

# CLEARPOINT STRATEGY SHEET

## EQUIPPING NEW CHRISTIANS & YOUNG BELIEVERS THROUGH YOUR CELL

In a cell-based church there is no "discipleship department." Rather, we believe discipleship (and everything else the church does) needs to happen in the context of relationships (i.e., your cell). Therefore, it is the job of a shepherd to see that young believers and people who come to Christ in your cell be helped onto the road to growth in their faith. This doesn't mean that it is the shepherd's job to personally disciple all these people, but rather, through mobilizing other believers in your cell as their sponsor, to equip them for spiritual growth.

We use 3 booklets in equipping new or young Christians: *Welcome To Your Changed Life*, *The Journey Guide for New Believers*, and *Beginning the Journey*. The success of equipping through this method is built on 2 key aspects:

1. **INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING THROUGH BRIEF, ONGOING, DAILY INPUT.** *Beginning the Journey* is broken down into five weekly units. Each unit is designed to be covered in a week - by the sponsee spending 10 to 15 minutes, 5 days each week reading a section of Scripture and answering several questions related to topics they need to know as a new or young believer. The topics covered are: Week 1 - Assurance of their salvation; Week 2 - Learning to listen to God through a Quiet Time; Week 3 - Sin Strongholds; Week 4 - Lordship and Water Baptism; and Week 5 - Bible Study.
2. **RELATIONSHIP AND HELP FROM SOMEONE A STEP OR MORE AHEAD OF THEM ON THE SPIRITUAL JOURNEY.** Sponsors need not be spiritual giants (By our definition - which usually means they have acquired a lot of Bible *KNOWLEDGE*), but rather simply a **Christian in the cell who is a step or two ahead of the sponsee!** The sponsee will meet once a week with their sponsor in order to receive help with any of their questions related to that week's topic. The sponsor does the book on their own as well and then makes sure they meet weekly with their sponsee to help clarify any questions. Additional helps are available in the back of *Beginning the Journey* for these weekly get-togethers, though really all they need to do is ask, "What can I try to help you with from the stuff you covered this week?"

### SPECIFIC STEPS FOR SPONSORING A NEW BELIEVER

Being a sponsor for a new believer in your cell requires 7 weekly meetings. Here is the order and steps to take:

- Within a couple weeks (Preferably within a couple **DAYS**) of the person in your cell making a decision to accept Christ as their Savior, give them a copy of **Welcome To Your Changed Life** and ask them to read it and then get together with you (over coffee, lunch, an hour before your cell meets, etc.). The sponsor needs to read (or reread) over this booklet himself or herself and then when you meet simply ask if they have any questions about what they read or their new relationship with Christ. **Welcome To Your Changed Life** emphasizes 2 things: First it gives assurance to the new believer that Christ is indeed now their Savior and that they can be confident of their relationship with Him. Secondly, it stresses the need of being in cell-life relationships in order to truly be able to grow and mature as a Christian.
- When you've finished your time of discussing **Welcome To Your Changed Life** ask them if they would be willing to meet with you again in another week to discuss where they have been up to this point in their journey to God. Then give them a copy of **The Journey Guide for New Believers** and ask them to complete it before you meet again. **The Journey Guide for New Believers** covers past pains in their life, their basic Bible understanding (This is especially helpful with a new Christian to gauge the level of understanding with which they are entering the Christian life), and the stronghold and sin issues they are dealing with. Basically you are there to share with them your spiritual journey and to learn about theirs.
- At the end of The Journey Guide interview, ask them if they would be willing to meet with you for 5 more weeks and allow you to sponsor them through the **Beginning the Journey** booklet. Give them a copy of **Beginning the Journey** and explain that they will need to spend 10 to 15 minutes a day reading and filling out the items in the book and then you will get together each week to discuss them.

### **THE BENEFIT**

**This is discipleship!** Just think about it - through sponsoring a new or young Christian through the equipping track you will be helping them be secure in their faith - overcoming the doubt that Satan often uses to discourage new believers in Christ. You will understand them for who they are and where they have come from on their journey to a relationship with the Savior. You will have helped them understand the significance of baptism so that they can take the step of publicly identifying with Christ. Finally, you will have helped them acquire the skills they need in order to grow as a Christian: How to pray; How to listen to God and His direction in their life; How to read and understand the Scriptures and develop a daily habit of doing so; and How to deal with sin and stronghold areas in their life where Satan has previously brought them defeat. **As a sponsor YOU are the key in helping new and young Christians be equipped for a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ!**