

(re)Launching Service Minded Small Groups

by Jess Bousa



Small groups naturally drift inward—towards isolation—without a strategic plan to reach outwards—towards community. As a small group pastor, I watch groups launch with good intentions to be outwardly focused. But for whatever reason, some groups never fulfill the vision for serving as part of their DNA.

What do you do if your group has launched without an outward focus? Or if your group has lost sight of service as part of its DNA? The strategy is simple yet produces profound results. Challenge your groups to rethink their vision, research their community, regroup their team, release for action and rejoice in the Lord.

reThink > reSearch > reGroup > reLease > reJoyce

1. Rethink your strategy – Revisit Jesus’ strategy when He led His small group. Jesus kept it simple. He led his group to serve with no strings attached. In the healing account of the ten lepers, Jesus did not heal them and expect them to attend His small group or a synagogue. His acts of service were not only without strings attached but also systematic. Jesus’ small group had a system for serving people. It was not random. Everywhere Jesus and his group went people in need of healing gravitated to them. Side by side with his small group, Jesus systematically served the communities he visited.

2. Research your community – Initiate a time to talk. Gather all of your group members. Share the vision for service as part of the groups DNA. Strategize together. Build ownership every step of the way. Brainstorm possible community service projects. Observe your group members passions for people and projects. Like Moses’ 12 spies, send your group members out to gather information. Assess the community needs. Search for opportunities that meet needs. Learn as many details as you can about the community organization (ie. who does the organization help and how do they help?). Find out the possible days and times they need volunteers. Need based service is valuable to a community.

3. Regroup your team – Gather your group together. Review information. Listen for passion in their presentations. Often, community organizations like homeless shelters, YMCA’s, thrift stores, food pantries, soup kitchens, etc. need to be contacted more than once. Personal visitations are more effective than phone calls or emails. If all your group members did not accomplish their tasks, give them another week or so to complete their assignments. Allow people time to follow leads. Challenge them to ask those people who say not

for three other places that might need volunteers. Then regroup a second time. Remember “no” might mean “not yet.”

Prayerfully come to a consensus on what service project best fits your group member’s passions, abilities and talents. Challenge each member to donate blocks of time. With these blocks of time and the slots of time volunteers are needed at the community organization in mind, create a schedule. For example, if two group members donated two Saturday morning’s twice a month and the organization needs the same two spots filled, then assign them. Also, if three group members could donate a full Saturday each month, then assign them accordingly. The goal is for your group to become part of the rhythm and pattern of the community organization(s) your group partners with. Always send people in pairs of at least two. Never send someone alone. Remember, random acts of kindness are good, but consistent, systematic, acts of service are better!

4. Release for action – Serve with no strings attached. Be early. Stay late. Be polite. Communicate the completed schedule with the community organization(s). Give them a copy as well as all your group members. Assign someone as the “keeper of the schedule.” This person follows up with both the group members and the community organization to make sure everyone fulfilled their end of the bargain. This person communicates with the personnel at the organization and updates the group with pertinent information. Work out any kinks. Report any cancellations as soon as possible. If it’s worth doing, not only do it well, but do it neat!

5. Rejoice in the Lord – The apostle Paul encourages us to, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Phil 4:4). Regularly update the group on the progress. Allow time for people to share praise reports/testimonies/wins. Few things in life are more rewarding than serving side by side with others for the common good of man. Even fewer things unify a group like serving together. Remember, together you can accomplish more.

As groups serve together, they grow together—growth not only spiritually, but also numerically. Service acts as evangelism. Serving becomes contagious. People are attracted to life. No one hangs out at morgues. If a group is life giving, its members will do anything they can to be there and invite others to share in this experience. Don’t just go to small group. Be a small group that serves.

(From smallgroupexchange.com)

Life group prayer and praises

- Pray for the **Durhams, Karl and Lorraine**, they both need jobs.
- **My husband, Dan**, has leukemia. It's been in remission for three years. The blood tests were not normal last month and he gets checked this week, please pray that all is well! **Thanks, Ann Anderson**
- Mousetrap—what a great idea! ~**The Olsens**
- Just wanted to share that my lay off notice has been recinded, I have a job! Power of Prayer!
~ **Tracy Ayers Tate**
- My nephew, **Dustin Roe**, is in the hospital with an infection in his feet, he may have to have one amputated, please pray for him and his family. ~ **Kathy Chapman**
- Please pray for the **Vietze** family and everyone in that church that needs work and the stresses that are connected with that.
- **Pam Pierson, friend of Jan Barker**, needs salvation. Pray too, for her dog, **Shadow**, to die peacefully.
- **Bret** would like prayer for his mom she needs healing.
- Please continue to pray for **Gerry Allen**, he is now home but still ill.
- 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 is 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**
- Please pray for **Sandy Abood**, as she begins radiation treatments. ~**Jenn Decker**
- 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.

98208-Silver Lake: Pray for a future launch of a Life Group for men and women in the south Everett 98208 zip code that it would be God's timing and way. Pray specifically that God would identify a host home, and a leadership/facilitation team for this new group. Interested in more information contact Allan Love at allan@fbc-everett.net or Brian Harpell at bharpell@fbc-everett.net.

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 going back for his second tour in Iraq.*
- *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*

Life Group Happenings

all in the family

by *florence miller*

For those of us computer owners who have graduated from the "Book for Computer Dummies," but can't find the "Dummy Two Book", **Karl Durham** has been our knight in shining armor. Thank you for your expertise and most accommodating attitude!

