

Reproducing as a Small Group

by Nick Carnes

When I was in third grade I had an alter-ego. As soon as the lights went out for bedtime in the Carnes household my world became an adventure as I transformed into my secret superhero identity. I was Leonardo, the Ninja Turtle. A group of my friends made up the remaining team of reptile ninjas and everyday at school we would share our adventures of how we defeated the Foot Clan Soldiers throughout the streets and sewers of our town. Yes, we were the Ninja Turtles. Well, at least we said we were.

I remember that the stories of our adventures were so awesome that others wanted to be Ninja Turtles too, but there was one problem, all of the Ninja Turtle roles were filled and we didn't have enough room for another person to join our team. So we shut everyone out of our Turtle Club and made them watch and listen in anticipation day after day of our nightly adventures. We did not see the potential of expanding our Turtle Club into anything greater than what we had watched on TV.

We can limit the potential of our small groups as well. If we start looking at our group in a closed minded way, soon there will be no room for others to plug in. I am a big advocate of keeping small groups small. There are open groups and closed groups. For as many sizes and styles of churches in the world, you can likewise find as many different sizes and styles of small groups. But I believe being a closed group is different than being a closed minded group.

I believe it is vital for small groups to reproduce. Depending on the vision of your church, the possibility may be there to

reproduce a small group into a home church or the potential may be there to reproduce your group into a new small group. I would encourage any small group leader who hasn't done so already to consider reproducing their small group to increase the potential of influence in people's lives. Here are a few ideas that I would recommend:

1. **Talk to Your Appropriate Church Leadership:** Find out your church's vision for reproducing small groups. Adapt your plan of reproducing your small group to fit within the context of your church's vision.
2. **Emphasize Reproduction with Your Group:** Once you have a clear understanding of how your church desires to reproduce small groups, emphasize reproduction with your group often. Discuss with them the importance of plugging others into a group, just as you all are plugged into a group. If you have not already created a plan for reproduction or if your church does not have one in place, allow your group to create one with you. Decide a time frame that you would like to see another group start or a specific size that you would like to reach before splitting into a new group. Decide on all other criteria that you believe is important when reproducing.
3. **Learn from Others:** Check out the resources on Small Group Exchange, research books that have been written specifically on small groups, or call another church that has had success in reproducing small groups and ask them about their strategy. Starting something new can be scary at times so don't try to go at it alone. Find someone who can walk with you along the journey.

From smallgroupexchange.com

Life group prayer and praise

- **Gama Canul** has told us that the octopus harvest this year in the Yucatan is better than ever! Four families are working it, and this is providing much needed income for them. A great praise to God for that! They do have an urgent prayer request, though. The boat motor broke down and is too old to repair. Gama has found a used motor for them and needs about \$2,500 (US) for the purchase. ~**Pat Alvarez**
- Please pray for my brother, **Scott** as he finishes his special forces training, continued prayers for protection and wisdom for his future. Pray also for the family, encouragement that Scott is in the center of God's will for his life. ~ **Amanda Harpell**
- **Jim and Sara Naylor** are pleased to welcome home their son-in-law, **Elijah Austin**, as he has completed his 4-year term with the Marines. Thank you to all who so faithfully pray for our military friends and family. Please keep them in your prayers as they make the adjustment back to civilian life in Seattle.
- **Walter Walden, Christen Weller's father**, is home now, please pray for healing and quick recovery and no more complications with his leg.

- We need continued prayer for clarity on our house. Our landlord is letting us stay for now, don't know how much longer. We are actively looking for a new home. ~ **Wendy Roullier**
- Praise that **Dayelle and Craig** are married and for the birth of our granddaughter, **Cathleen Laura**. ~ **John & Laura Oversvee**
- Pray for a closer relationship with our daughter and son-in-law. ~ **Bruce and Mary Latham**
- Please continue to pray for **Keaton** and his heart condition. We have tests on the 10th. We need God's peace and wisdom for the doctors and speed in getting the tests read. ~ **Rose Toscano**
- **Dave Kerr & family** needs prayer, Dave is a co-worker and employee and is home now from Swedish. He has a team of 8 doctors and one of them **Dr. John** told Dave, "God told me you would see again so we will do everything we can to help you." Pray for healing and God's peace. I just talked to **Marc Owenby** and Dave is improving, his vision is still not 100% but it is a lot better than it was. They think that the swelling is going down. The doctor's are pleased with his progress. Also, please continue to pray for **Oneita**, her leg is about 25% healed but she still has a long way to go, pray for quick bone re-growth.

Mark your Calendars: The North Puget Sound Area Fall Convention

Is coming October 10th. David T. Olson is the special guest speaker. Watch for more info.

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.*
- *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 at home.*
- *Robin Swartz - Serving in the military - currently home in Everett.*
- *Christian Chmielewski—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.*
- *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.*
- *Jeffrey Lillard—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed in Afghanistan.*
- *Aaron Chmielewski—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie.*



Life Group Happenings

All in the Family

by Florence Miller

John Van Dalen had surgery today (Wednesday, the 9th) at 9:00 a.m. to remove a bone spur on his right shoulder. I'm sure the grinding was much more extensive than in the dentist's chair. Pray that the surgery will now enable him to completely raise his arm without pain.

