



chronicles

A SMALL GROUP NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- *The Emergent Church Fad*
- *Treasures in Community*
- *Small Group Pics*
- *5 M's*

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From the Pen of Pastor Glen

Understanding Magnify

Perhaps you remember in our last issue we talked about ACC's Mission Statement and the 5 M's. The first "m" is magnify. We define it as such: clearly showing God in relationship to us and our response is worship through membership, maturity, ministry and mission.



A magnifying glass enlarges what you place it over. We are called by God to reveal Him in how we love one another, how we conduct out business/ work, how we display Christ-like character, and how we act. In essence, we are enlarging the view of what people see about God. That's why we say that we clearly show God in relationship to us. What difference does it make to others that you and I have the Spirit of the living God dwelling in us? That's what people want to know and see. Sometimes as Christians we feel as if we're under a magnifying glass. That people are watching every move, listening to every word, judging every motive. Christians are the best witnesses to God's grace. Sometimes we are also the worst. But those are the times the grace of God can really be magnified as we repent, confess, and experience forgiveness and renewal.

In fact, to magnify God means we worship Him in all we do, not only individually but especially corporately. As we love, work, play, pray, sing, teach, and so on together, we show what it's like to be in relationship with the God who loves us and tells us to "make known the mystery of the gospel." (Ephesians 6:19)

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:35



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R.Seymour, BirdBreath.com



Richard Davis Ph.D.

Critic's Corner by Richard Davis Ph.D.

If you haven't heard of it, you will. The *Emergent Church* is the latest fad in evangelical circles. Such titles as *A New Kind of Christian* (Brian McLaren), *Blue Like Jazz* (Donald Miller), and *The Younger Evangelicals* (Robert Webber) litter the shelves at your local Christian bookstore. What's it all about? The movement is multifaceted, but its primary theme is that Christianity is essentially a matter of feelings and the heart. To be a Christian means to personally experience God in community. This is the good news we are to preach. After all, Jesus never asks us to believe objective facts about him; he only wants us to be related to him and to each other.



Now it is indisputable of course that God wants us to know him personally through the Lord Jesus. But that doesn't mean that the *truth* of what you believe is based on your feelings or experiences. For then there would be no objective basis for critiquing those with whom we disagree: secular humanists, New Agers, or whomever. As we all know, these folks are often prepared to give their own emotionally

moving "testimonies". The fact of the matter is that the apostles didn't preach their feelings at all. They preached the objective facts about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (cf. 1 Cor 15: 3-8). Furthermore, they supported what they said by appealing to publicly accessible evidence. As Paul says to Festus, the claims of Christianity are "true and reasonable"; anyone can verify them, for the events they report weren't "done in a corner" (Acts 26: 25-26).

Strangely enough, this postmodern claim that *Jesus doesn't ask us to believe objective truths about him* doesn't even make sense. For it purports to be an objective truth *about* Jesus. But then according to the statement itself, Jesus asks us not to believe this claim about him! Indeed, the Bible actually teaches us that "anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him" (Heb 11: 6). So there are certain facts we simply must believe. There is no getting around it. In our small groups, therefore, our focus should be on discovering life-transforming truth, not by exegeting our confusing emotional lives, but through an in-depth study of the Bible. As Jesus himself says, "Thy Word is truth" (John 17:17).

"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."

Transformation Requires Community

"God has entrusted us with his most precious treasure—people. He asks us to shepherd and mold them into strong disciples, with brave faith, and good character. I would not give my life to any church that was not serious about this calling—the transformation of human beings. God has decided, for his own good reasons, that people are not transformed outside of community.

"Dallas Willard has said about the Christian life: "Personalities united can contain more of God and sustain the force of his greater presence better than scattered individuals." Think about that. Personalities united—people in community—contain more of God and his transforming power than isolated individuals. We should not be surprised that transformation requires community; it's how God designed us."

- John Ortberg, CTI/Leadership Journal, Summer 2005, Vol. XXVI, No. 3, Page 35

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Alpha Marriage Course



The aim of the *Alpha Marriage Course* is to enable married couples to build a healthy relationship that will last a lifetime. Over seven evenings spent together they find out new things about each other, and about themselves. They have the opportunity to talk about issues that have been swept under the carpet in the rush of daily life. They discover what makes their partner feel loved; ways they have caused each other pain and how to heal the hurt. They recognize the sources of pressure on their relationship; learn new skills for communicating and resolving conflict; and grow closer to each other in the process. Their privacy as a couple is always respected.



The *Alpha Marriage Course* is for any couple who wants to work together at their relationship, whether its two years old or over thirty. The course is beneficial and enjoyable for those whose marriage is already strong. It also helps couples who are going through difficulties. They are able to re-open communication in a guided and constructive way.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.”
Genesis 2:24

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

Alpha Marriage Group ~ My Group

What has it done for us?

Paul and I have thoroughly enjoyed the Marriage Course cell group! During the course we had a chance to privately discuss issues that we wouldn't normally talk about in our daily conversations. Paul especially enjoyed discovering each other's "love language." We've also made an effort to make sure we spend more "two only" time together. We have also become very fond of our fellow group members and feel more connected to the church.

— Paul and Sandy Johansen



“...more 'two only' time together.”



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
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 7:30pm
Worship Team	Elaine Tonn	Wednesday 7:00pm
Growth Group	Rema Thompson	Wednesday 7:30pm
Alpha Course	Eleanor Coyle	Thursday 7:30pm
Ladies Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Elaine Tonn	Thursday 9:00am
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	

ATIP OR TWO!

When people share painful experiences in your group, affirm them. Don't go too quickly to pat answers like, "It's God's will." Or "Oh, God's going to use this." Maybe He will, but give them a break! They don't want to be dismissed or pushed. They want someone to hear their pain.

An affirming response could be something like, "Ouch! That's unbelievable what you've been through!" Or, "Thank you. What an incredible gift you've given us by sharing this." Or even, "I don't know what to say." That's a great response. It's genuine. It's from the heart. And that's what people need. *Agape*. Love.

