



Leadership Link

Equipping leaders to Lead



Waking a sleeping giant....

When we mobilise an authentic body of Christ we wake up a sleeping giant. By the grace of God that sleeping giant will make a huge impact. I believe cell church is the right kind of **how** for the **why** questions that we face today.

We need no reminding that our world has dramatically changed in the last twenty years. We have moved from a culture that was steeped in modernity but had a Christian moral foundation; Christian values were held by the majority of the population almost by osmosis. There was amongst many, a latent understanding of what it meant to be a Christian. A world where truth was still respected, argument was good; now we live in a world which has changed beyond all recognition. Our Christian moral foundation has gone, not only in the area of sexual behaviour but with honesty, self-control & respect for authority.

We live in a world where we no longer trust politicians, or anybody who has a big story to proclaim; a world where community is becoming fragmented. Into this world we have to 'do church' in a new way. I am sometimes asked, "why cell church?" and there are all sorts of compelling reasons why I am fully committed to church in the big and the small and these are to do with the fact that cell church is in many ways an answer to the problems with which society grapples.

We live in a world where people do not want to hear the truth you have; they want to see and touch the reality of it. This means that leadership has to work differently; it is impossible for one leader to be in relationship with each member let alone their non-Christian contacts. As leaders we need to create structures that become people centred and mobilise each Christian to take Jesus with them everywhere: to work, to their social/sports contacts and to their neighbours. History reinforces us in this story. In the pagan Roman world it was the mobilised body of Christ that convinced people of the reality of Jesus. The Wesley revival again empowered people at a cynical time still reacting to the Puritan revival. It was the love and good works of non-conformists that laid a foundation in the 1760s for the revivals of the 1790s. So cell church empowers and mobilises the people.

However, these mobilised Christians have to be authentic. In other words, discipleship has to be at the heart of church. Christian morality and values are not just in the culture any more, but they have to be intentionally built into people. This is where the accountability and environment of a small group is essential as a means of ensuring people are discipled effectively. It is not that big meetings become redundant, we still need them for leadership, inspiration and teaching. Those involved in the secular teaching profession tell us that good practice is not just about putting out a proposition; students need an opportunity to discuss the subject, think about it for themselves and this then brings ownership. So in our churches on Sundays we put forward propositions, we put forward truth and in the small groups it is discussed, applied and owned. In this context people can be prayed for and supported and **change occurs**.

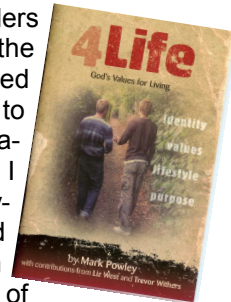
The outworking is in the lives of those authentic disciples that are empowered through local church and will bring transformation to their spheres of influence. The British church has always had a bigger dream, that we would win people & reform society at the same time. Again, I think the cell model is effectively placed to do this. This will start to bring about the dream that we have in our hearts to see our society reformed. I believe cell church is the right kind of **how** for the **why** questions that we face today. When we mobilise an authentic body of Christ we wake up a sleeping giant. By the grace of God that sleeping giant can make a huge impact.

Cell UK is committed to support your leadership as you in turn empower people to live more like Jesus.

Yours in Jesus, Laurence Singlehurst

Bringing Discipleship to life, a recent story.....

One of the church leaders was recommending the 4Life book and I decided I would do it myself, to reinforce some foundational teaching, which I am sure I need! Anyway, it was suggested that you do it with someone and a friend of mine popped into my head (who is not a Christian, but we have had conversations about Christianity over the years) and I rang her and she said yes.



Unbeknown to me, she had been talking to God 2 weeks previously and asking him to give her something she could get her teeth into and something to keep her on the straight and narrow!

I didn't know how to go through it with her, so we just decided we would meet after every few sessions and discuss our answers and any points we had highlighted. This seemed to work well and she has been really enjoying it, and reading the bible. I then realised I hadn't asked her what she had put to the questions at the beginning of the book, about becoming a Christian. So I asked her and she told me she was a Christian, and when I asked her was there a specific moment, she said she got down on her knees 2 weeks before.

I have had a friendship with this girl for 6 years or so, she is an alcoholic and knows that God has been on her case, but there has always been something stopping her making that final commitment, but now that has changed, she is really progressing, talking to God regularly. She still has struggles in various areas in her life - but then who doesn't? I really feel that this 4Life book is giving us a chance to talk about God and deep issues in a very non-religious way, it is so sensitively written, relevant to today and not full of church jargon. The fact that I am an established believer and she is a new Christian is making no difference, we are both getting a lot out of it.

For more information on 4Life.....

