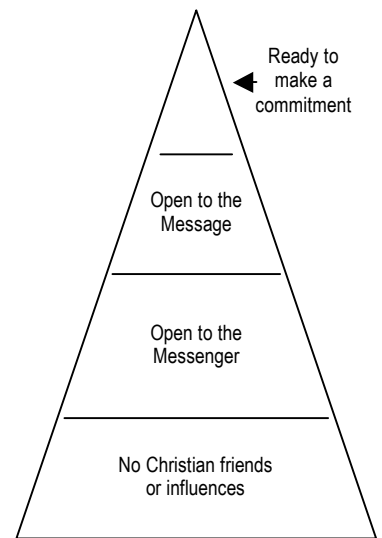


A Vision for Cell Groups

A cell is a community of people, not just a meeting. Although the meeting is an important part, it is all about sharing life together. Rejoicing with each other in successes and standing with each other in times of hardship and struggle, developing relationships, growing in God together and having fun. The cell community is a place where people can feel loved for who they are and be encouraged and built up to be all that they can be. It is a community that look out for one another and seek to meet the needs of others. The cell community is not limited to those who attend the meeting but involves other friends, including those who

At the heart of each group is the focus of multiplication. Cell groups are not inward looking only and are constantly seeking to find how they can be a blessing to others with the blessing that they themselves have received from God. With this in mind there is a strong emphasis on reaching out to our friends with the good news of Jesus. The bible calls us to be fishers of men and in the context of biblical fishing this is not purely an individual activity but a team activity, reaching out to our friends by involving other group members to come along with us. This means our friends become part of the cell community without necessarily coming to any meetings. In this way our friends can witness the love we have for each other and see in practice a people for whom experience of God is a reality today.



An important part of cell life is growing together to be more like Jesus. This means that everyone has a responsibility to encourage and stimulate one another to love Jesus, develop every gift we have to serve him, and engage in every process God uses to form our characters and personalities. The aim is to see everybody within the cell come to maturity in Christ. The group should be able to challenge as well as encourage each other in order to reach this maturity.



The priority in cells is transformation not information. To facilitate this there is a practical emphasis in the teaching that is given. The cell members are required to relate the truths that are learnt from the bible to day to day life, not merely listening to the words and remaining unchanged.

For cell to be a place where we all grow together there must be openness and accountability amongst the members of the group. As the cell leaders model this kind of openness within the group, other members will find sharing real life more comfortable. Cell needs to be an environment where our masks of perfection can be removed to enable us to be real with one another about how we feel, the issues we face and the struggles we have. This kind of trust between members is something that needs to be built up over time and once in place is a key to greater maturity and a witness to the work of God in our lives for those looking in.