



About G12

The Bogota Story

César and Claudia Castellanos. Pastor César Castellanos developed the G12 strategy in his church in Bogota, Colombia - the International Charismatic Mission. This strategy has been having an effect all around the world. Even churches that are experiencing substantial growth are looking into this model and adopting it for their own particular situation.

"What kind of church do you want?"

After a number of years of pastoring, Pastor César felt traditional methods of growing a church were not working. He was at breaking point and under the leading of the Lord, resigned from his church to wait on the Lord. In 1983 God began to speak to him and He asked Him, "What kind of church do you want to pastor?" He could only picture a church of 120 people, the biggest he had pastored so far.

He says, "I was striving to expand that number in my mind, but I couldn't. So I began to look at the sand of the seashore. As I looked at it, each grain of sand became a person, and I began to see hundreds of thousands of people. Then the Lord said, "That and much more will I give you, if you are in my perfect will."

So he was encouraged and founded MCI. His goal was to reach 200 people in the first six months. It happened in three months! In 1986 He went to Korea and adopted the principles of cell church as taught by Dr Yonggi Cho. By the end of 1991 there were 70 cells. Castellanos cried out to the Lord, "Lord I need something that will accelerate the growth." And God showed him the missing link - the concept now called G12.

How did Jesus do it?

He writes, "I began to see Jesus' ministry with clarity. The multitudes followed, but He didn't train the multitudes. He only trained 12, and everything he did with the multitudes was to teach the 12. Then the Lord asked me another question: "If Jesus trained 12, should you win more than 12 or less than 12?"

1. Jesus chose 12 to reach the multitudes.
2. He stayed with these 12 permanently, until they were trained and He released them, gave them authority and empowered them to disciple the nations.
3. The call is to find the 12 and to reproduce Christ's character in them.



Bogota, Columbia The multiplication came

He began with 12 and César Ferjardo (his brother in law) did the same with the youth. Together, they saw unprecedented growth. From 1991 to 1994 the cells grew from 70 to 1,200. During 1994 to 1999 there was an explosion of growth. They grew to 20,000 cells with 45,000 meeting regularly in celebrations. 1996 was a particularly remarkable year. The cells grew from 4,000 to 10,500. Now MCI no longer try to count people. They just keep track of the number of cells. Each cell has between 6 and 25 people and the official MCI figures state there are currently around 28,000 cells.

The weekly youth celebration of the church meets in a stadium seating 20,000 every Saturday. There are two services with more than 30,00 in attendance. Up to 1,000 young people give their lives to Jesus for the first time each week.

The secret of success

Pastor César adopted the cell structure in order to combat the inactivity of church members who always depended on the 'full time leader'. He believed that through cells the new Christian would easily come to a place of parenthood and produce new believers after the same kind. This would promote a multiplication of both membership and cells.

The G12 model facilitates the growth of the cells, the training of new leaders and maintains unity within the church. It promotes the opportunity for everyone to realise their leadership potential and take their place in the priesthood of all believers.

The strategy is for every cell to grow through evangelism. Once the cell develops the leader trains and releases the members to form their own cells. Out of these, the leader chooses his or her 12 disciples. And so the process continues as each group of 12 raises up another group of 12.

This way, none of the cells divide. They multiply. Everyone continues to receive encouragement, teaching and a high level of mentoring in their original group of 12. And, in turn, they minister in the cell they have built. The Bogota G12 model has five stages of implementation called the Ladder of Success: win, consolidate, disciple, send.

The secret is in the twelve

Adapted from 'Successful leadership through Groups of 12' by Pastor César Castellanos
The model of ministry based on 12, is the most effective means of obeying the great commission of Jesus Christ to win disciples and of growing the Church. The key to success in this model is found in leading groups of 12. Jesus taught us this lesson through His own example. He did not deal with people based on their obvious abilities, but according to the potential He knew they had within.

Jesus could have poured His life into the multitudes, but He did not; instead He chose 12 and worked to shape their characters. Each of the 12 had completely contrasting personalities and for three years, like the potter with the clay, Jesus moulded each one of them.

The model of 12 has always been in God's heart. The number 12 symbolises government. At creation God established 12 months to govern each year; even days are governed by periods of 12 hours each. To govern the people of Israel, God established 12 tribes and King Solomon appointed 12 governors.

In 1991, the lord removed the veil from my mind and gave me a deep revelation about the meaning of 12. I had asked myself why Jesus taught 12 and not 11 or 13. I also thought, the larger the number, the faster the work would progress. Why did Jesus invest His effort in just 12 people? Then I heard the voice of the Holy Spirit deep in my heart. He said if I trained 12 people, reproducing in them the character of Christ in me, and each of them did the same with another 12 - the continuation of the process, with every group of 12 transferring what they receive, would lead to unprecedented growth in the church.

The 12 that Jesus formed learnt to walk in supernatural power because they had to display Christ's character in their own lives. The religious leaders that opposed Christianity were astonished at the boldness of uneducated John and Peter. However, they recognised that they had been with Jesus. The model of 12 is something supernatural that the lord Jesus implemented. He intended that His ministry should grow and move forward in this direction. The model came from the heart of the Father to the heart of Jesus and as I sought a vision to win great multitudes, it came to my heart from the heart of Jesus.

One of the first things I learnt from the Lord at this time was that to implement the model of 12 one must walk in supernatural power, casting out demons and performing miracles according to each person's need. A price must be paid for the success of the model of 12 and this price is to do the same things Jesus did with His disciples - cleansing lepers, restoring sight to the blind, raising up paralytics and so on. When a pastor develops his or her ministry supported by these types of miracles, the news will spread and people in need of a miracle will run to hear this pastor's message. The model of 12 will bring the multitudes to the Lord's feet.

The multitudes followed Jesus for the miracles He performed. To have a church with multitudes, one must walk in supernatural miracles, acting on the power of the Holy Spirit. On one occasion a leper approached Jesus. All Jesus did was look at this leper's need, acknowledge his faith and heal him. The best way is to give them a miraculous solution to their problems. Their faith in God will be strengthened when they realise that He does meet their needs.

One Sunday, whilst celebrating our first anniversary, I asked the congregation, "How many of you are present here today because God performed a miracle for you?" Ninety-five per cent of the people raised their hands. Listening to their testimonies later on, I realised that one of the best ways to spread the gospel is to move in the realm of the supernatural. A person, who has received a touch from God, will not want to break away from the faith because the person is grateful to the Lord.

The model of the 12 aids the achievement of the vision to see explosive church growth. If a person is content with a small ministry, the person will bear fruit according to that vision. On the other hand, if a leader believes God for a large ministry, the fruit will be according to that belief. However, this leader must understand that it means the Lord will dig deep into their life, and through them, dig deep into the lives of those they are discipling. The model of 12 is the principle key in achieving this purpose

What is a cell?

Ask any medical student "What is a cell?" and they will explain that it is the basic building block of the body.

Cells in unison: Our bodies consist of millions and millions of cells working in unison. We cannot live without them. Within each cell is carried the DNA, the genetic coding, or blueprint of life itself. Through our bodies we can reach out and touch the world around us. Otherwise we would be disembodied spirits, unable to influence and impact our world. By nature cells will seek to multiply themselves, reproducing after their own kind, or transitioning to fulfil different functions according to hormonal influences. What is true of the physical body is true of the body of Christ, the Church. After all, truth is parallel.
Spiritual DNA

We see the origins of the church began with Jesus calling the twelve to Him. His master plan was to create a small intimate fellowship of disciples around Him, pouring His life - His 'DNA' - into them. It was in this small 'cell' gathering that Jesus built relationship with them, taught and trained them, imparted authority and power, and sent them out to minister and witness.

