

The Church That Multiplies: Growing a Health Cell Church In North America
Notes, Review, and Personal Thoughts

Introduction

- Successful cell group system tends to flourish overseas (3rd World or other countries)
- "Many pastors and leaders have tried to implement what they discovered from cell churches overseas, but little information exists on the success rate and the **cultural adjustments** necessary to make it work in North America." (Comiskey 17)
- Majority of information about cell group come the cultural context of overseas or 3rd world context
- Challenges of implementing/adopting the cell system to a North American/ Postmodern/Post-Christian Context
 - Lack of Information
 - There aren't many resources on how to implement cell system in North America
 - "North America is simply a different animal, and those ministering in North America understand the unique cultural differences" (Comiskey 18)
 - Not much is known how much of 3rd world cell system is actually transferable to North American Culture
 - Different Questions for North America
 - 3rd World Context has a different set of presuppositions than the North American Context (Asking different questions)
 - Overseas Presuppositions
 - "How do we reap the Harvest" - Exponential growth (The assumption is the cell group brings growth, but 3rd World Context cell is a means of reaping)
 - Managing the growth
 - North American Presuppositions
 - How do we start growth
 - How do we maintain growth
 - Ultimately, the two different contexts are coming from two different starting points (presuppositions).
 - Missionaries to North America
 - "It's [North America] a harder mission field than many of the overseas locations where the huge cell churches are found." (Comiskey 19)
 - The Mission Field cannot be seen as OVER THERE but as right here
 - "Those ministers in North America and in the western world face unique **cultural** challenges that need to be understood" (Comiskey 19)
 - The Church must learn how to "Exegete the Culture"
- Cell Church Defined
 - Cell is the Church and Celebration is the Church

- Small groups are not cell groups
- "In the cell church, the cell group is the backbone, or center, or church ministry " Comiskey 20
- Cell groups should not be ONE of the programs in the church along side other ministeries.
- People who should read this book
 - Pastors
 - Church Planters
 - Lay People
- Personal Thoughts - It seems to me that there are several keys in implementing a successful cell ministry in N.A. First, is realizing that what worked over there does not necessarily work over here. We must recognize the different cultural context that exists. It's like American Missionaries who go overseas and implement something that worked in the states, but totally culturally irrelevant to the overseas culture. Vice versa, What's happened with the cell system, is that many are trying to implement a system that worked in an overseas culture into an American cultural context. Second, once this reality is recognized then the church/leadership must become anthropologists of the American culture. Like missionaries going overseas, it is important to study the surrounding culture and figure out how to implement it. Blind assumptions is damaging to both the church and the people being ministered to. Third, not only should culture be studied, but cell system and cell principles should be studied in order to properly implement.

Chapter 1 - The State of the North American Church

- Three Characteristics of the North American Culture
 - Materialism
 - Secularism
 - Immorality
- Not in Kansas Anymore
 - "For too long we've considered going "over there" to do missions. It's now time to realize that the mission field is North America." (Comiskey 27)
 - Leonard Sweet writes, "Only two countries have more nonbelievers than the US: India and China. The US is the third largest mission field in the world." (Comiskey 27)
- Population Explosion - Church Implosion
 - "The Reality is that there is an overall decline of church growth in North America - even though some mega churches are exploding.
 - Most mega-church growth is transfer growth
 - The Mega-Church growth suits the consumer-shopping mentality of North American Culture (Materialism)
 - Growth can not be measured by attendance in a worship service - "Measuring results in terms of increased attendance at worship services and other church-related activities creates a premature sense of achievement."
- Beyond Church Attendance
 - Traditionally church growth has been measured by "Attendance, Buildings, and Cash"

