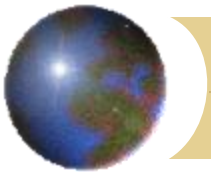


The Global House Church Movement:

A Missions Fest Vancouver Seminar

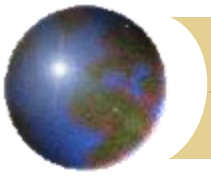
with Dr. Randy Wolf

Serving with *The Journey* house church network and as a church planting missionary with the Evangelical Free Church



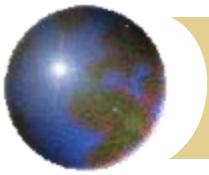
Seminar Outline

- ✚ House church case studies
- ✚ Characteristics of church planting movements
- ✚ Getting started



Seminar Outline

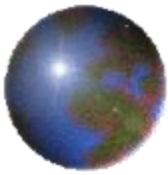
✚ House church case studies



Worldwide

- ✚ It is estimated that worldwide there are approximately:
 - ✚ 450 million Christians within conventional churches
 - ✚ 10 million in cell-based churches
 - ✚ 450 million in simple, organic structures such as house churches, or meeting outdoors

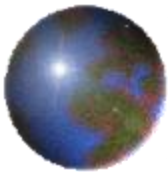
Source – Dale (2005)



Case study - China



- ✦ China went from having approximately five million believers (1949) to 80-130 million today
 - ✦ Tens of millions of believers are part of house churches
 - ✦ Even if freedom came, the Chinese house leaders have said that they would continue to use the house church approach
 - ✦ House church leaders hope to send out 100,000 missionaries into unreached Muslim, Hindu, and Buddhist regions (initiative called Back to Jerusalem)
- Sources – Brother Yun et al (2003), Zdero (2004)



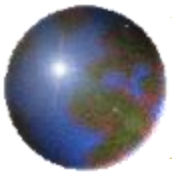
Case study - India



- ✦ Victor Choudrie, a leading spokesperson for the house church movement in India, estimates that 100,000 house churches started in India from 2001-2006.

"These little house churches in India are like the starfish, the more you divide them the more they replicate." (Choudhrie, 2007, p. 308)

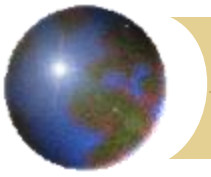
- ✦ An Indian housewife started 50 churches in just 12 months (Dale, 2005)
- ✦ A Ph.D. graduate and his 13 year-old son started a church with a street vendor (Dale, 2005)



Case study - Nepal

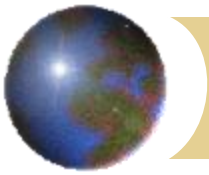
- ✚ Children as young as 9 or 10 are starting churches (Dale, 2005).





Case study - Philippines

- ✿ Eman Abrea and partners saw the planting of almost 50 house churches in just one year (Abrea, 2007).
- ✿ Romulos Nacua and a few others began 13 house churches in 2000. There are now 400 house churches in the Visayas House Church Network (Nacua, 2007).

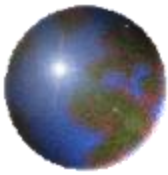


Case study - Myanmar



- ✦ Ram Lian started the Household Church Mission (HCM) in 2005.
- ✦ In 2007, 10 students were planting 18 house churches.
- ✦ HCM's vision is to see 1,000 house churches planted by the year 2030.
- ✦ The HCM mission is to train leaders to start a church from their homes and multiply as God leads them to serve the world for Christ.

Source – Lian (2007)

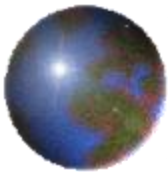


Case study - Ethiopia

- ✿ In 1982, the Ethiopian government outlawed the Meserete Kristos Church. It was comprised of 14 congregations with 5,000 members.
- ✿ The church went underground and started meeting in small groups.
- ✿ In 1992, when the Meserete Kristos Church could surface again, its numbers had grown to 50,000.

Source – Case Study (Ethiopia) in Nexus (2007).

Note: You can hear more about the story of the Meserete Church in the film "Against Great Odds" distributed by www.visionvideo.com.

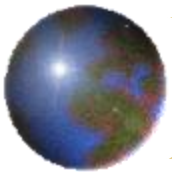


Case study - Russia



- ✚ Harold Zimmerman and Home Fellowship Leaders International (www.homefellowshipleaders.com) supply literature to a growing number of Russian house churches (800 currently)

Source – Zimmerman (2007)



Case study - Britain



- ❖ A house church movement emerged in Britain in the 1960's and 70's.
- ❖ Many of these house churches became "New Churches" as they moved into larger facilities.
- ❖ Noble (2007) believes that the house church movement in Britain, although it has waned in recent years, did much to restore vitality to the church in Britain.



Case study – United States

- ✦ It is estimated that there are 5 million people in the U.S. who are involved in house churches (Dale and Dale, 2007).
- ✦ Neil Cole started his first organic church in a coffee shop. This was the start of Church Multiplication Associates (CMA – www.cmaresources.com)
- ✦ In 2000, CMA started 10 new churches.
- ✦ Second year, 52 church starts.
- ✦ In 2002, CMA saw 106 churches started.
- ✦ In 2007, they had seen well over 1,000 churches started in 36 states and 31 nations.

