

# **Evangel Message**

## ***Home Groups***

I was speaking to a friend the other day who has been a part of home groups for much of their adult life. People have come, people have left, some things have been really great and other things have been really hard.

For them, as they look back over the years, the experience of being a part of home groups has been something like the normal routine of eating meals with the family around the dinner table. Most of the time it's simply about nourishment and re-centering on that which matters - God and each other.

However, like all these good and healthy long term habits, they really come into their own in times of stress and loss. A shock diagnosis, the death of a close friend or relative, work/life/family issues. It's in those times that the regular diet of prayerful and caring friendships around the Word of God really bears fruit to the Glory of God who has conquered all evil and made our weaknesses a place of grace and an encounter with his love and mercy.

One of the biggest hurdles my friend discovered for people joining home groups was embarrassment at their own inadequacies. Some people are embarrassed by their lack of Bible knowledge, others with their struggle of reading, sharing or praying in public, and still others with their own inability to attend every time (because of work or family commitments). If this is you, what should you do?

The first step is acknowledging the issue.

The second is to share this with someone else.

The third is to write to, or approach one of the Wardens or Priests letting them know, so they can help.

A final reflection. Home groups are also about the betterment of the whole church. In home groups we work and pray toward doing our bit to make the congregation we're a part of currently, the congregation we want to be a part of in the future. Home groups always pray for their congregation. More than that, the growth that happens in our lives through home groups overflows in our loving and serving the congregation we're a part of too.

What is the one thing stopping you from being a part of a home group? Who might you talk to about that, and pray about that with?

If you've any feedback or questions, please don't hesitate to give Cliff or Nola a call.

***In Jesus, Nicholas***