

KBC GROWTH Group Briefing

Adjustments to KBC Groups Commencing 2010

Pat Hegarty – 30th January 2010

This year begins a new phase in the life of KBC as we prepare to broaden our impact in the city, and also add significant depth to the way we develop those in our fellowship. This requires us to adjust a few things about the way our small group network operates. When considering these adjustments we have been mindful that wherever possible we should not add a further burden of time to either our group leaders or those in the groups, nor be overly prescriptive in determining how groups operate.

Time-Off to Reach Out

KBC-ers have always been generous with their time and resources. However, for us to have more available time as individuals or groups to invest in friendships or activities beyond our church, we see the need to free people up. As such we are suggesting that groups have scheduled “off-weeks”, perhaps on a monthly basis. The free time gained by group members could then be used to invite friends to dinner, join a community group, or catch up on important home duties so that other time may be given to outreach. Members could do activities on their own, or with other group members.

One very effective way to work as a group on outreach is to adopt KBC’s “Connect One” strategy for engaging with an overseas student for a year. Group members can share responsibility in spending time with a student on a social basis to introduce them to Australia and its people. Pastor Thong Ng can provide training in this ministry to a delegate from your group. Also, the YES WE CARE program is again running on Saturday 29th May, and we would love all groups to be involved. As such we would recommend you have an “off-week” around that time.

Another important reason to allow for “off-weeks” is that it allows me to meet with your group leader for training and support throughout the year. Once per school term I am asking the leaders to meet with me on their “off-week”, so please encourage them to have that evening off for their own betterment.

Church-Wide Alignment Campaigns

Our senior KBC staff have spent many long hours in prayer and strategy throughout 2009, seeking God for His preferred direction and method for us to move forward as a church. To facilitate some of the issues we feel necessary to emphasise, we have set aside two periods throughout the year where all groups and messages will be aligned to a common theme. The first runs from March 7-28 with the theme of Evangelism. The second season will commence late in August with a theme to be announced closer to the date. Group members will be provided with daily devotional material and group studies for these periods. We are seeking your co-operation as willing participants in these campaigns so that we might see a mighty outpouring of God’s Spirit upon us together as a whole church body.

GROWTH Groups

For two years now KBC groups have been referred to as GROWTH Groups, allowing time for people to become accustomed to the name. At the same time over 1000 KBC-ers have been exposed to the idea of GROWTH Plans through the various STEPs courses. A GROWTH Group is one where the leader has been trained in the various practices and policies of KBC, and agrees with the goals and practices of group life. This means that whichever unique group a person attends, they can be assured that there will be a common framework and overall balance in place. As our church seeks to multiply the number of groups it oversees, it is vital that we have in place a mechanism that ensures unity and quality.

GROWTH is an acronym that outlines the elements required for every believer to remain in a balanced and healthy environment. And whilst each person retains the responsibility for their own spiritual development, the GROWTH Group provides a great culture where that development can happen, and also play a part in an individuals GROWTH Plan if required.

Without going into detail on the individual elements, following is a brief description of each GROWTH element.

G RACE	<i>Receiving from God & other people what you can't provide yourself.</i>
R ELATIONSHIPS	<i>Connecting meaningfully in healthy relationships.</i>
O WNSHIP	<i>Recognising my part to play in growth.</i>
W ISDOM	<i>Hearing and applying truth to our life.</i>
T IME	<i>Allowing the process of growth to happen gradually.</i>
H EALTH	<i>Assessing progress and maintaining balance.</i>

If you are desiring development in an area, your group leader or other trained discipler can take you through the process of developing a GROWTH Plan where each of these elements is applied.

Thankyou for being a part of your group, and the greater kingdom mission of KBC. We are very excited about the future God has for us together, and for you individually. Please take time from your meeting to pray for your group leader at the commencement of this year.

Blessings in Christ
Pat Hegarty – Pastor of Spiritual Development