What Is THE HOLY SPIRIT Saying To His People?

The Supernatural Church is You!
by John Arnott

Fellowships of the Heart
by John Eldredge

Holy Frustration
by Floyd McClung
The house church movement is rapidly growing throughout the country... and around the world! Whether you are already participating in a house church, planting new churches, or thinking about getting involved, you’ll want to join us! Among the great things that will spring forth from this year’s conference:

- Special guest speakers
  - Wolfgang Simson (author of *Houses That Change The World*) and
  - Rolland Baker (who, along with his wife Heidi, wrote *Always Enough* is involved in a revival in Mozambique... see their article on page 28)
- Practical workshops to quench your thirst for new ideas and inspiration
- Refreshing children’s program by Tasch Ministries
- The excitement and fun of Denver, with plenty of family-friendly activities

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CONTENTS

FEATUERES

5 Guest Editorial: Discipling A Whole Nation : Mike Steele
6 What is the Holy Spirit Saying to His People? : Tony Dale
9 Spirit Talk: More Spirit Messages : Various Authors
14 Fellowships of the Heart : John Eldredge
16 The Supernatural Church is You! : John Arnott
19 God is Bringing His New Wine : Kevin Sutter
20 Discerning God’s Voice : Vicky Porterfield
22 Holy Frustration : Floyd McClung
24 Campus Church Networks : Jaeson Ma
27 Toward Radical Social Change : CitiReach International
28 Faith, Love and Joy in Africa : Rolland & Heidi Baker

SIMPLE SHORTS

8 Tens of Thousands of Muslims find Christ
9 Blessings and Challenges from Central Asia
10 New Jersey Home Church
10 Finding Real Family in Texas
11 Strong Church Growth in Uzbekistan
12 Church Multiplication in the Middle East
12 Hanging Out With God
13 A Trip to an Arizona ER
13 Baptism in Bartlesville
15 Fellowships of the Heart Retreat: James Denman Reports
**What is Simple Church?**

We all recognize that it would be ludicrous to think nailing a steeple to the roof of a house would make it a house church. However, many of us take what we’ve seen happen in church buildings our whole lives and duplicate it in our living room and call it a house church. Simple church is about a way of life. It is not about a change of location, but about a change in the way we do church. As you look through this issue, here are some of the key components to keep in mind.

**FOOD**

When you get together, eat! It provides a great atmosphere for people to have honest, open communication with each other.

**OPEN PARTICIPATION**

“What then shall we say, brothers? When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:26

The key is “everyone has...” Everybody should be able to participate.

**BIBLE STUDY**

Keep it simple and interactive. A great technique is to look over a few verses together and then share with each other what each person has learned.

**PRAYER**

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42

Find out what is happening in each other’s lives and take the time to pray for each other. Expect God to move powerfully and to speak to the group as you pray.

**SIMPLICITY**

Make sure that whatever you do can be duplicated. If the church is going to multiply rapidly, it must be kept simple.

Church is not about the weekly gathering, it’s about a different way of life. “Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 5:42
Founded in 1985, Dawn Ministries now starts its twentieth year of ministry. Our mandate is to see a gathering of believers within easy geographical and cultural access of every person on the planet. Though it has been stated in many different ways, Dawn Ministries has always sought to cast a vision for this through indigenous church planting. In the year 2000, we began to explore work in North America and the appropriate contextualization of the vision and message. Over the last four years the direction and focus of the work has become clearer and Dawn has helped facilitate the increase in simple church planting movements here in North America.

As we begin 2005, Dawn Ministries has reorganized to accomplish their worldwide mandate through decentralization. To acknowledge this new season, Dawn Ministries will be identifying their efforts around the world as the DAWN International Network (DIN). Led by nationals in every region of the world, DIN seeks to continue to encourage the acceleration of the expansion of the Kingdom of God to every people group worldwide.

After working with Tony and Felicity Dale and the House2House staff for four years, it is with great joy we announce our partnership with them in casting this vision through the printed medium of House2House magazine.

Their heart for the Kingdom is unparalleled, and their work in disseminating information about Church Planting Movements (CPM’s) and simple/organic church planting has catalyzed the birthing of many networks and church plants around the world. We are thrilled to be partnering with them in this new season.

As House2House moves towards a more regular publication, DIN will be contributing articles and information about the spread of CPM’s across the continent. We would love other organizations and networks to join with us in this shared task through a shared magazine. We hope to, in some way, encourage others to “be” the Kingdom of God in their neighborhoods and communities until “His glory covers the earth as the waters cover the sea” (Hab. 2:14)! If your group would like to consider partnership with us in this way, please contact Iony Dale at tdale@thekarisgroup.com.
What Is THE HOLY SPIRIT Saying To His People?
Does God really speak to people today? When Elijah or Jeremiah says, “And the word of the Lord came to me...” were they experiencing something that was really only available to the saints of old, or was Jesus serious when He said, “And My sheep hear My voice?” We evangelicals have tended to be ambivalent on such questions. We don’t want to deny what Jesus told us, but neither do we want to claim some divine authority for something which may just be our “sense” of what the Lord is saying to us.

In October of 2004, when the H2H team began looking towards this issue of the magazine, we found ourselves asking, “What is the Holy Spirit saying to His people today?” We wrote to a wide variety of leaders both inside and outside of the current house church movements to ask what they sensed God was saying to the church. It is fascinating to see the areas of synergy and overlap in the authors’ contributions — the degree of convergence is remarkable. Let me illustrate this by quoting some of the authors of articles included in this issue.

**Hearing the Lord starts with passion, with intimacy.**

“Just as you recognize the voice of a good friend, the closer you are in relationship with the Lord, the easier it is to recognize His voice.”

“God speaks to us in different ways... there’s that still, quiet voice which leads us with faith, hope and love. This inner voice is usually inaudible, but it is accompanied by a strong conviction or peace, a ‘knowing’ inside our spirit.”

Vicky Porterfield, founder of PrayerFields

“It is a journey of the heart; into fellowship, intimacy, into joy in the midst of suffering. It is a journey into giving your life away and finding it in the process.”

Mike Steele, leader of Dawn North America

“God is calling together little communities of the heart, to fight for one another and for the hearts of those who have not yet been set free. That camaraderie, that intimacy, that incredible impact by a few stouthearted souls — that is available. It is the Christian life as Jesus gave it to us. It is completely normal.”

John Eldredge, author of *Waking the Dead* and *Wild at Heart*

**But passion always leads to action!**

Convictions lead to commissioning. “For God so loved the world that He gave...” And the same must be true of His people. This part of the Holy Spirit’s burden came through loud and clear from many of this issue’s authors.

“Stop listening to people telling you that you can’t. Jesus is saying you can, and I am telling you that you can. Follow your desire as a ‘little anointed one’ who carries Jesus’ love and power and just go for it. Just do it!”

John Arnott, pastor of Toronto Airport Christian Fellowship and chief editor of *Spread The Fire* magazine

“But to get new wine, we have to take the wineskin to the vineyard. We have to get up and go. Get out of the four walls of the house.”

Kevin Sutter, director of YWAM Church Planting Coaches

And what fascinating ways some churches are finding to “Go.”

“This fall the three churches embarked on Kingdom assignment #2: Sell a personal possession worth at least $100. Another $250,000 was raised from within the three churches. As before, all the money raised was given to human services agencies caring for the needs of Boulder County residents.”

CitiReach International, www.citireach.org

Kevin Sutter told a story of a Mongolian church that decided to have their vacation in a remote village, because no church was yet planted in that village: “To these Mongolians, this was just normal Christianity.” I would suggest that though this should be normal, it is about as normal as the Christian living described in Watchman Nee’s classic book, *The Normal Christian Life*. We need this type of “normal.”

