

What will bring Health and Balance to Groups in 2003?

Where are we at now?...

A peek at our current tally of the sheep shows a lot. Right now we have 688 groups with this break down:

Affinity	Current Groups	Number of Groups cared for	Number of groups still needing Care
Couples	458	250	208
Singles	72	50	22
Men's	48	25	23
Women's	110	50	60

Figuring no growth, 313 groups (add 12 D's) would have no care. Figuring just the growth for next year from our normal connections in the fall, you can add another 140 (launch 200 with 70% continuing) groups (add 6 D's) that would need care. Our goal for the year 2002-03 is 1,000 groups growth from the fall campaign, which would be an additional 700 groups (add 28 D's) that would continue (figuring 70% continue) and need care.

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 two part-time additional Women's Division Leaders, eight part-time Couples Division Leaders, one part-time Singles Division Leader and one part-time Men's Division Leader. More likely than not, 140 group growth is not out of the question and with that an additional hire of six part-time Division Leaders would be needed.

With energy around this fall, launching 1,000 groups is very realistic and landing 700 would follow statistical data from our last 3 major launches. **With this I would propose hiring the 12 D's this first half of the budget year to cover the groups still needing care. Then wait to see what the fall brings and hire the correct number of D's based on our needs in the last half of the budget year.**

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.

Closing thoughts...

In a tight budget year; I think Brett, Lance and I are in agreement that we could fund the current Divisional hires that are needed through our program dollars if the would be allowed.

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)