- "**The future of the church depends on whether it develops true community.** We can get by for a while on size, skilled communication, and programs to meet every need, but unless we sense that we belong to each other, with masks off, the vibrant church of today will become the powerless church of tomorrow" (Comiskey 30)
- Sunday Service is NOT the focus
- Seeker model is nearly IMPOSSIBLE to replicate
 - Continuous flow of creativity
 - Large Resources
 - Complicated system
 - Small churches need to compete with MTV
- Frequent Church Closure
 - 3x as many churches in America are closing (3750 per year) as are opening (1350 per year)
 - Church planting is necessary for the church to stay relevant in the 20th century
 - "We need pioneers who are skilled at friendship evangelism, prayer, and leading a cell group. Cell ministry is a perfect breeding ground to prepare new pastors and ministers" (Comiskey 31)
- Fog in the Pulpit
 - "Satan knows that infecting the church with a deadly virus won't happen with one injection. The virus is introduced **gradually** through *unbiblical preaching*. *Liberal teaching* sprinkled with *half truths* confuses the hearers, causing them to stray from God's path." (Comiskey 31)
 - Survey indicates that 50% of the pastors in the pulpit today don't have a Biblical Worldview
 - Christian divorce rate continues to spiral out of control
 - New models of church seem to grow through high performance techniques, shorter sermons, and less worship. - "Christian-light"
 - Church CAN NOT COMPETE with the world in performance, in professionalism, in presentation. Barna writes, "The church is fighting a losing battle by trying to become more comfortable and more attractive to the world around them. Church events cannot effectively compete with what the world has to offer. The only thing the Church can provide that no one else has is a life-changing, practical encounter - and on going relationship - with the living God and with people transformed by similar encounters."
- Materialism
 - The statistics indicate that the more money a person earns, the less he or she is willing to give to the Lord.
 - Francis Schaeffer warned of the danger that the church would eventually adopt the two "terrible values" of "personal peace and affluence"
- Hopeful Signs (In the American Church)
 - Small groups focused on prayer, Bible Study, and fellowship shot up from 11% in 1994 to 26% in 2004
 - The move is towards Tribal/individualized groups than congregational in nature.
 - Tribes Vs. Congregation (for more information check out Seth Godin's book "Tribes).

- People are wanting to experience Christianity
- "People are unwilling to sit while the preacher performs. The pulpiter who can attract great multitudes is becoming less and less relevant in an age of decentralization, quick movement, and rapid deployment.
- *Keys to understanding American Culture*
 - Decentralization vs. Centralization (Spider and the Starfish)
 - Centralized leadership leads by position
 - Decentralized leadership by influence
 - Quick movement (Adaption/flexibility)
 - Rapid deployment (Pioneers/innovation)
- Mission efforts in America
 - "We're on a mission field, and this should refocus all of us ministering in this land." (Comiskey 34)
 - "God is looking for church planters and pastors who are willing to **study North America the way missionaries study a foreign culture.**" (Comiskey 34) *KEY QUOTE*

Chapter 2 - Obstacles to North American Cell Church

- Obstacle #1: Church as a Sunday Morning Event
 - "church" has been equated with the large group gathering on Sunday Morning
 - "traditional" church is spectator in nature - this does not empower and create disciples.
 - Most seminaries teach pastors based on the Reformation view that the church is the place where people gather to hear the preacher
 - The Cell Church Solution
 - Re-emphasis on the priesthood of all believers ministering to one another through the gifts of the Spirit (Everyone gets to play)
 - Church needs to not be defined as a place but by a people
 - Preparing the laity to do the ministry is a radical, refreshing, change
- Obstacle #2: Church as a Building
 - Church has been equated with the building
 - Some congregation are bound to their buildings - this gives an inward focus and not an outward thrust that cells bring
 - "After paying large sums of money to erect the building, the church feels obligated to use it continually."
 - Cell ministry is not a come and see strategy but a go where people live strategy. Expecting people to come to the building where the small groups meet defeats a key purpose behind cell ministry - penetrating a lost society for Jesus
 - Raising money for a church building project saps the strength of the cell ministry because the emphasis is moved away from the small groups to the Sunday service - especially for the tithes and offering.
 - The Cell Church Solution
 - Take offerings during cells as well as celebration
 - Cells can be a source of financial growth
- Obstacle #3 Individualism

