

What will bring Health and Balance to Groups in 2002?

Where are we at now?...

A peek at our current tally of the sheep shows a lot. Right now we have 735 groups with this break down:

Affinity	Current Groups	Number of Groups cared for	Number of groups still needing Care
Couples	473	250	223
Singles	111	111	0
Men's	64	25	39
Women's	87	50	37

Figuring no growth, 299 groups would have no care. Figuring just 20% growth for next year, you can add another 147 groups that would need care. Our goal for the year 2002 is 40% growth, which would be an additional 294 groups that would need care.

SPECIAL NOTE: On top of the 735 groups, we have 121 groups (totaling 856) that say they are leaders of groups that we are verifying their status as a group. These could be existing groups that we did not know about, groups that were birthed from other groups or people who just organically started their own group. We have people making calls this week to give us accurate information. Regardless, the 735 is a good number to base hires on.

What would close the gap?...

Although you can do the math in many ways, figuring no growth and wanting to take the groups deeper in the five Biblical purposes, we would minimally ask this.... To hire a part-time additional Women's Division Leader, nine part-time Couples Division Leaders and one part-time Men's Division Leader. More likely than not, 20% growth is not out of the question and with that an additional hire of six part-time Division Leaders would be needed.

We still have four part-time Couples Division Leaders to hire for this year. My intuition would be that these would all need to go to the 121 groups that we are following up on right now. I'll know more at the end of the week.

Another thought would be to do no hires and use existing staff to meet the needs. The only concern would be to make sure their S.H.A.P.E. fits the call. Still another thought would be to use volunteers. Again a great vision, it just happens a lot slower. Given what we have, we still need to raise 55 couples Coaches, 11 singles Coaches, 7 Men's Coaches and 15 women's Coaches—all of which will be volunteers. Also considering that 241 groups in the last three years have disbanded with no follow up on the leader or members because of a poor span of care is disheartening.

I close with a verse and hopefully our prayer:

Care for the flock of God entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. I Peter 5:2 (NLT)