

Keys For Church Growth

by Daniel Del Vecchio

8th November 1979

My subject for this morning is *"Keys For Church Growth."* The Scripture that I've taken is from Acts of the Apostles,

ACTS 19:20

"So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed."

The Word is the seed, or the seed is the Word of God, and the seed that they had then is the same seed that we have today. In Hebrews 4:12 the Scripture says,

HEBREWS 4:12

"For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword..."

Now the gardeners are different but the soul of man (which is the soil), is basically the same. The seed which is the Word of God, God's thoughts, are the same. The conditions that we are living under today are almost identical to the conditions that existed in the first century. The difference is the gardeners. We are the gardeners and we are different. Therefore we must learn to farm properly. We must plant properly. We must plough deeply and thoroughly, through preaching on repentance. We must water regularly through our prayers. We must weed conscientiously by discipline, by correction, by admonishment. And if we use the same seed, with the same blessing of God, we can expect today the same results.

I like that Scripture, *"So mightily grew, the Word of God and prevailed."* Prevailed over everything that was an enemy of the Word in that century. It will prevail over our rebellions and our unbelief. It will prevail over superstition. It will prevail over the lusts of the flesh. It will prevail over false religions. It will prevail over armies. The Word of God can prevail - if the gardeners know what they are doing. And this is what we want to talk about this morning, *'how to garden properly'*. The Word of God is not only to grow, it is to multiply! Thank God that He adds to the Church, but it's important that we use multiplication as well.

If you take a large checker board of sixty squares and you put two grains of wheat on the first square, and the next square you put four; and the next square you put eight; and the next square sixteen; next square thirty-two; next square sixty-four, and I'd better quit there!. By the time you've filled those sixty squares you will be able to cover the continent of India with wheat. That's multiplication! Every soul, win a soul. That soul during the period of a year win another soul. If every Christian here would win a soul to Christ every year, and disciple that soul, so that soul would win another soul every year, and that other soul would win another soul every year, within thirty some years, we've won the world to Christ! Multiplication.- individual, private, personal witnessing. The seed is small, it is insignificant. Jesus said,

MATTHEW 17:20

"...If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed..."

And He said of the mustard plant,

MATTHEW 13:32

"...is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree..."

He didn't say it was a tree. He didn't say for us to plant trees, but to plant mustard seeds. A tree remains for many, many generations, but a mustard seed is planted as a vegetable (as a herb). It is planted every season. That refers to one generation. So we have to plant mustard seeds for our generation.

Growth depends upon us, upon our faith, upon our faithfulness. We need a proper attitude if we are to attain numerical growth in our churches.

What is that proper attitude?

1) A BURNING DESIRE TO SEE THE CHURCH GROW AND TO SEE SOULS SAVED.

A desire that swallows up all other desires. As the prophet had a fire in his bones, a fire in his belly, and he said, *"I could not keep silent."* We have many desires. Our desires are dissipated in many areas. If we want to be successful in the ministry we must have one burning desire. We must eat, sleep, and drink church growth and souls being saved, until this fire quenches all other competitive fires.

I think of the words of Jesus when he said,

PSALM 69:9

"For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up."

The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up. Let's get a hold of that thought and we will be successful in our ministries.

2) WE NEED FAITH TO BELIEVE THAT IT CAN BE DONE.

We must believe that it can be done in three ways:

- 1) **That it's possible here.** Because we say, *"Well that's Korea, or that's America, or that's Finland."* But we must believe that it's possible here.
- 2) **That it's possible now** Many times we say, *"Well someday God's going to send a great revival."* God impressed on me, we must believe for here, we must believe for now!
- 3) **That it's possible in me.** God can send revival and growth through me. Because we say, *"I believe he can do it, now and here, but not me."*

Alright, these three things we must believe; believe that it can be done here, believe that it can be done now, believe that it can be done in you. That faith the Lord is going to give us this morning, because I need it and you need it.

