



# Leadership Link

## Equipping Leaders to Lead



Dear Friend,

Let me begin by asking you a question... How big is your bowl? The reason for this question is that I once heard an illustration about vision and purpose... It was called The Small Fish; Big bowl theory. It went like this:

*'I have it on good authority that a big Koi carp and a goldfish that you get at the fun fair are exactly the same fish! The only difference is the size of the bowl they are placed in. If the goldfish stay in their original bag they will stay small, but if they are placed in a larger bowl they will grow bigger. In other words, the bigger the environment you place the fish in, the bigger it will grow'*

Now I'm not convinced that this is strictly true of goldfish growing to the size of a Koi carp, but when talking to people who know more about goldfish than I do, I understand that the principle is indeed true. The size of the bowl that you place a goldfish in will affect its growth. In the same way, the bigger the environment you put people in, in terms of vision and purpose, the bigger they will grow to fill it! You can have big church with a small vision, and people won't grow. Or you can have a small cell group, with a large vision and the people will grow in line with that vision.

One of my favourite texts looking at small groups is what we often refer to as the Sending of the Seventy-two. However, I rather prefer to see them as thirty-six small cell groups. Jesus presented an incredible vision for these thirty-six groups; they were to be apostolic groups, in other words they were appointed and sent with purpose. They were to prepare the way for Jesus – going to every town and place where He was about to go. They were to declare that the Kingdom of God was here and they were to demonstrate the power of this Kingdom too! They were small communities on mission. A little while ago a couple approached me with a vision to see a vibrant cell in their community. They lived in a town just 15 minutes

drive from where our church gathers on Sundays, but as yet we hadn't been able to establish a cell in that area. We agreed to 'send' them to start this new group believing that God wanted to impact people in this town. The first few months were tough. The group gathered some people initially, but for different reasons those people fell away.

After a year I met with this couple to review the situation. By this time only four people were coming regularly to the cell meeting (including the original couple). Was it time to call it a day? Was this really God's vision or just a nice idea? We chatted and prayed together and felt encouraged to keep believing the original vision to see a vibrant cell in that community.

The next few weeks were quite remarkable. Two weeks after that conversation a strong Christian family came to church on Sunday from that town. The week after they brought another family with them, both who were not yet saved. Then others Christians who had drifted from church life became committed to the group and to church. Today the group is thriving with eleven adults (plus ten kids). Two people have been saved, one baptised. An Alpha group has started and the group continues to grow. We are now beginning to talk about when we should multiply!

I hope this account encourages you to have a big vision, in whatever context that you lead. As William Carey famously said, 'Expect great things from God; attempt great things for Him'. Therefore always have a big vision because God's vision for His church is big. As we do this, we will be creating an environment for those that we lead to grow and to fulfil the potential that God has placed in them.

Yours for the Kingdom

*Martin Tibbert*

*Open Door Church St Neots*

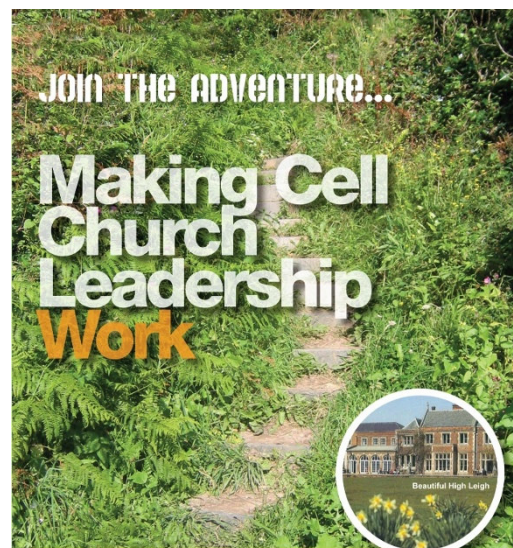
## Cell Leaders & Supervisors Training Day

**Sat 4th October**

**With new Youth & Children's tracks**

See attachment for details

Or visit [www.celluk.org.uk](http://www.celluk.org.uk)



**3-DAY RESIDENTIAL TRAINING COURSE**  
High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon, Herts £185 pp

**14th-16th October**

For details visit

[www.celluk.org.uk](http://www.celluk.org.uk)

## Get Set for September

We have a wide range of equipping materials visit our web site

[www.celluk.org.uk](http://www.celluk.org.uk)