

Evangelism in Small Groups

by Frank Chiapperino

One of the things I love about my small group (we call them Home Teams at my church) is that I get to see life-change happen right before my eyes. One of my favorite stories is from one of the very first groups my wife and I started. It was a group for single young adults and it filled up pretty quickly as this was a growing demographic in our church.

It was a Tuesday night and we had a pretty good turnout... maybe 15 or 16. I don't remember anything special about the discussion but I do remember something that happened at our prayer time that I'll never forget. There was a gal who had gone back to college to finish a degree in nursing, and she had visited our group three or four times. She was admittedly not a committed Christ follower, but was in a place of exploration. She had come back that particular night and interrupted someone sharing a prayer request:

"I'm sorry to interrupt but I have a question. I hear all of you asking God to help other people that you know who are sick or who have problems and it makes me feel guilty. I don't want to pray to God so he can help someone else. I want him to help me. Will I ever feel the way you all do and want to ask him to help someone else? I hope I can pray like you someday."

That moment in our group time took my breath away. Everyone was silent and we prayed for her that night. I looked forward to all our meetings after that one because our group was experiencing something fresh.

While I think there is potential for conversion experiences to happen in a group environment, I don't think it's the norm. What I've observed that happens more often is that a relationship is started in the group environment that in turn, leads to a discussion outside of a meeting. Groups have the ability to enhance relational evangelism. (Hopefully, relational evangelism is already a regular part of your lifestyle.) Then, when your friends who are far from God are ready, you can leverage the abilities of your group. Someone from your small group may be just the right person to help your friend cross the line of faith.

There is nothing more rewarding for me than attending a baptism service at our church and seeing that person in the water saying, "I am here because of these people." And that person is pointing to their small group. Here are a few evangelistic group tips when you're leading a group that might consist of non-believers:

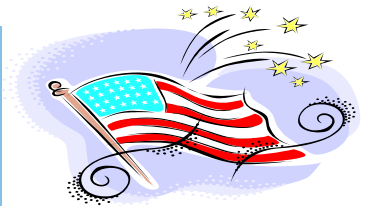
- Don't put people on the spot and force them to answer
- Encourage others to pray by having each person say a one sentence prayer
- Find out where each group member is on their spiritual journey
- Invite group members you don't know well over for dinner before your meeting
- Do more than a Bible Study - do social stuff together!

From SmallGroupExchange.com

Life group prayer and praise

- My **aunt Terri** had a stroke, please pray for healing as we don 't know the extent of the damage. ~ **Sherra Ellis**
- **Dee Eckstrom** is having three eye surgeries and needs prayer for healing and for the doctors hands to be steady and sure.
- Please pray for my mom **Sandy Abood**, both she and my dad have pneumonia. ~ **Jenn Decker**
- **Linda Royer** needs prayer for healing.
- Please pray for **Edwina Carmack**, the adult daughter of **Shirlene Walker**, she needs healing.
- **John**, who was burned over 30% of his body, needs prayer for healing and strength.
- **Richard Wolven** asks that we pray for his mom, **Bobbie** and healing of her arthritis.
- Please pray for **Sharon Young**, her father is in a coma in need of a kidney. ~ **Linda Royer**
- **Barb Lillard** is home and doing better, please no visitors, but she would love cards and asks for prayer.
- Please pray for the **Vietzke family** and everyone in the church that needs work: **Karl & Lorraine Durham, Roy McGowan, Darcy Stanyo**, and the stresses that are connected with that.
- Please continue to pray for my son, **Ray** who is in prison and my daughter, **Judi**, she is into drugs; meth and cocaine. ~ **Carole Peterson**
- **Darlene** has cancer in her brain and the tumor is growing. Chemo is not doing anything, She now has tunnel vision. ~ **Darlene Udman**
- Pray for **Lysle Pickard 's son-in-law**, he had a stroke—he needs prayer for full healing.
- Pray for **Larry Stover**, he has cancer. ~ **Kathy Helm**
- Pray for my friend's father **Jim Bender** who has stage 3 prostate cancer. Prayer that his treatment will be successful and that throughout all this that he will find the Lord. ~ **Judy Warren**
- Please pray for the **Roullier family**, the Lord 's provision for them in their current house situation.
- Our students will be taking a mission trip to Mexico this summer from July 10-20. We will be working with **Pastor Gama** at a Children 's camp in Merida. Mexico. Please continue to keep our team in your prayers.
- Please continue to pray for **Leanne Durham**, Praise God all is going well.

