

**Introduction to Xenos Home Groups**  
**Xenos Summer Institute**  
**July 15-17, 2015**

**What is a Home Group?** Small spiritual community of about 15 up to 60 adults/college/high school students that come together in homes to share the life of Christ.

**Mission of a Home Group:** To provide a structure for members to do evangelism and discipleship in the context of community.

**Biblical basis for Home Groups:**

- Biblical examples and Biblical principles.
  
- See: Dennis McCallum, "Eleven reasons why Home Group Fellowship Groups Usually Fail"  
<http://www.xenos.org/classes/papers/10.htm#sthash.IQPmwSM9.dpuf>

**Brief History of Xenos**

**Where are we now?**

**Structure of Home Groups:**

Leadership Structure: Most Home Groups lead by a team of lay leaders.

- Named leaders and lead team.

**Meeting Schedule**

- Weekly home group meeting
- Cell Groups
- Prayer meetings
- Big Meetings
- Discipleship time

### Sample Home Group Schedule for One Month

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1	Men's			HG			Prayer/Big
Week 2	Women's			HG			Prayer/Big
Week 3	Men's			HG			Prayer/Big
Week 4	Women's			HG			Prayer/Big

Discipleship time occurs at all different times in the week.

### What about children?

### Isn't it too much time?

- Quote from Dennis McCallum, Members of One Another: How to Build a Biblical Ethos into your Church, pg. 7&8
- True community is costly but well worth the benefits

### Home Church Meeting format

1. 15-50 Christian and Non-Christian men & women meet in a member's *home*.
2. 1/2 hour hang out
3. Formal meeting lasts about one hour: open in prayer, about 45 minute led Bible led discussion/teaching, close in prayer.
4. Informal fellowship: Refreshments/food. Opportunity to practice the "one another's"; meet new

### How does Home Group facilitate Evangelism?

- Come and see:

John 13:34&35: "A new commandment I give to you, that as you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By that all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

John 17:21, 23: "that they may all be one; even as You Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.....I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

"As Christians we must not minimize the need to give honest answers to honest questions. We should have an intellectual apologetic (a defense of our faith)...Yet, without true Christians loving one another, Christ says the world cannot be

expected to listen, *even when we give proper answers*. Let us be careful indeed...to give honest answers. For years the ...church has done this very poorly...But after we have done our best to communicate (these answers), still we must never to forget that the final apologetic which Jesus gives is the observable love of true Christians for true Christians.” Gary Delashmatt, *Loving God’s Way*, (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1996), pg. 18 citing Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Church at the End of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1972), pp. 139-140.

- Go and be deeply engaged and serving in your community.
  - Fun ways... Civic groups; Billiard & Dart Leagues at pubs; Book Clubs; Asst. coach kid’s teams; Ethnic Clubs; Open Mic; Classes @ Recreation Centers, Meet-up Groups...
  - Serving ways... “adorning the Gospel” in word and deed

Community Co-op market; Gardens for poor.  
 Gracehaven. Rape-crisis hotline.  
 Public schools  
 Urban Concern; Food Banks; Alley clean-ups  
 Juvenile Detention Centers; Prisons  
 Single Parents’, Refugees, International Students  
 Hospitals; Final Hope; Cancer support groups  
 GYM (Grow Your Marriage 4-week groups)

### **How does Home Group facilitate discipleship?**

- Discipleship: Regular mentoring friendships with home group members who want to grow in their relationship with and their ability to serve Christ. Col.1:28-29
- Elements of discipleship time. Master Plan of Evangelism, Robert E. Coleman
  - Usually weekly – often over years
  - Relational with content
  - One person with one person, maybe 2
  - Same gender
  - Read/study Bible or Spiritual books
  - Pray
  - Could be couples
- Excellent Context for Discipleship

### **The HG is a community.**

- More than a meeting
- Place to discover/exercise gifting and play role in the Body of Christ
- Ultimately there for others

## Who leads Home Groups?

- Majority lead by lay leaders.
- Leaders developed through discipleship
- Criteria for leadership

Character – 1 Tim.3 (Deacon).

Knowledge – 6 quarters of biblical classes with tests & ministry training. (2 Tim.2:23-25)

Relationships – spouse, kids, friends, work, neighbors. How's conflict resolution?

Ministry – Loving, committed servant. Any one following them? Are they discipling anyone?