ROMANS 10:17

"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

That faith that we're going to get this morning we have to nourish and feed it.

FEED YOUR FAITH – NOT YOUR FEAR.

To have that faith we need a vision of what God can do. I think of Korea, that gives me a vision. I think of the Acts of the Apostles, that gives me a vision. I read of the revivals that have gone by in many parts of the world, that gives me a vision. Jesus said,

MATTHEW 21:22

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

We need to believe to break the number barrier. There are barriers in our life. We have barriers of what we have seen in other churches. Barriers of growth in this church. Barriers in the growth in the Málaga Church. We must be willing to break all barriers of the known and with a strong desire, strong enough to push us on the extra mile. I was never a mile runner, but I was a short distance runner. And if any of you have run at school or sports, you realise that the man who wins is the man who gives it that extra something. There's always something we hold back when we run. The winner is the man who doesn't hold anything back. And to break a barrier which is our record. For example: We have been running the four minute mile. To break that barrier we've got to give a little bit more. Jesus went a little further, and if we're going to see growth in our works, in our churches, we're going to have to go a little further in our faith and in our desire. The reservoir of God's power and grace is limitless, but the limitation is the pipe that comes from the reservoir. God doesn't just open the reservoir and let floods cover the land, He uses people. According to our faith, so will be the channel of life giving water that flows to others. We need a greater vision to meet a greater need.

MATTHEW 9:29

"According to your faith be it unto you."

Notice, *"it shall be done unto us"*; someone else is doing something for us; according to our faith it shall be done unto us. God does according to our faith, not according to His power or not according to the need, because there are great needs and great resources of power. But He does according to our faith.

There was a man who's son was an epileptic and he came to Jesus. He'd already gone to the disciples and they couldn't do much, and he said, "Lord, I've taken my son to Your disciples and they couldn't heal him, if You can do anything help us." And Jesus says, "No, not if I can do anything, *"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."* (MARK 9:23)

So we are limited, I want you to take these four things down,

- 1) **We are limited by our vision.** What we can conceive in our minds.
- 2) **We are limited by our faith.** What we can believe in our hearts.
- 3) **We are limited by our desires.** How strong those desires are.
- 4) **We are limited by our sowing.**

2 Corinthians 9:6

"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;"

The Lord gave me this 25 years ago when I was studying the science of success, to become a successful builder and businessman. Now I'll give it to you in the spiritual realm. The same principles of success work in the natural, and in the spiritual, and this is what it is;

**WHATEVER YOUR VISION CAN CONCEIVE (AND YOUR FAITH CAN BELIEVE), GOD
CAN ACHIEVE THROUGH YOU!**

Whatever your vision can conceive - in the science of success it says, *"Whatever your mind can conceive, your mind can achieve!"* But I've made it spiritual, *"Whatever your vision can conceive and your faith can believe, God can achieve through you!"*

You might not realise it, but the pews that you are sitting on in this church that you're in, were conceived in my mind over many nights in my bed before they became a reality. Everything that we have is nothing but an idea - become material.

Our human reasoning limits our faith. And other people can limit our faith. But I say let us look to God for a vision. Lift our eyes above the limitations that men have placed and see what God wants for our lives!

3) PUT 100% OF YOURSELF INTO IT.

One hundred percent of your strength, of your mind, of your soul. No man is big enough to succeed in this task of winning souls when he gives only a part of himself to the work. Use your full potential Give it your all, whatever your all is. I'm not saying that we must all quit our jobs and become preachers! I'm saying that we must give the spiritual work all our hearts and all our strength. If we have to work in secular work to keep our bodies alive and a roof over our heads, we are still doing that with a final end in purpose - of winning souls. Either through our influence at the job, or through the money that we are making, our purpose is one; to channel it towards others that are ministering the Word. Whether the man is working or whether he's preaching, his purpose is one, and that is to give all he has to win souls to Christ. One in one way and the another in another, but one purpose.

Luke 11:2

"Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done."