- Because the majority of 3rd world cultures think and act as a group, cell ministry seems more comfortable and natural.
- North America culture in general focuses on the individual as opposed to the group
- Individualism is not necessarily bad - it is a cultural trait. Like all other traits, there are good and bad parts to it.
- Positives of individualism
 - individual dignity
 - human rights
 - Personal growth
- Negatives of individualism
 - isolationism
 - Break down of the family
- The Cell Church Solution
 - People who participate in small groups in North America normally don't experience the same "group feeling" as participants in other cultures but there are other advantages.
 - North Americans are more willing to share their individual stories and participate deeply in the small group.
 - Because of North American Isolationism there is a need for communities in North America
 - There is a deep desire for intimate relationships
- Obstacle #4 Task Orientation
 - North Americans are high on task orientation and low on relationships
 - Task-oriented people consider social activities a drain on their productive time and often prefer the solitude of working alone and uninterrupted - Cell groups should not feel like PART OF THE JOB!
 - In North America, rewards are granted according to achievement rather than personal relationships
 - People are defined by what they have done and not by who they know (relationships)
 - The Cell Church Solution
 - Cell Ministry is task oriented
 - Fellowship and community should take place in the process or as part of the mission
 - It's clarity that makes the cell church strategy doable in any culture, whether in North America or overseas
- Obstacle #5 Busyness
 - North Americans are very busy
 - Hard work is an important value in North America
 - Busyness is a relative term and it speaks of values more than of a flurry of activities
 - Busyness simply means doing things that are considered important
 - You can be busy building relationships
 - Busyness is not limited to tasks - it's what is considered important
 - The Cell Church Solution

- The cell church passion must start in the heart of the lead pastor and key leaders. if the senior minister isn't involved in cell ministry, church members will certainly not give it the time of day
- The issue is not to do less but to change values or to give higher value to something
- *Personal Suggestions*
 - Eric Bryant from Mosaic shared a story about how the set up team on Sunday's meet half an hour before set up to hang out and get to know each other. Setting up becomes a natural out flow of the relationship/community
 - What does your community value and give it to them ON top of cell life. These are not mutually exclusive items. You can be friends and do cell group. You can STUDY and go to cell group
- Obstacle #6: North American Culture
 - North American Culture should be seen as a diverse group of cultures.
 - Ethnic cultural distinctions have been blended with the overall American culture
 - Culture is not just ethnic groups but generational groups
 - Baby Boomers - are attracted to high tech and high professionalism
 - Generation X are attracted to large group dynamics and very consumer based. Entertainment based
 - Postmoderns - High on authentic relationships and community. Simplicity and authenticity are the keys
 - North American Culture is CONSTANTLY changing - (again the importance of understanding the shift from Big eats small to the Fast eats the slow) - Decentralized leadership vs. Centralized Leadership
 - Cell Church Solution
 - Cell churches are meant to be flexible and adaptable
 - Leaders must learn to adapt and tailor cell structure to culture - "if you want to minister to the culture you must reflect the culture" - Charles Lee
 - Leaders must understand the culture in order to adapt cells to culture
 - Culture vs. Sub-cultures - Culture = General, Sub-culture = specifics.

Chapter 3 - Growing Healthy Churches

- 8 Qualities-related characteristics common in all growing churches
 - Empowering leadership - leaders of growing churches empower others and emphasize the priesthood of all believers
 - Gift-oriented ministry - Growing churches utilize the giftedness of each believer
 - Passionate spirituality - Growing churches are passionate about their relationship with Jesus
 - Functional Structure - growing churches are not led by traditions of the past. Their leadership structure are adaptable.
 - Inspiring worship - growing churches prioritize life-giving cells

- Need-oriented evangelism - growing churches evangelize through meeting needs of others in practical ways
- Loving Relationships - grow churches establish caring relationships among members
- Cell Churches Vs. Conventional Churches
 - 2002 Study showed that cell churches not only grew faster but were far healthier - in every way
 - What is a healthy/holistic small group
 - Emphasis on the application of biblical truth that leads to transformation
 - Exercise of spiritual gifts within small groups
 - Priority of small groups as being just as important as celebration service
 - Multiplication
- Back to Making disciples
 - The focus should be on making disciples not growing attendance
 - When healthy cells/members grow the celebration naturally grows
 - We must grow the church from the inside out (make disciples that are sent out)
 - How to make disciples through cell groups
 - Senior pastor must pay the price by modeling small-group ministry to key leaders and church members
 - Church members must pay the price by actively participating in a cell as part of the normal church commitment
 - Taking the time to build a God-honoring church that makes disciples is not easy