Only every member ministry can make this happen!

“There have been prophetic words in recent years of an end time ‘nameless and faceless’ army that would fulfill God’s mandate upon the earth. Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* was a banner for this generation calling forth an army of martyrs unafraid to live and die for the Gospel. It is a generation with apostolic passion that will move in signs, wonders and miracles. It is the end time generation that will reap a great supernatural harvest.”

Jaeson Ma, president and strategic coordinator of Campus Church Networks
Radical Christianity will lead to radical transformation, to reformation.

"There is a battle for the future of the Church and a revolution must happen."  
Jaeson Ma, president and strategic coordinator of Campus Church Networks

Campus church planting was radical enough in the 70s that Felicity and I were literally thrown out of a major campus ministry for starting a church. But there is always a price for seeking to follow the Lord into paths "less traveled."

"I was taught we should not start new churches, and so we sent our converts to local churches. This was a travesty: we were putting our spiritual sons and daughters up for adoption without their consent. The institutional churches didn’t know what to do with them, and the kids didn’t want to join the institutional churches anyway ... Instead of trying to mollify the over-sensitive feelings of church leaders in the name of unity, we should have devoted our energy to church planting efforts among the lost. We can honor churches that already exist, bless them and learn from them, while we get on with the mission God has given us.”
Floyd McClung, former international director for YWAM, currently the team leader of All Nations, a house church planting movement working in fifteen countries

This is not a call to pull people out of their existing structures. Rather, we would like to see churches releasing those whom God is calling into new wineskins to follow God’s leading in their lives.

"Don’t aim to plant house churches by recruiting people out of traditional churches. Clearly God is doing a great work through many traditional churches. Yes, they have their shortcomings, but so does every house church.”
David Lyons, assistant to the director of The Navigators

I can’t say "Amen," to this loud enough. No one needs to get into “sheep stealing.” Instead, we need to find the strays, the lost, and gather them into new sheepfolds.

"It will happen when spiritual fathers and mothers release their spiritual sons and daughters to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11) without fear or control.”
Jaeson Ma, president and strategic coordinator of Campus Church Networks

What God is doing is both simple and rapidly reproducible!

"Church is a group of friends who live life together for the glory of God. When two or three gather in His name, then you have church. When those two or three seek to obey Him, then you have missional church.*

Floyd McClung, former international director for YWAM, currently the team leader of All Nations, a house church planting movement working in fifteen countries

I don’t think you can express it much simpler than that. No wonder Jesus could say, “For where two or three gather together because they are Mine, I am there among them” (Matthew 18:20). What is being described throughout this issue of the magazine works. It is working with breathtaking speed around the world, and the Holy Spirit is saying to us that it will work here in the West — if we will get out of the way of His coming tidal wave of blessing.

"Programs are the artificial alternative to living by the Spirit. They represent our best human efforts and plans for accomplishing God’s purposes. Programs make sense. They are the ‘obvious’ steps to take in order to create community and accomplish mission. However, as attractive as programs may be, they are really poor substitutes for relationship. A healthy marriage can’t be reduced to a program ... Jesus developed no programs.”
John White, house church coach from Denver, who, with Kenny Moore, initiated the Luke 10:2b prayer virus

These next quotes are not taken from articles in this issue. They are from two respected leaders—one from this generation...

"The house church phenomenon could be revolutionary. It just may be that the most valuable gift missions can give back to the American church is a renewed sense of the family as God intended it to be.”
Ralph Winter, founder of the US Center for World Mission, Mission Frontiers magazine, March–April 2005

and one from a previous generation...

"Is our speed really too great after all? Is not all this talk a delusion? Speed is a relative thing, and the accuracy of the estimate depends upon the standard you measure it by. The coach is a rapid vehicle compared with the old carrier’s cart, but it is very slow when put alongside a royal express train. What do our objectors measure us by? Anyhow, I object to being measured by the standard of the carrier’s cart.

Does salvation travel as fast as sin? See how wickedness spreads. Talk about a prairie fire – it devours everything before it. Does salvation keep pace with our ever-growing population? Make the calculation in your most favored Christian cities, and you will find we are terribly behind in the race. Do we keep pace with the devils in energy and untiring labor? Do we go as fast as death? Oh, say no more! We’ll close our ears to this cold, unfeeling, stony-hearted utterance of unbelie夫.

Let us go faster! We must increase the speed if we are to keep pace with the yearnings of the Almighty Heart of Love that would have all men to be saved.”
General William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, in the article “You’re Going Too Fast!” printed in the March 1885 edition of The War Cry

Tens of Thousands of Muslims find Christ

In Bangladesh, tens of thousands of Muslims have changed religion in the past few years and now follow Jesus. New “Jamat”–Christian house churches with ex-Muslim members—are being formed across the nation, reports the Swiss missions agency Kingdom Ministries. The movement is by far the fastest growing Christian group in the country. In 1997, the Bible was translated into a form understood by the rural population. The movement’s most important characteristics are its house church structure with 15 to 25 members per group, flat hierarchies and the emphasis on being a lay movement with very few paid leaders. Evangelization and church leadership are in the hands of laypeople. The new converts call themselves “followers of Jesus,” and keep their old names.

Kingdom Ministries  
www.kministries.ch
Below, a wide variety of leaders both inside and outside of the current house church movements have written what they sensed God was saying to the church. It is fascinating to see the areas of synergy and overlap in the authors’ contributions — the degree of convergence is remarkable.

**A Prophetic Warning**

This word from Rich Hagler was given for the 2004 National House Church Conference. We’re printing it in this issue because we feel it has much wider implications.

I believe there is much spiritual warfare going on in heavenly places surrounding the National House Church Conference. I believe the Lord wants to use this conference as an initial catalyst for a spiritual breakthrough that will open the heavens and greatly advance His Kingdom here in North America. This breakthrough will include ...

1. Breaking our hearts for our Heavenly Father and calling us to fulfill our heart’s desire through greater love and intimacy with Him.

2. Releasing a sustained outpouring of mourning, fasting, repentance, worship and prayer to the Father for the revival and empowerment of His entire church and for multitudes from His harvest to be swept into His Kingdom (Matthew 9:35-38; Luke 10:2). Though this movement may begin in the house churches, it will soon grow to include many other churches as well.

3. Setting free those in captivity will be a primary focus — including the poor, the sick, the oppressed and the lost (Isaiah 58; Matthew 11:12; 12:29).

4. Vastly increasing the visibility, credibility and perceived viability of the house church movement, both with those largely outside traditional church gatherings and those within. This will lead to a growing multiplication of new house churches and house-church-type gatherings, primarily through the lost being saved, discipled and trained, and sent back into the harvest to go and do likewise (2 Timothy 2:2).

5. Uniting the whole Body of Christ together, specifically through city, statewide, and regional prayer and transformational movements here in North America and perhaps beyond. However, these movements are to be solely based on an insatiable hunger and thirst for the Father’s blessed presence, and not through woodenly following a set of principles or transplanting a formula, methodology, or technique.

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**Blessings and Challenges**

The past five months have been incredibly jam-packed with blessings and challenges ...

Blessings: three solid house churches with their own leaders; two elders and their wives who are providing excellent care and oversight for the leaders and broader “flock”; thirteen up and coming “deacon/deaconesses”; eight meetings on their way to becoming house churches.