WHATEVER YOU HAVE AVAILABLE, MAKE IT AVAILABLE FOR GOD

Jesus asked His disciples, when faced with a tremendous need of feeding five thousand, *"How many loaves have you?"* (MARK 6:38) He could have blessed those five thousand with three loaves, or with one loaf, He didn't need five loaves, He just needed all they had.

God asked Moses, *"What do you have in your hand?"* (EXODUS 4:2) He said, *"I have a stick, a cane."* God said, *"Stretch it out."* He could have had something else in his hand. He could have had a ruler. But God said, *"What do you have in your hand?"* Use that. All that you have available. Nobody can succeed in anything really, until he gives it all he's got. The world is too competitive. And in the spiritual realm, more so. The enemies are so great, the obstacles are so great, the impossibilities loom so large, that unless you give it all you've got, you cannot count on God to give it all He has.

Pastor Cho tells us, *"Mobilise all the people."* Use everything that is available to you as a pastor, and now his one church in Korea is winning three thousand souls to Christ every month!

4) HAVE CLEARLY DEFINED GOALS.

Goals God gives you. Set a yearly goal, a two year goal, a three year goal. And Jesus said, *"Whatsoever you ask, in My name, that will I do."* (JOHN 14:13), but He says, 'whatsoever'. So we have to have a clearly defined goal.

And then he [Pastor Cho] tells this very humorous story of his personal experience. He says that during the war in Korea they were very poor and he didn't even have a table or a chair and he needed a bicycle. He said, *"Lord, here I am the son of the king of kings and lord of lords but I don't feel like royalty, I feel like a pauper. I don't even have a chair. I don't even have a table. I don't have a bicycle."* So he read this Scripture, *"Whatsoever you ask in My name, I will do it"*. So he bowed his head and he closed his eyes and he concentrated, and he said, *"Lord, give me a table and give me a chair and give me a bicycle, in Jesus Name Amen."* Nothing happened. A month went by, no bicycle, no chair, no table. Two months went by. Six months went by, still no table, no chair, no bicycle. And he began to lose all his faith, he said, *"Lord, I know Your Word is true and someday you*

are going to give me a table, a chair and a bicycle, but it won't do me any good after I'm dead!" He said, "I need it now. How can I preach faith to these people if I'm losing faith myself? Your Word says, "You will give it to me." I've asked You in faith and nothing has happened." And he began to pray, and he said that the Lord gave him a revelation. He said that, "I've been waiting to give you the answer, but there's many kinds of tables, you didn't tell Me what size of table!" He said, "There's many types of chairs, and there's many makes of bicycles. What size table do you want? What kind of chair do you want? And what make of bicycle do you want?"

5) **BE SPECIFIC.**

And so the Lord showed him, which is point number five, which is to be specific. Make your requests known unto the Lord. So he said, "Thank You Jesus. I cancel all my prayers, I'm going to start all over again." He said, "Lord, I want a mahogany table made in England, and this is the size that I want it to be." And he said, "I want an iron chair, with rollers underneath so I can push myself around like a big shot." And then he says, "I want a bicycle, but not made in Formosa, not made in Hong Kong, not made in Korea. I want one made in America." And so he went to church and he said it publicly, that he had asked the Lord for these things and that the Lord had given him a table, a chair and a bicycle. And that brings us to point number six.