"Then He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach and to have power to heal sicknesses and cast out demons" (Mark 3:14-15). Later, the Holy Spirit would reproduce the same kind of ministry in the lives of subsequent believers.

After Pentecost, we see the life and vigour of the Early Church are maintained by their large, corporate gatherings in the Temple, complemented with their much smaller fellowship meetings in believers' homes (Acts 2:41 - 47).
The apostles had a cell vision

A vital church grows in Jerusalem. It is a church endowed with supernatural power (Acts 2:43). The DNA of Jesus has been successfully reproduced from Christ's twelve to this burgeoning new church in Acts (Acts 4:13). They know how to construct their lives upon the Word of God. They know how to create close fellowship with each other so that no one is in need. They know how to reach out in revival power to the lost, restoring damaged lives. They know

how to draw the attention of both God and Man (Acts 2:47). Integral to the Holy Spirit finding a welcome place in the life of the early church was the place of the 'cell' gatherings. After the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple, the Church grew rapidly and spread throughout the entire known world of that time. They erected no church buildings of their own. How, then, did they achieve such explosive growth? They continued to meet in each other's homes as cells.

Throughout the history of the Church, whenever the Holy Spirit needed to move in revival power, the phenomena of cells was used as the structure to convey His restorative works. A prime example is the ministry of John Wesley and his 'classes' for believers. In more recent history, over the last thirty years, we see those churches throughout the world that are experiencing explosive growth are Cell Churches. Worship is a hallmark of a genuine cell

The hallmarks of a cell

What are the hallmarks of a genuine cell? There are four: worship, nurture, fellowship and outreach. In worship believers will seek to be Christ-centred, coming under His authority. They will nurture each other from the Word of God, seeing to apply its teaching to their everyday lives. They will seek to fulfil Christ's command to love one another and build up each other in fellowship. However, they will go beyond considering their own needs. They will be motivated to fulfil Christ's call upon every believer: win the lost and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). It is this last component that singles out a true cell from a mere Bible study or prayer group.

Without worship, the group would be dry. Without the Word, they would become sub-Christian. Without fellowship, they would become cold. And without outreach, a cell would become introspective and self-absorbed. William Temple, an Archbishop of Canterbury, once said: "A church that lives for itself dies by itself!" The Church is the only institution that exists for the benefit of its non-members.

The G12 structure, with its four step Ladder of Success: win, consolidate, disciple, send - ensures that the cell stays true to its purpose. The cell is the primary place for winning new believers, discipling, training and releasing them to become disciple makers of others. We finish where we started. Like the biological cell, a cell of believers will be the basic building block of the body of Christ. They will transmit the DNA of Christ. They will seek to multiply themselves, reproducing after their own kind, via the Ladder of Success. And where necessary existing groups will need to transition to different functions in order to fulfil the four-fold agenda of cell ministry.

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise".
(Proverbs 11:30)

A Cell Church or a Church with Cells?

There is a world of difference between a cell church and the traditional church approach to small groups. Many churches in Britain and Europe have a place for small groups. Some see them as a vital part of their life and vision while others have virtually no place for them at all. It is time to re-think how we do church.

Many churches are looking for an effective model for cell ministry. But, the starting point must be an understanding of cells as central to church life. Biblically speaking, cells are not just one programme of the church. Rather, they are the fundamental means by which 'church' happens. That is, they are the way of nurturing, training and mobilising the members of Christ's body. And for that reason they are the principal component of a truly New Testament church.

Mens' cell meeting

A New Testament approach to church. The apostles of the New Testament could never have achieved what they did without a cell church vision. For example, in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, 3,000 people were added to the church. They were all baptised in water and they all continued steadfast in the faith. They were all taught in the apostles' doctrine. They were all faithful in prayer, witness and were all a committed part of the fellowship. This is a far cry from today's situation where up to 93% of those who make a commitment to Christ fall away from it, and only 30% of those who get as far as some form of church involvement actually persist.

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 cell emphasis, So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart... (Acts 2:46)
A Cell Church or a Church with Cells?

As well as the large meetings in the Temple courts, they met regularly in on another's homes. These were not just house meetings or home fellowship groups as found in the traditional approach to small groups today. They were cells - that is, micro churches - doing everything that a church should do. They witnessed, they evangelised, they fellowshiped, they prayed, they nurtured and they cared for the poor - all in the cells. Nothing else adequately explains their effectiveness in making disciples and their experience of explosive growth.
The church in miniature

This concept of the cell group has little in common with the traditional approach to house groups in many churches today. Home fellowship groups, prayer groups, special interest groups, Bible Study groups may all have something to offer, but they are not cells groups. What is a cell group then? David Finnell, in his book 'Life in His Body' says cells are '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 every that 'church' does - only in miniature. This means that the cell is the primary unit of 'church' where the real work of the church goes on.



Womens' Cell Meeting

Cell church or traditional church?

This leads to a number of significant differences between a cell church and a traditional church. A traditional church is programme centred, but a cell church is people centred. A traditional church is built on the strength of its magnificent programmes. If you have bigger and better programmes then you have a bigger and better church! But the church is not just about programmes; it is about people. This people centred approach can only be consistently sustained in a church where the central thrust of its ministry is reaching people who primarily relate in the small group setting and not just in the big services.

A traditional church is building centred. Usually, this is where it all happens. The size, location and architecture of the church building then determine the activity of the church. People assume that, once the meeting is over and the building is vacated, then church is over for another week. But in a cell church that cannot happen. The cell church is community centred, not building centred because the members undertake the main work of the church in their cells. The central services then become a celebration of what God has done throughout the week and a preparation for more of the same in the coming week.

The traditional church sends the signal to one and all, "Come!" But the cell church's message is, "Go!" The traditional church's model of ministry calls for a passive response, "Listen", while the cell church's clarion call is, "Do!" This is an active model of ministry. The people are empowered to do the ministry of Christ.

All this implies a radical change of thinking on the part of many church leaders today. We must learn the power of cell life in the body of Christ. The G12 Vision cannot work without a cell church vision. This is the only way we can successfully mobilise the membership to do the work of Christ and truly function as part of His body

The Values of the G12 Vision

Every Pastor wants to know how to make their church grow. But growth is more than strategy. Every vision from God comes with certain values which sustain it.

When most church leaders hear about the amazing growth in the MCI church in Columbia they immediately want to know the details of the G12 strategy. But the G12 is more than a strategy for growth. It is a fully developed vision for discipleship, nurture and mission. It sets the pattern for church life in the 21st Century.



International Charismatic Mission of Bogota, Columbia

For some years many churches in the U.K. have placed a high value on intercession, spiritual gifts, spiritual warfare, church growth, evangelism, missions, care for the poor, training and mobilisation. All these things are central to the G12 vision. And they can only be effectively expressed through cells. This is because dynamic life of the church takes place in the cells. The vision of many pastors is for mobilisation. This is all about winning, equipping and releasing the body of Christ into the ministry. The church is called to the service of Jesus - not full time ministers! A church's size is secondary to this goal of effective mobilisation, but there can be no doubt that those who move forward in this vision are set for explosive growth.

The key to the success of the G12 is not just the strategy but the values that uphold the Vision. We cannot think that we will be successful simply by adopting the Bogota strategy. We must rise to the challenge spiritually, take on new levels of the anointing and, above all, embrace all the values that lie beneath the surface.

