

Relationships in Church

Last week we looked at the phrase '*lengthen your cords*' in Isaiah 54:2 as a challenge to extend and enlarge the relationships of our lives.

Relationships are important. We need others and others need us. It is true that the best things in life are always shared.

This has a particular application to our lives as believers and as members of the Church of Jesus.

1. ***Church is all about relationships***

The Greek word commonly translated 'Church' in the NT is '*ekklesia*'. That very term implies a community and a relationship within that community.

In addition some of the metaphors applied to the Church all imply relationship – for example: -

- The Household or Family of God (Ephesians 2:19) – *a Genetic relationship*
- The Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27) – *an Organic relationship*
- The Temple of God (Ephesians 2:21) – *a Spiritual relationship*
- The Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:27) – *a Prophetic relationship*

2. ***Building relationships within small groups***

The New Testament Church was built around relationships and a particular expression of this was their use of small groups or home fellowships. (Acts 2:42 -45)

When Jesus spoke of His presence with His people He made the Church experience completely scalable. (Matthew 18:20)

So by definition Church can be few or be many. It can be the Church in a City or the Church in a region. It can be the Church of a period or the Church of all time.

It's more than evident in the New Testament that Church met in homes; for example - Romans 16:5 – '*the Church that is in their house*'; Colossians 4:15 – '*the Church in her house*'; Philemon 1:2 – '*the Church that meets in your house*'.

3. ***We need to be involved in Small Groups***

It is a significant observation that most growing, dynamic Churches have an active and effective structure of small groups.

These small groups meet particular needs within the fellowship; viz. relationships, purpose, learning and so on.

This is a great place for you to 'lengthening the cords' of your life and build a whole new network of relationships. It is also part of our 2010 Vision!