Challenges: some intense persecution in some areas; some of the most difficult team problems I’ve ever encountered; no visas for over five months now and serious health problems for my wife. My wife’s in the US with our youngest right now, thankfully recovering and due back in a week after a long, seven-week absence. In all this, His grace keeps us and sustains us! Overall we’re really encouraged and are praying fervently for God’s Spirit to be poured out in a mighty movement that will sweep many into His Kingdom! 

_A YWAM Central Asia Church Planter_
There are two strong words to the church that I am hearing and declaring:

**Our Unity**

God is calling us to declare our unity in the Body of Christ (Romans 14:1; 15:6-7). Several years ago the Lord gave me a declaration of unity, and told me to say it often, out loud, and to teach others to do the same.

“I belong to everything that belongs to Jesus and everything that belongs to Jesus belongs to me. It’s not ‘us and them.’ It’s just us! I have only one Body of Christ. The problems of the church, the whole church, are our problems, because we are the church! And we can do more together than we can do alone. One shall chase a thousand, and two shall put ten thousand to flight.”

**Miraculous Healings, Signs, Wonders**

The Lord also directed me to pray daily the prayer of the early church found in Acts 4:29-30, and to teach others to pray it out loud.

“And now, O Lord, hear their threats, and give Your servants great boldness in their preaching. Send Your healing power; may miraculous signs and wonders be done through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

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**Race Track**

New Zealand is ripe for new house church networks. Earlier this year, the Lord gave Heather Gribben a revelation on how micro church networks serve practically to reach unbelievers in each community with the message of Christ. Heather serves with her husband Les in giving leadership to DCF-NZ, one of the key micro church networks.

The following revelation tells it better than I could ever say it.

“While in prayer recently, God shared His perspective on the outworking of the micro church concept here in New Zealand.

“He gave me a picture of a racetrack for cars. The track represents us interacting on a daily basis with others outside ‘in the world.’ Our participation in this ‘race of life’ will involve us simply being who we are, unique individuals who love Jesus, and doing what comes naturally (e.g. meeting a friend for coffee and sharing life’s happenings; having a family in for dinner; enjoying recreational pursuits with others, etc.).

“Then God showed me the pit stop. This is where the cars, at regular intervals, come off the track very briefly for refueling, safety checks and maintenance. The pit stop represents our meeting together at regular intervals for a brief time of encouragement, support and equipping in order for us to effectively continue the work of interacting with others out ‘on the track.’”

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**Finding Real Family in Christ**

We started our house church in October of 2004 with me, my wife, our three teenagers and one friend. Our church was birthed out of another house church in our area which had grown to a vibrant family of over 25 individuals.

We began to meet each week and share a full meal together in addition to Bible reading, praise songs and prayer. Since the first meeting the Lord has added two single ladies, one married couple and two single men to our group.

Three weeks ago one of the men in our group was instantly healed of intense back pain as we simply gathered around him in prayer. We are praying for each other’s needs and seeing real answers to prayer. We are so grateful to the Lord Jesus for what He is doing.

**Bill Benninghoff**

Arlington, Texas

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**New Jersey Home Church Network**

We’re a small group of about six adults and eight children that gather every Tuesday night. We share a meal (often we order pizza because of everyone’s work schedules). We worship with guitar and bongos. We have prayer, meditation, and conversation centered on the Bible and relevant issues of the heart.

Six months ago, Jason (27) came to visit with us and he’s been here ever since. Through the relationships built and the experience of God’s presence, Jason has accepted Christ and about three months ago, was baptized in our bathtub!

Having come out of fulltime traditional ministry almost 45 years ago this has been one of the most amazing journeys that I have ever taken.

**Tim Gesicki**

Haskell, New Jersey

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**Author Info**

Robert Fitts has served in pastoral and missionary evangelism for the past forty-five years. Since the late seventies, he has had an itinerant ministry traveling into other countries with the message of God’s love and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Robert and his wife, Joni, live in Kona, Hawaii where they work with YWAM. They have seven children and sixteen grandchildren.
Changing The Wineskin Is Not Enough

The shift from traditional church to house church results in many changes. The meeting is now held in a home (or school or office building) instead of a church building. The church is small with no intention of becoming large (the plan is to start other small churches instead of growing one larger church). The church is led by an “average” Christian instead of seminary-trained clergy. The meeting is participatory. Everyone gets to contribute something — a teaching, a song, a prophecy, etc.

So the wineskin (the container) is changing, but I believe that the Spirit is saying this is not enough. The tendency is to import the old wine into the new wineskin. What is the old wine? It can best be expressed by the word “programs.”

Programs are the artificial alternative to living by the Spirit. They represent our best human efforts and plans for accomplishing God’s purposes. Programs make sense. They are the “obvious” steps to take in order to create community and accomplish mission. However, as attractive as programs may be, they are really poor substitutes for relationship. A healthy marriage can’t be reduced to a program. What Jesus did with His disciples would never be described as a program.

Intimate relationship and conversation with the Father was the key to the life and ministry of Jesus when He was on earth. In John 5:19, He reveals His central operating principle: “I’m telling you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does.” Jesus developed no programs. His entire strategy was to find out what the Father was doing and do that. He taught his disciples to do the same.

John Wimber explained listening to the Spirit as it applies to evangelism. He distinguished between “programmatic evangelism” (the old wine) and “power evangelism” (the new wine). “In programmatic evangelism, Christians witness to everyone they meet, in obedience to the general command of Scripture to ‘go and make disciples.’ In power evangelism the same command is obeyed, only differently. Each evangelism experience is initiated by the Holy Spirit for a specific place, time, person, or group... In programmatic evangelism, the Christian says, ‘In obedience I go. Holy Spirit bless me.’ In power evangelism, the Christian says, ‘As the Holy Spirit tells me to go, I go’” (Power Evangelism, p. 46).

So, what is the Holy Spirit saying to the emerging house church movements? He has said it many times before. “Leave the old wine of programs behind. Fill the new wineskins with the new wine of life in the Spirit.”

Author Info
John White is part of the leadership team of a network of home churches in Denver, Colorado. He and his wife, Tamela, are frequent contributors to online discussions on home churches. To read some of these discussions, visit www.dawnministries.org/regions/nam/johnwhite

Strong Church Growth in Uzbekistan

Church growth is particularly significant in the north of Uzbekistan, around the Aral Sea (Karakalpakstan). There is a tremendous Christian rebirth going on among young people. “Most of the converts are 20 to 30 years old and meet together in homes because the police are hunting for them. During the day, they train in evangelism, and in the evenings they go and visit their friends, share the gospel and people turn to Jesus. In the town I visited, they have 70 cells and their vision is that every year they multiply by two, so they are hoping for 140 cells next year,” said Mark Orton (Open Doors).

Particularly at the beginning of this renewal there were many miracles, despite the fact that the Christians say they are not charismatic or focused on miracles. The Christians feel they are reaping the fruits of the prayers of evangelists who have come before, and they are very grateful to the missions who are still helping them.

www.joelnews.org
Go To The Lost!

I had a “freeze frame moment” three years ago in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. I was visiting David Wong, a business executive who is leading an extraordinarily fruitful team of returned international students who are seeing scores of Chinese, Nepalese and Malaysians turn to Christ. When I asked David what we could do in the US to prepare international students to become more fruitful, he leaned forward and said earnestly, “Teach them to think differently about church!”

That weekend I experienced a network of house churches full of transformed new believers, and full of joy like I’ve rarely seen. Person after person shared with me how they had just been “rescued from the dustbin” (we’d call that a “trash can” here). Since then I’ve become enamored with the flourishing movement of the Gospel through house churches all over the world, outside the US. And I’ve come home asking, “Why isn’t this happening in America?”

