

Why Don't I See Many Changes?

From the beginning it was not my intention to wade in with all sorts of data, program ideas, and a blizzard of posters and sign-up sheets. I want to meet the church where it is and the current groups where they are. I see my work as cultivation, like a farmer. I see it as parenting. My work is to encourage, inform, teach, and to help us to think bigger and higher about possibilities.

My work is to find and encourage new leaders. My task is to see what God is doing. This is an incremental process. We could just stop everything and start over. That would probably create damage. Further, I do not want us to look at life groups and discipleship as a new program that we foist on everybody. Rather it is seed planting, watering, and building new possibilities in our minds and hearts. As I learn what people's gifts and leanings are in ministry, my calling is to try to enhance and build networks of relationships, stirring in prayer and the work of the Holy Spirit,

Own The
Mission

Discipleship
and Life
Groups

(Over)

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There may need to be corporate or individual repentance as we move ahead. God is not in a hurry. He will guide us as we wait in Him in prayer. (That's why there is so much encouragement toward prayer.) No, this isn't a program. It's a manner of living, and it takes time to adjust to new ways of doing that,

This relates to another of these little publications (future): "Why Are Things Going So Slowly?" We are not "ramping up" and "rolling out", coercing everyone on board. We are praying people's hearts into connection with what God wants to do here. We are trying to show some examples of what life groups could look like. None of the elders know just how it will shape up. We are conducting an experiment in walking with God in true community. There may be fits, starts and stumbles. You cannot change an elm tree by tying apples on its branches. You cannot cause a tree to bear fruit prematurely. It takes cultivation and watering. Change will come.

- Ken Rosentrater

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