

Happenings

ACF Cell Groups and the 3 E's!

What an exciting year it has been! God is at work in ACF, and many newcomers are consistently joining us old-timers in worshipping the Lord and studying His Word every Friday night. Praise the Lord!

This year, there is even more excitement happening outside of Friday nights. Many ACFers have joined cell groups and are taking advantage of the 3 E's the cell groups have to offer.

What exactly are the 3 E's of cell groups? Some ACFers might think that cell groups are there for Embarrassment, Etiquette, and Eating... While eating may indeed be a big part of some cells, it definitely isn't one of the main focuses.

For those of you still confused and in suspense... ACF cell groups form a smaller sub-community of the fellowship that encourages Exaltation, Edification, and Evangelism. Woh! Those are some big words, and some great things! In case you're still confused, here's a quick overview.

Exaltation is when we gather together to lifting up God and worshipping Him in spirit and in truth. Edification is a big word for building one another up, challenging each other, sharing with one another, keeping one another accountable, and encouraging one another towards God and the good things He has designed for us to accomplish here on earth. And, of course, Evangelism is our responsibility and privilege as God's ambassadors to reach out and share His good news with everyone who hasn't heard of how cool He is.

Basically, think of ACF cell as a family of believers who care about God and one another. It's a place where you can care and be cared for in an intimate setting. And it's a team ready and willing to follow God and fight strong and hard for His good purposes.

Jon Nedel

Napster!

As ACF cells have begun to meet regularly these past two months, the cell group method has become less of a novel idea and more of an established model of Christian fellowship and evangelism. You could even say the cell group model works along the same lines as Napster. Instead of MP3s though, we're sharing our encouragement, our prayers, and our faith with one another and our non-Christian friends. It's a distributed system that, by focusing on a relationship with God and non-Christians on an individual level, brings the entire fellowship closer to both God and the lost. Hoorah! Enough geek-talk, though.

Praise God for allowing the members of our cell group to grow closer to one another. I've had a chance to hang out with James a little more and it has been incredible with John Jones as my accountability partner. The guys have been great, and I'm encouraged by their faithfulness in praying for one another and keeping each other accountable. It's exciting to see week-by-week what God has in store for our cell and the other cells in ACF. Through prayer and our dedication to one another through Christ, lives will be changed.

Ron

God's Babes – Seeing a Glimpse of What No One Has Seen

Rewind with me back to the beginning of the semester, "Hey Betty and Angela, we're thinking about starting another cell group for the girls, so I've been praying about you two co-leading, how about you think about it, pray about it and let me know?" I think, okie dokie, that's so cool! God's providing ways for us to care for more girls! O-kay! . . . Angela, what do we do?

A few weeks later, the first cell group gathering, we have icecream and the meeting starts something like this:

"Hi, you must be Patty! I'm glad I finally got to meet you in person!" "Hey everyone, this is Jenni, most of you may not know her" I think to myself, "Wow, cell group! Yay! Girls showed up, yay! Hm, 6 girls who don't all know each other, but at least we have the common bond of liking icecream, where do we go from here?"

We went some place special, a place that God had planned out and hand picked just for us. God has been so faithful to our cell group, the things I have learned and experienced in the short time I've had with the babes is beyond words. We can see God working in everything, from providing a common time we can meet, to letting us have fun together in a Babes vs. guys volleyball challenge, and to helping each babe see a little better why we are *exactly* where God wants us. I think what we've gained can be best summed up by our theme verse:

"No one has seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." (1 John 4:12)

That's the special place that God has brought his babes, a place where we can "see Him" because He's making His love complete in us. It's a place I've often heard of before, but now I know what it's like there. All praise and thanks to God!

Betty

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What Can I Give?

Hi everyone!

I would like to share a wonderful lesson God has been blessing me with these past few months:

When the semester began back in August, I came back to ACF with many expectations. Remembering all the wonderful things God gave me through ACF last semester, I was expecting even more this year. However, that was not what God wanted for me. He brought me back to a very different ACF: there were lots of new people I didn't know; we were meeting in a new room; Bible studies were set up differently... Not finding what I was looking for, I felt lost and at times thought about leaving the fellowship... but God kept me here (for good reason!).

Through quiet times, His Word, and many other ways, God began to change my thinking. Instead of asking, "What can I gain from ACF?" He changed the question to "What can I give to ACF?" He began to give me opportunities to serve in ACF—first it was Becky asking me to do welcome, then Robert asking me to lead Bible study, and finally He put me on Care Team. Once I began serving and giving to my brothers and sisters, I found myself receiving much more from my Father. I pray that God will bless each of you with a special way to serve your brothers and sisters so you will experience His overwhelming love flowing through you.