Until recently, most of what I’d read or seen of the house church movement in America appeared to be reactionary, reclusive and insular. As a missionary, that was not attractive to me. But today I am seeing something new and refreshing. I am seeing a growing number of believers with a heart for planting house churches among the lost, and my heart rejoices!

Our Navigators’ calling is to advance the Gospel of Jesus and His Kingdom into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost. Those last six words may be the most challenging for us in America: living and discipling among the lost.

The need of the hour is not a reorganization of believers. God is calling us to go to the lost, so that He can transform them and spread the Gospel through their families and relational networks.

Recently we’ve been attending a thriving traditional local church. A few weeks ago I asked the pastor how he would feel about us planting a house church network in his neighborhood. At first he was cautious, and shared how he’s seen a house church split off from his former church. Then I went on to explain our vision to plant this house church network by leading new unchurched people to Christ. His whole demeanor changed. A few days later he told me that he wants me to share this vision with his people. There’s plenty of room for planting churches among the lost. We can all agree upon that.

A field commander might say, “Don’t waste your ammunition on secondary targets.” Don’t aim to plant many traditional churches. Yes, they have their shortcomings, but so does every house church. I am impressed that Jesus spoke of putting new wine into new wineskins so that both may be preserved. I believe there is a vital place in God’s kingdom for both new and old wineskins. Let’s bless the old, and bring on the new wineskins!

What is the Spirit saying to the emerging house church movement? If I hear Him clearly, I hear Him saying, “Go to the lost!”

Hanging Out With God

We look at our house church as an opportunity to build a better connection with God, while at the same time building a community of people who genuinely care for and support each other. We are trying to live exactly what God intends a church to be. It has helped put into perspective the relationship God wants to have with us—a personal relationship that continues to grow every day.

Our members have put a big emphasis on prayer when we meet, often praying into the early morning.

We call it “hanging out with God.” This prayer time has facilitated some breakthroughs in our lives and in our relationships with God through the Holy Spirit. Over the last year we have built some beautiful friendships through our house church that will last a lifetime because they are based in God’s love. A year ago none of us was following the Lord. Now, we just can’t get enough time in His presence.

David and Jamie Maxfield
Kyle, Texas

Church Multiplication in the Middle East

There is a growing underground movement of house churches in the Middle East and North Africa, reports a DAWN missionary who developed a church planting network in that region. In the early 90s there were around 1500 churches in the region, but in just ten years time this number has tripled to 4500.

In a number of key nations, leaders have been trained who carry the vision to saturate their whole nation with house churches. The church planters often take high personal risks as they face death threats and work in dangerous areas, but in just ten years time this number has tripled to 4500.

Many of them decide to follow Christ and new local churches are being formed.

www.joelnews.org

Author Info
David Lyons is director of international operations for The Navigators. Until recently, he was directing the international student ministry of The Navigators, where he gained his heart for simple church. He recently moved to Colorado Springs with his wife, Renee, and seven children.
Potential doesn’t describe reality. Just like most building-based churches in America, most house churches are not reaching their potential. They aren’t multiplying, even though there would be a clear advantage to doing so.

The reasons for not multiplying are myriad. Some house churches simply don’t know they’ve been called to multiply. Some don’t know how. Some are focused more on themselves rather than existing for the sake of the “not here yet.” Some house churches were started as a response to misdeeds or misunderstandings of a building-based church and have anger or alienation issues to tend to. And some house churches are afraid of losing the camaraderie of their own house church community and so they are content with “us four and no more.”

Potential doesn’t describe reality. Just like most building-based churches in America, most house churches are not reaching their potential.

From the very first commandment, “Be fruitful and multiply,” to the last words of Jesus to His disciples, “You will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth,” we have been given a mandate. Multiply disciples. Multiply leaders. Multiply churches.

The potential of the house church movement in North America and the future of our communities, cities, and country depend on it.

What is the Spirit saying to the house church movement in America? I believe the Spirit is calling us to be faithful to the potential we’ve been given.

How? By building solid networks of house churches that enable each other through recruiting, training, deploying, and supporting. We have to recruit and enlist men and women who have a heart for reaching the unreached for Jesus. We have to train those men and women so that they can be the most effective leaders they can be. We have to deploy them — to help them launch new house churches in their own neighborhoods. And we have to provide ongoing support and accountability so that they’re never left on their own.
The family is... like a little kingdom, and, like most other little kingdoms, is generally in a state of something resembling anarchy. (G.K. Chesterton)

Going to church with hundreds of other people to sit and hear a sermon doesn’t ask much of you. It certainly will never expose you. That’s why most folks prefer it. Because community will. It will reveal where you have yet to become holy, right at the very moment you are so keenly aware of how they have yet to become holy. It will bring you close and you will be seen and you will be known, and therein lies the power and therein lies the danger. Aren’t there moments when all those little companies, in all those stories, hang by a thread? Galadriel says to Frodo, “Your quest stands upon the edge of a knife. Stray but a little and it will fail, to the ruin of all. Yet hope remains while the Company is true.”

Seriously now — how often have you seen this sort of intimate community work? It is rare. Because it is hard, and it is fiercely opposed. The Enemy hates this sort of thing; he knows how powerful it can be, for God and His Kingdom. For our hearts. It is devastating to him. Remember divide and conquer? Most churches survive because everyone keeps a polite distance from the others. We keep our meetings short, our conversations superficial. “So, Ted, how’s everything going on the Stewardship Committee?” “Oh, just great, Nancy. We’ve got a big goal to reach this year, but I think we’ll be able to get that gym after all.” No one is really being set free, but no one is really at odds with each other either. We have settled for safety in numbers — a comfortable, anonymous distance. An army that keeps meeting for briefings, but never breaks into platoons and goes to war. Living in the community is like camping together. For a month, in the desert. Without tents. All your stuff is scattered out there for everyone to see. C’mon — anybody can look captured for Christ an hour a week, from a distance, in his Sunday best. But your life is open to those you live in community with.

However, there are two things you now have that you didn’t have before, and they enable this sort of fellowship to work. First, you know the heart is good. That is the missing key in most fellowships. Your heart is good, and the others’ hearts are good. This makes it so much easier to trust and to forgive. Whatever may be happening in the moment, whatever the misunderstanding might be, I know that our hearts toward one another are good, and that we are for one another. Craig says something that stings. If I thought, You know, he meant that; he’s trying to hurt me, it would pretty quickly trash the relationship. But I know that is not his heart toward me; that is not who he truly is. If I thought it was, why I’d turn tail and run.

Second, we know we are at war. The thought that says, Oh, brother, here goes Frank again. Why can’t he just drop it about his mother? What is it with these people? They’re not really my friends. I’m outta here. That’s the Enemy. You must remember that the Enemy is always trying to pull everyone else do to you what he is doing to you. As I said earlier, he creates a kind of force field, a gravitational pull around you that draws others into the plot without their even knowing it. Gary walks into the room and, suddenly, I’m irritated at him. It’s not me, and it’s not him. I have to know that. His lifelong assault has been, “If you can’t get it right, we don’t want to be with you.” It’s a lie. It’s the Enemy. I don’t feel that way toward him really. But unless I live with this awareness, keep a watchful eye out for it, and resist, I’ll get sucked into the pull, start making agreements with it, and there goes the friendship.