1. The G12 Vision about discipleship

Jesus said, "Make disciples" (See Matthew 28:19-20). He did not just tell us to evangelise or to get decisions. People who accept the gospel and believe must be discipled. They must be taught, shaped and formed into the image of Jesus. The Church often falls short of full obedience in this respect. Many people who make decisions to become Christians are never truly discipled in the paths of Christ. This must change, and we must all place full obedience to Jesus' command on the highest level of our agenda as people and as a church.

2. The G12 Vision is for cells

Cells are small groups of people who meet together weekly in order to disciple each other and reach out to those who don't know Christ. We must learn to love the cells. They are where the blessing of growth takes place. Cells are the only way of fulfilling the New Testament mandate we have as believers to be disciples and to disciple others. That's where you receive the personal ministry you need and where you find and fulfil your ministry in the body of Christ.

3. The G12 Vision is for leadership

The name 'G12' stands for 'the government of 12' which emphasises the leadership development aspect of the vision. Every Christian is a potential leader. We are all called to serve Jesus and to lead others to Him. Those who are leading cells are discipled in groups of 12 (like the 12 disciples of Jesus). Therefore everyone who ministers is also ministered to in this vision. That means there is proper accountability in all things.

4. The G12 Vision is for multiplication

This is one of the most exciting aspects of the vision. Jesus' purpose for you is fruitfulness. He wants you to be successful in your life. He calls you to 'to be fruitful and multiply'. The growth that comes through the G 12 Vision is not through transferring members from the other churches. It comes through the cells as the members reach out to their family, neighbours and friends. This means everyone must develop a passion for the lost and reach them uncompromisingly for Christ.

5. The G12 Vision is for the glory of God

Something wonderful happens when God's people are mobilised. The 'super star syndrome' disappears and the work is done all. The real heroes in this vision are the members of the church not a handful of its super-anointed leaders. That way God can really get the glory. Signs, wonders, miracles and mighty deeds happen throughout the whole church and everyone has a part to play.

As you can see the vision is a comprehensive one. And takes time for a church to fully implement it. It involves introducing new initiatives and creative innovation in every area of church and personal life. It will bring unrecognisable transformation to the way we think about church fellowship and to the way we do things. The cost will be high. But the rewards will be worth it.

The Heart of the Vision

The G12 model facilitates the multiplication of cell groups, the training of new leaders and the discipleship of every member of the body. The aim of the model is that everybody is involved in reaching out to the lost through an open cell, and that everybody becomes a leader, and in time, runs their own open cell. Everyone is ministered to and everyone becomes a minister.

The cell groups do not divide - instead they multiply. When a person becomes part of a cell they start to pray and fast for three non-Christians. One by one they are led to Christ and become part of the cell. When the cell has grown to some size the multiplication takes place. Each person in the cell then starts to build a new cell. They continue to receive help, mentoring and encouragement from the original cell, but they also start their own cell. When all the members of the original cell have started their own new cell, the original cell becomes a G12 group. The G12 group is made up of leaders who have their own cells and meet for leadership training, to share about their progress, and for encouragement and support.

The Ladder of Success

Success is a very positive word in today's world. Everyone is seeking success. But what does it really mean for a believer? What is success in the eyes of Jesus?

As far as Jesus is concerned, there is only one criterion by which we may judge success. All that He has told us to do can be summarised by His final words to the disciples:

"Go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to do everything I have commanded you" (See Matthew 28:18-20).

Your life will be judged as successful only in so far as you have fulfilled this commission of Jesus. It means making and maturing disciples into the character and image of Jesus. The G12 vision is a practical means by which we can all obey the call of our Master and be a success.

Success must mean that your vision, goals and purpose in life are fulfilled. But personal fulfilment depends on you fulfilling the call of God on your life - making, maturing and mobilising disciples of Jesus Christ. Success means fulfilling the Creation Mandate - "Fill the earth and subdue it." And this comes with the blessing of God as it says,

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

Genesis 1:28

Success also means stepping into the blessing of Abraham, God says

I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12:2-3

When you obey the Great Commission of Jesus to disciple the nations you step into the blessing of Abraham and he was blessed in all things!

There are four stages in obeying the Great Commission. Each one is necessary for full obedience. They are to Win, Consolidate, Disciple and Send.

WIN

New believers are added to the church through personal friendship evangelism, the celebrations and the net meetings. At the end of each of the services, the leader takes the whole congregation through the sinners' prayer and invites those who have made a first time commitment to come to the front. The counselling team, which is made up of cell group leaders, joins the new believers. The new believers are then taken to a separate room and the process of consolidation begins.

CONSOLIDATE

At this point personal details are recorded and the gospel is shared again to ensure

that the person understands what has happened to them. The person is then told that someone will call them within two days to find out how they are. The responsibility of the cell leader is to ensure that the new believer is called within 48 hours and receives a personal visit within a week.

The consolidation process continues through a series of one-to-one Bible studies and through a special encounter weekend. This encounter retreat focuses upon giving the new believer an experience of Jesus. The weekend covers such areas as assurance of salvation, inner healing, deliverance, being filled with the Spirit, and the vision of the church. Once the consolidation process is completed the new believer is ready to enter the next stage of development.

DISCIPLE

The aim is to enable every new believer to become a leader of a new cell. Therefore when each disciple has completed the consolidation process they enter the School of Leaders. The School of Leaders involves training one night a week for about 9 months. About half way through the School of Leaders the students start to open their own cell groups.

Each person on the school of leaders launches a new cell group. The leader of the new cell continues to receive support, help and instruction from their original cell. As each of the members of the original cell starts their cells the original cell becomes a G12 group. The G12 group is therefore a leadership cell. Multiplication occurs! The 12 grow to 144 leaders each with their own cell.

SEND

When each of the original leader's 12 have grown their 12 the next step is for these to begin to form teams to lead Encounter weekends and for them to develop their own School of Leaders. As the multiplication takes place more people are needed to teach in the School of Leaders. Therefore the School of Teachers, or 'T-Track', shows people how to teach the material and how to see the teaching applied to people's lives.

Then the leader is free to go on and plant many more cells. In MCI, Bogota when someone has 250 cells they can become part time members of staff. And they can go full time when they have 500 cells - that means leading around 5,000 people!

There is also a call for people who have grown their 144 disciples to go and plant cells and churches overseas. We believe the Lord is particularly concerned about the 10-40 window. That is the part of the world which has most of the world's population of unevangelised people. A cell strategy is definitely the most effective way of reaching them. Many of these people live in remote areas of the world and are found in countries which are hostile to Christian teaching.

From all this you can see the G12 is not just another programme. Rather, it's the key to seeing thousands of people born again, discipled and sent into the harvest fields of the world. Pray, take every opportunity to learn and experience this strategy and start to implement it by climbing the ladder of success.

Ladder of Success Summary

1. WIN

New believers are won by personal evangelism, through the cells and through the celebration meetings.

2. CONSOLIDATE

The new believer is consolidated through the pre-encounter Bible studies, the weekend residential encounter and the post-encounter Bible studies. This consolidation process is called the 'C-Track'.

3. DISCIPLE

The disciple is then trained in the School of Leaders and by being part of a cell group. This process is called the 'L-Track'. The disciple then launches a new cell group and becomes part of a G12 group. Then the leaders 12 grow their 12 totaling 144 people. When the cell structure is in place the church is divided into strategic groups or 'nets'.