His faithful servant and
your loving sister,
Jojo

Letter From The Advisors

Dear ACFers:

Can you believe that the fall semester is almost over? With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, the next few weeks will just fly by. God has truly blessed ACF in many ways so far during the semester. With the implementation of cell groups, closer relationships are being built and people's lives are being changed. One of my goals for ACF this year is based on 3 parts. These are (1) for every individual ACFer to grow stronger in Christ everyday, (2) for each ACFer to share their unique and personal testimony with someone, and (3) for each ACFer to practice the spiritual gifts that God has given to you. My prayer is that all ACFers will be able to grow in each of these 3 areas through the school year.

I hope you are all looking forward to what God will do in ACF the remainder of the year. There are still many events that are being planned and I hope that you will get involved in the work that God wants to do here in Pittsburgh. I am very encouraged by the number of people who are willing to give up part of their winter break to participate in Urbana. This is an awesome way to experience God's love for the world and to taste a bit of what heaven will be like. One big event that will be coming up will be the Winter Retreat which will happen at the beginning of the second semester. This will provide a good opportunity for the brother and sisters in ACF to get to know each other better (through our annual snow ball fight and other fun things).

Feel free to contact any of the advisors if you have any concerns or issues in regards to ACF.

God Bless,
Calvin

Spotlight Person of the Month



Name: Angeline Wong

Email: alwong@andrew.cmu.edu **Hometown:** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Major: Computer Science **Year:** Sophomore

Function in ACF: newsletter contributor, unofficial PR person :)

Favorite Hobbies: reading, writing, drawing

Favorite Bible verse: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day." 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Best advice you could give somebody else: Have heroes, but choose them wisely. Also, read your textbooks!

What do you do on your spare time: sleep in, zephyr, chit chat, daydream

If you could change one thing in ACF, what would it be?: I would have phased in the major changes that took place recently more gradually and one at a time, instead of all at once and all of a sudden.

Say *Anything!*

Your Personal Soapbox

The Green Pen - lesson in Matthew 6

I was at the Hillman Library waiting to take my friend Dave home. He was finishing up his homework assignment and his pen ran out of ink. He asked me if I had one he can borrow and I pulled out one that I got from the recent Tech Opportunities Conference (TOC) job fair. Then I got a prompting from the Spirit saying *"let him have it."* What? the pen? (Of course I knew He meant the pen, but I was resisting). "Yes" Then I got whiney, "But it's a nice pen. It's that nice imac-like green, and it has a soft grip, and it seems to write pretty well." Dave finished up his homework and gave the pen back to me. But before we left, he needed to check his email. He found he needed to take down an address or phone number of something and needed to borrow a pen again because for some strange reason UPitt charges for their computer printouts. Again, the Spirit told me, *"Chris, let him keep the pen."* "But, but, but...noooooo." Dave finished what he needed and gave the pen back to me.

As I returned to my apartment from dropping him off at his house I heard God say to me, *"Chris."* It's the "Chris" tone that a mom would gently and condescendingly say to mean, "where's your common sense?" "Didn't I give you what you needed when you needed it?" The Lord brought to mind the Goldman/Sach's light pen that worked just perfectly for writing in my journal at night when I was thinking for the longest time of getting a lamp for my top bunk bed. And there was time that I was on my last check in the checkbook but later that week found a new book of checks sent from an internet bank I 'forgot' I had. And the time God brought to mind to people I wanted to invite to church but forgot to email, only the next day to see both of them in church. I realized with shame how childish I was being at the pen incident. Later I found the pen doesn't even really write that well. :p

On one level it exposed how materialistic I really am. But the root of the problem isn't materialism - it's the giving up of myself to God. Dying to self and to live in Christ. In this day and age, freedom sounds so good, obedience sounds so unattractive.

Psalm 95:7-8 - *"Today, if you hear his voice, don't harden your hearts..."*

In Bible study, we're learning about how to be Kingdom people. In my Bible prestudies, I wondered what were the non-Kingdom people like, and in my readings I found Jesus repeatedly saying the phrase, "gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 13:42,50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30). Are we "gnashing our teeth" when our rights are violated? Someone offends us? We don't get the grade we want? Are we grumbling, frustrated, bitter? When God doesn't give us that guy/girl?

"The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred,

Everybody Go Home

Sorry folks, no fellowship tonight.

