

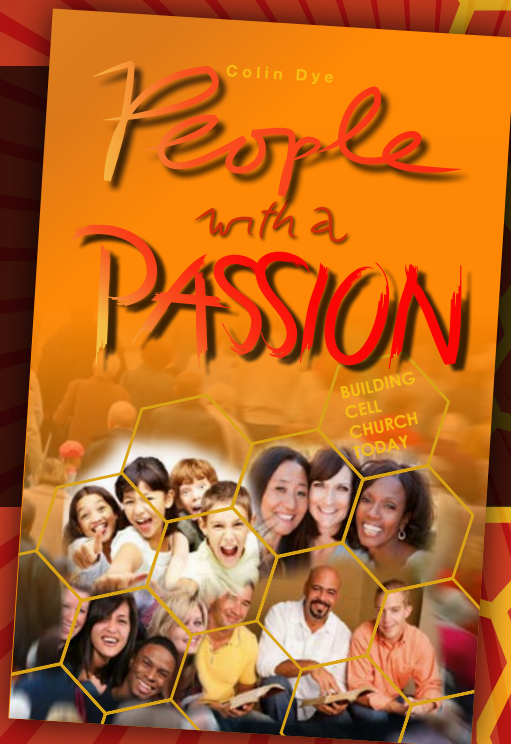
Kensington Temple
Open-Cell Leadership Development Programme (LDP)

VISION HANDBOOK



People with a PASSION

BUILDING CELL CHURCH TODAY



Much of the content in this manual is based on the book entitled **“People with a Passion: Building Cell Church Today”**.

In the book Colin Dye provides a non-technical and accessible approach to cell church according to the Model of 12.

This manual is intended to help you work through its relevant sections.

BUY NOW

“People with a Passion: Building Cell Church Today” is available from KT bookshop at **£5.99** and as Kindle ebook from Amazon.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Leadership Development Programme

The Kensington Temple London City Church *Open-Cell Leadership Development Programme (LDP)* is specifically designed to prepare and activate our members into effective Open-Cell Leadership. To this end there are three essential development tracks that we will focus on: vision, leadership and training. Each LDP track has a companion handbook that guides you through specific resources and learning experiences to equip you for effective Open-Cell leadership.

The most significant person on your journey into successful kingdom leadership will be your LDP trainer. He or she will be an experienced cell leader who will practically coach and help you start and establish your KT Open-Cell group.

The key resource for your training is the book *People with a Passion: Building Cell Church Today* by Colin Dye. Much of the content in the vision and leadership manuals is based on this book and intended to help you work through its relevant sections – especially with your mentor’s help.

1. VISION

Where *there* is no vision, the people perish.

(Proverbs 29:18)

One definition of vision is **an image of the future that we seek to create.**

What is Christ’s vision for his global Church? How does Kensington Temple London City Church fit into this vision? How do we as disciples and trainee leaders play our vital part in reaching and discipling London and the world for Christ? This handbook will focus on the passion that comes directly from God’s vision, values and call upon our lives; it will explain the blueprint of our cell vision, enabling us to effectively implement the divine calling of the Holy Spirit.

2. LEADERSHIP

Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality.

Warren Bennis

“Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

(Matthew 9:38-10-1)

Jesus knew the harvest was plentiful. It was the lack of labourers that was the problem: a lack of numbers but also a lack of quality. Christ's most important ministry on earth before his death was the leadership of his small group of twelve men. Sending out his twelve was his response to the necessities of harvesting. This Model of 12 is also our model here at KT. This handbook will equip you to successfully start, lead and run an Open-Cell, and enable your members to deepen in their discipleship and equip them to be effective witnesses in the vast harvest field of London.

3. TRAINING

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

(Acts 1:1)

It wasn't just what Jesus **taught** that was so powerful – it was what **he did** as a mentoring example to his disciples. He called his disciples to be **with him**. Your experienced trainer will be with you every step of the way in establishing your Open-Cell. With practical advice and encouragement, your trainer will focus on helping you put into practice the things that you learn on LDP. You will use an Open-Cell logbook to chart your progress towards establishing your Open-Cell. You will sign off with your trainer on key completed learning exercises, planning, and practical experiences.

4. ADVANCED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (ADLP)

What we have to learn, we learn by doing.

Aristotle

Once you have graduated from the LDP by establishing your Open-Cell, your training hasn't finished – in fact it has only just begun! At KT we believe in lifelong training for all our leaders. In the LDP we train you in the basics of running an Open-Cell but in the ADLP we aim to train you to become progressively proficient in all aspects of Christian leadership and ministry. We want you to reach your fullest potential as a Christian leader. You will be enabled over the coming years to build up your leadership training profile in key areas such as:

- Pastoral care and people skills
- Theology and doctrine
- Practical ministry
- Communication skills
- Evangelism and missions
- Building your 12 and advanced leadership training
- Fivefold ministry
- Counselling and Christian psychology
- Personal spirituality



Point of contact

An opportunity to personally pause, reflect and respond to something critical to your cell leadership development.



Point of discussion

A place where discussion is encouraged in groups and also with your trainer.



Point of action

A practical application, task or activity for the trainee cell leader to carry out.

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CHAPTER ONE

**Stirring up your spiritual passion
(People with a Passion Ch. 1)**

We all have a basic need to feel passion. We long to experience intense feeling, strong excitement, strong affection, love, intense desire and enthusiasm. Passion is the fire in our eyes, in our bellies and in our lives that drives us forward to achieve the object of our passion. When people lose passion or have no fire in their soul you can tell it right away. They go through their lives as if they are on auto-pilot and the joy seems to have leaked out of them. When people have a passion in life you can see it and feel it. Having passion is a way of living every moment of your life to its fullest. When it comes to having and feeling passion, you know when you have it and you know when you don't. We all need to decide what we are passionate about having or doing in our life and then be open to doing what we need to do to keep it that way.