Pray for our military



- *Jonathan Michaels Estrella— son of Sharon Boswell.*
- *Jason Bjazevich—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *Joel Ellis—son of John & Midge —Serving in Iraq.*
- *Scott Harpell—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Bragg.*
- *Aaron Weston—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.*
- *Eric Schmidt — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.*
- *Benjamin Lagonia—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.*
- *Elijah Austin —Ashley Naylor's husband—a Marine—Stationed at 29 Palms in California.*
- *David Coyle—son of Karen Mark—residing in Seattle, member of the National Guard.*
- *Adam Flynn—a young Marine safely home and out of military*
- *Brett Love—grandson of Wilma— Army National Guard-Serving second tour in Iraq.*
- *Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.*
- *Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.*
- *Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.*
- *ENS Andrew E. Timpner (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.*
- *Devin Abbitt—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.*
- *Doug Baer—a teacher at Kamiak HS heading to Iraq in the Army Reserves—thru Sept. 09.*
- *Duane Neyens—brother to Kathy Chapman—Nat. Grd. Afghanistan*
- *Philip Ankney-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson*

Life Group Happenings

all in the family

by Florence Miller

Did you see the large, attractive, colorful picture in a recent Herald showcasing **Nora Wolford**? She and her husband **Randy**, are recent members of First Baptist and it is in our community center that she conducts classes every Saturday morning from 10 a. m. to 2 p.m. for English as a Second Language to Spanish-speaking people throughout Snohomish County. Nora came to the U.S.A. in 1983, not speaking any English. Diligently acquiring a knowledge of English she became proficient enough to secure a secretarial job at the University of Washington which lasted for 13 years. She has been volunteering her time to teach English for the past ten years and continues to do so, with big dreams of creating a Latino center, and adding classes on living in a new culture. The Herald quotes Nora as saying that "living in the U.S. has been a blessing. She became a wife, a mother and a teacher here. She has built relationships with her students and watched some go on to college after learning English in her class. She can't stop teaching and holds her dreams for the next 10 years close to her heart." Nora recently lost her job because of the recession and is looking (without success so far) for another. We could all pray for that!

Sympathy has been expressed for the home going of **Sam L. Jodock**, father of **Jim and grandfather of Jason**. Both Jason and Jim often accompany the worship team on the piano. They acquired their talent of love of music from their father whose passion was music. Sam's favorite activity was gathering his family together and singing at various churches. He was also a member of the Everett Gospel Mission Men's Chorus, led by **John Sinkevitch**. His legacy lives on in his heirs.

How do you like your coffee? Cream? Sugar? Or perhaps tea? **Barb Olson**, kitchen coordinator reports that supplies are dwindling. Although the church budget has monies for those supplies for Sunday morning groups, all the other groups who meet throughout the week are consuming great amounts of non-financed staples. How about those small groups contributing on a regular basis to the coffee fund? PLEASE!

Mary Elaine and Jack Burgess have been blessed with **son John and his wife Dar** visiting from Hawaii and a get-together with grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Last Sunday was a special occasion as we honored **Dr. Fred and Anita Prinzing** for their 50 years of ministry and his ordination of May 27, 1959. He has been a preacher, teacher and author of four books. An important Bible verse which has guided and encouraged him is Phil. 1:6 *"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Hyesook Johnson's Facebook mentioned having to keep her leg up. That's because when I called and asked, she admitted that she has shingles on her leg. That can be so painful and we pray it will soon be cured.

The Warrens wanted to share the news they received of **Jeff and Kim Miller's** new arrival. Jeff and Kim were members of First Baptist Church before they moved to New Castle a few years ago. In December they were blessed with triplets: **Noelle, Avery and Drake**. They join **Savanah** who is 4 yrs old and **Lilly Kathryn** who is 2 years old. Congratulations Millers!

Tracy Stover from Kenya, Africa will be with the ABMM on May 21st at noon, you won't want to miss this presentation. We are collecting eye glasses for Haiti and soup labels, (remember only the gold circle, picture of kid and UPC number are needed.)

ABMM Meeting

SPRING BOOK SALE

June 5th and 7th

Just drop off your donations at the S.A.M. desk. Proceeds go to fund our mission projects.

Please
support
SAM



Life group contributing opportunities



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 20th	Stephanie Kinsman Dave Pearson
May 22nd	Dixie Burgess Mel Tessness Kevin Vietzke Melissa Washington Susan Weir
May 24th	Jim Friesen Jeff Huber
May 25th	Ed Church
May 26th	Samuel Blair Marge Minor

We need canopies for Fun In the Sun

Update
May 17th, 2009

Adult attendance: 235 Children: 9 am || 29/13 10:30 am || 47/20
Youth Small Group: Middle School || 15/3
High School || 13/3

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

May—Ron and Kay Olson
Craig Reisen
June—Darrell Olsen
Marc Owenby

COFFEE HOUR 2009

May 24th
Steve Dittoe
Marriage Builders
May 31st
Ruelyn Nelson
Hospitality
June 7th
Ruelyn Nelson
Women of Purpose
June 14
Barb Menia
Women of Purpose

July 4th Fun in the Sun: Again this year FBC will offer a street fair following the Everett July 4th downtown parade at 12:30 until 3:00 pm. This year's July 4th falls on a Saturday and so we want you to be sure you put it on your calendar. A couple of thousand people show up each year from our community and we get the opportunity to *show them* the love of Christ. Would your Life Groups be willing adopt one of the stations or venues? These include:

- Espresso
- Face painting
- Float in the parade
- Children's inflatable #1, #2, #3
- Miniature golf
- Set-up crew
- Clean-up crew
- Welcome & Registration Desk
- Cotton Candy machine
- Popcorn Machine
- Street Hockey
- Clown Ministry



Our student ministry has already adopted hotdog sales and root beer floats, and our worship ministry has adopted the stage and band. For more information and to volunteer contact bharpell@fbc-everett.net