The nets are made up of the men's cells, the women's cells, the youth cells, the children's cells and the couple's cells. The nets meet weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

4. SEND

The leader then forms teams to run their own Encounter and start their own School of Leaders. In this way they are released to continue to grow more cells in Scotland or are sent out into the Europe and the rest of the world to plant cells and churches. The target is particularly the unevangelised areas of the world.

Schools of Significance

"What shall we do that we might work the works of God?" (John 6:28). Pick up the call to "make, mature and mobilise disciples" and be thoroughly equipped to rise to a level of significance.

Have you ever considered how much God appreciates you? One thing we can be absolutely sure of is that we have eternal significance in God's eyes. He sees us full of potential and He wants to use us to the full. No matter what our background, education or social standing, we are very valuable to Him. "You are precious and honoured in My sight, because I love you" (Isaiah 43:4).

Purposeful and productive

When Jesus came to save us he did not save us only from our past. He came to save us for a purposeful and productive life. We were not saved simply to drift through life. God knows what He has put in us. He sees us full of significance. "You are the salt of the earth... the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). The world may not have time for us but God does. There is no such thing as unemployment in the kingdom of God. We were made and redeemed of God to be divine appointments. "I chose and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16).

Before Michelangelo sculpted his masterpiece, 'David', he saw the potential in the stone. God does the same with each one of us. As the Apostle Paul declared "We are God's workmanship [literally God's "work of art"] created in Christ Jesus to do good works which God prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:9).

Everything we are and all that we have, Christ wants to employ in building His church on earth. Surely, there can be no greater cause to spend our lives on and deserving of our best endeavours. Discipleship is an investment that lasts for eternity and yields incredible rewards (Luke 22:28-30, Mark 10:30).

Partnering with Jesus

How are we to partner with Christ in building his Church and seeing the kingdom of God take over the world?

Jesus said, "Go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:19). Every believer shares a common call to reproduce in others that which they have so freely received from Jesus. He said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Those who have been discipled should disciple others. This is the evidence of the fruitful life Jesus spoke about in John 15. In similar vein, this is what 1 John 2, verses 12-14 alludes to when believers are described as "fathers or spiritual parents". The nature of a parent is to beget, to reproduce after his or her own kind. The enemy's work is to alienate parents from their children (Matthew 10:21), but the work of the Spirit of God in the last days is to "turn the hearts of the fathers to the children..." (Malachi 4:6). Spiritual parenting is essentially the work of making disciples. "Feed my lambs... tend my sheep" (John 21:15-16).

Feeding and tending new disciples will mean, integrating them into the life of God's family. This is achieved most effectively through cell ministry. In the cell, the new disciple is built up by close fellowship and trained to become a disciple-maker. The goal of the G12 Vision is for us to "make mature and mobilise disciples" by starting a cell of our own with people we win to Christ.

"The people are willing in the Lord's day of power." We may be willing, saying with Isaiah "Here am I Lord" but we may not feel equipped or able. In the Bible, not everyone called of God felt ready or able at the outset, yet God resources those He calls. That is why He set apostolic teachers and trainers in the Body of Christ, to "prepare and equip God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up" (Ephesians 4:12).

Enabled to serve well

The Schools of Leaders prepare cell members to fulfil Christ's call upon their lives thoroughly preparing them for disciple making and cell leading. The topics include foundational Christian doctrine as well as training in personal development, Christian life skills and cell leadership. Along with the Encounters, the School of Leaders gives comprehensive and effective training in disciple making. Natural ability alone can take us only so far. But, with training, we can rise above that level to a place of excellence. "The people who know their God shall be strong and do great exploits" (Daniel 11:32).

Steps to Establishing a Group of 12

Pastor César Castellanos

When pastors enter the G12 vision they often ask many questions. They may ask, "How do I develop the vision?" They ask this question because they love what they have already built and don't want to lose it. Imagine someone who wants to convert his old house into a new house with 12 Roman style columns and new decorations. He wants to keep some of the old structure because it has some good and valuable parts, although they have been severely weakened.

So he calls in the architect and he explains what he wants. The architect replies that it cannot be done. His life dreams, desires and hopes are connected to the old building. The architect insists, "It is not possible to build the new house and keep the old structures. You must choose which one you want." And the man answers, "I will look for another architect for advice." Some have tried something similar when they seek to establish the G12 vision but we know that it cannot work this way. The old structure was good, it worked and it served its purpose, but if you want to multiply, you cannot hold on to it. The Holy Spirit will give new foundations for great growth.

We have heard from pastors who had worked for years building their ministry. They arrived at a point where they could not advance any more and realised that they needed a change and supernatural intervention. They had to demolish the old building to make space for the new with the G12 vision as the foundations. Because they took this step their ministries have seen multiplication like never before.

Step one: Conceive the Group of 12 by Faith

Paul said that faith is the certainty or substance of what is expected. We receive our group of 12 by faith. Don't choose them because they are easy to get on with, good communicators or for any other fleshy reason. To have twelve is to receive a miracle. You need to pray so that God reveals your twelve to you. Jesus won His twelve through a night of prayer. But His twelve didn't belong to Him; they belonged to the Father. Jesus confirmed this in his prayer (John 17:9) "I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given me, for they are Yours." Your twelve belong to the Father, but when you pray, God reveals your twelve to you.

When you receive your twelve in your spirit, you will feel like a pregnant woman. First the child is conceived by faith and then it will be born.

Step two: Teach by Example

When we began to grow someone asked me why we did not organise a series of conferences for the pastors of the city so that they could learn about our growth principles. I replied that pastors are experts in attending conferences but only the power of an example would penetrate their hearts. We preach to people by our example.

Our twelve look at our life as a testimony of our faith. We maintain a high testimony when we live a life of faith and operate in the supernatural realm. Preaching the gospel through signs, wonders and miracles will convince the non-believers."By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things that are visible."

Step Three: Saturate their Understanding with The Word

"By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things that are visible." (Hebrews 11 : 1-3)

Did God give you intellect without making it subject to His word? When the children of Israel arrived at the borders of Canaan, God told them that it was the land they were to occupy and that wherever they placed their feet they would possess. When we enter into intimacy with the Spirit of God, the Lord opens the Bible to us and makes us understand that an entire world of promises is in it and through faith we can stretch out our hands and to make them ours.

If you live your life conquering each one of the promises, you will help your team have faith. Many people enter Christianity with totally destroyed lives, they are like the first army that David led - they are in debt, have a bitter spirit or are people with violent, uncontrollable tempers. God puts them into our hands just like He put those men into David's hands. He transformed them and made them mighty warriors. David had to invest time, guide them and teach them, until they were willing to give their lives for him. In the same way you have to teach people that there are solutions to their problems. If you don't give words of hope to your people they will continue living in defeat. Our people have to understand that our God is a God of the present. We should bring heaven to earth and to show our people the riches of His glory so that they understand that the God we preach solves their problems now. The Lord said, 'I am who I am'. "I am", is in the present continuous tense, meaning that He wants to answer right now. He wants to liberate people from demonic oppression, to heal the sick and to prosper His children right now! We need to understand these truths from God's Word, so we need to renew our minds daily from His Word. This involves us spending time reading the Word and studying it until we hear the voice of God.