Chapter 4 - Cell Church Models

- One of the keys to successfully building strong cell groups in your own setting is discovering what works in your specific setting and apply the principles that fit the context
- Instead of following ONE model, embrace the Radical middle (take the good principles from each model and apply them to the context)
- Previous Models
 - The Korean Cell Church Movement - Fails to be fully transferable to the North American Context
 - The Meta Model
 - "The key to understanding George's model is recognizing that your church already has existing small groups. These groups might be sunday school classes, the choir, elders, committees, women's circles, etc."
 - The weakness of the model is that cell groups are defined too loosely that it loses most of its qualities
 - Fails to include evangelism
 - Fails to include leadership development
 - Fails to include multiplication
 - The strength of the this model is it's cultural relevance

- The pure, pure, cell church
 - Headed by Ralph Neighor
 - This cell system was written as a reaction towards the conventional church.
 - This system raised up a harsh tone/posture towards other expressions of Christ's Church - (it could not appreciate other movements)
- The G12 Movement
 - Strengths of G12
 - Viewing everyone as a potential leader
 - Asking the leader of the mother church to care for/coach the leader of the daughter church
 - developing a clear, dynamic equipping training track that prepared everyone for ministry
 - emphasizing encounter-with God retreats to ensure freedom from sinful strongholds, believing that holiness brings fruit
 - Prioritizing prayer and spirituality as keys to future growth
 - Weakness of G12
 - Commit to following the G12 model EXACTLY (no flexibility)
 - Believe that the number 12 has special significance and even an anointing attached to it
 - Commit 100% to use only ICM materials
 - develop strict homogeneity in cell networks
 - have zeal for only one cell model, rather than seeing themselves as part of a wider cell church family
- The Point is that principles, rather than models, help cell churches grow.
- The Radical Middle
 - It is a balance between cell quality and cultural relevance
 - The word radical means that cell ministry will often go against the grain of conventional thinking that says Sunday Morning is CHURCH
 - The Middle is important because the sensitive cell church leader must make sure that the congregation is following and not left behind in a trail of idealism.
 - Leaders in the Radical Middle resist the tendency to water down the definition of true cell, fiercely desiring to maintain quality control. Yet, these same leaders don't want all the baggage associated with the "pure, pure, cell church"
 - Three concepts define the heart of the radical middle. Beyond these three flexibility reigns
 - Guidance by the senior leaders
 - Senior pastor, must guide the cell group vision
 - cell church ministry succeeds or fails by whether senior leadership is promoting and living it
 - Senior leaders should grow in their knowledge of cell-based ministry
 - reading the literature
 - visiting cell churches

- being involved in the battle
- Clear definition of a cell
 - The strength of the cell church resides in the quality of the cell
 - Flexibility should be given to
 - homogeneity
 - lesson material
 - order of cell meeting
 - location of the meeting
 - degree of participation
 - Aspects that MUST be maintained in cell group
 - Regularity (weekly meetings)
 - Penetration (cells meet outside the church building to penetrate the world where people live, move and breath)
 - Evangelism
 - Community (people are dying for relationships and cell groups offer close community)
 - Discipleship/spiritual growth
 - Multiplication
 - Defining a cell group according to quality components has nothing to do with legalism but everything to do with desiring that those in the cell have a qualitative experience. (Organized vs. organic.. Organized to create the organic)
- Cells as the base of the Church
 - Making cells the base of the church means not allowing other programs to dominate the church schedule
 - Cells must remain the base of the church.
 - Sunday attendance growth comes as the result of growing the cell infrastructure
- Flexibility
 - Apart from the three key components, flexibility reigns in the Radical middle
 - There is liberty to experiment, create, and adapt cell church principles to the church
 - In the Radical middle, no one model is forced on all cell churches
 - The movement of the Radical Middle seeks to discover how cell ministry actually works, rather than how it SHOULD work.