6) **KEEP YOUR AFFIRMATION OF FAITH.**

Keep your confession of faith. Confess what you believe. Confess with your mouth what you believe in your heart. So after the service everybody was very happy and started walking home and he turned around and there was some boys following him. Some young men from the church. When they got to the house they said, "Pastor we want to see your table and your chair and your bicycle." "Oh!" he thought, "Lord, help me!" now, he became very afraid. He thought that "They're going to see that I have no table, no chair, no bicycle, and they're going to think that I'm lying and it'll spread around the church, and nobody will believe anything I say anymore." And he started praying silently, "Lord, help me. What am I going to do now?" And then he turned to the leader of the three boys and he said, "How long were you in your mother's womb?" And the boy said, "Ten months." (In Korea it's ten months, here it's nine months!) And then he asked him, "What were you doing there, in your mothers womb?" He said, "I was growing." Then he asked him, "Could anybody see you there?" He said, "Pastor, what a ridiculous question, of course not!" He said, "Were you real?" He said, "Certainly I was real!" He said, "Were you not as real inside your mother as you were after you were born, when could be seen?" He said, "Yeah, I was as real." Then Pastor Cho said, "God has put faith in my heart, and I have become pregnant, with a table, a chair, and a bicycle!" And they began laughing 'til they rolled on the floor. And he said, "Don't tell anybody." But they went around and they spread it, "The Pastor's pregnant with a table, a chair, and a bicycle!" And when he was going past the ladies, they would point at him and say, "There's the man who's pregnant!"

Growth begins on the inside of you.

But there's a spiritual principle here. When God puts a vision in your heart, His ideas in your heart, the Word is planted in your heart. He begins to make it grow, and it starts growing inside of you. So growth begins on the inside of you. The man with a vision is the man that must be pregnant with this thought seed, then he must put a date for the birth! And that is a goal, one year or two years or three years. We must be realistic, and then we must work toward that goal.

I was impressed with a film that we saw on Monday night about the Holy Land. And we heard in the film of the many promises God gave of restoring the children of Israel to their home land. God said I will bring them back, and "I will plant you" (JEREMIAH 42:10), and I will make, "the desert blossom as a rose" (ISAIAH 35:1). But in the film we didn't see God. All I saw was a bunch of Jews, digging up stones and making irrigation ditches. They redeemed these malarious swamps, drained them, and made them fields. I didn't see God in that film, I just saw Jews. But inside of every Jew, God had put something. He'd put a vision. He'd put a desire. He'd put His own strength. I don't know how He does it, but He is the One who is planting visions in us. And the work of getting the rocks out of the ground, we're going to do. The works of planting the mountains with the trees of the Lord, we're going to do. The work of redeeming the swamps, the malarious and putrid areas of cities that have given over to squalor and immorality; we have to go in and drain them. So we could say, "God did it." We could say, "We did it." What happened was that God worked in us to do the job, and God will not work apart from us, to do this work.

So that growth begins inside of us, not on the outside. Don't look at the empty pews in your church, but look inside the heart of the leader. If he has a vision growing, if he's pregnant with an idea and a burden of the Lord, pretty soon you will see the seats filled. You will see churches established because we can speak a church into existence as God did when He called, "those things which be not as though they were." (ROMANS 4:17) And this is what we must do, "Call things that were not as though they were," and speak them into existence. That's how God created the world, through His Word. That's how we create churches, by speaking the Word and sowing the seed. We're going to go to Granada where there's only a couple of dozen Christians

and we're going to speak God's Word, and a church is going to be formed. We came into Málaga. There was not one person filled with the Spirit. We began speaking. I began speaking and my wife began speaking the Word of the Lord, and God began bringing souls to Christ and filling them with the Holy Ghost. There is no end if we begin speaking the Word with faith. Growth begins on the inside of your heart. You've got to be pregnant with this idea and wait and pray, until it comes to pass.

God gave Brother Cho a goal. He'd worked for six months, put up an army tent, preached his heart out, and in the first six months not one soul was saved. He was not a very exceptional person. He says, *"In the Bible School where he graduated, they didn't even think that I was worth supporting."* He was very ordinary, didn't have many gifts. So he began. Six months and nothing. He wanted to quit. He packed his suitcase eight times. But he unpacked it eight times! Finally God gave him a goal – one hundred and fifty souls. He said he wrote that number down on the table. He wrote it down in the bedroom. He wrote it down in his books. In his Bible. Where ever he turned he had that number 150. He lived it, he breathed it, he ate it. Night and day 150, and after a year he had one hundred and fifty! Then he put another goal 300, and he began living and breathing 300. By the end of that year, he had three hundred. And then God gave him another goal of 600, and he began living and eating and breathing and he became pregnant, he says, with 600, and at the end of that year, he had six hundred. Then he set a goal for 1,200, and each year he doubled, and now he has 100,000 souls!

