

Planting the

“ESSENCE”

of the Body of Christ...

in every **overlooked** relationship group

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PRAYER... FIRST, LAST, ALWAYS

In order to have an impact on others for God we need to be walking/talking with Him ourselves! Living examples of how this reshapes our ideas for reaching a group of friends can be found at:

www.coffeehousechurches.com/prayerlivingwalking.pdf

MICRO TOOLS & VIDEOS on how-to-begin, available freely at www.coffeehousechurches.com

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Consider using this slideshow as the basis for a **group dialogue**:

- among a few **Christ-followers**
- who desire a contagious **spiritual** movement
- that naturally touches & **transforms**
- the unreached **persons** in their own relationship circles

Ask God's Spirit to guide each dialogue... perhaps break it up into multiple share times.
Consider questions such as:

1. Are there groups of **friends** or daily relationships that come to mind as I ponder these ideas?
2. Has God's Spirit made me **hungry** to be a part of something like this?
3. How would I **reshape** one of these ideas for the group God has put on my heart?
4. What's **holding me back** from taking the first step?
5. Who might **partner** with me in praying about this for the next 30 days?



Clusters of Friends

Clusters of Christian friends (and their network of unchurched relationships) can become **life-changing vibrant expressions of the Body of Christ.**

Each cluster can become:

His Hands,
His Heart,
His Voice,
His Compassion,
His Touch...

a **“complete” Body of Christ,**
by living out 5 basic rhythms of
church-life together.

Many passionate Christians
are making the choice:

~to birth these relevant
Romans 16:3-5 gatherings

~which quiet naturally draw their
extended circle of friends to Christ.

They plant such groups
freely...wherever God takes
them in life...

As part of a **grassroots** movement
to bring Christ's **authentic** presence
into every life .



A living example :: Ben

Ben **radiates** as he shares about the group of young couples and families that gather **in his home**.

They begin to arrive about 10 a.m. and sometimes stay well past the noon meal together.

During their few hours together they flow, **almost without direction** through:

~life-sharing

~discipleship Bible study

~prayer

~worship

~ministry projects

... usually in a different sequence each week... often taking a snack or play break with the kids.

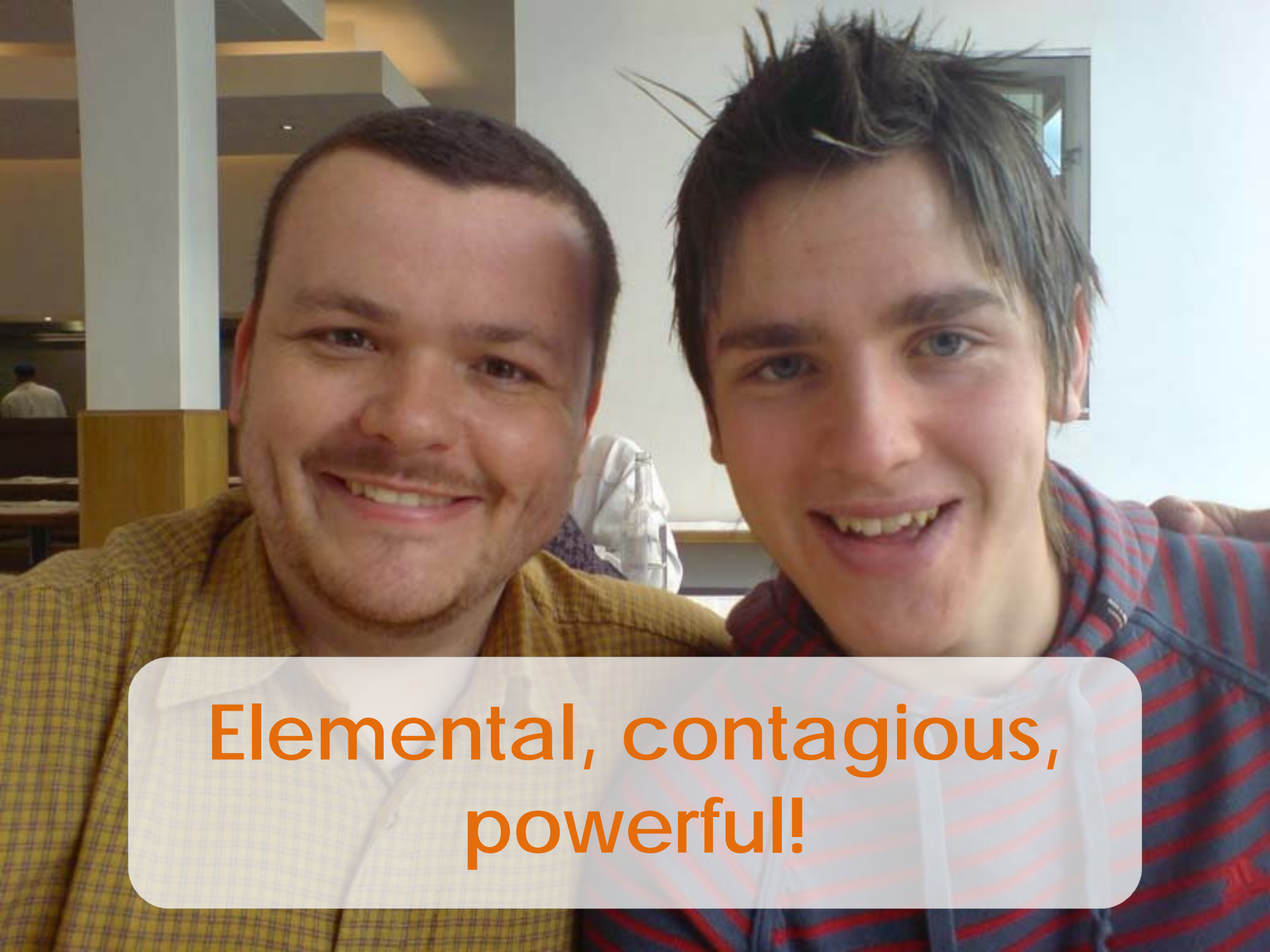
He says it is the most engaging
Body of Christ most have ever
experienced.

