

I. Creating Community

◆ What Is Community?

- Sharing life together, growing in transparency and openness, freedom to be who you are, sharing mutual acceptance, being available for each other, sharing a common vision and purpose
- Process that is learned and takes TIME

◆ What Cell Leaders Can Do

- Relax and lean on God's grace, remembering that the will of God will never call you where the grace of God can't keep you
- Lead the way: In sharing your ice breaker answer; In sharing your speck of truth; In sharing your heart and needs
- Remind the cell of the big picture – Belmont's vision – and fulfilling
- their God-given destiny
- Encourage/bless commitment and participation

II. Facilitating Multiplication

◆ Community & Multiplication

- The larger the cell, the more difficult for 'community' to occur
- Burden of leading can actually increase and real sharing decrease
- Mentoring/nurturing potential can decrease
- The smaller the cell, the more opportunities for mutual encouragement/participation/sharing
- Personal growth is sped up
- Multiplication of gifts and talents is facilitated in smaller groups
- Multiply when size stifles community (typically, when 12-16 adults attend regularly)
- Multiply to increase geographic proximity, increasing ease of contact
- View multiplication as a way to enlarge your community experience
- Eternity is coming when we'll all be together

III. Multiplication Process

◆ Eight Weeks Prior to Multiplication

- Talk to your cell about the vision and purpose for multiplication
- Explain the purpose for multiplication:
 - better intimacy with one another (because of smaller group size);
 - room for expansion (for new believers and visitors to church);
 - more ministry opportunities (leadership, leading worship, using your gifts)
- Ask members to pray about which cell God would have them be in
- Remind your cell weekly to be in prayer and continue to cast vision
- Start praying for the multiplication with your intern(s)
- Encourage your members that:
 - They can hear God's voice, as sheep know the Shepherd's voice
 - God has will for them and will let them know through prayer
 - The cell where God wants them is for their growth and destiny
 - Multiplication is NOT saying goodbye to friends in the other cell
- Inform your Zone/Area/District Pastors (on cell report or by phone) that you have begun the multiplication process

- ◆ **Six Weeks Prior to Multiplication**
 - Cell Leader and intern propose composition of each new cell
 - Consider geography, children, special mentoring/discipling relationships, spiritual health issues (EGRs), giftedness, and other spiritual needs, after input from Zone/Area/District Pastors
 - Talk with each member privately and ‘compare notes’
 - **Please note:* The final decision rests with the cell members. We build others up by seeking God together, not being dictatorial.
- ◆ **Four Weeks Prior to Multiplication**
 - Cell Leader, intern(s), and members reach agreement concerning composition of new cells
- ◆ **Three Weeks Prior to Multiplication**
 - Cell meets together each week for Welcome/Worship and then separates for Word/Works
- ◆ **Last Meeting Prior to Multiplication**
 - Celebrate! Have a party!
 - Invite your Zone/Area/District Pastor for prayer/ commissioning
 - Set a date for a cell reunion
 - Inform the cell department of the new leadership and cell members
 - Continue pastoring your members, welcoming visitors, and growing!
- ◆ **TIPS & TOOLS**
 - Make cell enjoyable
 - Vary the program to incorporate special times
 - View the 4W’s as a basic skeleton
 - Keep cell to 1 ½ to 2 hours – max, then release people to leave
 - Release creativity and innovation
 - Ask for suggestions and ideas, as well as for ways to improve
 - Get feedback
 - Touch base with members during the week
 - Organize a buddy system for phoning
 - Share meals/holiday/special events together
 - Pray and plan for community in your zone
 - Zone gatherings, Saturday breakfast, weekend outreach
 - Look for opportunities to do things together
 - Realize community takes TIME

IV. Life Application