I ask myself, *"What is the quality of the souls that he has won to the Lord?"* Apparently, they are really deep in the Lord. For example: He has massive prayer efforts to blow away all the powers of darkness. And these are the two things he mentions, the spirits of confusion and slumber, that are holding the people away from God. The spirits of confusion and slumber, or sleep. And so they have prayer meetings; massive prayer efforts, mobilising all the people to pray. And every Friday night they gather between ten and fifteen thousand people to pray all night long. They have seven thousand weekly prayer meetings in seven thousand different homes. Each house meeting has a leader. Of the seven thousand house meetings, six thousand five hundred are women. God has used the women to spearhead that great revival in Korea.

Then they have what they call the prayer mountain. Once a month, approximately two thousand people climb the prayer mountain. They get into caves, and they fast and pray. From one to forty days of fasting and prayer.

Now the conversion rate in Korea is twice the birth rate. One million are converted annually to Christ. By the year 2000, if this growth rate continues, all of Korea will be saved!

And the last point is the cell system [house meetings] that we want to inaugurate here today. In which the counsellors and leaders will take the responsibility for a house meeting. I want to give you the six blessings that we can receive through these house meetings as the Lord has shown me.

Six blessings that we can receive through house meetings.

1) EVIL FORCES AND DEMONIC POWERS ARE EXPELLED.

First of all a house meeting brings the presence and the power of Christ into that individual home, expelling evil forces from that house. It's not enough that they come to church. Sometimes the homes are filled with demon powers. The house meeting begins to saturate that home with light. Did you know the walls record everything that we say? Science tells us there's nothing we say that's not recorded on some rock! They say the words of Jesus are still recorded on the rocks in the Mount of Olives. The words I am saying are not only recorded on this magnetic tape but on the table, on the pews, on the bricks.

And Jesus said when you come to a house, if it is the house of peace say, *"Peace be to this house."* (LUKE 10:5) He did not say the home, He said the house! And I believe that the words we say are engraved on the walls. I know that there are certain rooms where I go in and I can feel the presence of God, and other rooms I can't. For example; in my office I can lie down there on that couch and I can sense the presence of God. There are certain rooms that we must saturate with the Word of the Lord with the praises of our God. And when a home is used for praise and for worship, I don't know what happens but something happens. I can't explain it, but something happens. That room just becomes a place of your meeting with God.

Therefore, we must go into these homes and saturate them with prayer and praise, expelling the powers of darkness.

2) UNSOLVED PROBLEMS ARE BROUGHT TO LIGHT

The blessings of these house meetings are that we become aware of unsolved problems in the home, and we (the counsellors or the house leaders) can discover the need that is in that home and either help it themselves, or record it in their weekly report that they are going to be giving me. Then I'll be able to see the needs of that home and be able to counsel if there is a need.

3) THE NON BELIEVERS IN THE HOME ARE EXPOSED TO THE GOSPEL.

The 3rd blessing is to strengthen the believers and to expose the non-believers that live in that home to the Gospel. For example, if the wife is saved and the husband is not saved, if they allow us into the home, the husband is exposed to the Gospel. The children are exposed to the Gospel.

That's the way that my family found the Lord. We would never go to any church. My father was against churches of any kind. My mother was a Catholic and they went to church once a week or when ever they could but they certainly wouldn't go into any Protestant church. And so the church came to them; just a simple farmer with his family came monthly or weekly, I don't remember, and they brought the Gospel. They brought their guitars and a banjo, well it was a banjo and not a guitar, and they began singing. My father wouldn't pay any attention. He had a big pipe and he loved to smoke that pipe and fill the room with the smoke, and the Christians would suffer, and the more they suffered the more he enjoyed it! And he made them miserable and he would laugh at them. But they would come back again and again, and they would smile. They would never be angry. Back again and again. Finally they got us to go to church. And when my father came into that church, he saw all those people with their faces radiant, worshipping the Lord. They looked so holy. Conviction struck him. He felt like the most miserable man on earth. He took his pipe and he threw it out in the field. He was saved on the spot, and God began to work in our home. My brother was a criminal. God, one by one began saving my family. No longer keeping guns in the drawers or under the beds, now you'll find Bibles in the drawers. And God transformed our family.

