

Volume 2 Issue 1

February 2007

Special points of interest:

- *Worry—less in Leading*
- *Prompting Practical Living*
- *Small Group Pics*
- *5 M's*

Inside this issue:

- Lifetogether Wisdom* 2
- 5M's* 2
- Authentic Fellowship* 2
- In the Spotlight* 3
- My Small Group* 3
- List of Small Groups* 4
- A Tip or Two* 4

From the Pen of Pastor Glen

Understanding Membership

As we magnify God by clearly showing Him in relationship to us, others become curious as to what difference it makes to have God in our lives. So we introduce them to our Saviour. This is the membership part of our 5 M's. We define membership this way: bringing people into our community of faith so they may know Jesus Christ.

A credit card company advertises that membership has its privileges. As members of God's family we have amazing privileges. "In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding." (Eph 1:7, 8) "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1) At the same time we should think of the responsibilities that membership brings. In particular, bringing others into our community of faith requires that we be an inviting community. Our church is a very warm and welcoming place. From the smiles and handshakes at the door to the coffee and fellowship time, God is opening up our hearts to one another. The small groups offer that same sense. In fact, I've been told that there are evenings when the sense of belonging and acceptance is so strong that group members don't want to leave! It's exciting to be a part of an inviting and warm community. The strength of those groups is in their ability to build authentic relationships where they practice self-disclosure, care giving, humility, truth telling and affirmation.

In this way we demonstrate the joy of knowing Jesus Christ in a personal way as He reveals Himself to us through the love and interaction of others. Being a community of faith means seeing wonderful transformations as we surrender ourselves to the One who loved us first and knows us completely.



"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Hebrews 10:25



Friends!

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R.Seymour, BirdBreath.com

You Are Not Alone

How help from God and group members takes the worry out of leading



There are few other tasks in the family of God that surpass shepherding Jesus' flock—which is what you as a leader are doing. As you prepare to lead—whether it is one session or an entire series—keep in mind that you are not alone. God

knows everything about you, and he knew that you would be asked to lead your group.

It is common for all good leaders to feel unready to lead. Moses, Solomon, Jeremiah and Timothy were all reluctant to lead. But as he did for

them, God promises to us, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

Remember, you don't have to try to do this alone. Pray right now for God to help you build a healthy leadership team. If you can enlist a co-leader, your experience will be much richer.

This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is call and ask people to help—you'll be surprised at the response.

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"THE 5 M'S"

To Magnify God's Name, bring people to Jesus and Membership in His family, develop them to Christ-like Maturity, and equip them for their Ministry in the Church and their life Mission in the world.

MAGNIFY "showing"

Clearly showing God in relationship to us and our response is worship through Membership, Maturity, Ministry and Mission

MEMBERSHIP "knowing"

Bringing people into our community of faith so they may know Jesus Christ

MATURITY "growing"

Process of helping people in community to deepen their knowledge and experience of God through His Word and His Spirit and grow in Christ-like character

MINISTRY "sowing"

Equipping people to serve and care for each other by discovering and developing spiritual gifts to do the work of God and build up the Body of Christ

MISSION "going"

Going outside the group and sharing Christ's love by serving as His hands, feet and mouth



"One must hear God before speaking for Him."

Authentic Fellowship

Community in the New Testament sense of *koinonia* assumes and requires face-to-face communication, whether in a horse-and-buggy age or an Internet age. Three things marked New Testament Christian community: It was centered in Jesus Christ—believers met together as Jesus' followers, constituting his body; this fellowship was a gift of the Holy Spirit; and the community was missional. That is, the New Testament community was directed toward a purpose outside itself—actually being a living witness to Christ and the gospel's power in the world.

Hebrews 10:24-25 shows that mutual encouragement ("...spur one another on toward love and good deeds...") was a primary church function. The author of Hebrews tells these brothers and sisters to be intentional: Consider how you may prompt one another to the practical living out of your faith. - Howard Synder, Christianity Today, October 2003, Vol. 47, No. 10, Page 102

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Share Jesus Without Fear



Share Jesus Without Fear presents a unique style of relational evangelism. Participants in the study will find this method to be simple, and will discover a confidence in their faith and their witnessing which they may never have thought possible. **Share Jesus Without Fear** can make several significant contributions to your church:

This study will help members understand how completely lost persons are without Christ, and that the only hope for genuine, eternal life is found in a relationship with Him.

