

You can reach your entire city with an effective small groups program
By Bob Young

This article is short and simple. I share a dream.

An effective, growing small groups program resembles a branching tree. Designated church leaders each work with small group leaders. Small group leaders each work with a number of “cell” leaders. Everyone who provides leadership works together as part of a team. The branching can be as simple or as complex as needed—and it is always expandable!

Here is an example of how an effective small groups program could work. In one church, each of four elders worked with four small group leaders so there were 16 groups. Ten deacons worked with various ministry-focused groups so there were 20 or more additional groups. The church grew, partly because there was room to assimilate new members. Leaders have the responsibility of caring, encouraging, guiding, and training others.

An effective small group program is organized so that the major works of the church—evangelism, discipleship, and assimilation (fellowship) can be done in the context of the group.

In urban churches, small groups provide an effective method for take a sector of the city for Jesus. Small groups are the first line of “attack” to win a neighborhood or a city. The strategy can be tailored to meet the specific context. Perhaps the best thing is to have the small group meetings spread equally throughout the area. Perhaps the best approach is to use the influence of strong families, persons of peace, or key people in the community.

When the church permeates a community with the sweet aroma of Jesus, people come to Him! May our churches discover and commit to methods that will take Jesus into every corner of our earth!