The book *People with a Passion: Building Cell Church Today* by Colin Dye is the manual that is at the heart of our training to become active Open-Cell leaders. Part one of the manual focuses on stirring up your spiritual passion. Your spiritual passion, will more than anything, determine your success as an Open-Cell leader. All the other training you receive will only be ignited and sustained through spiritual passion.

At the heart of spiritual passion there is always the motivation of a powerful vision.

**Point of contact**

Reflect on the biological cell and its relationship to the human body, and how it parallels the Open-Cell and the local body of Christ it is part of. What makes a cell and a body healthy or unhealthy? List below how this would translate into unhealthy/ healthy Open-Cells and the local church they are part of.

Point of contact - Continued

DISCERNING YOUR PASSION

Your passion is that one thing you are most willing to spend your time, your talents, your energy and your efforts to pursue, even if you attain it only rarely and incompletely. Your passion energises you, invigorates you and galvanises you into action, even when you are tired, discouraged, criticised or opposed. You continue to long for, pursue, and keep on attempting to attain what you are passionate about, despite constant setbacks and disappointments.

Read the last paragraph again and ask yourself honestly, “What’s my passion?” The cell vision calls for people to be passionate about Jesus and his mission. It expects them to centre their lives around Christ and his call on their lives. It champions wholehearted commitment to cell church as the best way of making, maturing and mobilising disciples.



Point of discussion

Discuss the things in life you are passionate about in the light of the above extract from People with a Passion. What are the values and purposes that lie behind those passions? What vision, values and purposes ignite our passion for the cell vision? What things try to quench our passion for Christ's passion and how can we as leaders combat these things?

CHAPTER TWO

**Transforming your spiritual environment
(People with a Passion Ch. 2)**

“You are a product of your spiritual environment.”

“In order to be effective Open-Cell leaders, we must repeatedly and continually challenge the issue of our spiritual environment.”

Cell leaders often share with me what they are up against when they try to motivate and inspire their members to be wholehearted in the cell vision. Recently, Colin Dye's Primary 12 listed the negative aspects of our spiritual and social environment in London. They find themselves fighting daily against busyness, consumerism, selfishness, independence, self-satisfaction, false sense of security, media negativity, political correctness, liberal ethics, breakdown in traditional family values, lack of community, wrong concepts of Christianity, traditional church models, nominal Christianity, false religions, lack of spiritual understanding, prayerlessness and love of wealth. Above all, they face the barriers erected by the flesh at work in the life of believers.

As cell leaders we must locate, identify and overcome the negative aspects of our spiritual environment – both in our lives and the lives of our members. If we don't see the importance of overcoming the spiritual environment, we will go through all the rest of our leadership training will be in vain.

Spiritual environment challenges:

- doubt and unbelief
- spiritual coldness
- fear and intimidation
- spiritual ignorance
- prayerlessness
- mistrust and division
- civilian mentality (non-engagement in the spiritual battle)
- hardness of heart
- barrenness
- lovelessness
- minding the things of self
- neglecting the things of God.

All these things are rooted in the flesh, but can be overcome by the Spirit of God:

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”

(Galatians 5:16-17)

OVERCOME BY BEING ON FIRE FOR GOD!

We guard our hearts and carry the anointing for the ministry God has given us. Like a greenhouse in the Arctic, we maintain an atmosphere conducive for growth and preserve our 'on-fire' spirituality. That is how we achieve what we achieve. People come into our environment and grow rapidly, learning how to maintain high levels of spiritual passion, despite the external prevailing culture. Likewise, all those who pursue the cell vision must work on changing their own spiritual environment into one conducive for discipleship and growth through cells.

We must draw the line in the sand and refuse to allow the spiritual atmosphere to affect us. We must also tear down the strongholds of the mind.



Point of contact

Read Isaiah 35. How does this miracle of a transformed environment speak to your life, our church and London today?



Point of discussion

What are our weapons to combat overcome and change our personal, cell and church spiritual environment?
Examine chapter 2 of *People with a Passion* to help you in this.

MAKING IT PERSONAL: TRANSFORMATION THROUGH CELL MINISTRY

There is no 'I' in team! But there is an 'M' and an 'E'.

The cell vision builds a model of church in which every single member of the church can grow and be fruitful. We emphasise individual responsibility for the Great Commission and we also ensure that no one attempts to go it alone. The very essence of church is corporate relationship – we operate as a body, but to do so effectively, we must be individually healthy, strong and be functioning to full capacity.



Point of action

Meet with your trainer and discuss the two quotes in the beginning of this chapter from *People with a Passion* chapter 2. Together reflect honestly on the spiritual environment of the cell that you are part of and come up with some practical plans to transform your cell's spiritual environment.

The networking structure of cell church means that every person is part of a team of people that in turn link with other teams. Every part connects with the whole and personal effort serves the corporate vision. We uphold both the individual and the community elements of our faith. Sharing and serving together in teams that are connected in interdependent relationships with the whole body is the essence of biblical Christianity.

Prayer and intercession, the crucible of spiritual passion, permeates the community of believers that throw themselves upon God's mercy and grace. Spirit-empowered living reaches the lost, the lonely, the broken-hearted and the hurting. First individuals and then whole communities are transformed. Intentional discipleship mobilises the whole body of Christ to rise up and be counted. That is how we can transform our spiritual environment.