It is easy to bring friends...and
they are hungry to be part of such
a group!

Everyone has time...
to listen, to laugh, and to
encourage one another.

Not only are people coming to
know Christ and maturing in their
faith, they are **genuinely changing
how they live!**

Ben challenges them regularly to **grow spiritually** to the point of beginning such a group in their own homes for **another circle** of friends.



**Elemental, contagious,
powerful!**

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A close-up photograph of a stainless steel pot filled with water, which is boiling vigorously on a gas stove. The water is covered in a thick layer of white foam and bubbles. A bright blue flame is visible at the bottom left of the pot. The pot has a black handle on the right side. The background shows a light-colored tiled wall.

**The Body of Christ boiled down
to its very ESSENCE!**

Five “Basics” of the Body of Christ (recurring patterns, or defining traits) ::

worship.
evangelism.
discipleship.
ministry.
community.

**The five basics restated as
“life rhythms” of the Body-of-
Christ:**

1. **Blessing Others** with sacrificial help, encouragement, or prayer

2. **Openly Sharing** about Christ's influence in our past and present life needs.

3. **Worshiping**, listening to,
talking with... being personal
with God

4. Learning & Living by Christ's truth... following Him as Lord of our Actions and Attitudes

**5. Seeking to “Be There”
for each other**

**in the ups & downs of life...
often over a meal**

“The most life-changing ministry we can pursue with an overlooked group is a simple Body of Christ, a Church... planted among them... to be His Hands, His Heart, His Voice, His Compassion in their circle of relationships.”

Just ask her...



Pastors and Christian Leaders can mentor:

- ~spiritually healthy Christians (2 Tim. 2:2)
- ~as servant-leaders of a simple Body of Christ
 - ~to reach **overlooked friends**
(in any variety of group)
- ~who have mentally distanced themselves from a regular church building
- ~the spiritual “fruit” of such a group can be celebrated as part of the church’s regular missions ministry

**When a group of Christ-
followers become His Hands,
His Heart, His Voice, His Touch,
His Compassion within an
overlooked group,
persons are contagiously drawn
to this everyday faith-living...**

A photograph of two men embracing in a swimming pool. The man on the left is wearing a red baseball cap with a white 'VH' logo and a light blue t-shirt. The man on the right is bald and wearing a white t-shirt. They are both smiling and hugging each other. The water is clear blue, and a white rope is visible in the background. A blue ring is floating on the water to the left.

**they see it making a
difference for people!**

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