

TOPIC: BBTC DIRECTION - FULFILLING OUR PURPOSE

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Date: 16 August 2009

SUMMARY OF MESSAGE

Mission Statement: To share Christ as we mature in Him.

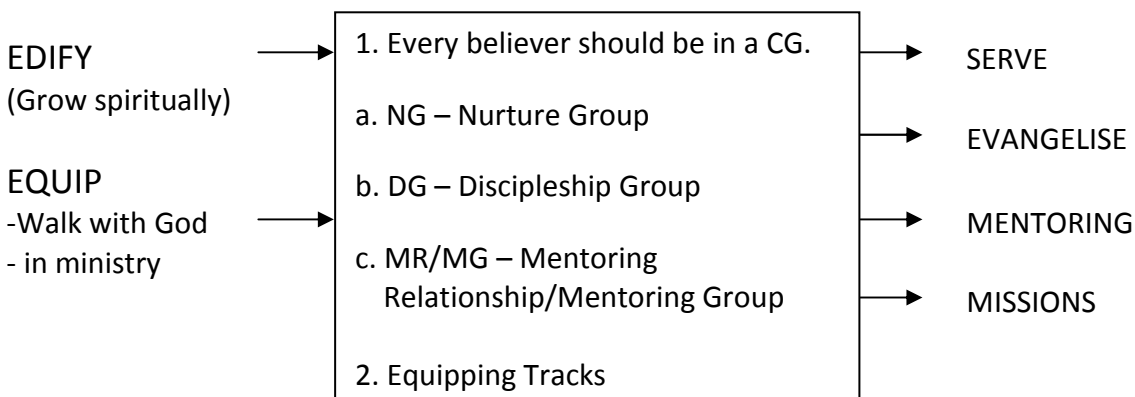
We need to mature first and then to share Christ. In Matthew 28, we are told to make disciples. The church is not any social club but one called to make disciples. That's why BBTC is an Intentional Disciple-Making Church (IDMC).

What is a discipleship? He is a learner of Christ. We are first a Christian before we are a doctor, dentist, sales representative, businessman, teacher, etc. When we understand our identity, our purpose becomes clearer. Let's look at our relational infrastructure as below:

<u>BBTC Relational Infrastructure</u>		
Group Dynamics	Name	Purpose
Large Group/ Worship Service	Celebration	Unity
Mid-size Group	Community	Fellowship/Bridge Building
Small Groups/CGs	Cell	Spiritual Growth
Life to Life – MR/MG	Core	A&C and P&C

When we come together in a big group, it's celebration time. We come as an assembly of people to worship God. At the community level, we carry out bridge-building activities. At the core level, life to life dynamics take place. This is where we account one to another. This is where mentoring relationships or mentoring groups take place. For this to happen, every believer needs to belong to a CG. For new members, someone in the CG ought to be helping them to grow spiritually.

IDMC Template



The Agenda of the CG

Let's run through the 5Gs as a template for the agenda of a CG meeting.

#1. GEL

The purpose of Gel is for relationship bonding with one another.

It takes energy and effort to build relationships. One of the best ways to do this is to have fellowship over a meal. Other possible ways are:

*Over ice-cream	*a walk at the beach	* supper	*shopping	*movie
*Jogging	*chat over tea	* cycling	*Get-togethers	*breakfast

Acts 2:42

And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers.

Why do we fellowship with one another? It's because we are made in His image. God dwells in community – Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. In the throne room, there is a council of the godly ones, of senior angels and others. They discuss things that affect earth. There is community.

#2. GLORIFY

The goal of Glorify is to exalt, honor, praise and worship the LORD.

A. It can be done in the CG as a time of thanksgiving, praise and worship. As in Acts 2:46, 47, the early church continually praised the Lord.

B. It can also be done as Testimony Time of:

* Reconciliation in a relationship	* Answered prayer	* God's timely intervention
* Wisdom to solve a problem	* Favor with boss	* Deliverance from nightmare
* Salvation of a loved one	* Provision of a job	* Protection from the evil one

The goal of testimony is to edify and encourage one another. As a church, the way we posture ourselves to listen to a testimony is important. We should avoid cynicism and skepticism. Don't give ground to the evil one. Learn to rejoice with those who rejoice. We are a family and not each other's enemy. Don't shoot friendly fire.

#3. GROW

The goal is to share the Word and to build faith.

This is not preaching and teaching for head knowledge. The purpose of sharing the Word is not for intensive Bible Study. Rather it's to exhort, edify and comfort one another to live victoriously. Why? It's because we live under stress and pressures of a fallen world. We come together to encourage and pray for one another. In Acts 20:32, Paul said that he commended the believers to God and to the word of His grace which is able to build them up. Instead of tearing one another apart, we need to be gracious to one another and to build each other up.

In the CG, we grow as we apply and practice:

- *P&C
- *Praying for one another
- *No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement
- *Unity in the Spirit
- *Maximum participation
- *A&C
- *No offenses

Our maturity and spiritual maturity will be tested as we grow.

#4. GO

This is to arise to the actual work and task of:

- A) Serving
- b. Evangelism – to reach out to our Oikos
- c. Missions – as a CG when ready.

This means we arrive to the place of actually doing works. What are some ways we can serve?

- *Befriending
- *Sending an sms
- *Serving Breakfast
- *Bridge building event
- *Visitation
- *Praying together
- *Welcoming

Acts 2:44-45

Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods and divided them among all, as anyone had need.