Because of that simple farmer many thousands of people have been saved through my family's ministry. Through my mother, through my brother who was in the ministry (he's with the Lord now), and through my ministry. Because one simple farmer was faithful enough to go to the home and not give up.

4) TO WIN THE NEIGHBOURS TO CHRIST

That's what we're going to do beginning on Sunday. As we mobilise and find out all the homes that are available. For four weeks, four Thursdays, we're just going to have prayer with that Christian family, and a little Bible study. But after four weeks we're going to ask that woman or that man of that home, to invite their neighbours. And so the fourth purpose of these house meetings is to win the neighbours to Christ. Have the owners invite the lady next door for a cup of tea, for a little discussion, and two or three of you will be in that home. There'll be a house leader. There'll be two or three other members of the community in that home.

I have two goals that I feel that I'm pregnant with already. The first I expect by the end of November; To have twenty-five house meetings going weekly. I want you to get pregnant with the same idea. Twenty-five house meetings - in Málaga, Fuengirola, Coin, Granada and here in Torremolinos. Twenty-five house meetings a month, to start with. My second goal, I'm going to make it already public, is to have by the end of 1980, three-hundred souls in the Spanish work.

5) TO BRING THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL TO EVERY AREA OF THE CITY.

The 5th purpose, is to bring the light of the Gospel to every area of the city, and thus properly cover the area God has given into our charge in the Málaga work. I'm going to ask them to take a map of Málaga and glue it on a board, and we're going to have little lights (that Guillermo's going to work out), and little tiny bulbs, and each bulb will show where a house meeting is.

There will be large areas of darkness. Huge areas and barrios that have no house meetings. So we'll be able to look on the map, and see where the light is. And every time that there is a new home that opens, there'll be another light; until the whole map has lights all over it! And we can organise; find a barrio that doesn't have a house meeting, and try to find a home that will let us in. And then we'll be able to put another light till we cover the city of Málaga. And then the city of Granada - we'll use the same system. Hallelujah!

6) TO HELP THE YOUNG WORKERS TO GROW.

To help the young workers to grow and to develop. To get them started in a ministry that is small, that is informal - which is the local cell group. There are many of you boys, girls, men and women, who in a large meeting are lost. Your gift is not developed. We can't see what God's doing in you because you allow three or four people who are naturally leaders to do the work. And so you listen, you become a spectator. We don't want any more spectators!

All of you have the opportunity to find a home. We're going to try on Sunday, to see how many will open their homes. But if we don't have enough homes, and we will never have enough, each one of you is to find a home that will let you in. You become that house leader.

You become the pastor of that little group. Two or three others will go with you. We will have try to get musicians into every one of these houses. We'll try to have tape recorders in every home, if possible, so that I will be able to give a ten or fifteen minute message every week in that home, and then the rest of you give

your message. However there'll be one message that's heard in the twenty-five homes in the same day, thus uniting us in the faith. Are you agreeing with what I'm saying so far? Amen. Praise the Lord.

It doesn't pay to sleep all night. It's good to wake up in the middle of the night, you get a lot of ideas. I feel sorry for you people that sleep all night long. Sometimes I feel sorry for men who can't sleep, but anyway thank God for the ideas that He drops into our hearts. So whether you're a boy, girl, man or woman, it doesn't make any difference, you can be a cell leader. If the men are available then fine, if not, then we'll use what God has.