CHAPTER THREE

Passion for souls (People with a Passion Ch. 4)

KEEPING THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING

One of the authentic hallmarks of the cell vision is that it places the gospel at the top of the agenda. The cells prioritise evangelism in their ministry. Technically, they are for both the evangelising of the lost and the encouragement of the believers, but we have found that unless we keep evangelism as our primary purpose, the cell groups easily slip into the comfort of Christian fellowship meetings.



Point of discussion

The twin purposes of the Open-Cell that you will lead are

1. To equip and facilitate your members in successful evangelism.
2. To pastor and disciple your members to the level where they too can become leaders.

How do you maintain a proper balance as a leader in applying these two purposes? What are the dangers of imbalance? Note in the above passage that Colin states that evangelism is the primary purpose of an Open-Cell (not pastoral encouragement). Is this being reflected in our Open-Cells in KT? If not why not? What can we as leaders do about it?

Point of discussion - Continued

THE FATHER'S HEART: LOVE FOR THE LOST

If you draw close to the Father's heart, you will discover it is breaking with love for the lost. He is the God of grace and mercy (*Ephesians 2:3-5 & Psalm 103:7-8*). His love for all humanity led him to send Christ to be the Saviour of the world (*John 3:16*). Judgement is described as his "strange and alien" work (*Isaiah 28:21-22*). He takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (*2 Peter 3:9; Ezekiel 18:23 & 30-32*). But he is absolutely just and cannot go against his holy nature (*Genesis 8:25*). If we reject his grace and his way of salvation, we remain under his wrath, his righteous reaction to sin.

Jesus died for all humanity (*Hebrews 2:9 & 1 John 2:2*) and the preaching of the cross draws us to him (*John 12:32-33; John 6:37 & John 6:44-45*). That's why "the second death" (hell) breaks God's heart (*2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; Revelation 20:6 & Revelation 20:12-15*). If this does not move us with compassion for the lost, nothing will. If we cannot be passionate for the lost souls of the men, women and children around us, I wonder whether we can be passionate about anything. Nothing could ever be more important than this.



Point of contact

Look up and meditate on the scriptures in the above excerpt from PWAP – how passionate is God for the lost? How passionate are you? This is the most important passion in the world and can only come through connecting with the Father's heart through prayer.

Point of contact - Continued

YOU CAN'T WIN THE LOST WITHOUT PRAYER: THE EVANGELISM OF 3 PRAYER TRIPLETS

Prayer triplets are not new, but they are an effective way of involving every single cell member to win people to Christ. We begin by asking cell members to make a list of ten people whom they know, meet regularly and can invite to the cell meetings. Then we focus on three people the Holy Spirit shows us on each of these lists. Joining with two or three other people we begin to pray daily for those on our shortlists. A regular cell meeting will include time for prayer and strategic planning, in order to win these precious people for Christ. The cells then organise their meetings and activities around the goal of reaching their friends with the gospel.

Prayer is the single greatest evidence we have of our dependence on the power of God. Our prayer life also reveals our passion. We pray for the things we most want to see happen. That's why the cell meetings always include time to intercede for the lost, personally by name and with understanding. As we pray, God acts. C.H. Spurgeon, the great Baptist preacher who ministered in London in the 19th century, said, "Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscles of Omnipotence."

A passion for prayer, especially in regard to the lost, is imperative to winning and then consolidating new believers. The KT prayer meetings often focus on prayer for the lost and igniting passion in intercession and should be part of the cell leaders planning for the cell members.

KEEP YOUR CELL OPEN!

Frequently, the cell meets around some social activity such as a meal, a film, a sporting event or a party. Evangelism becomes a lifestyle. We call the regular cell groups Open-Cells because they focus on reaching out to those who do not yet know Christ and bringing them to the cell meeting. The deeper issues of discipleship are reserved for the 'closed cells', which are leadership-focused. In these cell groups, leaders and potential leaders are trained to build their own cells. However, without a genuine passion for the lost, the whole cell vision falls to the ground.

Evangelism is the first step. But to fulfil the Great Commission, we must also be passionate about discipleship.



Point of action

To keep ourselves and our members passionate for the lost, to facilitate prayer for the lost and to organise cell activities that are truly open to the lost is the main role of an Open-Cell leader. Discuss with your trainer practical plans to achieve these priorities. You may find that the Open-Cell that you currently are a member of has departed unwittingly from these priorities. Help and support your current cell leader to rectify this with a proposed plan of action.

SHARE LIFE COURSE

Are you finding it hard to witness to people and to share your faith with others? Have you hit a barrier and you're simply not able to break through in confidence to bring someone to church?

Sometimes we can become very frustrated with ourselves and we can even lose hope wondering if we will ever lead someone to faith in Christ, or be confident enough to engage with people at work about our faith?

In all our discipleship groups each of us are praying for three people who don't know Jesus to be saved each month. We call this our Evangelism of 3. Many of us have been praying for long time and have seen no-one come to church or an event as yet. This is because we are finding it difficult to engage with people about faith on a regular basis. And engaging with people about faith in London can also feel confrontational. **So how do we do it?**

The course called **SHARE LIFE (XEE)** will teach you and equip you how to connect effectively with people and to talk to them normally and naturally about your faith. XEE teaches you how to share the story of the gospel within the context of a relationship. Our culture is wired to see the world through relationships, but too often we meet people who are missing out on the one relationship that matters most – with Jesus. XEE is a training tool that will equip you to build intentional and lasting friendships for the sake of actively introducing the people in your life to Jesus. It will also help you to train others to do the same.