Sources – Cole (2007) and Cole (2005)



Churchgoers Putting Feet to Their Longings in the U.S.

	2000
Conventional church	70%
Alternative faith-based community (e.g. house churches, cyber-churches, marketplace churches)	5%
Family	5%
Media, arts, culture	20%

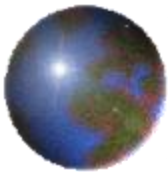
Source - Barna (2005)



Churchgoers Putting Feet to Their Longings in the U.S.

	2000	2025
Conventional church	70%	30-35%
Alternative faith-based community (e.g. house churches, cyber-churches, marketplace churches)	5%	30-35%
Family	5%	5%
Media, arts, culture	20%	30-35%

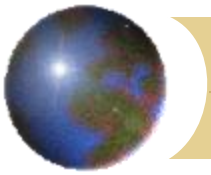
Source - Barna (2005)



Case study – Canada



- ✿ The Canadian House Church Network serves as a resource for house churches (www.outreach.ca/OC2-Planting/7-HouseChurches/HC-home.htm).
- ✿ Ross Rains started Pathfinders Fellowships, which now has 11 house churches across Canada (www.pathfindersfellowships.com).
- ✿ The Journey (www.journeypath.com) seeks to help individuals, groups, and churches start simple churches.



Case study – Cuba

- ✦ In the 1990's fuel shortages and government restrictions on the registration of churches led many Cubans into house churches.
- ✦ Today, it is estimated that there are approximately 10,000 house churches in Cuba.

Source – Belz (2007)

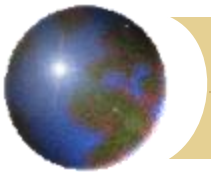


Case study – Ecuador



- ✦ Guy Muse and other missionaries of the International Mission Board have helped national plant over 250 house churches in Ecuador since 2000 (though only half continue to function).

Source – Muse (2007)

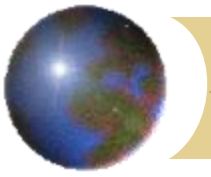


Case study – Basic Ecclesial Communities



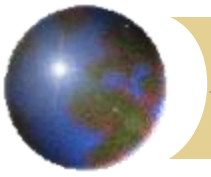
- ✚ House churches are not limited to Protestant Christianity. In 1985, it was estimated that there were over 100,000 Basic Ecclesial Communities associated with the Catholic Church.

Source – Allen (2007) and Driver (2007)



Case study – Muslim world

- ✦ In an Asian Muslim country, more than 150,000 Muslims embrace Jesus and gather in more than 3,000 locally led Isa Jamaats or Jesus Groups (Garrison, 2004).



Seminar Outline

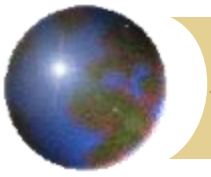
- ✚ House church case studies
- ✚ Characteristics of church planting movements



Characteristics of Church Planting Movements

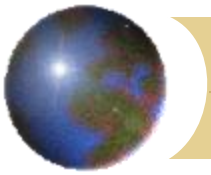
- ⊕ Extraordinary prayer
- ⊕ Abundant gospel sowing
- ⊕ Intentional church planting
- ⊕ Scriptural authority
- ⊕ Local leadership
- ⊕ Lay leadership
- ⊕ Cell or house churches
- ⊕ Churches planting churches
- ⊕ Rapid reproduction
- ⊕ Healthy churches

How do these characteristics and associated practices contribute to church planting movements?



Seminar Outline

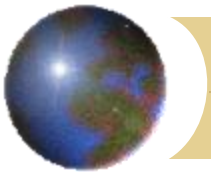
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Getting Started

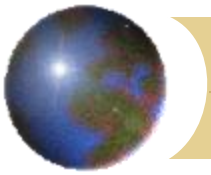
Where are you at right now?

- ❖ A rhetorical embrace
- ❖ A simmering vision
- ❖ Faith seeking understanding
- ❖ Passionate pursuit
- ❖ Riding the wave



Getting Started

- ✦ Make room
- ✦ Strengthen your prayer life
- ✦ Begin at the end
- ✦ Think strategically
- ✦ Identify non-Christians in your life
- ✦ Look for and reach out to people of peace (Luke 10)



Getting Started

- ✦ Engage in spiritually meaningful discussions with people of peace
- ✦ Disciple the seekers
- ✦ Baptize those who repent and receive Jesus as Lord
- ✦ Equip them to grow, to serve fellow believers, and to reach the lost
- ✦ Send them out to repeat the whole process



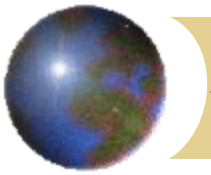
Conclusion

Many Chinese Christians believe that:

“It is good for a Christian to lead someone to Christ.

It is better to plant a church.

It is best to start a church-planting movement.”



Possible Next Steps

- ✦ Prayerfully work through the relevant parts of the “Getting Started” worksheet
- ✦ Attend a “Getting Started” training event (9:00-3:00 on April 5 in Langley)

Note: You can sign up on the signup list on the resource table (max. 15 people) or contact me (wolf@telus.net or 604.530.9220).