FIGHT FOR IT

Be kind, for everyone you know is facing a great battle. (Philo of Alexandria)

A true community is something you’ll have to fight for. You’ll have to fight to get one, and you’ll have to fight to keep it afloat. But you fight for it as you bail out a life raft during a storm at sea. You want this thing to work. You need this thing to work. You can’t ditch it and jump back on the cruise ship. This is the church; this is all you have. Without it, you’ll go down. Or back to captivity. This is the reason those small house fellowships thrive in other countries: they need each other. There are no other options.
Suddenly, all those one another’s in Scripture make sense. Love one another. Bear one another’s burdens. Forgive one another. Acts of kindness become deeply meaningful because we know we are at war. Knowing full well that we all are facing battles of our own, we give one another the benefit of the doubt. Leigh isn’t intentionally being distant from me — she’s probably under an assault. That’s why you must know each other’s stories, know how to “read” each other. A word of encouragement can heal a wound; a choice to forgive can destroy a stronghold. You never knew your simple acts were so weighty. It’s what we’ve come to call “lifestyle warfare.”

God is calling together little communities of the heart, to fight for one another and for the hearts of those who have not yet been set free. That camaraderie, that intimacy, that incredible impact by a few stouthearted souls — that is available. It is the Christian life as Jesus gave it to us. It is completely normal.

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Fellowships of the Heart Retreat: James Denman Reports
I had never been to a men’s retreat until my friend Jon invited me to one based on John Eldredge’s book, Wild at Heart.

I was a little worried about sharing emotional stuff with guys I barely knew. However, it didn’t take long for us to start becoming friends as we interacted over the material in our workbooks and watched clips from films like The Lord of the Rings and The Matrix. We really bonded as a team, doing activities like rappelling and paintball.

During the weekend, the Lord took us into our wounds. It was tough and there were tears. The Lord showed us the wounds that were preventing us from operating in His will, and He revealed His purpose for our lives.

Since the retreat, I’ve found myself advancing against my fears and my wounds. What I expected to be a retreat, turned out to be an advance!

For more information on upcoming retreats for men, women and couples, visit www.fellowshipsoftheheart.com.
The Supernatural Church

Lawyer

Student

Business Owner

Dentist

Chef
In spite of man’s attempts to organize and institutionalize the church, it has thrived through the centuries because Jesus’ eternal life is in its people. I believe the church fulfilled the mission of Jesus better when it was unorganized, decentralized and even persecuted. Back then it depended more upon the foundation of Jesus as the Anointed One than on structure, and it was a supernatural church!

More and more we hear the term “church without walls,” but what does this mean? While it can mean sending teams from a local church outside the church’s walls to minister in homes and in the marketplace, I believe it is much more than that. If we are going to reach this world for Jesus, we need a completely new model of “doing church.” I don’t know why we can’t have “church” in homes, offices, schools, coffee shops, or even outside for that matter. Why can’t we have church meetings that are facilitated by an army of non-professional yet anointed Christians, and have them meet whenever and wherever it works for them?

Maybe we need to take a hard look at what has happened to the church in the last 2,000 years and see how we can return to Jesus’ model of “doing church.” Jesus said, “Where two or three meet together, there am I in the midst.” The word “church” in Greek is the word ekklesia meaning “called out ones.”

In Matthew 16:18, Christ said to Peter, “You are Peter (Greek word petros, meaning “little rock”), and on this rock (Greek word petra, meaning “big rock,” which is the revelation that Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One) I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.” Jesus is building His Kingdom of “called out ones” based on the solid foundation of His powerful anointing as the Messiah.

This is very reassuring and makes me feel a whole lot more comfortable than supposing that His church is built upon a person or group of people and their organization. It is built upon all that Jesus is: His person, His character, His authority, His values, His power, His ministry and His loving heart.

When the Church was Supernatural

In spite of man’s attempts to organize and institutionalize the church, it has thrived through the centuries because Jesus’ eternal life is in its people. I believe the church fulfilled the mission of Jesus better when it was unorganized, decentralized and even persecuted.

Back then it depended more upon the foundation of Jesus as the Anointed One than on structure, and it was a supernatural church!

The early church advanced at an unbelievable speed. Within approximately 200 years of Jesus’ resurrection, the known world was essentially converted to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The early church was empowered by Jesus, the resurrected Son of God who delegated His love and power to every Christian in the person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:12). But once Christianity became acceptable and developed political status, a man-made hierarchy form began to replace its dynamic, supernatural life.

The Expanding Worldwide Body of Christ

Around the world today, our evangelical faith is experiencing a massive revival. Christianity is making amazing gains all over the world.

What is happening? It is His church without walls, without central government, moving in His authority and power to see supernatural miracles and conversions happening at an unprecedented rate. Isn’t it interesting that the weaker we are in terms of finances, political power, central government or ability to move forward through self effort, the more we rely on Him, the true source of Kingdom power and advancement?

It is no secret that the church in developing nations is advancing rapidly. The Lord is filling the earth with the knowledge of His glory (Habakkuk 2:14). But in North America and Europe (the historical strongholds of the faith), many people have been inoculated against the church because they have seen the sins and the failures that arise when the church turns into an institutionalized political system, and they have rejected that.

continued on the next page...
What About Us?

Here in Toronto, we are a comparatively small movement without denominational organization and backing, yet over four million people have experienced revival here because their hunger for God has superseded the need to feel safe within the parameters of a well-known denomination. Why is this? Hungry people understand that it is not the structure or the organization that causes the growth and advancement of the Kingdom, but it is in a personal relationship with the living Jesus Christ, the true Rock of Ages.

So what is every Christian’s role? To disciple and equip others to be Christians, to be partakers in His anointing. One of my favorite scriptures is John 14:12. “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.” This is the real church He intended, His church, His body of called out ones, moving in His anointing and power. And indeed, this is the phenomenon that is now sweeping the world.

So how does this work then? Seemingly, the Holy Spirit has no problem coordinating hundreds and thousands of different individuals and congregations for His eternal purposes. Things really do work much better when Jesus Himself is the head. Once we understand that there is not to be only one or two who represent Christ as His vicars on earth, but in fact, every believer is to be His representative, we will each more clearly demonstrate Jesus to a needy world.

While we are becoming more dependent on Him, we must learn to live as peaceably as we can with the diversity of movements and denominations that we now have in the body of Christ. But we must also be free to run with that fresh “new thing” that God is saying to us, without first having to change the traditional paradigms of staid leaders.

In China every day, it is estimated that thirty thousand new believers are added to the church. How is this possible? Because the church is underground and decentralized, the few cannot tell the many what to do. I recently heard a report of a young Chinese girl, seventeen years of age, who pastors a church of 20,000 people. There is no central system to tell her she cannot because she is female or too young, or not trained well enough, so she simply obeys the direction of the Holy Spirit who brings her instructions from Christ the head.

Time for a Reality Check

It is time for those of us who live in the West to take a reality check. Church as we know it is not really working here. Many of the so-called “success stories” of church growth are merely transfer growth. We need some new models for having church which allow ordinary “lay people” to easily and quickly get involved in ministry.

Somewhere the point of entry into ministry has become too difficult throughout the centuries. It is so different from the way Jesus equipped His followers. He first took twelve, and then 70 willing men and women, trained them enough in one year to start sending them out into the surrounding territory to spread the news of the Kingdom of Heaven. They ministered very effectively and came back rejoicing that many healings were taking place, and even demons were subject to them (Luke 10). After one to two years of equipping, those fishermen and tax collectors who were considered uneducated and untrained, began changing their world with the power of God.