Many read the Bible but they never hear the voice of God. Jesus didn't say that we should read the Bible. Jesus said that we should hear His voice and keep His Word. If you read your Bible but you do not hear the voice of God, you have not achieved anything. When you renew your understanding through faith, you can hear and you can understand the meaning of words that you have possibly read many times. You hear the voice and you say, "God is speaking to me, I believe it" and you move into the dimension of faith and miracles happen. That is what we call a rhema word. You begin to look for a rhema word every morning. Before anything else pray, "Lord, I need a word." You need to have a time of stillness every day to hear the voice of God. If you hear the voice of God you have something fresh to give your people, and increase their understanding of the Word.

Step Four: The Most Excellent thing to God: The Multiplication

“By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he gained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

The best offering that we can give to God is our fruit. When we stand before the presence of the Lord, He will ask, “Son, how did you multiply the talents that I gave you?” The Lord always looks at results and these are reflected in souls. The writer of Hebrews teaches us that this should be the result of a covenant relationship with the Lord:” (Hebrews 11: 4)

For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for all shall know Me; from the least of them to the greatest of them. (Hebrews 8: 10–11)

We can decide before God to become the best multiplier and to reproduce Him in others. God has called us to multiply, out of you should come 12, of those 12 the 144, of that 144 the 1,728, from 1,728 come the 20,736, they bring 248,832, and of these seeds, 2,985,984. You will then be able to grow to 35,831,808. The apostle Paul said, 'For if I preach the Gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the Gospel!' (1 Corinthians 9:16). God opened Paul's spiritual eyes and he could clearly see the tragedy of remaining silent. This revelation gave him responsibility and motivated his commitment to it. Paul said, ' and His grace toward me was not in vain, but I laboured more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me' (1 Corinthians 15:10). The entire world is lost and God has entrusted to you and I the responsibility of the salvation of souls. Thank God that the G12 vision has the complete package because you will not only win them, but God gives you the wisdom to consolidate them, disciple them and send them.

Step Five: Daily walk with God

“By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, “and was not found, because God had taken him”; for before he was taken, he had this testimony, that he pleased God”. (Hebrews 11: 5)

The life of Enoch changed with the birth of his first-born son, and from that moment he walked with God every day of his life - for three hundred years until God took him. The early church learned how to depend totally on the Lord's guidance. “So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart” (Acts 2:46). They persevered in the temple and in the homes (cells) every day. “And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ” (Acts 5:42).

Many pastors opt for the easiest option. When we commit to God, we can-not stop and decide how much to give and to receive. When we enter into the spiritual realm, it is the Holy Spirit who has control and an atmosphere of activity is generated because something happens every day - teaching in the cells, School of Leaders, meetings with the twelve, etc. The life comes when we commit to run with the leading of God. Jesus said, “My Father works and I work” Jesus always walked to the Father's leading.

Step Six: God is The One that Gives you Recompense

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him”. (Hebrews 11: 6) God rewards those who truly seek him. Some leaders try to get positions by flattering their superiors, but that is not the right way to do things. God is the one who honours you and puts you in a place of privilege after He has tested your heart. Solomon said: “Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown men” (Prov. 22:29). This suggests that effort and sacrifice are required from you. Paul interceded for his disciples in Galatia, suffering labour pains until Christ was formed in them. Paul ended up occupying that place of privilege because he was a man of diligent character. The first and greatest challenge that you have to face and conquer is the formation of your team of twelve. Receive the miracle of your twelve by faith. You will see through the eyes of faith until it becomes a reality in the spiritual world.

Encounters with Jesus

The G12 Vision is really very simple and straightforward. However, there are many parts to it. One of the most important of these is the Encounter Weekends.

The consolidation process is central to the success of the G12 strategy. All believers should go through the consolidation process, at the heart of which lies the Encounter experience. There are three parts to the Consolidation process. They are the Pre-Encounter, the Encounter and the Post-Encounter. Now what exactly are the Encounter Weekends? What is their importance? Does everyone really need to go? After all, what actually happens at these Encounters?

In the Pre-Encounter sessions, the new believer will study themes related to his or her new life in Jesus. Someone from the cell group personally takes the new believer through several Bible studies. These cover topics such as, the certainty of salvation, the power of prayer, the power of the Word and principles of deliverance. The aim of the Pre-Encounter is to prepare the believer for the Encounter.

Spiritual preparation

Then comes the Encounter, which usually takes place over a weekend at a residential conference centre. Before every Encounter, the new believer's cell group is encouraged to prepare itself with much prayer, fasting and spiritual warfare, for those participating. Before the Encounter starts, the battle should first have been won in the spiritual realm through spiritual warfare. This way, the cell member will surely have a remarkable encounter with God.

The Encounter is much more than just a three-day retreat, in a setting away from the normal distractions of life. It should be a time in the life of the believer which he or she will look back to many times and remember their encounter with Jesus!

Meeting with God

In both the Old and New Testaments, the Bible shows men and women experiencing great, life changing encounters with the living God. Abraham had his before he began his journey to be a great nation (Genesis 12) and Moses before he led the Israelites out of slavery (Exodus 3). Joshua had his before leading the people of Israel into the Promised Land (Joshua 5:13-15) and Isaiah before becoming a prophet of the Most High (Isaiah 6:1-8). Jesus had his before starting his public ministry (Matthew 3:13-16, Luke 4:1a) and Paul after his conversion and before becoming the master of the theology of the New Testament (Acts 9:3-7).

One can find many other examples of contemporary church leaders and their personal encounters with God before they entered into the full ministry that God had prepared for them.

Total transformation

The aim of the Encounter is total transformation that will give birth to the character of Christ in the believer. We need a genuine Encounter with God in order to bring about this transformation. It is also an Encounter with yourself, when you look inside your life to see the changes that God wants you to make. Finally, the Encounter will take you into the depth of the cell vision, making you reflect on the actual situation of the world and its desperate need of the Saviour.

Encounter deals with the following subjects and issues in depth:

Repentance

* Forgiveness

* Breaking of Curses

* Deliverance

* Inner Healing

* Baptism with Water

* Baptism with the Holy Spirit

* The G12 Vision.

Another goal of the Encounter is for you to see the Lord face to face, so that you are released from everything that hinders you in your ministry. The G12 vision regards everyone as a potential leader and the Encounter is a preparation for the training that takes place at the School of Leaders.

After the Encounter the new believers go through another series of one-to-one Bible studies, which take them deeper into the Word and further consolidates their commitment to Christ. During these teaching sessions the new believer learns about spiritual warfare, the armour of God, how to resist and overcome temptation, and how to deal with the attacks of the evil one.

Encounters for all

Does this mean that the Encounters are only for new believers? No, they are for everybody. Often believers today have never been truly consolidated in their faith as experienced in the G12 structure. This means many issues dealt with at the Encounter are still unresolved in their lives. Sadly, they carry pain, bondage and demonic curses for many years and still need to be set free in some areas of their lives.

In the G12 vision we are all called to lead others to Jesus, see them set free and disciple them into the image of Christ. In 2 Timothy 2:2, Paul made it clear to Timothy that he should transmit and entrust the teaching and instructions that he had learned from Paul to reliable and faithful people. They in turn would then be competent and qualified to teach others. No one can teach and talk about what they have not experienced or received. They cannot see the spiritual world if their eyes have not been opened.

In a church transition into the G12 vision, it is essential that every member go through the whole process, so they can effectively carry the vision without any distortion. This is like taking up the spiritual DNA of the vision and being ready to pass it on in the discipleship process. The Encounters are not just for your personal benefit. But the life-changing, refreshing and empowering experience which the Encounters give are in order for you go out and impact the lives of others through the Vision.