Chapter 5 - Back to the Basics

- The Total Solution
 - Everything done is a partial solution
 - The total solution is that we need God's renewal and revival
- Power ahead of techniques
 - prayer power drives successful cell churches
 - The most powerful witness to non-believers in a postmodern age is demonstrating the power of God, whether in the cell or celebration.

- Many churches feel little need for prayer because the programs and techniques are so effective
- Church growth really is only given by God. GOD GROWS HIS CHURCH
- Churches that pray
 - Meet regularly to pray
 - Joel does once a month extended times of prayer
- Prayer in the cell group
 - Prayer dependence should be seen in the cell as well as in the larger body - not just one or the other
 - Ideas for creating a culture of prayer
 - Break into groups of two or three
 - Ask individual cell members to intercede, calling on them by name
 - Train your group to pray short, conversational prayers that provide greater interaction and agreement
 - During the last 15 minutes of the cell, ask the men to go into one room to pray and the women to pray in another room.
- Cells are simply the conduit of the Holy Spirit; they are not an end in themselves

Chapter 6 - Life-giving Communities

- In many parts of the world, the need of relationships is not as urgent as it is in North America
- The emphasis of community is a principle that is absolutely essential in North America
- The Need for Community
 - Many in this post-Christian era are earnestly longing for familial relationships
 - The lack of community in North America is due to the increased television watching, flight to the suburbs, long-distance travel to work, and generational change
 - What Generational Next (postmoderns want)
 - To experience community and deeper relationships
 - To believe that life is meaningful and has a purpose
 - To be appreciated and respected
 - To be listened and heard
- The Nature of Cell
 - Each member is a priest who ministers
 - Cell ministry is specifically designed to tear away layers of pain and hidden agendas and to apply God's Word to real needs.
 - Dynamics of Cell Group
 - Icebreaker (welcome) - Reveals a lot about people
 - Worship draws the members into the presence of God
 - Lessons should ask for participation and contribution
 - Vision Casting requires group involvement
 - Cell meetings should not be longer than 1.5 hours
 - We must allow for spontaneous interaction
- Difficulties of Promoting Community

- Promoting small-group ministry is not easy or popular. The emphasis is usually on Sunday Service/events
- Most pastors have little time and energy left to build the cell infrastructure
- Many pastors don't want to see the problems of their people (nor do they want to share their vulnerabilities).
- "Ordinary people have the power to change other people's lives.. The power is found in connection, that profound meeting when the truest part of one's soul meets the emptiest recesses in another's and finds something there when life passes from one to the other." Larry Crabb
- Community and Evangelism
 - One common objection is that if the small group is evangelizing, it won't grow in community
 - Research and experience shows that more biblical communities develop when a cell reaches out to non-Christians
 - The newer person actually adds to the growth of the believers in the group by giving them an opportunity to ministry
 - **We must take the new baby in the family mentality**
 - When a small group has a common evangelistic objective, it starts working together to accomplish a goal
 - The friendship and love (community) develops in the process of reaching out as a group to non-Christians
- Community and transformation
 - Transformation takes place when a community is encouraged to be open and honest in their sharing
 - Church comes to life as people open up to one another
 - The key is to extend grace in the group

Chapter 7 - Group Evangelism

- Small group evangelism is tough. It takes work. it needs to be a priority
- Cell evangelism is the key distinguishing feature of cell groups
- Cell evangelism must be continually promoted in North American cells
- Penetrating
 - The church must move from being the inviting church becoming the invading church
 - The church must GO to them
 - Penetration means living as the community of the King where people live, work, and breathe. It means getting everyone involved in the process of penetrating a neighborhood, job site, or where ever the groups is meeting
- Fishing with nets
 - Instead of fishing with a pole (one person) fish with nets (as a group)
 - Group Evangelism Ideas
 - Regularly walking the streets to pray for people in the neighborhood
 - Greet people in a friendly, loving way as you pass them by
 - Sometimes members might feel like they should speak to the people
 - BBQ, picnics, friendship dinners, movies,

