

WAC Small Group Newsletter

June 2011

A WORD FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR The end of a year is a good time for reflection and evaluation. While June isn't the end of the calendar year, it is the end of a ministry year for many of us. That make this an ideal time to reflect on how your small group has gone the past 12 months. The small group common values were developed to be both specific enough to help make sure your group hasn't drifted away from the purpose of being disciples who make disciples, but also to be broad enough that they allow for individual differences. In addition the Christian and Missionary Alliance (CMA) core values reflect what our church, as part of a larger movement, hold as a guide post. I encourage you to take time as leaders and as a group to see how you are reflecting these values. Celebrate and build on the ones you do well and strengthen the areas that need shoring up. The values are both attached to this newsletter and can be found in your small group leader's handbook.

EVANGELISM IN ACTION I would love to hear your stories of how you are implementing the ideas Jim Henderson presented to us on May 14th. Shoot me an email, give me a call or find me at church. I still have a few copies of *Evangelism Without Additives* available for \$12. It is an entertaining and easy read but will give you ideas that are not so easy to live out!

A WORD FROM THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL Leadership Council met on Monday, June 6th. We welcomed Laura Donelson as the Disciple ministry lead. We said farewell to Tony Kong who has represented the Stewardship & Operations Team on the Leadership Council. The new treasurer will join the Council after he is elected. Items discussed at the meeting included plans for the upcoming "Impact Sunday" on June 12th. This is the annual meeting and plans were made for how the Council would contribute to the morning. Also discussed were questions about the working of the Council and overarching issues that need to be addressed and defined as we move our church forward. Various ministry areas also provided reports, including word from Dave Keen on the progress achieved with the Carpenter's Kids area, a report of the most recent small group leader training by Laura, and planning underway by Matt and his teams for Go!

SMALL GROUP MINISTRIES COMMUNICATIONS Last month I told you that you would be receiving an invitation from me to join Table Project, a means of helping you get the small groups newsletter and other communications from me via social networking if you wish. Due my mother-in-law's hospitalization I didn't get that issue moved forward as I had planned. I hope to get back to that soon, so stay tuned for further developments.

SERVICE CORNER For the last several months, two small groups have partnered with Special Delivery, a ministry in Woodinville providing for the physical and spiritual needs of women who are experiencing or have experienced an unplanned pregnancy. Special Delivery has served young women in our community for over 20 years..

The members of the Ronning's small group have made this service project a family activity. The women are taking turns relieving the house mother, Marsha, for a weekend every few months. Jennifer Hesselgrave has offered to take mom and infant photos in her home studio. The kids help clean toys, sort clothes and clean up the grounds. The men are involved in various remodeling projects, including a remodel of the house mother's master bathroom suite.

When my small group, led by Jan Higbee, decided Special Delivery would be a great ministry to serve and heard about the remodeling the men were doing, we decided it would be a blessing to Marsha, and fun for us, to refurnish the master suite. Our plans include providing new furniture and furnishings for her living area and bedroom. The members of our group got busy asking local businesses for donations and have received carpet from Haight, furniture from Greenbaum's, and several gift cards from others used to purchase new lamps, blinds, pictures, bedding, and more!

What a blessing it is to focus our combined efforts on a local ministry that provides much good for our community, discipling young women to a life in Christ, while providing for their physical needs.

Serving Him together,
Sandy Calissendorff

MISSIONS CORNER Let me introduce you to Debbie, a new international worker in the near east who has been attending WAC. She is currently raising support to go with Marketplace Ministries a branch of the CMA (see <http://www.cmalliance.org/ministries/marketplace>). Woodinville Alliance has committed to an ongoing partnership with Debbie's exciting ministries. She will be speaking at our Sunday service the morning of July 24th. She will also be available to visit your small group over the summer. I know that many groups only meet sporadically during these months, so if you send me two or three options that work for you I will see if any of these work for her. I encourage you to get in on the ground floor of the work God will do through Debbie!

I also want to thank you for your warm welcome of our own missionaries Bob and Lisa Merrill when they came home for a year from working in the field of Russia. Over the coming year we will be arranging as many small group visits with them as we can. Watch for details.

BLESSINGS! I have been approached by couple who are out of the childcare dilemma for themselves but understand how hard it can be for some families to hire a sitter in order participate in a small group. They have anonymously funded a sitter for a group who needs some extra help. If you would like to do something similar to this please let me know! I am delighted to help make the connections happen!

RESOURCE CORNER As a church we subscribe to smallgroups.com, a resource published by Christianity Today. Along with hundreds of articles they have many downloadable Bible Studies. The group my husband, Norm, and I lead did a study on Elijah this past spring.

We found it to be easy lead with good discussion questions to choose from and it offered insight to each other and the heart of God.

The newest study posted is *What The Bible Really Says About Hell*. This three week session addresses the questions *Is the God of Christianity an Angry Judge?*, *What Does the Bible Say About Hell?*, and *What's Beyond Death's Door?*

To download the material you can go to smallgroups.com, select a study you would like and let either your group sponsor or me know what you want. We can then download and make copies for you at no extra cost.

