



THE FOURSQUARE FAMILY and SIMPLE CHURCHES

House Churches in Foursquare? You bet! We already have several simple/house church networks operating in various parts of the United States! And this past year our board voted to fully bless and embrace simple, organic expressions of church as a major part of our overall church planting efforts. Quite simply, we are convinced that this is God's will.

The structure of "simple church" is the easiest and most direct way to fulfill our goal to make disciples found in Matthew 28. (*note that standard churches with healthy small groups already know this!*) In addition, a strong case can be made that everyone who participates in a simple church structure can be equipped for ministry as declared in Ephesians 4:10, 11. We understand that these networks still need administrative covering that protect their legal status as viable, legitimate Foursquare Churches.

–Rod Koop, Foursquare Missional Facilitator

What *is* Simple Church?

Simple Church is our term for what many call house church. One of the best basic definitions for simple church comes from House2House (www.house2house.com). Their definition is below (edited):

- A way of doing and being church that is so simple that almost any healthy believer will respond by saying, "I could do that!"
- Church as described in the New Testament. It is not constrained by structure but responds to the needs of the extended family (*oikos*), and a desire to extend the Kingdom of God.
- People who listen to God, follow His leading and gladly obey Him.
- Spiritual parents raising spiritual sons and daughters to establish their own families (*oikos*).

How is our Foursquare Family Embracing Simple Church?

Working through and with our districts, we are networking existing and potential simple church leaders together in a number of ways. We are also working with standard church pastors to explore how they can transition their churches into "hybrid" churches and/or plant simple churches.

We have also created a way for an individual house church to be registered as a Simple Church (as a SC Network, even if you only have one SC at present). A Foursquare SC Network will receive offerings, complete monthly SCN reports on Ezra and be involved with the Foursquare family.

We are expanding our corporate definition to embrace "simpler" expressions of the church. "Is this a church?" will be answered in a way that divests ourselves of Western culture influenced definitions.

Some Simple Church Models Currently Functioning in our Foursquare Family

- Simi Valley, CA. Marty Kruse's network meets for weekly celebrations, but more are present in home gatherings. Strong emphasis placed upon intergenerational ministry. Marty meets regularly with his leaders. See their website for more at www.theriversimi.org
- Las Vegas, NV. John Page has a truly remarkable outreach in the jail system using the simple church model to make disciples of the hundreds who come to faith through his ministry. See his website for lots of encouragement! <http://www.freedomfoursquare.com>
- Raytown, MO. John Wiley has moved his church to a "hybrid" format. He describes his church as a network of house churches. See his website for more www.rivercentral.org
- New Hampshire. Tom Johnston's network meets corporately once per month. The network handles administrative functions for the SC pastors. Tom meets regularly with his leaders.

I want to know more...

- Check out www.reachmore.org/simplechurch for a list of recommended websites and books.
- Email your district Missional Leader for more information.
- See our other documents, including *Church at its Simplest* and *Simple Church Networks in the New Testament* and *First Steps for Simple Church Planters*.

First Steps For Simple Church Planters

Foursquare Simple Church Networks

Personal and Family Preparation.

Change the focus from obtaining a building to making disciples! The following are essential preparations for pursuing God's call to extend His Kingdom through simple communities of faith.

Get healthy. Scripture makes it clear that "wholeness gives birth to wholeness."

THE SIMPLE CHURCH ADVENTURE is about *inviting* people into your life rather than doing meetings or programs, so it is essential for you to be healthy in your relationship with God and your family! Genuine, growing intimacy with God ("living loved," hearing God, obeying Him wholeheartedly, etc.) is the foundation from which everything else flows. And since the first expression of the church is your own family, and since you will be inviting people into your life, your family will help reflect your health (not talking about perfection here, just health!). You will be able to say to people, "Live your life the way I live mine; relate to God the way I relate; treat your spouse the way I treat mine." To make disciples you yourself get to *be* a healthy disciple of Christ.

If you realize that you aren't so healthy, please find someone who is and have them disciple you for a while until you are truly healthy before proceeding further!

More on this theme is found in Church At Its Simplest.

Get equipped- the supernatural power of God. "The Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power!" (1 Corinthians 4:20).