The course has been put together by Evangelism Explosion International and its main purpose is to empower believers to be effective in sharing their faith with others in everyday life. It will teach you how you can make a difference in your world with people who don't know Christ. The course will teach you how to connect, share life and to multiply the message of Jesus with those around you.

WHO IS IT FOR?

This course has been designed with those in mind who need a breakthrough. It's for 'normal' believers, not for 'super-evangelists'. This course will restore your confidence in the gospel message, that it actually works and that God can use you to be effective for him.



Point of action

The Share Life course is necessary for all cell members and leaders so as to be equipped to share your faith effectively, with confidence and with a pleasant ease. In order to graduate, all Open-Cell trainees need to have completed this course. Go on the next course available and take as many of your cell friends as possible on it with you – it's more fun that way!

CHAPTER FOUR

Passion for discipleship (People with a Passion Ch. 5)

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen.”

(Matthew 28:19-20)

We have a responsibility to bring new converts into full and open expression of their relationship to Christ and to each other. We must make sure they have a good beginning in the Christian life and have every opportunity first, to be personally discipled and then, to be trained to become disciple makers of others. Passionate followers of Jesus will care about this. They will not allow precious fruit to be lost. The single greatest reason the leadership of every church should look seriously at the cell model is that it retains the fruit of evangelism by organising the whole church – its members and activities – around the Great Commission to make, mature and mobilise disciples of Christ. Jesus set this principle in motion from the very beginning. He said to those he called into the kingdom of God, “Come follow me – and I will make you to become fishers of men.”

As Open-Cell leaders we are not called to make decisions for Christ only – but disciples of Christ. Our dual role is to facilitate successful evangelism and then retain the fruit of converts by turning them into active disciples of Christ.

WILLING HEARTS!

Jesus prefaced his invitation to discipleship with a call to awaken our spiritual desire.

“Then he said to them all, ‘If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.’”

(Luke 9:23-24)

Two times in this passage, Jesus uses the word “desire” – first to describe the desire he wants us to have for his life and then to describe the desire we already have to live our own life. The word in the Greek is *thelo*, and it carries the meaning of ‘craving’ or ‘intense desire’. *Strong’s Concordance* contrasts this word with *boulomai*, which is associated with a weaker form of wishing or wanting.

To be willing for something may mean we passively acquiesce to it and reluctantly comply with it, or it may mean we have a strong, overriding desire for it. This kind of desire (*thelo*) pursues its object with deep, driving passion. The choice is clear – either passion for self, or passion for Christ. A cross-carrying disciple abandons passion for self in favour of passion for Christ.



Point of contact

As you study the chapter 5 of *People with a Passion* pay special attention to the teaching on the two words for desire: *thelo* and *boulomai*. Why is grace and encountering God so important in producing disciples of the *thelo* type rather than the *boulomai* sort?

MENDING THE NETS OF DISCIPLESHIP

“Come, follow me’, he said, ‘and I will make you to become – fishers of men.’”

(Mark 1:17)

The cell vision encourages people to follow Christ and become ‘fishers of men’ at the very beginning of the discipleship process. We take the lead from Peter’s encounter with Christ in Luke 15:1-11. Believing that salvation is by grace alone through faith, we don’t load people with legalistic requirements they must fulfil before they can be accepted by God. However, we make it clear that a life of disciple-making service is the only appropriate response for those who have been saved by grace.

We explain to our new believers that the call begins right now, where they are. Jesus indicated this when he borrowed Peter’s boat in order to preach to the crowds assembled by the shore of Lake Galilee (Luke 5:3). Discipleship means you are engaged in the work of Christ from the start. You use whatever resources you have for the Kingdom of God. You let Christ into your daily life, your work and your family. Your day-to-day life is your place of consecration and service to the Master.



Point of discussion

Discuss the teaching on the call to be fishers of men. What can we learn from the miraculous catch and the breaking nets in relation to our cell vision? Why is the Greek word *katartidzo* used for mending nets important for us as cell leaders?

CHAPTER FIVE

The heart of cell church (People with a Passion Ch. 8)

“There is a world of difference between a church with a small group ministry and a cell church.”

Cells are not just one programme of the church. Rather, they are the fundamental means by which ‘church’ happens. In KT, we had to learn that the cells were responsible for every aspect of the church’s ministry – evangelising, nurturing, training and mobilising the members.



Point of contact

What is the most basic unit of church? How did Jesus express this and with whom? How do we express it in our cell ministry?

A NEW TESTAMENT APPROACH TO CHURCH

The fellowship of the believers

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”

(Acts 2:42-47)

There are many reasons for the success of the early church but without a doubt one of the most significant of these in the Jerusalem church was their small group or ‘cell’ emphasis.

As well as the large meetings in the Temple courts, they met regularly in one another’s homes. These were not just house meetings or home fellowship groups. They were cells – that is, ‘micro churches’ doing everything that church should do. They witnessed, they evangelised, they fellowshiped, they prayed, they nurtured and they cared for the poor – all through the cells. Nothing else adequately explains their effectiveness in making disciples or their sustained growth.

This concept of the cell group has very little in common with the traditional approach to small groups in many churches today. Home fellowship groups, prayer groups and Bible Study groups may all have something to offer, but they are not cell groups. What, then, is a cell group? David Finnell, in his book *Life in His Body* defines cells as, “The organising of the body of believers in small groups for the purpose of worship, experiencing God, ministering to one another, and ministering to and evangelising the community.” In short, cells do everything that ‘church’ does – only in miniature. Once again, we see the emphasis in cell church on the cell as the primary expression of church – where the real work of the church goes on.



