a homecell or church with us. Here are some things we can do:

- Pray for them! PRAY PRAY PRAY! Pray that the Lord prepares their heart for salvation!
- Keep inviting UNTIL they actually come! Never give up on anyone!
- Think of things that could hinder people from coming and see what you and your homecell members can do to practically help, ie help with kids, travel money, etc
- Where possible, dangle a carrot! Things like, a lunch date after church, or a coffee catchup before church, or inviting people to your baby dedication so they think they are coming for you, inviting friends to come and see you 'perform' i.e. in band etc. Be wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove to find ways to get people into the presence of God!
- If a person said they will come, but then does not turn up, think of ways to connect them afterwards, ie send them a link of the service and say you missed them, or invite them to social events until you can have an opportunity to invite them to church again.

Never forget anyone that has been on a target list! Keep praying and inviting. Do home visits, phonathons, social media outreaches and anything else you can think of to make connections!

Social media outreaches

Kindly take tips from the short presentation in this session about using social media as a tool to make connections with people we can win for Jesus!

HOMEWORK/SELF-STUDY

As a homecell reach your visitor goals for our upcoming Open House Sunday by implementing any of the tips you have learnt from this session!

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TO ASK A QUESTION