- One group in Portland goes to Trail Blazer basketball games every 6 weeks
 - Provides them a way to reach out
 - Provides a point of contact of people AT the game
 - The primary emphasis should be on developing relationships with non-Christians with the goal of eventually inviting them to cell group
- Befriending Sinners
 - Postmodern people generally start farther away from Christ than their predecessors, and therefore will usually take longer in surrendering their life to Christ.
 - Christians must be intentional about developing relationships and planting deeds through servant and ministry evangelism projects
 - Cell Evangelism works best when each of the members is proactively getting to know non-Christians and then inviting them to the cell
- Being Transparent
 - Transparency is the best evangelistic tool to reach non-Christians.
 - People without Christ appreciate authenticity.
 - They are thankful when Christians share their struggles, because often the non-Christian is going through situations far worse but without Jesus' help.
- Positioning cell to evangelize
 - The lead pastor's role is critical in maintaining the evangelistic focus
 - The natural tendency is for the group to turn inward and become self-absorbing.
- Harvesting through celebration
 - I believe that the purpose of a celebration service is primarily to focus on God and His Glory.
 - Non-Christians are evangelized by the powerful presence of God in the service
 - Keys to harvesting in the celebration (pg. 84)
 - Powerful, dynamic worship
 - Expository preaching
- Persisting
 - Evangelism is difficult work but we must persist
 - The key is persistence.

Chapter 8 Disciple Making

- We must redefine success in terms of making disciples rather than building attendance.
- The Reformation of Church Growth
 - The Impact of Church Growth Movement on Local Churches
 - Success is equated with growing church attendance
 - The focus is not on the small groups but on the Sunday Celebration
 - The Church takes an attractional approach to ministry rather than a missional (going) approach.
 - Celebration attendance should be a result of the real work of the week.
 - Postmoderns are not interested in being attracted to a large service.
 - It's a move away from a representation to participation

- They want to be prepared for service (or the mission)
- The Cell-driven church
 - Cell-driven church concentrates on growing the church from the inside out
 - The cell-driven strategy is simple
 - concentrate on developing new leaders through cells
 - They in turn will reap the harvest
 - Instead of focusing on attracting the church focuses on
 - developing new leaders
 - multiplying the infrastructure
- Incorrect Application of the two-winged church
 - "Two Winged Church" Refers to a cell church that focus on both cell and celebration
 - Wrong application
 - one group oversees/focus on Sunday celebration and the other focus on Cell
 - No integration between cell and celebration
 - How to rightly apply the "two-wing" concept
 - Start from top to bottom - move the staff through the transition first
 - Senior pastor must be the cell-director and oversee the infrastructure
 - Each Staff must lead a cell
 - Staff meetings should be focused on
 - give up to date stats on the state of the cell ministry
 - Sharing of vision/plans
 - Prayer
 - THEN afterwards talk about ministry items
- Discipleship Defined
 - Jesus told his disciples to make disciples
 - Joel defines discipleship on levels
 - D-1 Disciple (member of a cell and training track)
 - Moving towards baptism
 - being taught to obey the commandments of Jesus
 - Key training
 - Doctrinal teaching
 - holiness
 - baptism
 - evangelism
 - preparation to minister to others
 - D-2 Disciple (associate leader)
 - Person is in cell
 - taking the next step in the training track
 - helping in cell
 - D-3 Disciple (cell leader)
 - Gathering people together
 - starting/leading own cell
 - Graduated from the training track
 - D-4 Disciple (multiplication leader)
 - Cell leader who has developed another disciple who has multiplied out and is leading their own cell

- Cells as disciple makers
 - Commitment to cell ministry is a commitment to leadership development
 - Cells are leadership breeders
 - Cells provide a place for leaders to use and develop their gifts.
- Biblical and doable success
 - Sunday growth comes as a RESULT of making disciples
 - Focus is on disciple making not on growth