The early church did the above. How do we do this? Over the years, we have a tribe that comes alongside BCCSC, helping by attending to the needs of some children. Now we have other tribes that help to run various events. There are many ways to help or to get things done as a cluster:

- *organize movie/outing/picnic for community and oikos.
- *sponsor refreshments
- *provide transportation
- *be-friending, etc

B) Evangelism
A-B-Cs of Personal Evangelism

- A: Appointment (pray for Divine Appointment)
- B: Boldness (pray for courage and boldness)
- C: Converse and Confess the LORD Jesus Christ

5. GEAR UP

A. Share a core-value from the Word to undergird our zeal for God.
B. Spur one another to arise to fulfill the purpose from the Lord for BBTC.
This means to soil and hands and wet our feet together. It is to keep our spiritual fervor for the Lord.
Look at the example of Paul in Acts 20.

Acts 20:24

However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task (ministry) the Lord Jesus has given me – the task (ministry) of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

In short, for the work of the ministry, we need to enlarge the leadership base and to have maximum participation of all.

Essentials relating to CG life

1. Honor your CG leaders. See Matthew 10:40-41

To the degree we honor them, we receive our rewards. There are different kinds of rewards, i.e. full, partial or no reward. In the workplace, the CEO may not be the smartest person. He has the specialists, the engineers or the professionals who may be smarter than him but these would still have to give honor to him. Likewise honor is due to the CG leader.

2. People Issues:

- a. The purpose of the CG must never be compromised. We need to help our cell leader succeed. Ask how we can come alongside him/her. Be there to multiply, not to divide.
- b. Next, there must be no attempt to use the CG meeting for direct marketing and sales of any product or service. This may be done:
 - outside the formal CG meeting
 - based on your relationship with the person.
- c. Do not presume or expect professional services from church members, e.g. doctors, lawyers. Getting counsel or service from them must be consulted and mutually agreed.
- d. With regards to issue of confidentiality, confidentiality means that those who need to know must know. This is in regard to sickness, travel, blatant sins and behavior that undermine the group and our Christian testimony.

3. Mentoring and Multiplying Spiritual Leaders

What is a mentoring relationship? It is where someone can add value to the life of another. Moses did with Joshua, Elijah with Elisha, Mordecai with Esther, our Lord Jesus Christ with the 12 and the inner core of 3, Paul with Timothy who in turn trained the faithful men. See 2 Tim 2:2

In Esther's case, the Jews were almost annihilated if not for Mordecai who mentored and instructed her on what to do.

Applications:

We can avail ourselves to mentor young mothers.

We can come alongside to mentor new and young teachers.

We can mentor the youth, the young people, etc.

We can come alongside as a model, a sponsor, teacher, counselor, coach, disciple or spiritual guide.

Of course we are not perfect. Hence we do so with fear and trembling.

4. The JI Agenda for MR/MG

What do we share? Use the JI agenda.

- A. J – Journey (share journey of our lives)
 1. From born to being born again.
 2. Significant spiritual milestones of our lives.
 3. Happenings since last meeting.

B. I – Issues (this is about people and situations/circumstances)

1. Issues affect you as a person.
2. Issues affecting your purpose/ministry.
3. Issues as in proposition for discussion.
4. Soak in prayer.

CONCLUSION

Why are certain believers not thriving / victorious in life?

One major reason is seen in 1 Cor 11:29-30:

1 Cor 11:29-30

For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you and many sleep.

Some believers are struggling and striving. What is the Lord's Body? It is the local church. When we backstab and criticize, we are not discerning the Lord's Body. We don't value that Jesus died for the church and hence we continue to have problems in our lives. When we have been doing works of subtraction, we experience problems. It is not our posture to criticize but to appreciate the Body of Christ.

Psalm 92:13

Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

To be planted means:

- You are plugged in the life of a CG
- You are growing spiritually with evidence of life-change
- You serve God in BBTC and His kingdom
- You tithe
- You honor your spiritual leaders
- You flow with all God is doing in BBTC.

Only those who are planted will flourish. We need to be planted in a church and not be there as a spectator but growing spiritually, serving God and tithing. Like the branch abiding in the vine and receiving the sap, we need to abide in God and flow with all that God is doing.

If we say we love God, we would love His Body, the local church and love the people in the CG. We will grow in having an anointed worship, anointed Word, anointed altar, anointed body-life. We will then thrive, i.e. be victorious now in this life and at the judgment Seat of Christ.

Will you commit to do so?

Preliminary before discussion: Do a simple exercise to honor your cell leader. Perhaps the ACGL can initiate this. Options as below:

Option 1:

Issue to each member a small piece of paper. Have each write something on it. It could be a note of thanks, an encouragement, a positive trait about the leader, things learned from the leader, etc (no negative traits to be written). Members need not indicate their names on the paper. Pass the papers to each member for his/her personal viewing at his/her own time.

Option 2:

Have each member say a short prayer to bless the leader.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. For the purpose of building up the CG, share your feedback on the level and dynamics of relationships within the cell and what can be done to further strengthen the bonds.

2. Share what you glean from the message.

3. Share an area/ministry in which you would like to seriously consider serving, helping out or flow along with what BBTC is doing, if you are not already doing so.

4. Are you currently being mentored, looking for a mentor and/or looking to mentor someone? Share your thoughts on the benefits of a mentoring relationship.

5. Why are certain believers not thriving / victorious in life? How do we avoid the pitfalls?

No condemnation, no comparison, no competition but only encouragement...