This is what is changing Africa, China and Latin America today. In Mozambique, Africa, under Rolland and Heidi Baker’s ministry, relatively new converts eagerly receive a minimal amount of training and are then sent out to plant churches. And it is working. They have planted over 6,000 churches in a four year period of time. I suppose someone forgot to tell Heidi that women can’t be in the ministry!

The church’s finest hour is upon us. Don’t disqualify yourself any more. Stop listening to people telling you that you can’t. Jesus is saying you can, and I am telling you that you can. Follow your desire as a “little anointed one” who carries Jesus’ love and power and just go for it. Just do it!
A new day is dawning in North America and with it, fresh hope — God is bringing His new wine. As we create "new wineskins" of simple house church networks, God wants to encourage us. New wine is coming and He’s led us to prepare.

This wineskin design isn’t so new. Jesus was caught using it. Pharisees confronted Him partying at Levi’s house with unsavory pals. He said, “No one pours new wine into old wineskins... new wine will burst the skins, the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins” (Luke 5:37-38).

We try to follow the example of Jesus and the Apostles. Nicely crafted wineskins aren’t enough; real adventure comes as we work in the vineyard and He fills them up! Unless we get out with Jesus, we miss the new wine.

As a missionary, I’ve seen new wine of transformed lives flowing in other lands. In Erdenet, Mongolia, there was not a single believer twelve years ago. But God was working. A team of YWAMers won a small group of people to Jesus. A cell formed, grew and multiplied.

I visited in 2001. The church had grown to 55 cells and 1,000 people. Led entirely by Mongols, it has reproduced daughter and granddaughter churches across Mongolia and beyond. I joined believers gathered in a home. Worship, prayer and Bible discussion were in Mongolian. As a woman next to me translated, I was amazed to hear one of their plans. Summer was approaching and they would take a camping trip to a lake. Sounded good — a nice break to have fun together. Then I learned the main goal. The town by the lake hadn’t heard of Jesus. They’d go teach the gospel and plant a church. To them, this was just normal Christianity!

In the Middle East, I had dinner with an Arab believer. After hearing the story of Mongolia he said, “This could also happen in the Arab world!” My eyes bulged. “What would be the biggest obstacle?” I asked. “That’s easy — the traditional church,” he responded.

It’s true. Old wineskins will burst. Institutional churches, even cell churches cannot hold the new wine about to flow in vineyards God is preparing here and around the world. Simple, house church networks will work (80 million believers in China would agree).

But to get new wine, we have to take the wineskin to the vineyard. Step out the door of the house. Overcome past disappointments in sharing our faith or inviting people to church. Throw parties like the one at Levi’s house.

House church is a wineskin we can take anywhere, anytime. Take it down the street in our neighborhood. Take it to unreached immigrants settling in our cities. Get a bit more training and take it to some of the world’s unreached nations. God’s given durable, versatile, adaptable, reproducible wineskins. Don’t hold back in fear; move forward in faith! A new day is dawning in North America and with it, fresh hope—God is bringing His new wine.

Plant simple house churches among unreached peoples here and abroad.

Youth With A Mission, Urban Impact, Community Vision International and others have teamed up to create the INTERNATIONAL EXPRESS as a means to equip and place workers among the world’s remaining unreached peoples. Learn more at www.InternationalExpress.org.
One of my greater privileges as a child of God is hearing His voice. Every time the Lord communicates with me, I am grateful that my God is not made of wood or stone. He is a loving Father who desires to speak to His children (Deuteronomy 33:3).

Many people say, “I don’t hear God’s voice.” Then I ask, “Are you a sheep? That is, do you know Jesus as your Savior?” In Scripture, Jesus says, “My sheep know My voice” (John 10:27).

Fifteen times in the New Testament (including seven times in the book of Revelation) we read, “He that hath ears, let him hear.” God wants to reveal Himself and teach us His ways. Remember that Christ’s actions and speech were guided by the words of His Father. We can obey a boss or a parent only when we listen to what they say. Similarly, we must listen to the voice of the Lord in order to obey Him. “The sheep follow Him because they know His voice” (John 10:4). Before we learn to hear God, we must first know that He desires to speak to us, and then we must desperately desire to hear from Him.
Different Ways God Speaks

Just as you recognize the voice of a good friend, the closer you are in relationship with the Lord, the easier it is to recognize His voice.

God speaks to us in different ways. Primarily, God reveals Himself, His truth, and His instructions (commandments) through His written word. Before you seek outside counsel, first read the Bible and study to know its truths.

The Lord also speaks through dreams and visions. God speaks to us through people with wise counsel, especially bringing instruction through people of maturity. The Lord speaks to us through the beauty of nature as we see His character revealed through lakes, mountains, stars and rain. Sometimes He gives us pictures. Sometimes He speaks to us through music. And then there’s that still, quiet voice which leads us with faith, hope and love. This inner voice is usually inaudible, but it is accompanied by a strong conviction or peace, a “knowing” inside our spirit.

God gives prophetic words to edify the body of Christ and offer direction. Prophecy is a gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:24).

I had courage to obey because I had heard God’s voice many times in many different ways.

Discerning God’s Voice

As we listen, we must also learn to discern the voice of God from other voices. Is it God? Is it the devil? Or is it just me? Consider again the story of the Shepherd and His sheep from John 10. We learn that Satan comes as a wolf or a thief disguised in sheep’s clothing ready to steal, kill and destroy. It is essential to be alert and able to discern the true voice of God. You may find the table below to be a helpful tool.

As you hear a “voice,” look at each column and identify the source of that voice. Ask yourself if what you are hearing or sensing is from God. Bind the voice of Satan in Jesus’ name. Repent of areas where your selfish interests interfere with God’s purposes. One thing is true of all three: each one wants all of the glory. When you respond to God’s instructions, He gives you great grace and He gets all the glory!

As we grow in intimacy with God, hearing His voice becomes more natural. As we mature in our ability to hear and discern His words, we become dependent on hearing His voice for prayer, for ministry and for life. What a privilege to know and communicate with a loving God!
FEATURE

HOLY Frustration

THROUGH MY EXPERIENCE OF “HOLY FRUSTRATION” I WAS LED TO THE TRADITIONAL CHURCH, PERHAPS THE SIMPLE QUESTIONS I HAVE EVER ASKED—“WHAT IS CHURCH?” AND “WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE FOR THE CHURCH?”
After several years of deepening frustration with how I was doing church, I went to a spiritual father to ask for some counsel. I told him I wanted to do church differently, maybe even to plant a church, but the organization I worked with would not allow me to. He laughed and told me God had given me a “holy frustration” to get me ready for change. I was ready for change. It was 1980, and I was leading a street ministry reaching dropouts and runaways in Amsterdam. That “holy frustration” with the way we were doing church caused me to question everything that was branded church.

I was taught we should not start new churches, and so we sent our converts to local churches. We were putting our spiritual sons and daughters up for adoption without their consent. The institutional churches didn’t know what to do with them, and the kids didn’t want to join the institutional churches anyway. We lost many of them.

Through my experience of “holy frustration” with the traditional church, I was led to ask two simple questions, perhaps the most important questions I have ever asked God: “What is church?” and “What is Your purpose for the church?”

What is Church?

Through my own experience, I learned that church is community and spiritual family. The church is not an institution we should be subjected to, or a group of leaders we must perform for to gain their approval. Church is a group of friends who live life together for the glory of God.

When two or three gather in His name, then you have church. When those two or three seek to obey Him, then you have missional church.

My Father taught me that church is family. We are the family of God on earth, the overflow of the family of God in heaven. We are invited to enjoy family at its best: we get to belong, we are unconditionally accepted, we know with certainty we are loved, we receive a new identity, and we learn to be secure in the discipline of our Father. Jesus did not die for the idea of world evangelization; He died to create a family of sons and daughters.