Chapter 9 - Doable Training

- Training is different from education
 - Education
 - Should never end
 - expanding activity
 - it provides concepts and information for developing
 - broader perspectives
 - the foundation for making key analysis and decisions
 - Training
 - Limited in time
 - Narrowing activity that is focused
 - attempts to provide specific skills and the necessary understanding to apply those skills
 - The focus is on accomplishing a specific task or job
 - Training is what produces cell leaders
- Rapid preparation
 - Training track is a clearly defined path that prepares believers to become disciples who lead cell groups
 - cell church training tracks feature clarity of training
 - Disciples are developed at each level of the journey, from conversion to leading a cell group - and then beyond leading a cell group to further training
- Difference from general education model
 - Conventional Sunday model of church emphasizes Christian education on Sunday
 - Most believers go away full of knowledge but little practical outlet to practice the knowledge
 - Churches must encourage members to be lifetime learners, but it almost must TRAIN the members
- 7 Principles that are vital to effective training tracks
 - Principle #1 - Keeping the training track simple
 - Principle #2 - Provide action steps with the training
 - Example 1
 - first step - learn foundation truths of the Christian Life
 - action step - get baptized
 - Example 2
 - 2nd step - attend an encounter retreat
 - Action step - break from sinful habits
 - Example 3
 - 3rd Step - learn how to have a quiet time

- Action step - have a daily quiet time
 - Principle #3 - Prepare a Second level of training for small group leaders
 - There should be at least 2 levels in the training track
 - 2nd level should include
 - additional doctrinal courses
 - spiritual warfare course
 - teaching on spiritual gifts
 - Principle #4 - Acknowledge variety of methodology
 - Don't confuse the methodology with the training track
 - Different methodology
 - one on one
 - one on two
 - train after cell
 - train during Sunday School hour
 - Principle #5 - Use only one equipping track
 - Decide on a church wide training track
 - More mature leaders who have taken training in the past can be given credit for subjects they've already mastered (Bible, Evangelism)
 - Recommended that EVERYONE goes through
 - Encounters step
 - How to lead a cell group training
 - Principle #6 - Train everyone as a Potential Cell Leader
 - churches must view everyone as potential leaders
 - We can not limit a leader to a specific TYPE of a person.
 - "But as soon as a church accepts the thinking that only certain people can lead a group, the church limits itself to subjectively trying to figure out who is the 'leader type'" (Comiskey 101)
 - Principle #7 - Continually adjust and improve the training - The best pastors fine-tune their equipping track continually based on the feedback
- Sample Training Track
 - Training Level 1
 - Join a cell group
 - Complete the course Crossfire -
 - **Action Step:** get baptized and become a member
 - Attend an encounter retreat -
 - **Action Step:** Break sinful habits
 - Complete the course How to have a Quiet Time -
 - **Action step:**
 - Practice regular personal devotions,
 - being assigned an accountability partner by the cell leader,
 - agree to service as an apprentice cell leader,
 - complete spiritual life assessment
 - Complete course How to Evangelize -
 - **Action step:** Evangelize and set a launch date for your own cell group

- Complete the course How to Lead a cell group - **Action step:**
Launch a cell group
 - Training Level II
 - Be leading an active cell group
 - Complete the course How to Study the Bible for Yourself
 - Complete the course How to Study the Bible for Sharing with Others
 - Complete two of the following courses
 - The Pentateuch
 - The Life of Christ
 - The Book of Acts
 - The Epistles
 - **Action Steps for Level :**
 - Multiply a cell group at least once
 - Take a short-term missions trip
 - Training Level III
 - Ministers Study Program (this is a self-study program that is guided by a mentor, and the goal is for someone to become a licensed Christian Worker)
 - Training Level IV - Year-long self-funded internship

