

LIFE'S APPS
"THE RELATIONSHIP APP"
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January 15, 2012

"So in Christ, we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:5

"... let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers." Galatians 6:10

Every Christian needs **OTHER CHRISTIANS**
(No ONE stands alone.)

I. THE AMAZING GROWTH OF THE FIRST CHURCH

See Acts 1:15, 2:41, 47, 4:4, 5:14, 28, 6:1,7, 21:20

During the first 25 years of the Jerusalem church it grew from 120 people to over 100,000.

II. WHERE DID THEY PUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE?

"(They met) day after day, in the Temple courts and from house to house." Acts 5:42

2 Types of Meetings

- Large group: CELEBRATIONS
- Small group: FELLOWSHIPS

"Greet the church that meets in their home." Romans 16:5
Also Acts 2:46, 8:3, 16:40, 20:20; 1 Cor. 16:19; Colossians 4:15

Advantages of homes:

- Infinitely EXPANDABLE
- Unlimited GEOGRAPHICALLY
- Promotes RELATIONSHIPS

III. HOW DID THEY CARE FOR SO MANY PEOPLE?

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLE: ACTS 6:1-7

1. A growing church is **BIBLICAL.** (vs. 1)

"In those days the number of disciples was increasing..."

2. Church growth causes **PROBLEMS.** (vs. 1b)

"... there were rumblings of discontent..." (LB)

3. Problems are always **UNMET NEEDS.** (vs. 1c)

"The Greek speaking Jews claimed their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food." (GN)

4. The pastors cannot **DO IT ALL.** (vs. 2)

"It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables."

5. **LAY MINISTERS** are to assist the pastors. (vs. 3)

"Choose seven men... full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them..."

6. The pastors are to focus on **PRAYING AND TEACHING THE WORD.** (vs. 4)

"We will give our attention to prayer and the teaching of the Word."

7. The result of lay ministry was **GREATER IMPACT FOR GOD'S KINGDOM.** (vs. 5, 7)

"This proposal pleased the whole group ... So the word of God spread and the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly."

IV. WHAT DID THE FIRST HOME CHURCHES DO?

Acts 2:42-47; OUR MODEL

1. THEY HAD A BIBLE STUDY.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."

2. THEY COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO FELLOWSHIP.

"... and to the fellowship ..."

3. THEY GAVE THEMSELVES "TO THE BREAKING OF BREAD".

"... and to the breaking of bread..."

4. THEY GAVE THEMSELVES TO PRAYER.

"... and to prayer..."

5. THEY GAVE TO ANYONE AS HE HAD A NEED.

"... they gave to anyone as he had a need..."

6. THEY HAD SOCIAL EVENTS.

"... they ate together with glad and sincere hearts..."

7. THEY WERE PRAISING GOD AND ENJOYING THE FAVOR OF ALL PEOPLE.

"praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people"

8. THE LORD ADDED THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED.

"And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

A healthy group will: BAYSIDE WEST GROUPS MAY BE BUILT AROUND

- Where I Live
- Support Needs
- Time Schedule
- Shared Ministry
- Common Interests
- Special Outreach

V. WHY SHOULD I JOIN A HOME GROUP?

7 Benefits...

1. I'll understand the BIBLE better.

2. I'll feel like a real part of GOD'S FAMILY.

3. PRAYER will become more meaningful.

4. I'll be able to handle STRESS better. (Support)

5. It's a natural, relaxed way to SHARE MY FAITH WITH OTHERS.

6. It will develop my LEADERSHIP skills.

7. It will deepen my understanding of WORSHIP.

"... you are members of God's very own family ... and you belong in God's household with every other Christian." Ephesians 2:19 (LB)

"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another." Hebrews 10:25

TIME WITH GOD

This week enjoy the **Week of Prayer** journal called "Selah" pausing to pray in a rush hour life.