- Observed over time & nominated by HG leader
- Sign Servant Covenant... (on website)
- Approved by elders

## How do Xenos Home Groups Multiply? Traditional Church Plant

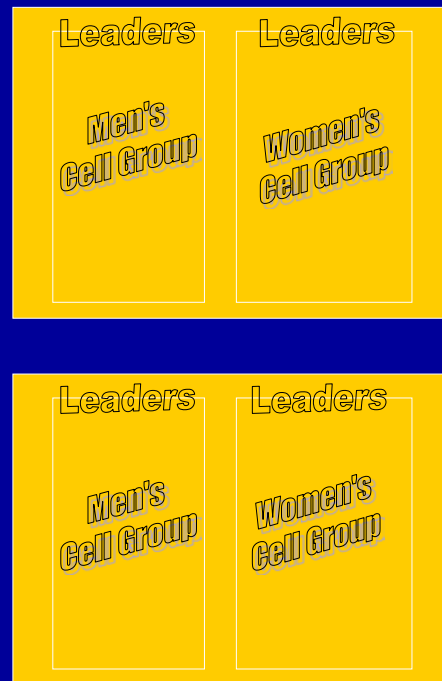


...raising up new leaders from within...

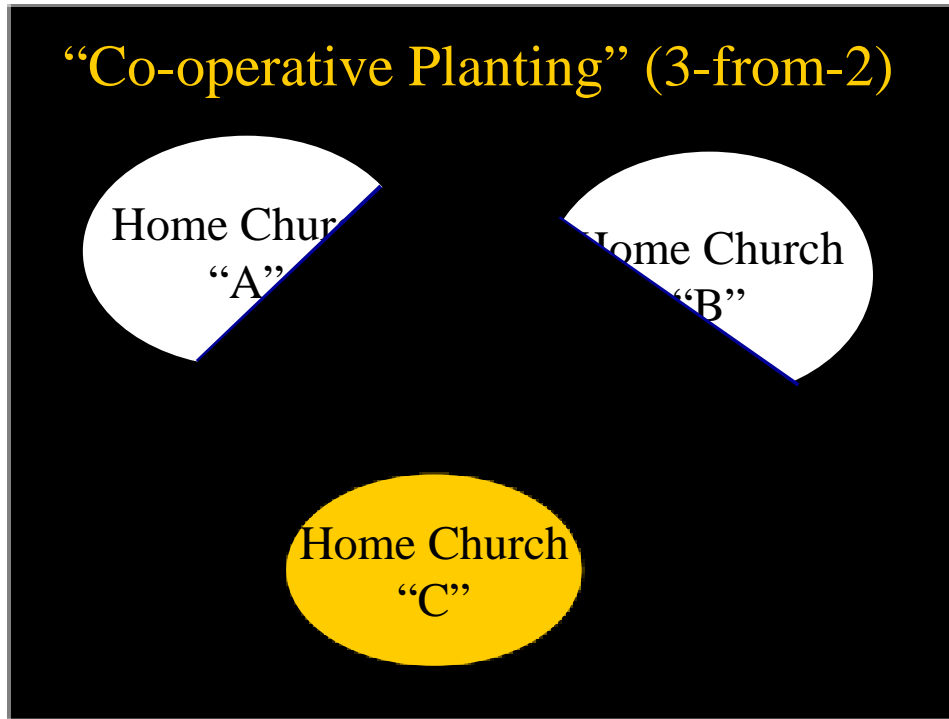


## Multiplication:

Start with making  
Converts...  
...to grow new  
Disciples...  
...to become new  
Leaders...  
...to lead new  
Cell Groups...  
...to multiply new  
Home Groups!



## “Co-operative Planting” (3-from-2)



### Each HG functions:

- Independently: own teachings, weddings, funerals, exercise church discipline under the authority of the elders; evangelism, discipleship.
- Dependently: under elders authority and input from consultant and oversight of senior sphere leader (paid positions)

### Overseeing/Helping Home Group Leaders:

- Plural, trained leader team
- Monthly Consultations with Paid Proven Xenos Home Group Planters; under Elders' authority.
- All Leaders: Retreat (1x/year), Meetings (2x/year)
- Optional Enrichment through: Classes, Summer Institute, Trinity Extension Program
- xcf-servteam e-group
- [www.xenos.org](http://www.xenos.org) huge free website resources