When Jesus sent His disciples out to announce that the Kingdom of God had come, they were sent out with power (Acts 1:7, 8). Healing the sick and casting out demons (see Matt 10: 1-8)—the power released—was the indicator that God's Kingdom had truly come near (see Luke 9:1-6 and 10:8-9). When Philip went down to Samaria he healed the sick and cast out demons as he announced the Good News (Acts 8:4-8), and Paul describes his ministry in terms of power, telling the Thessalonians, "we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction..." (1 Thessalonians 1:4-5a). In 1 Corinthians Paul says, "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power." (1 Corinthians 2:4-5).

If you don't know how to heal the sick or cast out demons in Jesus' name, the power of God is available! We are here to help and pray for you. Feel free to get in touch with us for more help.

Get connected. Simple communities of faith living a simple life in Christ.

Since this is about inviting people into life with Jesus, you can start by catching the pulse of your community. Walk through it and pray, build relationships by listening to the people to whom God has called you, and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit as you catch the Father's heart for them. Have an informal gathering at your home, meet up at a restaurant, or be open for your weekend plans to change when others want to join in! Connect with others who hear God's call to participate in the extension of the Kingdom of God.

Check out the Simple Churches link on www.reachmore.org for information on how to connect with others on this journey. You can also contact your district Missional Leader for help in connecting.

Get informed. Recommended reading and researching resources.

So You Don't Want to Go To Church Anymore by Wayne Jacobsen and Dave Coleman).
The Rabbit and The Elephant by Tony and Felicity Dale and George Barna
Permission Granted to Do Church Differently by Gary Goodell and Graham Cooke.

Other resources can be found on the web at www.reachmore.org

Foursquare Preparations.

Communication.

If you are being sponsored by a Foursquare church, be sure that communication is flowing between you and its leadership and that everyone understands basic Simple Church values and approaches. Be sure that you are in communication with your District Supervisor and his/her Missional Leader. Your district representative will have you fill out an application for church planting. You can also go to www.reachmore.org and fill out the Church Planter Inquiry and recommendation forms.

Confirming Support.

After you have the support of your district leadership, you will submit a simple church network planting proposal to them. The proposal should include the following:

Your Own Story: a synopsis of God's call into this adventure and evidence of your familiarity with simple church principles and values. This will include, but not be limited to, books you have read, websites you researched, and a description of any practical experience related to Simple Church. We are also looking for evidence that you hear God and live intimately with Him in a way that shows up in healthy relationships with your immediate family and others in your life.

Values, Vision and Mission Statement: This need not be as detailed as a proposal for a TC plant because SC by its definition is, well, simpler! But even simple church leaders have core values, a vision of what God has called them to and a sense of mission. In this section we will be looking for evidence of your commitment to the releasing and empowering leadership style that is essential to healthy organic church life and multiplication.

Funding: Although it is not likely that you will need funding, if you are requesting funding, the proposal should also include a proposed budget. You will submit this to your District Supervisor and her/his Missional Leader. The budget will be evaluated for evidence of clear understanding of organic/simple church values as well as connection to your stated vision and mission.

Demographic Study: It will be helpful for you to do a demographic study related to the people you feel called to touch. Include a brief picture of how you believe your community will be impacted by what God will do via this endeavor. A snapshot of how your community will be transformed five years in the future would be great!

Leadership Development: a description, as you currently understand it of how you will do training. You will also need to decide whether licensing will be offered to the leaders of simple churches in your network. We recommend that individual simple church leaders not be licensed since the process slow down multiplication and may send the wrong "clergy-laity" message to folks.

Anything else: Include anything else you wish to communicate with us—perhaps things related to the uniqueness of your call, vision, or anything you believe is important for us to know about you. Once you have **submitted the proposal** to the district (if not sooner), your district leaders will be in contact with you about coaching, completing any forms, licensing, etc.

Covenant Considerations.

Being part of the Foursquare family means that you are entering into a covenant with us with mutual commitments that we honor because we value our relationship. One of those commitments means that you will honor our desire to protect children by adapting our child protection policies to your simple church environment (we can help with this). Another commitment is that you will honor our bylaws. Since an important provision of our bylaws is having a church council, new SC networks will communicate with the District Supervisor so that s/he can appoint members to a provisional church council. Note that having a council need not interfere with the common simple church practice of involving the entire church in major financial decisions. It simply means that there will be identifiable persons among the people who are noted in the records as stewards of the church finances. Another covenant commitment involves carrying insurance, a wise option that protects in many ways. Your district staff can help you with other covenant items; don't be afraid to ask for help!