Point of discussion

Studying the passage above from Acts 2 list the main elements in the pattern of the New Testament church. What does that teach us about what our focus should be in our cell groups and congregations?



Point of action

Discuss with your trainer how the Open-Cell that you are part of (and also thinking of one that you intend to start) matches us to the Acts 2 church. What elements are strong in your cell and what are weak and absent? Plan together to strengthen the Open-Cell that you are part of and so prepare for the time you launch your own!

RETHINKING TRADITIONAL CHURCH

Read the section on “Rethinking traditional church” on pages 94-97 of *People with a Passion*.



Point of contact

List and contrast the differences between a traditional church and the New Testament model of church.

CHAPTER SIX

Fruitfulness (People with a Passion Ch. 7)

“I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.”

(John 15:5)

If we are passionate for Christ, we will be eager to bear fruit for his glory. Multiplication is one of the hallmarks of genuine discipleship. If you are passionately involved with Christ, you will love what he loves and reproduce that same love in others. This is how the cell vision works. Our love for Christ and passion for his name, not only shapes our lives around his person, but also leads us to engage with his plan for our own lives – to reproduce disciples.

SEEDTIME AND HARVEST IS HOW THE CELL MINISTRY FLOURISHES!

Sowing and reaping is a principle found in the natural world and it is also a principle in the kingdom of God. A harvest is merely the result of many seeds dying and reproducing themselves many times over. There can be more than 100 grains in a single head of wheat. Imagine all that fruit coming from a single seed. Everything in the kingdom of God begins as single seed, a life given, an action ‘sowed’ into the soil of someone’s life.

Days before he went to the cross Jesus explained the significance of his death:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.”

(John 12:24)

He then applied this same principle to his disciples saying:

“He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”

(John 12:25)

As we die to ourselves we reap the fruit of eternal life in our own lives and Jesus multiplies it to others. We become productive for the kingdom and, as in the case of Jesus, our single seed brings forth much fruit. Fruitfulness is not just a command; it is a promise. It was first given in the creation mandate, then reiterated in the Abrahamic covenant and finally expressed in the Great Commission. We can trace the theme of multiplication through all these phases of God’s revelation.



Point of discussion

If seedtime and harvest is at the heart of our ministry as Open-Cell leaders, how do we practically sow and reap through our cell leadership, discipleship and evangelism? Could it be that Open-Cells may not be sowing correctly in order to reap a harvest? How so? How could this be adjusted?

CHAPTER SEVEN

The marvellous body of Christ – church without walls! (People with a Passion Ch. 29)

A comparison between a human body and the body of Christ:

The correspondence between how the cells of the human body function and the workings of the body of Christ is remarkable:

1. The human body is structured into cells. Cell church follows this principle by encouraging every member to be an active part of a cell group.
2. The cells of the human body are the basic functioning unit of the life of the body. Cell groups are also the basic unit of life in the cell church.
3. Cells in the body have a nucleus which acts as the control centre of the cell. Cell groups also have a system of leadership which regulates the group according to the vision of the church.
4. Human cells carry the DNA of the body they belong to. The characteristics of *ekklesia* are present in microcosmic form in the cells groups. They also carry and reproduce the spiritual DNA of their church.
5. Cells in the human body reproduce and multiply. Cells in the church also reproduce through evangelism and discipleship.
6. Human cells do not have a totally independent life of their own. Cell groups also are not independent. They have an interdependent relationship with each other and the body of Christ.
7. Individual human cells work together for the good of the whole body, each having a special place and function. Cells in the church also work together for the common good. Every individual cell is needed for the growth and development of the whole body.
8. The cells in the human body have systems of communication and reporting. The cell groups also communicate and report to the church.
9. Human cells generate power and energy. Cells in the church are also centres of power and energy for the good of the body of Christ.

10. Human cells are comprised of mini organs (organelles) which function at a sub-cellular level, making sure the cell stays healthy and fulfils its function. Cell groups are also organised into sub-groups, such as the groups of 3. Cell members have specially assigned responsibilities enabling them to function efficiently and effectively.

11. Human cells have specialised functions. Cells groups can also develop areas of expertise and can have specialised ministries reaching different members of the community. These can be ethnic groups, professional groups or those with special interests, such as the arts or science.

12. Some cells (stem cells) in the human body have the capacity to transform or differentiate into cells of a different type in order for the body to develop every necessary capacity. This is also seen in cell groups where an open cell transforms into a leadership cell.

FULLY MOBILISED

This short excursion into the world of human biology highlights the benefits of the cell vision. Healthy cells mean a healthy body. The cell model enables Christ's body on earth to function effectively. The body of Christ is his 'agent' in the world. Just as our bodies enable us to be present in any specific place and do what we want it to do, so Christ acts in the world through his body. Whatever he wants to do on the earth, he must use his body to do it. As the apostle Paul says,

“The head cannot say to the body, ‘I have no need of you.’”

(1 Corinthians 12:21)

That's why Christ's body must be mobilised, not paralysed. We would never wish the tragedy of physical paralysis on anyone. We should be equally concerned to see the body of Christ fully active and mobile. However, for the most part, we expect Jesus to work through a severely restricted body.



Point of contact

Reflect on the above comparisons and do a health check of the cells and church life that you belong to. Where are the healthy and where are the unhealthy aspects in your opinion?

