"HOME-MADE FELLOWSHIP"

INTRODUCTION:
Why have home fellowship flocks (or "cell groups")?

I. Theological Reasons

A. The example of Acts
Acts 2:41-47; Acts 12:12; Acts 16:14-15, 40; Acts 20:20

B. The testimony of the Epistles
Romans 16:5; I Cor. 16:19; Col. 4:15

C. The analogy of the "Body" (I Cor. 12:12ff)

II. Ministerial Reasons

Small fellowship groups accomplish the following:

A. Small groups provide a setting for deeper intimate fellowship (Acts 4:32)
(The development of relationships)

B. Small groups provide a setting for greater interpersonal commitment and accountability
(The development of cohesiveness)
Acts 4:34-37; Rom. 14:9

C. Small groups provide a setting for more personal involvement
(The development of servants)
I Cor. 14:26 ("everyone"); Eph. 4:11-12

D. Small groups provide a setting for the reproduction of leadership
(The development of leaders)
Eph. 4:11-12; II Tim. 2:2

E. Small groups provide a setting for spiritual and numerical growth
(The development of maturity)
Acts 2:47; 4:33

III. Practical Reasons

A. To overcome geographical inconveniences

B. To overcome ethnic or language barriers

C. To assist in organizational flow

D. To be a channel for communication

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOST

The host has the following responsibilities:

1. **To be faithful (I Cor. 4:2)**

2. **To pray for the meeting each week**

3. **To view your home as a gift from God to be used for His glory**

4. **To have your home clean and presentable for the meetings**

5. **To be ready for the meeting to begin promptly at 7:00 p.m. each Friday**

6. **To be willing to open your home for at least 3 months (12 weeks)**

7. **To help with the refreshments**

   (The host does not have to provide all the refreshments, but should ensure that someone is bringing them)

8. **To provide a room for the children**

   (Our church has Christian videos to entertain the children)

9. **To be involved in the meeting**

THE MINISTRY OF A SHEPHERD

The lay-minister ("shepherd") has the following responsibilities:

1. **To lead the fellowship flock (*See Fellowship Flock Ministry Sheet)**

2. **To love, pray for, and care for the people in your flock**

3. **To be faithful (I Cor. 4:2)**

4. **To inform Pastor Sawyer of special needs or problems**

5. **To be a channel for church administration**

   --Urgent prayer requests
   --Discipleship

6. **To meet with Pastor Sawyer each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. for prayer**

7. **To meet once a month with Pastor Sawyer for Shepherd Meetings**

8. **To keep in contact with those in your flock**

9. **To encourage people to attend your flock group (cards and visitors will be given to you)**

10. **To keep attendance of those in your meeting (a card is to be filled out and given to Pastor Sawyer each Sunday)**

11. **To assist in the training of future flock leaders**

FELLOWSHIP FLOCK
MINISTRY SHEET

Schedule of Meeting:

1. **Welcome visitors**

2. **Be ready to begin the meeting promptly at 7:00 p.m.**

3. **Open with prayer**

4. **Sing songs (joyfully) [15 minutes]**

   (Seek a worshipful spirit to be in your people)
   (Song books of choruses will be provided)
   *Intersperse songs with brief testimonies

5. **Shepherd gives a 5-minute challenge**

6. **Have group members share a blessing that they received from God's Word that week [5-10 minutes]**

7. **Take prayer requests [5-minutes max]**

8. **Prayer [30 minutes minimum]**
   (Several can lead in prayer)

9. **Conclude with a couple of songs of praise [5 minutes]**

10. **Invite all to partake of refreshments and fellowship**

Shepherd Notes
FBC Fellowship Flock Ministry

Goals:

1. To spend quality time in prayer with God's people
2. To be a blessing to each other
    a. by sharing burdens
    b. by mutual encouragement to faithfulness
    c. by assisting each other in times of crisis
    d. by nurturing the spiritual growth of each other
3. To provide a channel for communication and administration.

Cautions:

1. Beware of cliques starting (Our goal is the well-being of the whole church body - Eph. 4:12-16)
2. Don't allow anyone individual to dominate the meeting.
3. Don't let the meeting drag (keep things moving, yet spontaneous & flexible)
4. Discourage people from hopping from flock meeting to flock meeting.
5. Beware of wolves entering in and spreading false doctrine.
6. Keep the main thrust of each meeting on prayer.