Questions? Contact your District Missional Leader or national SC team members for help along the way.

CHURCH AT ITS SIMPLEST

What *is* Simple Church? *Simple Church* is a common term for what is often called house church. One of the best definitions comes from House2House (www.house2house.com). Their definition is below (slightly modified). By "simple church," we mean ...

- a way of doing/being church that is so simple that almost any believer will say, "I can do that!"
- the kind of church described in the New Testament, flexible and changeable to enable quick responses to the needs of the extended family and God's call to extend His Kingdom.
- people who listen to God, follow His leading and obey Him.
- spiritual parents raising spiritual sons and daughters to establish their own families.

It's More Than a Change of Location!

Simple church is more than a move away from the confines of a building. It is a response to God's call to re-examine everything about "church" in light of Scripture and to simplify what has been complicated by events and programs. It is best described by common core values and practices such as ...

- Simplicity. Formal programs give place to informal, spontaneous expressions of life and outreach.
- Intimacy with God and one another. Intimacy with God is foundational to everything else.
- Community. SC folks know that relationships are at the core of everything in the Christ life.
- Family. The church *is* family, healthy families *are* the church, and leaders are spiritual parents.
- The Gospel of the Kingdom—this is the message that Jesus and the NT believers presented!
- 24/7 Christian walk. Folks in simple churches have a sincere desire to be devoted followers of Jesus all the time, everywhere; the level of personal accountability and involvement is very high.
- Spontaneity. Life and ministry together are characterized by the informal and the spontaneous.
- Supernatural lifestyle. Simple church folks generally seem to be very open to the supernatural and keenly aware of the need to live naturally supernatural lives in today's broken world.
- Intimacy-based, missional praying (e.g., praying Luke 10:2b for workers for the Harvest).
- Participation (for everyone—everyone has something to contribute, not only when the church gathers but as the church ministers to its own community and beyond).
- Leadership by example, serving and spiritual influence, carried out in and by a leadership community, not a single leader. Simple church leaders allot most of their time to intentionally nurturing relationships in both formal and informal settings.
- Modeling and discovery-based learning as the primary means of teaching/training; this is a return to the Hebraic model used by Jesus and other NT leaders.

How is this different from more traditional forms of church?

Many of these values are shared by the standard church models, so how is Simple Church different? (Note that the left column is admittedly very generalized and is for comparison only. It is not intended as a criticism of more traditional forms of church).

Standard Church	Simple Church
Meetings: the major focus is usually on the large gatherings, even in cell-celebration models.	Meetings: the major emphasis is on small group meetings which are often informal and spontaneous.
Community: building community may be greatly prioritized, especially in cell churches, but the level of members' involvement in the programs is the key to how well this works.	Community: the church is formed because of and around community, so the building of relationships is the foundation, the emphasis and the natural outflow of being the church.
Leadership: often is reserved for those in pastoral roles and recognized positions.	Leadership: is viewed as the shared responsibility of every member in the community, with some being recognized as "fathers and mothers" (elders, etc.)
Participation: may be limited to only a few by the size of meetings and sometimes by the ministry philosophy.	Participation: is by every member (including children!) in the gatherings and other expressions of ministry.
Personal care for one another may be done mostly by the pastoral staff or those they appoint.	Personal care for one another ideally takes place through all the members of the group.

A Biblical Definition of Church—Is *that* a church?!

The question “Is that a church?” was never asked in NT times. There was only *the church*, meaning either the “universal” Church, the church in a region/city or the church that met in someone’s house (Romans 16:3-5, 1 Corinthians 16:19, Colossians 4:15). So a better question would be, “Is that a viable expression of the church?” What helps us recognize the Body of Christ regardless of its “clothing”? Consider the following.