Prayers are in order however for **Karl and Lorraine Durham**. Karl was downsized from his job and now Lorraine will be laid off from her job in 30 days from Warm Beach Senior Community. They write: "While we know many of us in our community and abroad are hurting at this time let us come together to pray for one another, especially as we approach National Day of Prayer Week. [We] would appreciate your prayers as we both seek employment find God's perfect plan and purpose. *'If you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.'*

Proverbs 2:1-5 and *'The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.'* Psalm 145:189-19. May God provide for the FBC family and may His faithfulness be praised."

Have all of you been aware of the new LED sign outside our church facing Wetmore and Pacific? It was paid for from memorial funds for the following people: **Frances Adams, Dorothy Alley, Billie Davis, Marion Dixon, Don Eastep, Frank and Virginia Eder, Ruth Hastings, Rachel Lee, Ralph Leyde, John Maag, Ruth Novotney and Walter and Evelyn VanBodegraven** We as a church family are so thankful for all the gifts that came in to pay for our community center and are especially grateful for the memorial gift from the Eder family that helped us to finally pay off the mortgage. God is great These most recent names and those of others whose memorials have benefited the

Lord's work can be viewed in the Narthex in the glass case.

In an item in the Herald's "Seems Like Yesterday" column was a list of ten quotabusters for the YMCA's capital campaign of 50 Years Ago. Two of them were from First Baptist: **Lysle Pickard** and **Bob Smith** (deceased husband of **Mary**).

Mary Miller now has a job with Ace Hardware in Lake Stevens. While she is grateful for the employment she is unhappy that it takes her away from many church functions.

Did you notice the sunken garden improvement? In order to keep the garden looking good and also to discourage transient "campers" **Scott Hollo, Mary and David Miller's son**, did a fabulous job cutting down seven trees and cleaning up. Scott had his friend, **Roy Buckle and Roy's** pick-up helping so when you see Scott thank him for a huge job well done

"Concert of Prayer"

Tonight

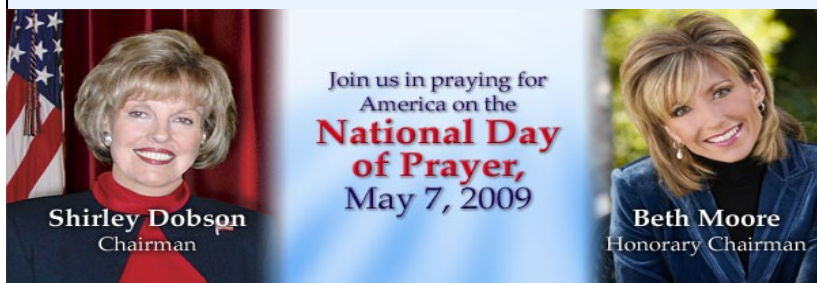
May 6th, 7-8:00 pm, Pacific Room –

followed by 24-hour Prayer Watch

Starts 8 pm May 6th - ends 8 pm May 7th

Thursday, May 7th—12 Noon

Snohomish County Court House Flag Pole



ABMM Meeting

This next meeting of ABMM is the final one until fall. We invite anyone interested in Missions to a special program with Tracy Stover from Kenya, Africa on May 21st at noon. Please make your reservations by the 18th with the church office, 259.9166 or by calling Faith. We are collecting eye glasses for Haiti and soup labels. (remember only the gold circle, picture of kid and UPC number are needed.)

Happy Birthday

May 6th

Bill Quistoff

May 7th

Romola Edwards,
Omar Rodriguez

May 8th

Devyn McCormick

May 11th

Delores Carr

May 12th

Christopher Johnson
Megan (Owenby) Bjazevich,
Ginni Hamilton

May 13th

Jane Johnson

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

We're on the web! CareNecton, Hub & Bulletin—check it out!

See how we look in color—www.fbc-everett.org

The HUB was mailed for the last time. If you would like to have it mailed to you, please contact the church office—425.259.9166

and we will put you on the list. We will still have them in house for you to pick up.



Seattle Women's Conference

LADIES LAST CALL: We still have a few tickets available to the Women of Faith Conference at the Key Arena in Seattle on July 24th and 25th. Sunday May 10th is the last day to finish paying for your ticket or to confirm your ticket at the Special Group Pricing of \$79.00 for the conference or \$99.00 that includes the Friday Special Event. Ticket prices will go up \$10.00 each after Sunday. Join us for a very special two day time of growing spiritually and enjoying a wonderful time of fellowship

with your Christian sisters. Don't miss this opportunity for renewal and growth!

Contact Ruelyn Nelson in the hospitality room on Sunday or by phone at 425-397-9239 or e-mail ruelyn@verizon.net.

Financial Update May 3rd , 2009

Adult attendance: 251 Children: 9 am|| 21/11 10:30 am|| 44/19
Youth Small Group: Middle School || 14/5
High School || 14/3

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - June 28th

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

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

COFFEE HOUR 2009

May 10th
Tom Warren
Men of Integrity
May 17th
Bill Erickson
Men's Life Group
May 24th
Steve Dittoe
Marriage Builders
May 31st
David Brock
Men's Life Group

July 4th FUN in the Sun: Again this year FBC will offer a street fair following the Everett July 4th downtown parade at noon 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
- Children's inflatable #2
- Children's inflatable #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