SUMMER PLANS! Many groups stay in contact during the summer by having BBQ's, picnics and camping trips. It is also a good time to explore a service project together. These all give excellent opportunities to invite your friends and neighbors who don't know Jesus yet to join you. Our culture has embraced community service as a value. Non-Christians are often very glad for an opportunity to give back to their community and while serving together you are given a natural way to share your life and the hope you have in Christ.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **June 22nd**, 6:30-8:00, small group sponsors' meeting
- **Summer!** Debbie available to visit your small group. (see missions corner for details)

In service to Jesus,

Laura Donelson,

Woodinville Alliance Church Small Groups Administrator
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Common Values of Small Groups

We hold these values for small groups to be representative of the character of Christ for the purpose of developing meaningful communities that support transformed lives in the areas of First Life, New Life, Just Life, Deep Life and Sweet Life.

Deepening Walk with Jesus Groups will meet on a regular basis for the purpose of pursuing increasingly deep spiritual lives. Leaders will disciple the members of the group as they grow in a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ by loving, supporting and holding them accountable.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:18-20

Deepening Walk with Each Other Group members will laugh and weep with one another as nurturing, spiritual friendships grow. Groups will learn to work through conflict in a healthy way.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:23-25

Service Small groups will serve together in order to deepen bonds within the group and to reach out beyond the group. Service is encouraged in the church body (supporting a specific ministry area or meeting needs as they arise), in the community (reaching out to bless and witness to the community) and in missions ('adopting' a missionary or supporting a specific mission project).

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. - 1 Peter 4:10

Inclusiveness All people will be welcomed and encouraged to be involved in a small group that will deepen their relationship with Christ. Each small group will proactively discuss their group's capacity and their ability to incorporate new members. New group members will be connected in thoughtful ways and will be assisted in finding a new group if an initial connection does not work. Each small group member will prayerfully discern the ways they can engage in the greater life of the church body.

My brothers, as believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, don't show favoritism. Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in shabby clothes also comes in. If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? - James 2:1-4

Preparation Leaders will strive to grow in their leadership skills through individual study, mentoring by small group sponsors and participation in the training provided by Woodinville Alliance Church Small Group Ministries. Potential new leaders will be prayerfully identified and intentionally grown.

if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. - Romans 12:8

Support Small Groups and their leaders will be supported in holding these values through prayer, training and organizational structure provided by the small group sponsors, the small group administrator and the leadership council.

"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." - John 13:34-35

Christian & Missionary Alliance/Core Values

- **Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.**

In the formative years of our movement, the Holy Spirit instilled within A. B. Simpson a passion to reach people with no knowledge of Jesus Christ in his "Jerusalem" and around the world. That passion still lives in The Alliance today and is our first core value: **Lost people matter to God. He wants them found.**

- **Prayer is the primary work of God’s people.**

We believe that nothing of lasting value can be done unless it is bathed in prayer. So passionate in his belief that prayer is the undergirding of all ministry, Alliance founder A. B. Simpson was compelled to create a prayer league that would focus on the world’s evangelization. He believed that the Prayer Alliance would “prove to be the mightiest force in the spread of missions.” That force still drives The Alliance today. **Prayer is the primary work of God’s people.**

- **Everything we have belongs to God. We are only stewards.**

Everything we have belongs to God. We are only stewards. This core value is intrinsic to the nature and structure of The Alliance. As Scripture encourages us to remember, it’s not the amount of money we have or how much we give—it’s recognizing that everything we have comes from God (*Luke 21:1–4*). We teach and practice the blessing and effectiveness of the faith principle of giving. The issue is not how much to give but how much to keep.

- **Knowing and obeying God’s Word is fundamental to all true success.**

If The Alliance had a “life application” verse, it would be *Matthew 28:19*: “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*”—The Great Commission! But the next verse is equally important: “*and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*” **Knowing and obeying God’s Word is fundamental to all true success.**

- **Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple.**

Completing the Great Commission will require the mobilization of every fully devoted disciple. In The Christian and Missionary Alliance the first priority of every minister, congregation, and believer is to work for the evangelization of the world. Healthy churches producing healthy disciples who are devoted to reaching lost people will hasten the completion of the Great Commission and the return of Jesus Christ.

- **Without the Holy Spirit’s empowerment, we can accomplish nothing.**

The Apostle Paul said, “*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power*” (*1 Corinthians 2:4–5*). **Without the Holy Spirit’s empowerment, we can accomplish nothing.** This is not only the fiber of our being as believers but also the sixth of our Alliance core values.

- **Achieving God’s purposes involves taking faith-filled risks.**

For more than a century, Alliance workers have braved harsh and dangerous territory, at great personal risk, to take the good news of Jesus to a lost world. These workers experienced our seventh Core Value—**Achieving God’s purposes involves taking faith-filled risks.** This always

involves change. Because of the selfless dedication of Alliance workers who were willing to lay down their lives for the gospel, entire people groups now know Jesus.