- The church is the result of the extension of the Kingdom of God. Whenever the Kingdom of God invaded an area it created a community of Christ followers, a family, known as a church (*ekklesia*).
- Although there are many descriptions of the church in the New Testament, perhaps the simplest yet fullest description of the church is “God’s Family.”
 - Although the church is called “family” only rarely: Galatians 6:10, 1 Peter 4:17 (*oikos*: household) and Ephesians 3:15 (*patria*: family descended from a father), the early believers clearly understood their relationship with God and one another in terms of family. In Romans 8:14-15 and Galatians 4:6 believers know God as “Abba” (Aramaic for “Father” or “papa”), and the most common term for believers in the NT is “brothers.”
 - I love my friend John White’s definition of the church: “A spiritual family called together by Jesus and functioning under His leadership.”
- All believers in the New Testament had entered the family having experienced the following. They had ...
 - been unmistakably born from above (“born again”) through repentance and deep, total trust in Jesus.
 - confessed Jesus as *Lord*, the complete master of their lives.
 - been baptized in water as a means of identification with Jesus and His family.
 - been inundated by God’s Spirit (baptized in the Spirit).
 - undergone a process of inner healing and spiritual cleansing via deliverance as needed.
- Although we are not told a lot about the gatherings of the church, we do know the following:
 - They usually gathered around a meal, integrating at some point the celebration of the Lord’s Supper (see Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 11:20-26).
 - The gathering could be as few as two or three (Matthew 18:20).
 - The following were characteristic of every gathering.
 - The *Presence* of God. Early believers expected the *experienced presence* of Jesus through the Holy Spirit to be among them (Matthew 18:20 and 1 Corinthians 14:24-25).
 - The *Power* of God. The early believers expected the supernatural power of God to be expressed in their midst (see 1 Corinthians 5:4, 12:7-11, and Galatians 3:5).
 - *Participation* by all. The early believers expected each person to contribute in their gatherings as the Spirit led (1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and 14:24-26. Ephesians 5:19-20 and Colossians 3:16-17 also imply participation by many.). Meeting in homes helped maintain the smaller size needed for participation. The NT also describes other, occasional larger gatherings, but the regular gatherings remained small to allow for participation by all.
- Leadership in the NT church was servant-oriented and not hierarchical, and *leaders led by example* as much as by instruction and training. Paul’s letters are filled with evidence of this. Four passages that show this are Acts 20:17-28, 1 Corinthians 4:14-17, 2 Corinthians 4:5 (your “slaves for Christ’s sake”) and 1 Thessalonians 2:6-12 (Paul likens himself to mother and father).
- The purpose or mission of the church has many facets (see 1 Peter 1:9, for example), but it always flows from intimacy with Jesus (John 15:1-17) and derives its power and direction from individual and corporate relationship with Him.

Summary: Is it a viable expression of the church? Yes, if you see the following:

- Disciples being made: People being transformed by the power of God, relating to God and one another as family, who are in various ways transforming the world around them.
- Leadership that leads by loving example and serving as well as by instruction/training.
- Gatherings that are filled with God’s presence and power and in which everyone participates.

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Simple Church Networks in the New Testament

Reflections by Tom Wymore

Since *all* the churches in New Testament times were *networks of house churches*, we do well to look to the New Testament for help in the birthing of simple church networks. Paul left house church networks behind wherever he went, so how did he do it?

Strategy (I encourage you to do your own research on this!)

Paul's strategy was not really a "strategy" as our culture would think of it, rather his approach was based upon principles Jesus had taught His disciples, and the primary principle was simply to follow the Holy Spirit! This does not mean that there are no patterns to be found, however. Consider the following.

