

## Rough Notes From Our Trips To Cali, Columbia #3

### Cell Groups In Cali, Columbia

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In a large church cell groups are essential to disciple every individual. Otherwise, as the church grows people are loose and not tied to the church and they are not growing.

Currently their cell groups are using Nazarene Sunday School material. SS is done not on Sunday morning but in the cell groups. Their goal is to finish this year with 1000 cell groups. Attendance at the cell groups are from ten to sixty. A very high percentage of the church are involved in cell groups.

Jaime is in charge of all of the cell groups. Everything is in the church database. Soon, Jaime will be leading a meeting of all of the cell group leaders and cell hosts. They will involve about a thousand people right now. It's important to supervise and direct what is taught in the cell groups. They are not to just do their own thing.

Acts 2:43ff, The believers were edified by worship at the temple but also in their homes. God added daily those who were being saved. Many of the first churches were started in homes.

Two concepts of the cell movement:

Open cell group and the closed cell groups. The G12 group is the closed group in comprised of those being formed in the school of Leadership and are being assimilated in the vision of the Master's Plan. They are a part of a leader's intimate fellowship of twelve. Spiritual growth and reproduction is central.

Open cell consists of necessary components of life. It is the component of the smallest segment of the church but it includes all of the elements, just like a cell in the human body. It has to be fully a part of the whole body, but it is a cell. Leader, host, assistant (Timothy), participants. The open cell group is evangelistic.

Cell group parameters:

(There is a difference between a church with cell groups and a church of cell groups.)

A cell group has to be more than just a group of believers who get together for fellowship. There has to be an intentional purpose to be formed to be future leaders, to grow and to reproduce. The cells have to expand throughout the whole city.

To make a member of each cell group a future leader.

To make sure that all of their members attend Encounter.

To impact everything around them with many evangelistic strategies. Bring new people to the church and send them to Encounter to start the whole process all over again.

The new people win the new people. They are hungry and thirsty to preach the word. They are more manageable and they are more teachable. They are hungry and thirsty.

45 min to 1 hr long. If it goes longer than one hour they get tired and don't come back. Keep them thirsty.

Start with a minimum of four people plus the leader.  
Teaching includes the content that comes from the leadership of the church. SS material.  
There has to be good participation by all the members.

The host location, the host needs to be part of the church, not some other church or denomination.

The goal is to reach people all around the location of the new cell's location.  
There must be a desire to be a part of something that will grow and multiply.

There must be a good spirit in the host home.  
The leader and host home must understand the ladder of success and see the role of the cell in the process. If the cell is not alive and active we need to close it, because we are wasting a leader and we are wasting our time. We will take a good leader and start over in a new location that has a host who is positive and understands the vision of the church.  
To . . .

We can use many strategies to evangelize, we use the cell to gather in the harvest from impact events and to get people into the church.

The cell group leader has to spend time contacting and Pastoring the people in the group. Grab onto them and not let them go. Get them into church and encounter.

Discipleship: accomplished through all of the teaching that the church does. A lot happens through the cell group. The cell serves as a communication point for encounters and all of other steps in the ladder of success.

The cell group helps the members of the group to accomplish the "send" step of the ladder of success. The Timothy person will eventually become a leader and the cell group will assist him in launching a new cell when he has completed the necessary process through leadership school. To graduate from leaders school a member must open a cell.

In the open cell group you cannot cast out demons, etc. The cell group is not to become a counseling session. You do not receive tithes and offerings. The leader is not authorized to have a cell group retreat, or making changes without permission. Don't allow people in leadership who are not submissive to leadership and commit to the vision and work the process.

Children should be cared for separately. Adults and youth can attend the cell groups.

One hour cell meeting:

1. five minutes, welcome
2. five minutes, opening prayer
3. thirty minutes, message
4. twenty minutes, prayer requests and sharing and then prayer for the needs of the people.

--Additional things that happen from time to time are worship moments, announcements about what is happening at church, video, prayers of three, etc.

All of the leaders of the church meet for inspiration the first Friday of each month where pastor talks directly to the leaders in the church.

Cell group leaders have to get their weekly lesson at church on Sunday, that way they know that the cell leader is in church. All of the cell groups use the same lesson. When they get their material they turn in a report from the week before.

About 4500 of their people are attending cell groups.