



Leadership Link

Happy Christmas



Dear friend

Recently on the Sunday morning news it was announced that, since the credit crunch, there has been a sharp uptake in the number of people going to church. We know that pain creates openness and missional opportunities and that hedonism (which has been an absorbing pastime of the British people) is defined as the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain.

Hope 08, a new missional initiative, has had fantastic results over the last year and, as churches have gone out together with *'works and words'*, there has been a season where *'church'* has been well received. We have all longed and prayed for these moments when our nation may become open to the love of God as displayed through actions, words, and wonders.

The cell movement has been, along with many others, putting the *'go'* back into church with our DNA of loving God, loving one another and loving a lost world. These three strands give us the double whammy of discipleship and mission or, as I like to put it, authenticity and connectedness. Through cells we have sought to help every Christian to be an authentic follower and hopefully mobilise them to love their neighbours, friends and their wider network of contacts. I am excited that this strategy is working and many churches are holding more hands than ever before.

However, this still leaves many people in our communities who are untouched by our normal networking and the church has often responded to this by church planting. However, last year I felt stirred to repackage something that is already happening – Cell Planting. This involves sending two people into a geographical or homogeneous group with the challenge that they might, within a three year period, grow from 2 to 10 members and that is *'job done'* becoming a normal cell. Each one of these little teams will have a coach to support and visit them during this time; one, to encourage them in their mission and, two, to make sure that as the cell grows it forms with the three strands of DNA inside.

This idea is exciting because it puts the *'go'* back in a new way and it releases a fresh workforce. There are many people in our churches that are mature and dynamic enough to plant a cell but who would not necessarily have the right set of gifts to church plant. When you church plant you are thinking of an end goal of 80 or 90 members requiring people with the gifts to manage that number, together with all the financial implications of buildings and salaries. However, a cell plant of 2 to 10 releases lots of wonderful people in an exciting new way.

I am very excited about the concept of Cell Planting and I believe that this could give a whole new impetus to the cell movement. To this end I have written a booklet outlining this new initiative including the best of our corporate experience gathered here at Cell UK. Therefore, on Thursday 22 January 2009 we are holding a Cell Planting Conference at Highfield Oval, Harpenden for all church leaders who are interested in this idea where this new booklet will be available. Details of the conference are on our website www.celluk.org.uk and can I be bold enough to recommend that you come and help us reach out in this pioneering new way putting the *'go'* back into church together.

Yours for his kingdom Laurence

Dates for 2009

Jan 22nd
Cell Planting Day
Harpenden

Feb 21st
Sowing Reaping Keeping
Harpenden

March 9 – 11th
Salvation Army Conference
Nottingham

March 25 – 26th
Methodist Conference
Swanick

March 28th
Multi Track Training Day
Southampton

April 25th
Multi Track Training Day
Liverpool

May 5—7th
Making Cell Groups Work
Hertfordshire

May 16th
Children's Cell Consultation
Harpenden

October 3rd
Multi Track Training Day
Harpenden

www.celluk.org.uk