1. First, prayer clearly fueled and directed Paul's apostolic ministry. This is clearest in his letters to the house church networks in the cities he visited, but prayer is also a major theme in Acts. Everything Paul did was birthed out of prayer. His first journey was launched during a "prayer meeting" (Acts 13:1ff.), and Paul's life was lived in an atmosphere of continual prayer.
2. Second, as Roland Allen points out in *Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours?*, Paul consistently went to major Roman cities that were the trade centers for their region. Paul expected the explosive power of the Gospel of the Kingdom to result in its spread throughout a region from the main city.
3. Third, Paul clearly modeled his approach upon Jesus' instructions to His disciples in Luke 10 to find a person of peace (see below for a discussion on the person of peace). He always began his presentation of the Good News, if possible, in a synagogue or at least a place of prayer because he was looking for a person of peace—see Acts 13:2, 14; 14:1; 16:13-14; 17:1-2, 10; 18:4; 19:8.
4. Fourth, Paul's message was the Good News of the Kingdom of God (as opposed to the "gospel of the church" or "get out of hell free" message that is common today!). Because the Gospel of the Kingdom *must* be validated by God's power, signs and wonders were an essential part of Paul's ministry. This is consistent with Jesus' commission to the 72 in Luke 10 and to the twelve in Luke 9 (Matthew 10, Mark 6). The presentation of the Good News apart from supernatural confirmation would have been *unthinkable* for early followers of Jesus! Also, as we have noted, the Gospel of the Kingdom is built around making disciples, *not* planting churches—a very important distinction.
5. Fifth, training was by means of *example* and *modeling* which backed up the interactive, experience-based style of teaching of Paul's day. Paul preferred to stay in a place long enough to model life in the Kingdom. When that wasn't possible, he left someone behind to model as well as teach (Luke was left in Philippi, Silas and Timothy in Berea, etc.).
6. Sixth, Paul established and developed leaders by two means. He trained leaders "on site" when possible (training especially the "persons of peace" who usually became leaders/elders in the local house church networks), and he also trained apostolic leaders as they traveled with him. These people became those whom he could leave behind in a city or send out to strengthen believers.
7. Seventh, Paul traveled in a leadership community. In a sense, Paul's apostolic band was a church itself, modeling a Kingdom-of-God community. People who came in contact with Paul and his companions were able to see what "church" looked like as it was lived out in front of them each day!

The Person of Peace Principle

What is a "person of peace"? The "person of peace" is mentioned in Jesus' instructions to the 72 as He sends them out before He visits specific villages (Luke 10:6). The "person of peace" is called a "worthy person" in Matthew 10:11-13. This person is *described very clearly* by NT culture and Jesus' instructions:

- First, s/he was the person in the city whose home was most clearly recognized as a house of peace. Marvin Wilson states that the goal of every Jewish home was to become a *shalom bayit*, a peaceful home (*Our Father Abraham*, pp. 217-219). So a person of peace would be recognized by the wholeness (health) of his/her life and family and would become a primary foundation for the establishing of God's Kingdom in the region (wholeness begets wholeness!).
- Second, the person of peace was someone whose heart had already been prepared by God to receive the message of the Kingdom of God. So this person's house became the "base of operations" for ministry in the region and their sphere of influence provided natural, relational pathways through which the Kingdom would advance.

The book of Acts reveals *the application of this principle* after Pentecost. Philip is led to the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40), Peter is led to Cornelius (Acts 10), and Paul's persons of peace include Timothy's mother, Eunice in Lystra (see Acts 14:6 ff. and compare Acts 16:1-2 and 2 Timothy 1:5), Lydia in Philippi (Acts 16:14-15), Jason in Thessalonica (Acts 17:5-9) and many others.

What if a "person of peace" isn't available because of the brokenness of the people and their culture? This was an issue for Paul and the other apostles and is certainly an issue for us. What did they do?

- First, note that this may not have been as much of an issue then as it is now. The Roman Empire had been thoroughly permeated by Judaism through the Diaspora, and Paul was *usually* led to cities where there was a synagogue. There were also some healthy people of peace in the Gentile world—some philosophies of life promoted values that were fairly healthy in terms of ethics and relationships (the Stoics come to mind). Paul mentions this in Romans 2:14-15 where he speaks of Gentiles who have the law of God "written on their hearts."
- Second, the Gospel in New Testament times powerfully transformed lives. People were healed, delivered and deeply changed by the supernatural power of God at conversion. Paul's description of the Corinthians' transformation in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and in many other places shows the extreme change that the Gospel caused in those who responded to it. The sheer power of the Gospel of the Kingdom to change lives, coupled with a strong emphasis on obedience to God helped even broken people become "persons of peace" in a relatively short period of time. Most of us have known people whose hearts were set on obedience and transformation from the beginning of their journey with God. Perhaps we were looking at a person of peace in process!
- Third, when there was no clearly identifiable person of peace in a region, Paul would stay in that area long enough to model health and wholeness (as in Corinth and Ephesus) or leave a person of peace behind as he did when he left Luke in Philippi and Silas and Timothy in Berea. This approach was also reinforced by letters and visits as needed.

Why this principle is so important.

