

**SMALL
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES
TODAY**

Capturing the
New Moment

*Joseph G. Healey
and Jeanne Hinton*
editors

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Promoting SCCs via the Internet

Joseph Healey

I live in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. I wonder how many people could find it on a world map. I get comments like: “You mean Tasmania.” “One of fifty-three countries in Africa. You got to be kidding!” Here in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam alone we have over twenty-three hundred Small Christian Communities (SCCs) in forty-nine parishes. Yet as I travel around the world people often ask, “Do you have SCCs in Africa?”

How can we get this message out? How can we share our good news of SCCs with people in other continents? The young people in Dar es Salaam tell me: “That’s easy. Use IT [information technology].” It’s true! E-mail, Internet, Web sites, online PowerPoint presentations, online education, and so on open up an exciting window of opportunity to mutually share our experiences of SCCs in our global society and world church. If we are convinced about SCCs, we must also be convinced about the importance of the Internet — especially in reaching young people today.

When it comes to promoting SCCs through the Internet a good adage is: *Think outside the box*. Try this example: Enter the words “Small Christian Communities” (using the quotation marks) in the Google search engine (www.google.com) and see how many results (hits) and useful information you get. I just tried it and got 17,300 results! Most Web sites listed include links to many other Web sites with similar SCC concerns. Browsing through these Web sites can yield many surprises and facilitate new connections.

SCC Web Sites around the World

Marins Team

www.cebs.ws/english/english.htm (English)

E-mail: Teamtrema@aol.com

Includes sections on the José Marins Itinerant Team, services, calendar, books and articles on BECs, and photos.

Adital (Agencia de Información Fray Tito para América Latina)

www.adital.com.br

E-mail: *agencia@adital.org.br*

News service on CEBs across the Latin American world originating in Brazil. In Portuguese and Spanish with English as an option.

Consejo Episcopal Latinoamericano (CELAM)

www.celam.org

E-mail: *celam@celam.org*

Web site in Spanish of the Latin America [Catholic] Episcopal Conference. Various resources on Comunidades Eclesiales de Base (CEBs) known by the English translation Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs).

Parish without Borders

www.parity-without-borders.net

E-mail: *paa2000@n-jcenter.com*

Variety of SCC material. Section on “Twinning Resources for Small Christian Communities” includes general resources, SCC twinning stories, articles, documents, and Internet links.

House Church Central

www.hccentral.com

E-mail: *hdrake@hccentral.com*

The house church movement is an attempt to get away from the institutional church, seeking instead to return to the small gatherings of peoples that constituted all of the churches of the New Testament era. This U.S.-based, nondenominational Web site is dedicated to the growing house church movement. It offers a Bible-centered doctrinal base for home church and endeavors to provide house churches with: (1) a channel for the interchange of ideas, (2) a source for solid Christian theology, (3) a catalog of resources for the house church, and (4) a (necessarily incomplete) worldwide directory.

New Way of Being Church

www.newway.org.uk

E-mail: *info@newway.org.uk*

Web site is designed to provide information about New Way, its underlying principles and method of working. It has sections covering New Way Resource Publications, its *Newsletter*, book reviews on related subjects, and stories of new ways of being church that are appearing across the United Kingdom. Includes an effective online PowerPoint presentation that is also available by e-mail file attachment. Questions for the immediate future are

whether the Web site could: (1) create a forum for the exchange of ideas, (2) provide resource material to enquirers and generate income, and (3) provide a “Virtual Community” for scattered Small Christian Communities presently existing in isolation.

At Your Word, Lord

www.aywl.org.uk

E-mail: *aywl@rcdow.org.uk*

A pastoral and spiritual renewal program in the Catholic Diocese of Westminster, England, based on Small Christian Communities — weekly faith-sharing groups.

Iona Community

www.iona.org.uk

E-mail: *ionacomm@ gla.iona.org.uk*

An ecumenical Christian community of men and women from different walks of life and different Christian traditions that is committed to seeking new ways of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ in today’s world. Wild Goose Publications features books on small communities around the world.

Fresh Expressions: Helping to Build a Mission-shaped Church

www.freshexpressions.org.uk

E-mail: Contact is made by submitting a message form on the Web site.

A resource of a growing movement of mission across every tradition — fresh expressions of the Christian Churches all across Britain. Over the last fifteen years local churches have been trying out fresh expressions and experiments of church life. Often these churches have borrowed ideas from churches in other parts of the world. All around the edge of the traditional churches (such as parishes) good things are growing. The Web site is connected to the report of the Church of England, *Mission Shaped Church: Church Planting and Fresh Expressions of Church in a Changing Context*, published in January 2004. It includes examples and case studies of Base Ecclesial Communities, Café Churches, Cell Churches, etc.

European Collective

A Web site presently under construction.

Lumko Institute

www.catholic-johannesburg.org.za/dms/contacts/dms_contact-view?contact_id=3011

E-mail: *lumko@global.co.za*

Pastoral Institute of the Southern Africa Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) — pastoral and mission research and training through workshops, seminars, and courses. Produces a wide range of audiovisual and printed materials on SCCs, including the famous Seven Step Method for neighborhood Gospel groups.