Now if you're French, find a French house. If you're Dutch, find a Dutch house. If you're Belgian, find a Belgian house. If you're Spanish, find a Spanish house. If you don't belong anywhere, find any house! And when they let you in, you'll let me know and we'll begin.

Each person (each house leader) that we choose, will be given four of these a month. Four of these pieces of paper. On it will say the name of the leader, the name and direction, address of the house, and the name of the members of the church that were present (of the community or of the church), then the total number of people that attended. They will be asked to fill out a report of the theme and comments on that meeting. This will be handed into me weekly, so that we can keep a record of the numbers of people in that house, the results of the meeting with the souls saved, and see the growth. You may begin with four. Next week there may be five. There may be six and then we'll see which house group grows the fastest. Praise the Lord.

There are not any new ideas here but we just want to implement the ideas God's already put into our hearts. We have already thought of these things but we haven't implemented them as we should. For example; Our prayer meetings can be stronger; can be more massive. Fasting and prayer must be in every church. In the Málaga church we must have one day a month of fasting and prayer, where the whole church gets together, and one day a week in the Málaga church of prayer. We have Wednesdays here; all day is a day of prayer; two services. I believe that we must have that in the Málaga church as well; have it in the Torremolinos church, have it in Coin, have it in Fuengirola. One day where your people pray, and one day a month of fasting and prayer. Maybe the Lord will lead us to where we can gather together every month, or every two months, or every three months, all the churches for a massive prayer, where we can clear the air and really breakthrough and see the power of God brought in our midst. I thank God for what He's doing, but I'm not satisfied, my faith is bigger than what I see. My burden is greater than what I have fulfilled. I believe that now I'm going to mobilise everyone of you to go into homes and to bring the light of Christ into that home. If you've been a Christian over a year, trained over a year, then you are a candidate for a leader in one of these house meetings. And if you're not a leader, then you go with the others, and two or three get together and be able to bring the light of God, once a week. This is not going to change our other programmes and other emphasises. We are carrying on with our winning souls, and with everything we are doing, with our Bible study. Only every Thursday evening, we're going to spend time in the house meeting so that the Lord will bless. Jesus says,

Matthew 9:38

"Pray that the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into the harvest fields."

We are training labourers, but you have to have the practical and personal experience of being a pastor of a little cell group, and it can grow as much as you grow on the inside. If you can become pregnant with ten people, then you'll have ten people. Or twenty, then you'll have twenty. Thirty, you'll have thirty, until God uses you in an unusual way.

Begin in the homes. Don't expect that church building. The early church met in house to house. We want to follow their pattern, not only to win souls which is what we are going to be doing, but also to prepare for persecution.

The problem that we have in the world today, because of the spectator type of religion, the Police come and close the church door, and the church is finished! But they cannot close twenty-five, fifty, a thousand houses! What's happened in China is that the 'Bamboo Curtain' has fallen, persecution has come, and the churches have been closed. And now the 'Bamboo Curtain' is lifting, and people are just getting a view of what was done behind the 'Bamboo Curtain', and they've found that there's been about a million souls saved in house meetings. God is moving. I think that there are approximately two million Christians in Red China today that have been hiding but they've been in their homes. We've got to get ready for that. If they close this door they haven't closed the Kingdom door. Praise God.

We are going to start with twenty-five house meetings this month. I feel it in my heart. Will you agree with me for twenty-five for this month? That's realistic, and then we're going to start doubling it. Praise the Lord. Then doubling that, multiplying, multiplying, multiplying, until every person has a place in the Body. Someone that you can be responsible for, to win to the Lord Jesus. Remember the Bible says,

John 4:36

"He that reapeth receiveth wages."

You're going to get paid, and you're going to be paid well. Don't look at me, I'm not going to pay you. *"He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth...unto life eternal."* Praise God.

May the Lord, bless His Words to our hearts and give us a vision such as we have never had before, and a burden. Remember the burning desire is number one. If you have a desire to win people for Christ, that's a fire that burns up all other fires, then God can use you. If you don't, may He give it to you this morning.