Kids in the Vision

Dr Goldenberg

An Overview of the Children's Net

Many parents and leaders ask: "How can the G12 vision and the ladder of success work for children?" Is the G12 vision for adults only? In fact, the G12 vision works the same for children as for adults. But how do you organise the children's net, and how do you make the vision work in practice?

A major difference with the structure of adult nets is that the children's net is lead by adults, not homogenously by children. Also, children are not allowed to go to an Encounter before they are five years old, and they don't progress to the School of Leaders before they are seven.

Climbing the ladder

Obviously a one-year-old cannot be released to run a cell, so there are minimum age limits in place to help the children progress. As well as being of age they have to be ready to take the next step. So the minimum age for the different steps on the ladder of success is as follows:

Win: Any age

Consolidate: Age 5+ Encounters last only a day until children are 10

Disciple: Age 7-14 School of Leaders

Send: Once on the School of Leaders the children can plant their cells

The adult leadership

Nowhere in the Bible will you find any mention of a call to work with children. There are people called as prophets and teachers and there is even a mention of the gift of administration! But there is a definite silence on those called to work with children. That is

because God's plan is for children to be looked after by the whole body of Christ. So an adult leader running a children's cell may be in the G12 group of men, women or youth. But instead of, or as well as, running a cell for this net he or she also runs a children's cell. The leaders will meet in the children's net meetings, and they can also meet regularly to link the work through cells together. A larger church might want to consider forming a leadership cell of the top children's leaders. This spreading of children's leaders across the other nets also means that if people feel called to work with children they do not have to leave the spiritual support and accountability in their cell which they have enjoyed since they were saved.

Questions and Answers

When is the best time to run a children's cell?

The timing depends on the availability of the leaders, the children and the parents if the children need to be brought to the cell. Some have found the best time to start is on a Sunday when many of the children are at church anyway. However as the same leader has to be with them every week (otherwise they are not training, they will simply slip into teaching the youngsters) this would mean the leaders miss the adult service each week. The cell could therefore be run before the service, after the service, during the preaching with the leaders getting a recording of the message, or alternating between the first and second hour of the service so that the leaders get to alternate parts of the service each week. For the remainder of the time, volunteers can look after the children.

What happens for the 0-4s?

These children are in pre-cell groups. They have all the parts of a normal cell meeting (welcome, word, worship & witness) but their leaders can change from week to week. In churches with multiple crèche groups these children can be brought together for regular net meetings.

Are the children's cells split by age or sex?

The children's net covers people up to the age of 14. Many have found it helpful to split them up into at least the following age groups: 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Of course if you have more children you can split them into narrower age bands. The oldest age group are also split into boys and girls as this is the age when those of the opposite sex can be a distraction and when different issues are raised that need to be dealt with homogeneously.

Why split the children/youth at age 14 /15?

A 15-year-old and a 19-year-old are able to relate to each other easily. However even between a 13-year-old and 15-year-old there is a marked difference in maturity, taste, etc. Of course a 13-year-old and an 11-year-old are also different, but so is a 2-year-old and a 4-year-old. The whole speciality of children's ministry is to be able to adapt the teaching style to fit the age group. It is vital that we have things geared to young teens. Indeed, the 10-14s are the age when many drop out of the church in the West.

Do you encourage children to run their own cells?

Yes! Once they are aged 7 or over, if they are spiritually mature, they are encouraged to go on the School of Leaders and be trained for leadership.

Is an adult present when the children run their cells?

The children are accountable to their adult leader, but the adult leader does not have to be present when the children run their cells. This is why it is key that the children have been raised up to a certain level of discipleship before they are released to run a cell.

What resources are available?

- Cell material is available on request.
- Children's G12 conference launch.
- Some Encounter resources are available on request to those in the vision, together with a handbook outlining some of the details of the children's net.
- School of Leaders resources are currently being developed.

Nehemiah surveyed the city walls and identified the parts requiring special attention and restoration. Everyone in a church reacts to new things in a different way, and many can be motivated if their heart condition is identified. The weak, fearful, mavericks and 'last resistance' can all be won with much patience and perseverance. Many leaders make the mistake of putting all their energies into the young people as they often respond quicker. Older people can also be great leaders if they are pastored carefully.



Transition to a G12 Church

Pastor Jimmy Dowds

12 Key Biblical Transitioning Principles from the Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was an amazing visionary who gives us excellent and helpful keys to the transitioning process. All of these keys we have learned through the many mistakes we have made.

Key 1 Enquire

Hanani one of my brethren came with men from Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews who has escaped, who had survived the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem. Nehemiah 1:2

90% of the mistakes made in implementing any vision are made when we try to move ahead of the Holy Spirit. The enquiring stage is the most important as sloppy preparation leads to poor results.

Nehemiah saw great value in asking his brother and some men from Judah for information concerning the Jews.

This is one of the most humbling and difficult steps for leaders. Many of them believe that the only way forward is to wait until the answer comes direct to them from God but He humbles us by requiring us to go to get help from a brother. I wonder if the reason God doesn't reveal everything to us direct is that He knows we would put 'our name' on it.

Key 2 Brokenness

So it was, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned for many days
Nehemiah 1:4a

The first reaction for many is to look at their congregation and wonder what damage transition will do to their church. For Nehemiah motivation came when his eyes were opened to the dreadful condition of the city, he was completely broken by the condition of his people who were suffering.

The leader and the church have to go through a season of brokenness to turn their eyes, hearts and energies from themselves to the condition of the lost.

We need to be completely broken and move from:

- Self-Sufficiency to God Sufficiency
- Self concern for tears for souls
- Failure consciousness to success consciousness
- Man's ideas to God's dream

Key 3 Fasting and Praying

I was fasting and praying before the God of heaven Nehemiah 1:4b

Seeking God's face through fasting and prayer is essential heart preparation for the faith, confidence and power to proceed in this great vision. These come through soaking in God's presence until the anointing if the Holy Spirit is poured out.

Take your key leaders away for a 3-day encounter with God. Allow Him to heal them, set them free and renew their minds. Make time for them to receive from the Holy Spirit.

The big temptation and mistake many leaders make is to immediately start writing books and travelling to tell everyone about the vision. This is putting the cart before the horse.

Dr Robert Schuller once said 'Never share your vision with an enemy'. Jesus chose a small group of 12 and poured His whole life into them, often shying away from the crowds. True pioneers never 'run' to the crowds.

Great pastoral patience, mercy and love are essential for envisioning 'the few.' Multi-national corporations can train leaders but the G12 vision is about raising up sons and daughters. Jesus came to take many sons back to glory. Many churches are raising up leaders but Scripture points out that there are few fathers. Leaders can be swapped but sons and daughters are for life.

Many people enter into the heart of the vision, but only through fasting and prayer will the vision enter into your heart.

Key 4 Confront your King

And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favour in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I might rebuild it." Nehemiah 2:5

Nehemiah had to face up to the King and overcome him before he could run with the vision. It's crucial to identify the 'kings' ruling in our lives and conquer them in order to proceed in great faith. The kings of fear, negative mindset, passivity, apathy, excuses, religion and weariness are all vision robbers to be eradicated before victory comes.

Someone has said, 'Those who follow the crowd are rarely followed by a crowd'. People pleasing is the greatest king that we have to conquer.

Key 5 Share the Vision with a Few

So I came to Jerusalem and was there for three days. Then I arose in the night, I and a few men with me;. I told no one what my God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2:11-12.

Take time to share your whole heart with the few key leaders and influencers in your church and only move forward when they have caught the vision. In our case taking them to Bogota to receive the vision helped to speed things up tremendously. Most obstacles to any vision are simply tough decisions waiting to be made.