WE WERE PUTTING OUR SPIRITUAL SONS AND DAUGHTERS UP FOR ADOPTION WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT. THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCHES DIDN’T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEM, AND THE KIDS DIDN’T WANT TO JOIN THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCHES ANYWAY.

What is Your Purpose for the Church?

Why doesn’t God save us and take us straight to heaven? Our purpose on earth is not as much about us as it is about Him. We are not the center of the church, God is. God is the focus of His glory, not us. We are not the goal of the new covenant, God is.

Church as it was dreamed of in the heart of our Father is not an end in itself. We are saved for the Father and His purposes in the earth. The book of Revelation paints a picture of a great party at the end of time when all nations and peoples gather around His throne and worship the Lamb. Until that time has come, our Father still yearns for lost sons and daughters, for the poor and oppressed of the earth.

For the past 50 years, many American Christians have drawn a big circle called self, a smaller circle inside the bigger one called church, and a tiny circle off to the side labeled the world. The idea is to get saved, and then remove yourself from the world while you live off the world’s riches to improve your lifestyle. The Christian life is about you and your needs. Once you are healed and cared for, then you serve the church with what is left over, and in your spare time, you try to do a little to impact society as well.

What if God intended it to be the other way around? Let’s re-label the circles. Let’s call the big circle the world and inside that circle there is another circle, the church. Inside that circle is a still smaller circle, self. In this diagram, it’s not about the church meeting your needs; it’s about you and me joining our Father’s family to meet His “needs,” living for His glory.

Back to my story. I started twenty-five years ago on the streets of Amsterdam. I am now the team leader of Metro Christian Fellowship in Kansas City. We have transitioned from a prophetic-styled conference church to a movement of communities joined together by common values, common vision and a common commitment to join the mission of God. We meet for weekly celebrations, and we then live out our values and our mission from house to house, life to life, throughout the week.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to our churches?

Be a church for others. There are three core values that energize and unite us in our efforts to obey what the Spirit is saying to us:

- Abide in the Father’s love
- Grow together in the grace of the Lord Jesus
- Share Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit

These values are the spiritual DNA that is common to the Metro family communities. We strive to pass on our core values through investing relationally in one another’s lives. We believe in non-hierarchical discipleship. You might say we are a relationally driven church. We love to see fathers and mothers functioning in their spiritual gifts, calling out the sons and daughters God has given them to influence.

What do I believe the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches in America?

Turn your “holy frustration” with the church into creative energy to build your church community into what it is called to be. Learn in humility from the weaknesses and mistakes of others. Be spiritual family. Celebrate life together. Enjoy being sons and daughters of the Father, and learn to be fathers and mothers for others still on the journey. Don’t let models of church, whether that is house church or any other kind of church, turn into one more model to franchise and sell to others. Live single-mindedly for God’s glory where you are, and among the neglected peoples of our global community.

continued on the next page...
FEATURE

CAMPUS

CHURCH

NETWORKS
The Gospel for every campus, a church for every student!

What would it look like for our university campuses to be completely transformed with the presence of Christ? What happens when Christian young adults realize they can plant churches on their campus the same way 18-year-old Chinese girls plant hundreds of house churches in China? Could we see Acts 2 happening on university campuses across the earth? These questions fuel the passion behind a movement called “Campus Church Networks” (“CCN”).

CCN started in my philosophy 101 class. I was sitting in a classroom when the professor asked, “Who here believes Jesus Christ is the Son of God?” Being a new Christ follower, I raised my hand without hesitation. As I looked around the room, I realized that a friend of mine and I were the only ones with our hands raised. I was shocked and began to pray daily for hours in my room, crying out to God to show His love to the students on my campus. My prayers were answered and doors opened for me to share Christ to nearly the entire university. I witnessed hundreds of students commit their lives to Jesus at our outreaches, but once they came to Christ they had no churches where they seemed to fit in. I started to think, “Why not start student churches on campus?”

Why churches on campus?

80 to 90% of all church-going young adults stop attending church after college. Simply put, church in the Western world is losing this MTV generation. Jesus said, “New wine needs new wineskins.” If we don’t start new churches for a new generation, we are going to lose an entire generation.

Church growth expert Peter Wagner states, “The single most effective way of evangelism is to plant new churches” (Church Planting for a Greater Harvest, p. 11). If we are going to effectively win and disciple lost students, we must plant new churches. Many studies have shown that the smaller a church is, the easier it is for it to grow, and the newer a church is, the more readily it grows.

American church statistics show:
- Churches lose an estimated 2,765,000 people each year to nominalism and secularism
- In America, 3500 – 4000 churches close their doors each year
- Half of all churches last year did not add one new member through conversion growth

Approximately 98 million people are under the age of 25 in the United States, and those between the ages of 18 and 25 are the least likely to attend a church (George Barna, Twentysomethings Struggle to Find Their Place in Christian Churches, www.barna.org)

“Ultimately, what God wants to see is the nations filled with His glory. Let’s accept the challenge to begin transformation on the campus, then into the city and ultimately reach the nations. Let us pray that God would raise up millions of young, apostolic missionaries from the nation’s campuses who will take the world for Christ!”

Author Info
Jaeson Ma is president of Campus Church Networks, a ministry dedicated to fulfill the Great Commandment and Great Commission in this generation through initiating and cultivating church planting movements on every campus around the world. For more articles by Jaeson, or to find out more about Campus Church Networks, visit www.campuschurch.net or www.metroallnations.com.
There is a battle for the future of the church and a revolution must happen! Campus Church Networks’ mission is to fulfill the Great Commandment and Great Commission in this generation by initiating and cultivating student-led, relationship-based, church planting movements on every campus around the world. The vision is threefold: Every campus, every city, every nation for Christ!

**Every Campus**

If we can reach the campus, we can reach the world for Christ.

Church history demonstrates that many great revivals and missionary movements started on campuses. The campus is where the leaders of today’s society are located, trained and most available. 90% of all Christians make a decision for Christ before the age of 25. There are over 550,000 international students from around the world who attend American universities and another 500,000 on European and foreign campuses.

College students on campuses across America are starting simple churches. They meet anywhere and at any time. Small groups of 5 to 20 students come together weekly, and sometimes daily, to love God, love each other and love the lost. When the campus churches grow too large for intimate community, they naturally multiply into another campus church — each time with a mission to reach another segment of unreached students on campus. Our vision is to see campus ministries/local churches working together to see the entire campus saturated with hundreds of campus churches so that every unreached student community (fraternities, sororities, international students, clubs, apartment complexes, dorms, etc.) would have a church of its own.

**Every City**

As this movement unfolds we are finding that, after graduating, these young adults continue as church planters. Over 188 nations are now living in the urban cities of America and the nations can now be reached in our very own backyard. As the college students experience simple Kingdom community on the campus, some feel called to continue work on the campus, while others integrate into society and bring church to the marketplace and the unreached communities of our cities.

One student at San Jose State, upon graduating, felt called to stay in San Jose to continue reaching out to the university students. He ended up getting a job downtown next to the campus and at the same time wound up starting a campus church in his sales corporation! If students learn simple church planting on campus, they can subsequently do it anywhere.

**Every Nation**

Ultimately, what God wants to see is the nations filled with His glory. Let’s accept the challenge to begin transformation on the campus, then into the city and ultimately reach the nations. Let us pray that God would raise up millions of young, apostolic missionaries from the nation’s campuses who will take the world for Christ!