We have worship, bible study, prayer meetings & Christ centered cell groups. Have we obeyed? Serve and pray all week? Good! Know the bible Genesis to Revelation? Then you know: *"If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am NOTHING."* (1 Corinthians 13:2)

"Greater love has no one than this- that he lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13) Die for each other? Impossible? What if you knew your ACF pals loved you that much? Loving another much more than ourselves, praying for and making sacrifices for them, we come closer to understanding Jesus' sacrifice for us. Isn't that what fellowship is?

Come, let's pray. Make ACF love.

"Dear friends, I am not writing to you a new command but an old one." (1 John 2:7) Let's not forget it! *"Dear friends, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence before God and receive from him anything we ask, because we obey His commands and do what pleases Him."* (1 John 3:21) We only have to ask.

Mousumi

discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

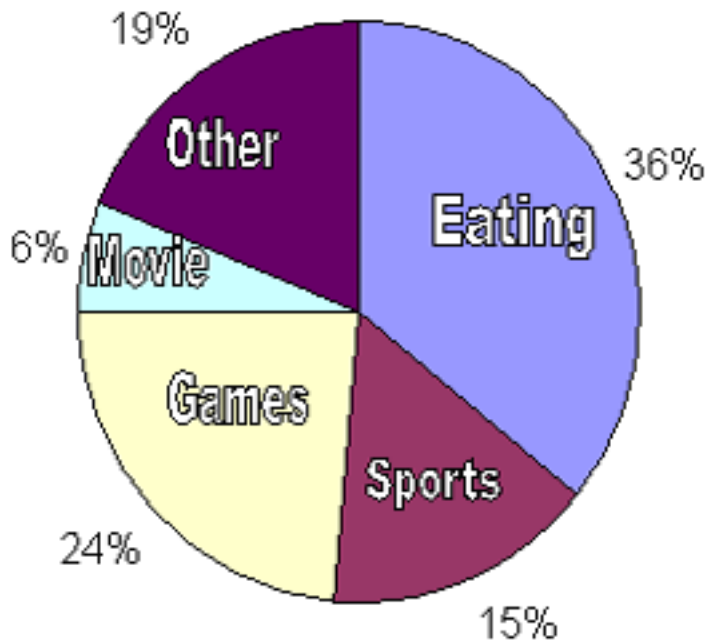
When I find I'm disobeying God, I run into a wall - kind of like a computer program that doesn't compile. ;) Or like Achan's sin (read Joshua 7). But when I walk with God and follow him, life is beautiful - not without trials, but it's a life full of praise and peace.

So when life doesn't seem to be making sense...recalibrate yourself. And God will tell you, *"You forgot a semicolon there. ;)"*

Chris, defender of all who believe all carbonated soft drinks should be referred to as coke, gladly challenges anyone to a friendly game of Super Smash Brothers if provided a TV and N64 system.

Poll Question:

How would you like to get to know people in other cell groups?



Other interesting suggestions:

- * Short road trips
- * Doing homework together
- * Cooking competition
- * Super Smash Brothers Competition
- * Karaoke
- * Cosmic Bowling

ACF Announcements

Program Team

Hello! We're looking for a few good men and women to join the program team. I'm in charge of the program ministry this year. Our ministry involves putting together our Friday night Large Group meetings in a way that is pleasing to God. We're looking to make ACF Friday nights challenging, entertaining, and all around orderly. This includes skits, special music, dramas, mimes, and many, many more possibilities. Interested? Please e-mail me at kfine@andrew.cmu.edu.

Upcoming Events

11/10 Bible Talk - Pastor Bucknell
11/17 Thanksgiving Service
11/22 Thanksgiving Break begins *
11/24 Thanksgiving Break ends
12/01 Bible Study: Matthew 7:13-29
Am I really a Christian?

* Stay tuned for news on ACF Thanksgiving events.

Don't Mess With FBC

Back in Texas, you wouldn't believe what they did to local litter bugs. You may not know this, but "Don't Mess With Texas" is actually a warning to our littering friends to clean up their act. A particular Texas alumnus has informed me that ACF has had some problems getting people to help out with cleanup on Friday nights. So, on behalf of the kindly people at FBC and the litter-sensitive Texans, please help us out by wiping up the spills, putting away the chairs, and taking out the trash. Cleanup is everybody's job.



Happy Birthdays

11/10 Lan Kulapaditharom
11/17 Robert O'Callahan
11/18 Ming Li
11/22 John Yuen
11/25 Dave Harrison
11/29 Timothy Chen
12/06 Maria Chou
12/15 Philip Chang
12/16 Jon Nedel

