

Message 3

THE HOMES BECOMING NESTS TO CONTAIN THE NEW ONES

(God's Eternal Purpose is the Church not the campus work and everyone's burden is precious)

I. Moving from a HALL Centered Church life to a Home Centered Church life and becoming Vital Groups as Nests to contain the new ones

- A. The Hall—Focusing on Good Meetings
- B. The Homes—Focusing on People
- C. The Vital Groups—Focusing on Blending

II. A vital group is a blended group, not a collection or a meeting of individual saints.

A. Being blended

In the vital groups we need to be blended by much and thorough prayer, as fine flour of the wheat, with all the members of our group, with the Spirit as the oil, through the death of Christ as the salt, and in the resurrection of Christ as the frankincense, into a dough for the Lord (1 Cor. 5:6-7a; Lev. 2:1-13). To be blended is not merely to be put together as a couple, like a husband and wife. Being "coupled" is not as advanced as being blended....In a sense, the grains, the fine flour, the lump, and the dough are nothing until they become a loaf....The way to become a loaf is to be blended together in the groups. The loaf is the group.... (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, pp. 80-84)

B. Keeping the oneness of the Spirit BY MUCH AND THOROUGH PRAYER

To build up the vital groups, we need to keep the oneness of the Spirit, that is, the oneness of the Body, in the one accord according to the Lord's desire with much and thorough prayer (Eph. 4:3; Acts 1:14; 4:24)....To keep the oneness of the Spirit we need to condemn all the self-exalting views and drop all the divisive opinions....To keep the oneness of the Body in the one accord, we need to forsake all self-preferences and disregard all personal tastes....Finally, to keep the oneness of the Spirit, we need to follow the Spirit's direction and respect our fellow members' feeling. (*Fellowship Concerning the Urgent Need of the Vital Groups*, pp. 84-85)

III. The Community Saints Developing Nests In Their Home Meeting

Psalm 84:3 At Your two altars even the sparrow has found a home; And the swallow, a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young, O Jehovah of hosts, my King and my God.

1. WHERE THE SPARROW CAN MAKE HER NEST
2. SO THE YOUNG CAN GROW UP IN GOD'S HOUSE

A. Nests are for the care and shepherding of New Ones:

The home is a steady and stabilizing unit. Those who are saved in the homes grow up in the homes. Since they are built up in the homes, it is not easy to lose them. In the past the church life was like a social club. When a person was saved, he was frequently ignored because of lack of care and concern. Now the church must be built up in the homes. When a person is saved and baptized, he will not be dropped. Rather, the fruit will remain and be strong.

Crucial Words of Leading in the Lord's Recovery, Book 1: The Vision and Definite Steps for the Practice of the New Way, Chapter 16

B. CRITICAL PRINCIPLES FOR NEST BUILDING

1. Have A Separate Time With Your Core Group Apart From The Home Meeting
2. Prayer, Fellowship And Care For One Another

Phil. 2:25 But I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker, and fellow soldier, and your apostle and minister to my need.

Footnote 1: First a brother, then a fellow worker, and then a fellow soldier

3. Prayer Fellowship And Coordination With One Another

Gal. 6:2 Bear one another's burden, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ completely.

IV. Providing an Environment for Spiritual Progress and Growth

Philippians 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for **your progress and joy of the faith.**

1. When A New One Walks Through The Front Door He/She Doesn't Just Enter A House But Enters The Hearts Of Human Beings.
2. When The New Ones Enter our Heart, Right Away They Are Written Into our Hearts.
3. Thus The Care And Shepherding Takes Place Spontaneously (Prayer and shepherding)

2 Cor. 7:3 ...you are in our hearts for our dying together and our living together.

Colossians 4:12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a slave of Christ Jesus, greets you, always struggling on **your behalf in his prayers that you may stand mature** and fully assured in all the will of God.

V. Spiritual Home to Meet Every Need

SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY

Spiritual Needs: spiritual food and supply, dealing with Condemnation and Comparison

Soulful Needs: Having Moms and Dads, and children, getting through rough times presented by the environment through work, family, health, finances, etc.

Romans 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and **his mother as well as mine.**

1 Thessalonians 2:7 But we were gentle in your midst, as **a nursing mother** would **cherish** her own **children.**

11 Just as you know how *we were* to each one of you, as **a father** to his own children, **exhorting you** and **consoling you** and testifying.

VI. The Important Cherishing And Nourishing Function Of The Community Saints' Homes

Colossians 2:2 That **their hearts may be comforted**, they being knit together in love and **unto all the riches of the full assurance of understanding**, unto the full knowledge of the mystery of God, Christ.

Matthew 24:45 Who then is the faithful and prudent slave, whom the master has set over his household to give them food at the proper time.

Acts 5:42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease **teaching and announcing** the gospel of Jesus as the Christ.

VII.A Place of Mutuality—Asking Questions and getting Answers

Hebrews 10:24-25 Let us consider one another so as to incite one another to love and good works,...exhorting one another.

An Atmosphere where it is so easy to ask questions and receive answers, and everyone can function and answer

1. GAP THEORY
2. WHAT IS GOD'S ECONOMY