Participants will learn the true meaning of success in witnessing, and that fear can be overcome by following three simple steps in sharing their faith.

Persons who study **Share Jesus Without Fear** will find their own faith deepened and strengthened as they learn to share the hope and love they find in Christ.

Church members will experience the joy of the Christian life as their friends and family members turn away from sinful and destructive behaviour to faith in Christ.

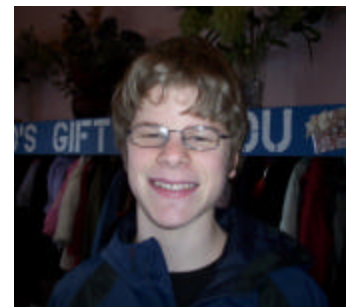


For more information about Small Groups, please contact Pastor Glen Meyer @ 905 841-8883 or gmeyer@auroracornerstone.ca

Share Jesus Without Fear ~ My Group

What has it done for me?

I would like to share with you a little bit about the "share Jesus without fear" course. First of all this course does not automatically give you the courage to evangelize after just 4, 40 minute videos. All the course does is take away all of the excuses that might prevent you from sharing your faith, you will still need help from God to find the courage to share. You also must prepare yourself for things that might happen and be able to stay on the right track. The course is very helpful in this area. So the Question is are you willing to follow the Lord in the area of sharing your faith? If so I encourage you to take this course so that you will see how important it is to share and how to do it.



"...you will be my witnesses..."

Your Little Brother in Christ Jesus,
Joel Lise

N.B. *Share Jesus Without Fear* will be offered as part of the Ladies Prayer and Study Group at the church.



ACC SMALL GROUPS

Contact Sharon Bridge at 905-841-8883/admin@auroracornerstone.ca and/or
 Pastor Glen Meyer at gmeyer@auroracornerstone.ca

<u>Group</u>	<u>Leader</u>	<u>Day/Time</u>
Hospitality	Patti Bunston	Sundays/Other
Ladies Bible Study	Tan Yeo	Sunday 2:00pm
Growth Group	Graham Howell	Sunday 6:00pm
Source [grades 7-12]	Jonathan Turtle	Sunday 6:00pm
Divorce Care	Mary Pettigrew	Monday 7:30pm
Ladies Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Joanne Jobbitt	Tuesday 9:00am
Growth Group	Rick Bunston	Tuesday 6:45pm
Chick Night Bible Study [grade 6,7,8]	Debbie Durst	Tuesday 7:00pm
Precept Bible Study	Hoda Nicholas	Tuesday 7:00pm
Worship Team	Elemer Ivan	Wednesday 7:00pm
Growth Group	Rema Thompson	Wednesday 7:30pm
Men's Group	Phil Randazzo	Thursday 7:00pm
Growth Group	Lynn Leighton	Thursday 7:30pm
Men's Growth Group	Ron Adams	Thursday 7:30pm
G4 [grade 6,7,8]	Joe Puiras	Friday 7:00pm
Alpha Marriage Course	Tan Yeo	Friday 7:30pm
	Edgar & Monique Chilviet	
Newish Marrieds Group	Kurt Evans & Bonnie Thamm	TBA

A TIP OR TWO!

When visitors walk in to your meeting, your top priority is to make them feel welcome. Give them a hug or a handshake and look them in the eye when they talk.

Have a brief introduction period during which each person shares one thing they love about the group. This is a great way for new people to hear good reasons to stay and join the group. Have visitors share how they heard about the group and what they hope to get out of the evening or study.

You can also ask everyone to give a brief introduction. It's worth taking time for this kind of thing in the first week, even if your Bible study needs to be shortened, because it creates a welcoming atmosphere.

If you have seekers in your group—people who don't even know if they want to believe in Jesus, let alone be in your group—be sensitive. Talk to them about something other than church, and avoid putting them on the spot (i.e., having them close or open with prayer).