Point of contact - Continued

THE FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

In order for the church to be healthy and grow to maturity, all the ministry gifts of Christ must be active in the body. Only then will every member be equipped to do the work of Christ. Cell churches take account of this and make sure all the five ministries of Ephesians 4:11 are active in the church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers.

The fivefold ministry gifts are a permanent part of the church's ministry on earth. They are valid and necessary in every generation, and will continue to operate.

“Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

(Ephesians 4:13)

The fivefold ministry works with the cells by equipping every believer to do the work of Christ.

- The *apostolic* ministry grounds the cells in the principles of grace. It spurs the cells on towards growth and multiplication. New cells spring up as new initiatives are taken under apostolically influenced cell leaders.
- The *prophetic* ministry brings breakthrough revelation in the lives of cell members. It helps the cells remain in touch with the heart and mind of the Spirit.

- The *evangelistic* ministry motivates and equips the cells for evangelism and for producing new life.
- The *pastoral* ministry helps nurture the cell members and consolidate the new believers.
- The *teaching* ministry builds up the cell members and helps disciple the believers, showing them also how to become disciple makers of others.



Point of discussion

How can we make more room for the fivefold ministry? What ministry gift do you think you have? What about other people in your cell? Are they or you using your gifting in line with building up the cell and wider body?

MINISTRY IN THE MARKETPLACE: TACKLING THE GIANTS

Jesus told his Church to be salt and light in the world. That is, to penetrate society with the healthy influence of our salt-like presence, and to illuminate society's thinking with the light of gospel values. We cannot withdraw from the world as if we were not living in it, and neither can we allow the world to remain in us, neutralising our saltiness and dimming our capacity to shine. The cell vision is not just about growing our numbers, but making disciples who influence the world.

The cell groups are part of the 'go and show' thrust of the church. Traditional church has a 'come and hear' emphasis and largely holds its activities within the sanctity of its buildings. Cells have the capacity to penetrate every part of society and to exercise influence for Christ in the heart of the *agora*, or marketplace of today. That is where the church is needed most. Christianity is a lifestyle and we are called to be good news right where we are – in our homes, our places of work, our centres of education and in every other part of society. Our dictum to our members who spend most of their life in the marketplace of our society is: *your occupation is the location for your true vocation*.

We equip our members to 'take the giants' for God. The giants of our society are the great institutions and professions which exercise the most influence over our lives. We hold regular Giants forums in which cell members from each of the major professional or occupational groupings can get together to encourage one another and to find ways of influencing their environment. That way we are facilitating cells in every major profession and section in society. We group the giants in the following way:

The giants of influence:

1. Business and Finance
2. Ecology and Environment
3. Education and Training
4. Law and Order
5. Marriage and Family
6. Media and Arts
7. Medicine and Health
8. Politics and Government
9. Religion and Belief
10. Science and Technology
11. Sport and Leisure
12. Thought and Philosophy

As believers become active witnesses to the kingdom of God in these areas, people are won to Christ, disciplined, and begin to exercise a godly influence over these giants. It is not just about having Christians working in these sectors, but disciples influencing their environment for Christ. We are aiming for the total transformation of our society. That is exactly what the body of Christ is called to do.



Point of contact

What giant(s) are you passionate about? Are you engaged in being effective salt and light there? How important is it that all of our cell members are equipped to minister in there marketplace?



Point of action

Take active steps to link with relevant KT Giants forums and to help your fellow cell members get encouragement and training for the Giants they want to tackle.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Cells 4 Mission! (People with a Passion Ch. 28)

Kensington Temple has 119 different nations represented in its membership, and so we find it easy to focus on international ministry. We send missionaries to the harvest fields of the world and organise short term missions through the cells. Each Primary 12 leader 'adopts' an approved mission field and begins to promote missions through his or her generation of cells. Strategic plans emerge through research and networking with existing initiatives on the ground. We support local churches overseas through equipping, enabling and encouraging. Where appropriate, we initiate new strategies to extend the influence of the gospel in any particular nation.

The cells pray for the mission fields the Holy Spirit lays on their heart and give to the work of God taking place in that nation. These funds support on-going initiatives of church planting, training and evangelism. We plant Bible schools, children's homes, community projects and other aid initiatives.

Every cell member is a part of this ministry and we encourage every person to go overseas for at least one short-term mission. We find that this brings life to the cells and broadens their vision.

"Jesus said, 'Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are white for harvest!'"
(John 4:35)

Every new believer joins a cell which is immersed in the vision of Christ for the nations.

This aspect of cell ministry means we are marshalling our people power for the worldwide work of making, maturing and mobilising disciples. The more we grow, the more we can achieve. Our resources are not being depleted but rather are increasing. A devolved, rather than a centralised approach to missions in the church, makes sure that the vision for mission does not run out of steam. The cell vision ensures that the more we grow, the more we can do.

We believe that to achieve this global vision we need worship and communion. Historically, every major move of God in the church has provoked intensive prayer and extensive missions. We are inspired by the example of the Moravian church of the 18th century.



Point of action

As well as studying the Zindendorf and Moravians in *People with a Passion* (p. 308), do some further fact-finding on the internet. What can we learn from this movement for our KT cells today? What should we implement from your study?

Today, the world is a 'global village' and most of us have access to news, information and global travel. Every church can be a 'world church' and every cell can be involved in world missions. In Kensington Temple, specially devised mission offering envelopes are used in cell meetings. Giving is linked to praying in the cells. We publish a monthly missions article in our church magazine, *Revival Times*, with prayer points the cell groups use during that month. We hold regular missions revival prayer meetings. In this way, we motivate people to pray for and give to missions in the cells.