Key 6 Survey the Scene

And I went out by night through the Valley Gate to the Serpent Well and the Refuse Gate, and viewed the walls of Jerusalem which were broken down and its gates which were burned with fire. Nehemiah 2:13

Nehemiah surveyed the city walls and identified the parts requiring special attention and restoration. Everyone in a church reacts to new things in a different way, and many can be motivated if their heart condition is identified. The weak, fearful, mavericks and 'last resistance' can all be won with much patience and perseverance. Many leaders make the mistake of putting all their energies into the young people as they often respond quicker. Older people can also be great leaders if they are pastored carefully.

Key 7 Rebuild the Foundation Stones

In Revelation 21:14 we read the wall of the city had 12 foundations and on them were written the names of the 12 Apostles of the Lamb. Jesus laid the foundation of His vision by spending all night in prayer in order to choose His 12. There is a power anointing when the Primary 12 are in place in the church.

Key 8 Repair the Walls and the Gates

Come let us rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah 2:17

In Jeremiah Chapter 30 God promises that when He returns His people from captivity He will heal and multiply them. The church needs healing from its hurts, set free from its past including many 'good things' they have learned before it can multiply. J. Oswald Saunders once said, 'It's rarely a bad thing that stains a vision - it's usually a good thing'. Holding on to the 'good things' of the past can hinder a real move of God. We have to remember that values last forever but styles, types and preferences need constant innovation. A.A. Bruce in his excellent book "The Training of the Twelve" says that Jesus' work with His disciples was as much about how they could 'unlearn' as it was about teaching them new things.

It's crucial for the whole church to go through a 3-day healing encounter so they can be effective soul winners and great leaders that carry the fragrance of Christ. 'Hurting people hurt others', John Arnott once said.

Key 9 Help your 12 to Form their 12 Disciples

But the former governors who were before me laid burdens on the people, and took from them bread and wine, besides forty shekels of silver. Yes, even their servants bore rule over the people, but I did not do so, because of the fear of the Lord. Indeed, I also continued the work on this wall and we did not buy any land. All my servants were gathered there for the work. Nehemiah 5:15-16

It is so important that, like Nehemiah, you note the mistakes of the past in order to avoid making them yourself. The former governors laid heavy burdens on the Jews. In the same

way, the 'discipleship' movement of a number of years ago made the mistake of 'lording' it over people, especially in the area of decision making and finance. We can avoid these extremes if we learn from the past and exercise our leadership in reverence and the fear of God.

Nehemiah devoted himself to the work, avoiding the greatest mistake in any vision which is to hire an 'implementer' to manage the project for him. The Pastor has to model the vision as a lifestyle. When people see the leaders fulfilling the ladder of success (win, consolidate, disciple and send) they will do the same.

Key 10 Know the Games to miss

I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down. Why should the work cease while I leave it and go down to you? Nehemiah 6:3

Distraction is the enemy of all great visions. Sanballat and Tobiah sent Nehemiah a letter asking him to attend their 'conference' but he was focused 100% on his vision and declined. Floods of invitations - good and bad - will come your way to distract you from raising an army and conquering your city, learn to say no.

Key 11 Plan regular Consecration Times

Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, with dust on their heads. Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers. And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the Lord their God for one quarter of the day; and for another quarter they confessed and worshipped the Lord their God. Nehemiah 9:1-3

The Israelites fasted, prayed, worshipped and repented. Regular times for the church to 'separate' itself and de-contaminate from sin prepare the people for a greater anointing and effectiveness in soul winning. These consecration times are essential, true repentance will result in good fruit.

Key 12 Finance Shows up

Then all Judah brought the tithe of the grain and the new wine and the oil to the storehouse. Nehemiah 13:12

When the people of God see something worth investing in they will not hesitate to pour their whole life into it. When you are obedient to God's vision, God provides the resources.

Pastor Cesar and Claudia prophesied these things over my wife and I in January 1997 and we have seen every word come true with thrilling results.

Never ask God to multiply your church unless you fully understand that the gardener, to prepare for an abundance of fruit, first has to prune the fruit tree. During the years of transition in our church we have learned to rejoice in the pruning process. We know that it means the harvest is on the way!

Implementation

The Government of 12 vision is sure to capture your heart and if it does where do you start? Does one quickly launch straight into the vision by announcing it in the church? With an Encounter, or Leadership Schools? Or even with a group of 12? All good questions and in this part it is hoped to answer some of them.

Here in the Vine Church we are in the process of achieving a Cell Church. Though not on as grand a scale as some leading Charismatic Churches in Britain we are growing steadily. From humble beginnings we are well into over 30 cell groups, or it was as of Summer 2003. This has been achieved by lots of prayer, planning and hard work especially by our enthusiastic youth!

In this section you will be led through some of the key issues of transition. It is vital that you have a planned approach to the implementation of G12 or you are more than likely to fail. This vision is revolutionary and will change your church for ever so taking your time is of great importance. Take a systematic approach to this change and you will be able to take your leaders and your church on a great journey of

1) Transition

- Implementation

2) Ownership is the Key

- Soak Yourself in the G12 Vision
- Visit Bogota (Its origin)
- Send Your Leadership
- Hear From God

3) Preparation

- Timing has to be right
- Establish a Strategy of Implementation
- Give Yourself a Time Scale to work to
- Make sure the Leaders are with you

4) Transition of Ministry

- Minimum of 2 years
- Management of Change
- Keep everybody in Pace
- Preach the Values

5) Launching G12

- Start Small
- Encourage People to go into Cells
- Work with those who are willing
- Encounter weekends are the Key to creating interest (you can only experience an encounter weekend when you belong to a cell)

6) Follow up/Consolidation

- Determine to Consolidate
- Keep the People you win
- Contact within 48 hours
- Home Visits

7) Training/ Discipleship

- Enrol People onto School of Leaders
- Make sure the Discipleship is Fruitful

8) Existing Programmes - Process of Integration

- Gradually Incorporate The G12
- Sunday services remain the same
- The Net Services can be an alternative to midweek services
- Prayer Meetings can continue and Flow into Cells

The Heart of the Vision

The heart of the vision refers to the key ingredient that has sparked the Principle of 12 and made it flourish. The heart of the vision is the specific idea and thought that the Holy Ghost is imparting to the church worldwide, using the church in Bogotá, Colombia, as the voice for this impartation. Although many have caught the vision, the vision clearly was born in Colombia, and Pastor César Castellanos was key in its development.

As Pastor César was sitting on the beach during a vacation, the Holy Ghost began to give him the heart of the vision. All the mechanics and elements of the vision came later, and they simply helped to hold the harvest and administrate the growth that came from the vision.

The Lord told César that if he would take 12 men just as Jesus did, love them, believe in them, and develop character in them, he would see a great harvest.

The path to seeing them develop was a genuine relationship with them that produced trust. The relationship was built on love and faith in the potential of each of his twelve. As he worked with each of his twelve, bringing them to experience the forgiveness, healing, and deliverance of the cross, signs of fruitfulness began to emerge. Fruitfulness was the result of intense ministry, training, and building.

The desire to see people healed and delivered precedes the desire to see fruitfulness. It takes months and years to see people healed. The Encounters and School of Leaders are part of the path to healing, but the personal, genuine ministry of the leader is what makes the difference in the long run. The focus is, of course, the cross, because leaders in themselves cannot change a person; however, the continual focus of bringing people to the cross will bring a total restoration to their lives.