It is now official: **Florence Miller** is now a resident of Washington Oaks. The address is on Rockefeller Ave and her phone number is the same as before.

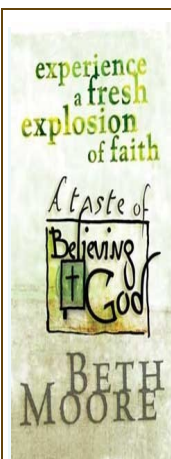
Due to the move, information regarding **Alan Carter's** progress which was handed in by **Lysle Pickard** has been misplaced amidst the clutter. Alan's friends and family are so faithful in keeping Lysle, Lois and the rest of the family updated. More in next week's column! Praises for Allan Carter's who's costly insurance has been extended for four more months.

Mabel Elder was moved to the University of Washington hospital awaiting the decision as to the type of surgery she will have for her heart valve. Daughter-in-law, **Barb** says that Mabel is still just as alert and as confident in the Lord's will. Continued prayers are needed.

Jim Naylor emailed us : "We are escaping to Palm Springs! to pick up **Ashley and Elijah**. He's now officially out of the Marines! We are thankful to the Lord for his safety and our church family for their faithful prayers over the last four years while Elijah did his 2 tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Scott Harpell successfully passed his Russian class this week, praise God!

We are missing two sets of **keys** for the vans—if you have one or the other, please call the church office 425.259.9166. We also are looking for the **Truth Project DVD** set, if you have it, could you please bring it back to the office.



BELIEVING GOD - Beth Moore Bible Study: Join us for another 10-week study beginning Wednesday Sept. 16th from 6:30-8:30 pm in Room 152 of the Community Center. Childcare will be provided. Please sign up using the yellow communication card or stop by the office. Books will be \$15 and the deadline for registering is Sept. 9th. Contact Lynne Harpell for more information (425) 337-6312.

Ladies' Home Bible Study

NOTE NEW START DATE

The Ladies' Bible Study in Lake Stevens will be starting again on Monday, September 21st @ 7:00 pm. Our study this fall will be Kay Arthur's "*Finding Hope When Life Seems Dark*". This inductive study will focus on the minor prophets: Hosea, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk and Zephaniah. A chance to discover the light of God's truth shining in even the darkest circumstances. For more info contact Ruelyn Nelson on line ruelyn@verizon.net.



Get to know us! Newcomer's Desserts are designed with you in mind!

"Let's get acquainted" is the emphasis at the dessert. You'll meet some of the staff and leaders from the church and other newcomers like yourself. We provide some information about the church, but the accent is on friendship. Our first fall Newcomer's Dessert is scheduled for Sunday, September 20th at 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

If you have questions or would like to sign up for a Newcomer Dessert, call the office @ 425.259.9166 or email the office at joanne@fbc-everett.org for more information.

CONNECTING CLASS : Want to explore membership—ask questions, meet pastoral staff and join others in this opportunity to explore what it means to be part of a Biblically-functioning community of faith? Next offering is Sunday Sept 27th at 9 am in Rm. B56 in the Community Center. Sign up using your yellow communication card or stop by the church office.

Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

Update September 6th

Adult attendance: 209 Children: 9 am: 17+8 10:30 am: 44+16
Youth Small Group: Middle School 10+3
High School 11+3

Place your orders now for fruits & veggies

The new list for fruits and veggies is now in the office, 425-259-9166—you can call for pricing—you still need to order with Ron or Barb.

For prices and orders please Contact

Ron Newman or
Barb Lillard



ABMM Meeting

ABMM will be meeting September 17th for 12:00 pm for their monthly luncheon. The program will feature our Youth Pastor, Nathan, with a report on the Mission Teams experience in Mexico. Please come and join us by making your reservation by the 15th. Get the latest mission news. RSVP to the church office , 425-259-9166 or by calling Faith.

Happy Birthday.

Sept. 9th, Mischal Hall
Sybil Hammond
Sept. 10th, Yolanda Decker
Hyesook Johnson
Wilma Love
Jim Smith
Sept. 11th, Ken Weston
Allison Weir
Sept. 12th, Scott Harpell
Sept 13th, Dennis Milner
Sept. 15th, John Lindsey
Adam Church

Summer Aire End of Summer Concert & Ice Cream Social

Summer Aire End of Summer Concert and Ice Cream Social. Summer Aire, a group of musicians from the Everett area are again putting on a special concert at the First Presbyterian Church , 2936 Rockefeller Ave. on September 13th at 3:00 pm. There will be an old fashioned Ice-Cream Social following the concert in the Westminster Hall.

USHER CAPTAIN 2009:

September-Darrell Olson
Marc Owenby
October-Pete Sontra
Lucky Elkins

COFFEE HOUR 2009

September 13th
Betty Reeves
ESL
September 20th
Janet Duvardo
CR Life Group
September 27th
Marty Visser
Sunday AM
October 4th
Dan Clark
Life Group
October 11th
Bill Erickson
Clipper Class