CHAPTER NINE

The principle of 12 (People with a Passion Ch. 11)

The cell model we work with is based on the principle of 12. It is not a dogma and we are not fixated with the number 12 anymore than those who follow the 5 by 5 Model are 'addicted' to the number 5. The number 12 does carry some scriptural significance. It is, however, the principle that counts more than anything else.

The key is to understand that Jesus spent most of his time with a small group of chosen disciples, and concentrated much of his ministry on discipling, training and ultimately releasing them to do the work of the kingdom of God. If this is what Jesus did, who are we to try and do it any other way? Surely the Lord's example is something we should follow!

Writing about Jesus' method of training leaders in *The Master Plan of Evangelism*, Robert Coleman records the opinion of Dr Billy Graham, perhaps the greatest evangelist of modern times. Dr Coleman writes:

"In this connection, it is not without great significance that the leading evangelist in the world today, Billy Graham, recognises the tremendous potential of this plan when used properly in the church. In response to the question, 'If you were a pastor of a large church in a principal city, what would be your plan of action?'

Mr Graham replied: 'I think one of the first things I would do would be to get a small group of eight or ten or twelve people around me that would meet a few hours a week and pay the price! It would cost them something in time and effort. I would share with them everything I have, over a period of years. Then I would actually have twelve ministers among the laypeople who in turn could take eight or twelve more and teach them. I think one or two churches that are doing that, and it is revolutionising the church.'

'Christ, I think, set the pattern. He spent most of his time with twelve men. He didn't spend it with a great crowd. In fact, every time he had a great crowd it seems to me that there weren't too many results. The great results, it seems to me, came in his personal interviews and in the time he spent with his twelve.'

This, in essence is the principle of 12. It means we spend quality time and expend the lion's share of our efforts on those who are gifted and willing to take what they learn from us and pass it on to others. It is seen clearly in 2 Timothy 2:2 where Paul tells Timothy to pass on what he learned from him to other faithful leaders so that, in turn, they could pass it on to others.

If it is the principle that is important, not the number 12, why do we build a model around groups of 12? Will not 4 or 8 have the same effect? We believe that growing a group of 12 leaders as Jesus did is a godly goal and not a doctrine.

The principle of 12 is a well-established foundation for leadership training. The cell model of 12 simply builds on this, working intentionally with leadership groups of 12. Whatever other significance of the number may 12 hold, it is the optimum number for intense and personal discipleship. This is demonstrated by Christ and his ministry to twelve apostles. Sociologists also tell us that twelve is the optimum number for people to relate to each other and be involved with each other on a regular and personal basis, especially if the goal is forming leaders. As we will see, Open-Cells may be smaller or larger than twelve members, but leadership groups when fully formed will never be more than twelve in order to be fully effective.

One of the greatest advantages of the Model of 12 is that everyone can be personally mentored and discipled into leadership. It is a relational, not a supervisory model, and that is characteristically how discipleship happens. People can make rapid and sure progress in their Christian life and ministry when they know they have the support and backup the Model of 12 gives them.



Point of contact

The principle of 12 is a model of leadership development and cell multiplication. What can we learn from the fact that Jesus spent more time with twelve men than the multitudes? Why did he do this and why should we follow his example?

CHAPTER TEN

The multitudes are coming (People with a Passion Ch. 11)

God has only ever had one plan – to have a very large family! Beginning with the call of Abram (who became Abraham), right through the Bible, ending with the prophecies of the book of Revelation, God's purpose is clearly seen – to bring together in one body people from every nation, tribe and language. This company of people will share the eternal splendour of Christ in the kingdom of God, shining in glorious testimony to his grace and power.

It began with what God said to Abram,

“Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

(Genesis 12:1-3)

Salvation is God's blessing promised to all humanity – to all nations, peoples and families. The promise came through the seed of Abraham, which is Christ (Galatians 3:16). In Christ, the church inherits this blessing of Abraham (Galatians 3:13-14). We are going to see multitudes from all nations come into the church of God.

“I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.”

(Genesis 17:6)

Blessing always leads to multiplication, but the order is important. First God blesses, and then we become fruitful and multiply. Genesis 1:26-27 shows this principle was embedded in the original creation mandate and it is certainly evident in the new creation mandate of Matthew 28:18-20. The blessing of Abraham is given to us through God's promise of his Spirit (Galatians 3:14). The crowds that followed Jesus were the first fruits of the multitudes that would ultimately come into the church.

Jesus taught the multitudes (Mark 6:34), he provided for them (Mark 8:2-3), he healed them (Matthew 14:14) and he gathered them (Matthew 9:36-10:1). He set in motion his principle of 12, reaching the multitudes through training and releasing a small group of leaders and commissioning them to do the same.

The multitudes began to come on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit was poured out, the gospel was proclaimed with signs and wonders and 3,000 were added to

the church. In Acts chapter 5, another 5,000 were brought in. Then the Word of God spread and the multiplication of believers kicked in (Acts 6:7). After that, the churches began to multiply (Acts 9:31). In the end, thousands and thousands in Jerusalem from every section of society had come to Christ and the whole city was evangelised.

“After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands.”

(Revelation 7:9)

Through the cell vision everyone can be a part of God's big plan. Every one of us can win, consolidate, disciple and send. We can all live under the blessing of fruitfulness and multiplication.