The heart of the vision says in a loud voice: **THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HERE IS YOU AND THE CONDITION OF YOUR HEART!** The mechanics of the vision simply help us bring people to wholeness in their hearts. Any leader that is thrust into leadership without a whole heart is a temporary solution to a need.



We need long-term solutions to a world that needs Jesus. The first question asked to a leader in preparation should not be, Have you opened your cell? It should be, How is your heart? Once the heart is taken care of, the ground is prepared to mold the character of an individual. This is a task that can take a long period of training, accountability, etc., but it is necessary to see long-lasting results in the life of the believer.

So what else is at the heart of the vision? The focus is so strong on OTHERS that the main focus of leaders is no longer to develop their own large ministries, but to see those who are working with them to develop. The path Jesus followed was that of a servant to His twelve and then stepping back and allowing them to try their wings in ministry. His desire was to bring them to higher levels in their ministries.

You will only know how much people need to be healed, loved, and believed in when you enter the vision. We have a fatherless generation that is screaming out for leadership and affirmation.

You are a candidate to move in the heart of the vision if you are not seeking your own life, if you are willing to get down in the mud with sinners who are struggling in your church, if you are secure enough to let young men with little wisdom begin to assume important parts of your ministry, and if you are willing to share the fruitfulness God has given you with others.

The FOCUS:

The focus of healing first, not fruitfulness.

The focus of serving, not being served.

The focus of mentoring, fathering, and developing.the focus of building and believing.

The focus of OTHERS.

Final Thoughts:

The heart of the vision is critical to imparting the vision to your local church.

*If the heart of the vision is not understood, you could place leaders in positions of leadership before assuring that they are spiritually whole. This will lead them to become weary or discouraged in the vision.

*If the heart of the vision is not caught, you will just be copying a model for church growth from Colombia.

*If the pastor does not catch it, the congregation will not love the vision.

*If the heart of the vision is at the forefront, the church will embrace it with open arms.

*The heart of the vision brings the correct balance to the vision.

*Your heart must be open to being taught a new philosophy of ministry.

*Churches can grow without having the heart of the vision, but they will have great difficulty entering multiplication.

*The heart of the vision will be the oil in the motor that keeps it moving and growing.



The Purpose of PEP:

Pre-Encounter, Encounter, Post-Encounter

Pre-Encounter

1. The first purpose of Pre-Encounter is to verify the salvation of the new convert. Many do not understand the born-again experience and must be taught the truths of salvation of grace through faith. Every person that is going on an Encounter needs to have settled the issue of salvation to be ready to receive from the Lord.
2. A second purpose is to build the faith of the individuals to receive from the Lord on the Encounter. We must raise their level of expectation.
3. The third purpose is to begin to share with them a few details of what will take place on the Encounter.
4. Lastly, Pre-Encounter helps them prepare mentally for a focused time with the Lord.

Encounter

1. The purpose of the Encounter is to minister to individuals in a personal way that would be impossible to accomplish in a Sunday service because of lack of time.
2. Secondly, it is to see individuals come to a true repentance before the Lord and receive forgiveness for sins.
3. Thirdly, it is for the participants to experience the healing power of God in emotional and physical areas of their lives.
4. Fourthly, it is to see deliverance ministered to all that need to be set free from bondage.
5. Fifthly, it is to see individuals filled with the power of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.
6. Finally, it is to introduce them to the vision of the local church.



Post-Encounter

1. The purpose of the Post-Encounter is to retain what God has done in the lives of the individuals who have been on an Encounter.
2. Secondly, it is to help new believers begin to take their first steps in the Lord.
3. It also establishes a rhythm of prayer and discipling in the life of the believers.
4. It clarifies the basic issues that new believers face.
5. It helps connect the new believers to the body.

The Prayer of Three

The prayer of three is one of the most effective methods of winning souls. It consists of three people in a cell or in the School of Leaders who each write down the name of three specific people they will be praying for. These three should be three people who need the Lord and seem to be open to receiving help. They should also live in the same general area, because after a month of prayer, they will be approached and invited to an event, such as a Sunday service or a net meeting

In other words, the prayer of three has three Christians praying for a total of nine unsaved people. These people are the targets of fasting and prayer, and the objective is to get them into a cell group or a church service where the Lord can move on their hearts.

In the School of Leaders, this method is used to open a cell. The prayer of three is implemented and the people saved through this are taken to a cell or gathered to open a new cell. It is a simple but effective tool. This method can also be implemented before a special evangelistic event or periodically throughout the year.

It is not recommended to start the prayer of three every month. The most often you will do this will be quarterly as you move into the vision. Once generations have grown and multiplied, they will implement the prayer of three at different times from one another

At Bethany, we use prayer of three white-boards that can be filled out during the cell meetings to encourage each member to participate in this effort to see people saved. The boards are brought out during the cell meeting, and there will be a time of prayer for the unsaved on the list. The white-boards can be erased and filled in with new names during subsequent quarters.



The 144 and the 1728 Levels

In The Principle of 12, there are levels of multiplication. The first level is the group of 12. The second level of multiplication is the 144 level. The third level is the 1728 level. Once all the members of your 12 have 12 leaders under them, the 144 level has been reached. When each of the 144 has 12 leaders under each one of them, the 1728 level has been reached.

The purpose of the first level of 12 is government; the purpose of the second level, the 144, is conquest; and the purpose of the 1728 level is dominion. With 1,728 leaders that have been trained to win souls and make disciples you will shake a city and region.

Once you have you twelve, you have the pillars on which you build the vision. Each of your twelve, therefore, must be strong and developed in character.

Although many set goals as far as souls and cells are concerned, it is better to focus your first set of goals on building your 12, the 144, and the 1728. Through these, yare building a multitude of leaders that will help you impact your region.

Once you have the 144, you will need to periodically meet with all the cell leaders under you. These can be called leadership summits, or 144 meetings. Encounter Retreats for the 144 are also part of the plan to develop the 144, along with times of sanctification. Sanctification meetings are a series of services usually held on consecutive days that focus on preaching and motivating the 144 to holy lives and deeper consecration.

The Government of Twelve

The government of twelve in the Principle of 12 vision refers to the structure set in place to rule. The principle of twelve is seen in the 12 months of the year, the 12 tribes of Israel, and the choosing of the 12 disciples.

Could there be something magical about the number *twelve*? Probably not. But there is a principle to follow that clearly has a meaning and purpose. Jesus' vision for the world is to "win souls" and "make disciples." This He clearly stated in Matthew 28:19: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations."

To achieve His vision, Jesus worked closely with 12 men that He mentored to take His place on the earth. We call this mentoring technique the principle of twelve. Following Jesus' pattern, the apostle Paul also trained a number of young men ("Timothys") who later became the great leaders of the New Testament church. Did Paul have a twelve? The Bible is not clear on that subject, but you can be assured that Paul was familiar with the principle of twelve in government.



The number *twelve* is the number of government in the Bible. Jesus established His kingdom and government on the earth by using the same principle that God had used to establish Israel in the Old Testament. Just as Israel had 12 tribes, Jesus had 12 disciples. Using this pattern, Jesus intended to show us a model of how to disciple not only our local communities, but also the nations of the world.

Do not get too hung up on the number *twelve*, however. The principle of government is more important than the number of government. To implement the vision you can have 6, 8, 10, or 20 people. It will work with 8 or 11 or any other number. But why not follow the example of Jesus and begin to mentor and develop 12 other people?