**What is the Spirit saying?**

There have been prophetic words in recent years of an end time “nameless and faceless” army that would fulfill God’s mandate upon the earth. Mel Gibson’s *The Passion of the Christ* was a banner for this generation calling forth an army of martyrs unafraid to live and die for the Gospel. It is a generation with apostolic passion that will move in signs, wonders and miracles. It is an end time generation that will reap a great supernatural harvest.

How will all this happen? It will happen when spiritual fathers and mothers release their spiritual sons and daughters to do the work of the ministry (Ephesians 4:11) without fear or control. Let the revolution begin; sound the alarm, for God will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. And “your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions” (Joel 2:28).

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Christina has been hanging out with us for the last three years and exhorting us to reach out...and now God has called her and others to go and do it. Mike has been with our house church about eight months and Zach just became a Christian about three months ago and was baptized a month ago.

We are excited about what God has in store for them...and for our house church as we pray for and shepherd them and as we find another pocket of people to focus on! It is so encouraging to see God working in the hearts and lives of people!

Mike Jentes, The Quest Network, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
Three years ago, the church in Boulder was a front page item, but they were not receiving the press they receive today. At Christmastime 2000, the church was under attack for its evangelical views and the editorial headline read, “Keep Your Religion to Yourself.”

The turning point came at a Prayer Summit attended by Boulder area pastors. While most were praying against the sins and problems of the city, one pastor was moved to read from Jeremiah 29, to seek the peace and prosperity of the city.

The ten person leadership team for the emerging community transformation initiative admitted that they did not know their own city. They organized a Magic Bus Tour taking them to eight human service agencies in the city. The day produced an awakening for them.

These pastors discovered depths of human need they had no idea existed in their city and a quality of human care that stunned them. Rather than competing with existing agencies that were doing good work, they committed to channel personnel, finances and referrals to community agencies that met a minimum baseline of being morally positive and spiritually neutral.

One of the pastors of a larger church took a film crew back to each agency the following week and produced a sixty minute video that has now been used in many church services. The video led to an immediate response by church members from across the city volunteering for community service.

A local Christian businessman with great influence in the community personally invited the top leaders of the twelve major sectors of community life to each meet with pastors over a twelve month period: the president of Colorado University, the mayor, the police chief, the district attorney, the editor of the newspaper, the fire chief, the school superintendent and others each met with the pastoral community.

On December 25, 2003 the front page headline read, “Three Churches Take Kingdom Assignment to Heart.”

The lengthy front page article told the story of three prominent Boulder churches who each challenged their members with a three part Kingdom assignment patterned after the Parable of the Talents. One Sunday morning in the summer of 2003, pastors invited volunteers to come forward. Between the three congregations, 280 volunteered. Each was given a crisp $100 bill provided by an anonymous local businessman. The assignment was to multiply the $100 in ninety days and report back to the church in a similar message to the movie Pay It Forward. $250,000 was raised and all of it given to Boulder County human service agencies.

A ten-year-old boy took $1 (that is all he felt he should take) and printed flyers advertising his services for lawn care. He earned $273 for the orphan boys of Sudan now living in Boulder. One couple bought soap and buckets and held a dog wash for donations. They raised $13,000 for the Boulder County Safehouse. A business man simply asked his coworkers, friends and family to match his $100 and raised $5,000.

This fall the three churches embarked on Kingdom assignment #2: Sell a personal possession worth at least $100. Another $250,000 was raised from within the three churches. As before, all the money raised was given to human services agencies caring for the needs of Boulder County residents.

The article concluded by stating that these three congregations were just beginning Kingdom assignment #3: Give 90 minutes of service in 90 days.

City officials have just acknowledged Boulder churches as the single largest contributor of personnel and financing of human service agencies and needs in the county.

CitiReach International
www.citireach.org
The dramatic granite peaks of Nampula Province loom out of the distant haze one after another and glide by in our Cessna’s picture window view of the African wilderness. We examine the details of the wild — the evergreen trees at higher elevations, the erosion trails, and the streaks and patterns of minerals painted by the Creator across bare rock faces. There are no highways and subdivisions in sight. We are far from power lines and gas stations. This is Africa, where life has hardly changed in centuries for those living in the scattered huts passing underneath, barely strung together by narrow dirt footpaths through the lonely countryside.

We are headed for yet another of our “bush conferences,” central gatherings of many hundreds of our pastors from the far corners of a province, this time Nampula, Mozambique’s second largest by population.

We nearly always begin by showing a video of the Jesus Film, and more recently Mel Gibson’s The Passion. We sing and dance Africa-style until we’re ready to drop. We preach for the sick. Our meetings vary according to the gifts of our speakers and visiting short-term missionaries. Some are amazing musicians. Others are great teachers. Some come with powerful gifts of healing and prophecy. Most are humble, ordinary Christians...

“...and then she said she could see everything clearly. ‘You’re a white lady!’ she cried when Heidi came into focus. The people erupted with life-giving joy again.

We held this outreach right in front of one of our simple thatch churches, a new church plant, and so we could introduce everyone immediately to a pastor and church family. And so the revival spreads, one person, one miracle, one act of love at a time. The Moslems cannot resist the true and living God when they see His power shown through such love.

Recently at an outreach among Moslems near Pemba, an invitation to salvation was given and hundreds responded. Georgian Banov was playing his intensely exciting violin music, and the crowd was electric. Then, as she often does, Heidi called deaf people forward for prayer. She took one little boy in her arms, a twelve-year-old deaf-mute since birth, and just kept hugging and praying for him. After a while his ears were opened, and he began to respond to Heidi, saying simple words like “Mama” and “Jesus.” Someone ran to get his parents, who had already gone to bed. They came out, and tears ran down their faces when they saw what Jesus had done. “My boy! My boy! He hasn’t spoken since he was born!” the father cried in Makua. Both parents were saved then and there. The people all knew the boy, and they were jumping and shouting with wonder and approval. Then a young man brought out his ninety-year-old blind grandmother for prayer. The Holy Spirit began to work, and she could see light — and then forms, and then she said she could see everything clearly. “You’re a white lady!” she cried when Heidi came into focus. The people erupted with life-giving joy again.

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Our meetings vary according to the gifts of our speakers and visiting short-term missionaries. Some are amazing musicians. Others are great teachers. Some come with powerful gifts of healing and prophecy. Most are humble, ordinary Christians...”
Simply Church
by Tony and Felicity Dale

Get ready to change the way you view church! Have you ever read about the early church in the New Testament, and longed for that kind of relationship with other believers? The early church spread and touched lives everywhere. Do you ever wish that you had more power to change your community? Do you want to follow the Great Commission, to "GO", but don't know how?

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by Rad Zdero

“This is an excellent, both scholarly and pastoral introduction into the fascinating phenomenon of the house church movement. It communicates in a nutshell, historical, practical and biblical insights and will serve as a help to those wanting to bridge the cultural gap between the already fledgling house church movements in areas like Asia and the astonished Christian West, which finds itself not as a teacher, but as a student again.”

— Wolfgang Simson, author of Houses that Change the World

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The Praise Baby Collection is a great new series of videos, DVDs, and CDs designed to nurture your baby's mind and spirit. They include songs like "I Could Sing of Your Love Forever," "Shout to the Lord" and "Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord." For home church groups that are looking for different ways to lead worship, this collection works great, especially for a group with young children. While the adults worship, the kids will be watching all the fun images as they learn to worship too.

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By James Rutz

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— Dr. C. Peter Wagner (President of Global Harvest Ministries)

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By Wolfgang Simson

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