The multitudes are coming! Not just through big meetings and evangelistic crusades, but through the cells meeting in the homes, the streets, the cafes, the offices, the theatres, the farms, the fields and the factories that make up the *agora* – the gathering place – of today. God has a plan for you. He has included you in his purpose for the nations. He has promised you fruitfulness. He has called you to reach the multitudes.

As we work out the Model of 12 in our lives and churches, it is always important to keep the main purpose in view – to make, mature and mobilise disciples. It is vital to maintain the three essential elements of daring faith, bold prayer and total dependence on the anointing of the Holy Spirit. These will ignite and sustain our passion for Christ and make sure that we build his vision in the world.



Point of contact

God gave Abraham a concrete faith vision of the multitudes to come: in the morning when he saw the sand at his feet and at night when he saw the stars in the sky. How will you have a vision of growth for your cell and work towards it? Note the section on working with goals (*People with a Passion* Ch. 24) will be very important in implementing this.

Point of contact - Continued

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Kensington Temple: our mission and vision

The mission: 'London and the World for Christ'

For the last twenty-five years the mission statement for Kensington Temple London City Church has been:

"LONDON AND THE WORLD FOR CHRIST"

It is on the front cover of each monthly edition of our church magazine *Revival Times*. A **mission statement** is a formal, short, written statement of the purpose of an organisation. The mission statement guides the actions of the church, highlights its overall goal, provides a sense of direction, and guides decision-making. It provides the framework or context within which the organisations strategies are formulated. Our focus then is on winning and influencing London and the world for Christ – to influence our society for Christ and extend that influence overseas. Everything that KT does should be understood in this context.

THE VISION

To establish a radical disciple-making centre that extends across London through a city network of churches, cells and ministries that penetrate every area of society and impact the nations.

The definition of a vision is: **an image of the future that we seek to create**. Cells are at the heart of our vision; even our churches and ministries are to be founded on cell principles.

THE GOALS

- Church growth: to grow new leaders and multiply new cells
- Start new congregations: to start new cell congregations and to grow existing ones
- To evangelise London and other cities
- To evangelise the nations
- To resource special ministries that will influence all areas of society and culture for Christ
- To reach society by engaging the Giants of Influence.

HOW WE BECAME A CELL CHURCH

Between 1985 and 2000, we started around 150 churches together with a further 450 other groups and ministries networked together in one fellowship, one church. However we still weren't satisfied; we had yet to see the large majority of the thousands of people we were winning to Christ, become real disciples of Christ or become fully integrated into church life.

In the summer of 2000, our Senior Minister Colin Dye led a team of our leaders to Bogota, Colombia in South America. We went to visit the church of Cesar Castellanos, the International Charismatic Mission, which had grown from 8 members to well over 120,000 in just 18 years and by the year 2004, there were 55,000 reported cells taking the church into the hundreds of thousands. We believed that this was the missing element that Kensington Temple was looking for, the best vision and strategy to fulfil our mission statement 'London and the World for Christ'. We took the Bogota G12 cell vision to our hearts and launched our own cell vision that we call **Discipleship Cell Explosion**.

We are now well on our way to becoming a 'fully-functioning cell church' with thousands of cells penetrating London and networking across the city. We have the godly goal of becoming the most effective disciple-making centre in London. We are moving forward in a united vision to win the lost and consolidate them as new believers, disciple them as leaders and send them into the harvest fields of the world.

One of the main characteristics of KT is that we believe that all God's people are called into ministry and leadership. Christ has commissioned us:

"I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore go and make disciples of all the nations"

(Matthew 28:18)

This is for all believers and that means you. Our Leadership Development Programme is one of the best ways that you can be prepared and commissioned into your destiny as a disciple maker and cell leader.



Point of discussion

Discuss the mission statement. How does your role as an Open-Cell leader fit into to the mission of the church?

Point of discussion - Continued

NOTES

NOTES



RESOURCES

for building your

CELL GROUP



PEOPLE WITH A PASSION: Building Cell Church Today

In this landmark book, Colin Dye provides a non-technical and accessible approach to cell church according to the Model of 12. It is an ideal handbook for both leaders and members. People with a Passion enables churches to put hands and feet on the great commission of Jesus – to make, mature and mobilise disciples.

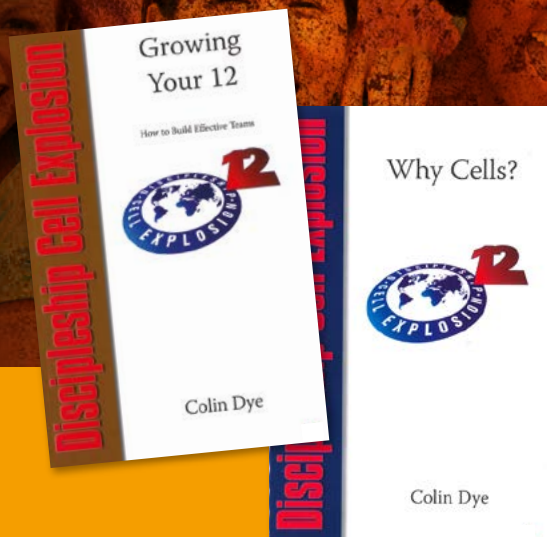
Booklets in the Discipleship Cell Explosion series

By Colin Dye

- Introducing the Cell Vision
- Consolidation Groups: Leader's Manual
- Why Cells?
- The Friendship Factor
- Growing Your 12
- A Willing Heart
- Introducing the Church
- Transitioning into a Cell Church

By other authors

- Ministering to Youth
- Kids in the Vision
- Dance: Shaping Lives through Creative Movement



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