Chapter 10 - Coaching

- Coaching as the key
 - Jim Egli (Vineyard) researched small-group churches around the world and discovered that coaching is the key element for long-term success
 - The difference between groups that start and fizzle and those that last is coaching
- Coach Basics
 - Nail down a minimum time requirements for the coach to spend with the leader
 - Recommendation
 - One Face to face meeting a month
 - One phone call a month
 - Contact should be made every two weeks (at least)
- Group Meetings
 - The Senior Pastor and his team
 - Staff should meet weekly
 - during the group coaching meetings, the senior pastor ministers to his key leaders through the Word and prayer
 - The group then talks about the cell system by carefully analyzing cell statistics, the training track, multiplication dates, and prayer needs
 - Lay coaches with cell leader
 - 2 contacts per month
 - quarterly huddles with all cell leaders
- Nature of coaching
 - Listening

- Encouragement
- Care
- development
- Challenge
- strategizing
- Receiving
- The Marathon
 - Small group leaders must have high-quality support line
 - Without coaching, cell leaders are left to fend for themselves in a spiritual battle ground of discouragement, doubt, and frustration

Chapter 11 - Priesthood of All Believers

- North American churches promote the gifts of the Spirit in the context of ministries within the Church. These churches make the assumption that gift usage and church programs/ministries are intimately bound together.
- New Testament Ministry
 - The gifts were used in small group settings
 - home-cell atmosphere enhances the exercise of spiritual gifts
- Identification of Gifts
 - One of the main secrets behind discovering spiritual giftedness is trying to determine the "desire level."
 - Exercising a gift should not be a chore but a joy.
 - Another key test is the confirmation of others
- Use of Gifts
 - Effective cell leaders encourage everyone in the cell to use their particular gifts so the body might be edified and non-Christians might be won to Christ
 - Ministries involved with the celebration wing of the church are limited
 - Worship leaders
 - Preacher
 - Ushers
 - Cell provides an avenue for more usage
 - ****QUESTION**** - Doesn't cell ministry limit the gifts as well?
 - Compassion ministry is limited to visitation of someone who is sick?
 - Leadership is limited to cell ministry?

Chapter 12 - Cells Celebrating on Sunday

- Promotion of cell on Sunday
 - The announcements, activities, and church-related tasks all seem to indicate that church priorities
 - Pastor's personal involvement
 - The lead pastor is the primary channel to promote cell ministry during the celebration
 - He is the gatekeeper through which publicity flows
 - Pastor's Sermon

- Pastor's involvement in cell allows the pastor freely add cell examples to sermons
- Pastor's should be involved in
 - community
 - body-life evangelism
 - leadership development
 - use of spiritual gifts
- Eventually the congregation should begin to realize that cell life is the normal Christian life.
- Bulletin
 - Cell ministry can find a great friend in the bulletin
 - Bulletin should highlight a cell testimony
- Announcement
 - Cell ministry should a priority during announcements
 - Some ideas for announcement time
 - ask a cell member who has been transformed through relational ministry to share what God has done
 - Share a testimony of healing
 - presentation of new cell leaders/multiplication leaders to the entire church
- Other Cell indicators
 - A visitor should be able to detect the philosophy and priority of the church from the Sunday Service
 - Ways to communicate the priority of cell groups
 - Books in the book store
 - Reading material on what cell ministry is
 - Weekly cell lessons posted
 - map of the city and the location of various cell groups.

Chapter 13 - Cell Church Planting

- Snapshot of cell church planting
 - Models of cell planting
 - mother-daughter
 - satellite cell church plant
 - from scratch
 - Simplicity is the key to cell church planting
 - Does not require big budget
 - Does not require a building
 - Do not become dependent on these things
 - Church planters should seek out a core team
 - Either from mother church
 - From new converts
 - Return to Simplicity
 - More and more leaders around the world are attracted to a simple form of church life, one that does not require huge budget and super-talented preachers

- Tomorrow's cell church won't depend on large buildings or technology to make it work
- The beauty of a simple cell church is that it's reproducible
- Typical flow of a simple cell church
 - attend a cell
 - receive training
 - plant a cell
 - Multiply the cell several times
 - coach the leaders who have multiplied out
 - receive higher-level biblical training
 - plant a church in the US or overseas using the same strategy