- First, when we put this principle into practice we live out the "absolute dependence lifestyle" Jesus taught in John 15:4-5. Since it's true that we can do nothing apart from Jesus—just as He did nothing apart from His Father (John 5:19, 30), failure to look for the person of peace *whom God has prepared* is an invitation to failure and a rather flagrant declaration of independence—the exact opposite of what Jesus modeled and taught. On the other hand, as we trust in and discover God's work in preparing this person, we will find true receptivity *and* lasting fruit (John 15:8,16).
- Second, the process for making disciples requires us to start with reasonably healthy people *whenever possible, or at least* the person whom God has highlighted as "destined for health." Because wholeness (health) begets wholeness (health) and because modeling is an integral part of training followers of Jesus, starting with someone whose life already has some wholeness ensures a good foundation for what follows. The person of peace often became the leader of the church that was started in his/her home after s/he was discipled. Paul almost certainly appointed elders from among such people (see Acts 14:21-23). The qualifications for elders in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 are a good description of a person of peace. Obviously, God's word and His Spirit can be trusted to bring transformation when no healthy person is available, but we need to make this the rare exception if we wish to make disciples the way that Jesus and the early apostles made disciples.

Application to us? How shall we go about participating in the extension of God's Kingdom?

1. First, since health begets health, and since it takes a person of peace to recognize a person of peace, the first qualification for your participation in extending God's Kingdom is for you to become a person of peace! It would have been inconceivable to Paul for an emotionally and spiritually immature person to be an evangelist or apostle. Jesus and Paul knew that a healthy foundation was not optional for the transformation of a city or region. This is underscored by Paul's emphasis upon modeling and his frequent concern that believers model transformation to their pre-Christian neighbors (see Paul's letters to the Thessalonians and 1 Timothy and Titus).

2. Second, with the call to extend God's Kingdom comes the need for an increasingly intimate relationship with God. As we have already stated, intimacy is at the heart of everything—in fact, intimacy with God *is* the Good News! Those of us called to extend God's Kingdom will find that it is intimacy alone that will enable us to discern God's leading, give healthy expression to supernatural power, and pray with true effectiveness.
3. Third, prayer—not as the western church typically defines it but as the Bible defines it—must become the foundation of everything. A good place to start will be to ask for God's help in putting into practice Luke 10:2b as well as the other prayer principles in Jesus' teaching and those principles that are revealed in Paul's prayers.
4. Fourth, since "the Kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power" (1 Corinthians 4:20), you should be prepared to do whatever it takes to see God's supernatural power released as you present the message of the Kingdom. The Good News must be validated by God's power to be believable in today's culture! "When you go, proclaim this: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead to life again, heal those who have skin diseases, and force demons out of people. I give you these powers freely, so help other people freely." (Matthew 10:7-8). And this is precisely how thousands of simple churches are being planted in China, India and many other places in the world!
5. Fifth, since the church is essentially family and community, extending God's Kingdom should be done in community. This community starts with your own family, but it will go beyond that. Everyone can and must follow Jesus as part of a band of brothers/sisters! Your family and the leadership community around you *must* model the intimate and healthy relationships that the Gospel of the Kingdom produces.
6. Sixth, you must intentionally practice the "person of peace" principle from the beginning. Through prayer and interaction with your community you will discover persons of peace and watch God build His family from there.
7. What about the meetings? It's best to think of this endeavor *not* in terms of meetings but of family. We are called to "make disciples" by inviting people into our lives, not to start meetings. The gatherings will flow naturally out of the relationships with new believers and will be birthed as the Spirit leads. Some of the gatherings will be for specific purposes, some will be spontaneous, but all should be the outgrowth of life lived together in Jesus. Regular gatherings will surely be part of what God leads you to do, but it's best to think in terms of them being an outgrowth of Kingdom life rather than the one thing that will make Kingdom life happen! (For some great thoughts on "meetings," check out chapter 9 of *So You Don't Want to Go To Church Anymore*.)

In a Nutshell: You start this adventure by ensuring that your own family is a "household of peace." Then with much prayer, you seek to discover God's direction so that you can find the next "person of peace." You will also be praying Luke 10:2b, which will open doors to others who are potential "Kingdom extenders" (prayer is God's prescribed means for thrusting new laborers into the Harvest). Then as you build relationships with the persons of peace you will watch Jesus open their hearts to His love (supernatural power will be the norm, one hopes!). The persons of peace will then reach to their *oikos* (spheres of influence), and the Kingdom will expand along natural lines. And after that? I am confident that as you listen to Jesus (as part of a loving community) and do what He says, you will discover those next steps!

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