AMECEA

www.amecea.org/index.htm

E-mail: *amecea@amecea.org*

Acronym for “Association of Member [Catholic] Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa.” A service organization for the National Episcopal Conferences of the eight countries of Eastern Africa, namely, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. Somalia and Djibouti are affiliate members. Part of its mission is revitalizing Small Christian Communities and emphasizing the role of the SCCs in evangelization.

Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Africa Region

www.maryknollafrica.org

E-mail: *AfricaRFO@Maryknoll.org*

Part of the history of SCCs in Eastern Africa together with a variety of case studies and concrete examples of this pastoral priority and its pastoral and missionary outreach. Includes resources such as books and videos on SCCs.

AsIPA (Asian Integral Pastoral Approach) Desk

www.asipa.net

E-mail: *asipa@ms78.hinet.net*

A desk in the Office of Laity of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC). The Asian Integral Pastoral Approach (AsIPA) is a tool towards the new way of being church in Asia through SCCs as envisioned by the Vatican II and as emphasized by FABC 5. Facilitates training programs on international and national levels (for pastoral leaders, priests, and laypeople with exposure to BCCs) that have proved to be effective tools to see the vision and to acquire the skills needed in a participatory church (for example, new leadership style, Gospel-based communities, and participative formation programs).

SAMBAYANIHAN: The Basic Ecclesial Communities in the Philippines

http://frpicx.tripod.com

E-mail: *frpicx@hotmail.com*

Sambayanihan is a Filipino word that captures the essence of BECs as a way of being church. Contains information, stories, and reflections about

the Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) in the Philippines, including on-line PowerPoint presentations. It answers the questions that are frequently asked: What are BECs? What are the approaches in building BECs? What is happening in these BECs?

Project Linkup

www.home.vicnet.net.au/~rciascc

E-mail: *noola@alphalink.com.au*

Web site designed to publicize the model of adult initiation developed in St. Thomas More's Catholic Parish, Belgrave, Victoria, Australia. There is compelling evidence for linking the Adult Catechumenate and SCCs. Project Linkup describes stories of some of the people who have been brought into the Catholic Church through a program of initiation.

Archdiocese of Adelaide Basic Ecclesial Communities

www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/Services/BEC/default.htm

E-mail: *becs@adelaide.catholic.org.au*

Covers history, information about BECs, comprehensive lists of resources (books, booklets, videos, CDs, posters), and a newsletter.

Australian Home Church

www.users.tpg.com.au/kgoodlet/homechurch

E-mail: *kgoodlet@tpg.com.au*

User-friendly site which explains home church in clear language, accessible alike to the already-churched and the unchurched. Includes sections on FAQs, getting started, resources and a directory for many Australian home churches.

OIKOS

www.oikos.org.au

E-mail: *oikos@optusnet.com.au*

Provides friendship and encouragement to anyone involved in new ways of church. This includes those within denominations, independent groups meeting outside the traditional church, and individual Christians who do not attend any church. *OIKOS* (the Greek word for "household" used in the Bible) is a resource for home churches and is also the name of the quarterly newsletter sent to home churches and interested individuals. The Web site includes sections on "Home Church Happenings," "Resources for Home Church," and the *Australian Home Church Directory*.

Small Christian Communities in North America
Collaborative Web Site
Barbara A. Darling

The United States is blessed with numerous organizations that support and network the small church experience. Most of them came into existence in the 1970s and 1980s about the time when lots of church folks were discovering and developing a passion for SCCs.

In this new moment early in the third millennium, most folks in the United States are feeling a financial pinch, and the church is no exception. As a result, parish and diocesan staff people are wearing several different hats and need to consider numerous ministries a priority. They and parish volunteers as well as grassroots SCC members are balancing personal and department budgets with the need to interact with like-minded people and learn more about keeping their SCCs healthy and lively. No longer is it possible for most folks to keep up memberships in several national organizations, much less travel to more than one conference annually to meet with others face to face.

Thirteen U.S. and Canadian organizations are exploring creative answers by looking at ways they can collaborate in their service to SCCs. There was always a loose relationship among these organizations but little in the way of an inclusive working affiliation. As a result of the Lilly-financed SCC study carried out by Bernard Lee and others (see chapter 9), six hundred members and representatives of these organizations convened in San Antonio, Texas, in August 2002. At that gathering and at a subsequent summit of leadership in 2003, it became apparent that a more collaborative model of North American SCC support and networking was crucial. The decision was made not only for financial reasons, but because this mutuality of purpose and effort reflects the model of Small Church Community among the groups. Yet this metamorphosis of SCC support in North America is intentionally a slow process. Particular emphases among the groups such as evangelization, resource development, the connections between SCCs and the catechumenate, leadership training, multicultural church, scriptural literacy, young adults, and the diversity of parish-based and community-based small church must be recognized, included, and respected by the whole.

The first concrete result of this loose confederation is a Web site that displays links to individual Web sites of the organizations. Web surfers in North America will find a multitude of services available to SCCs and can easily choose those that fit their current needs. Those outside North America will

likely find resources and wisdom to complement their small church experiences as well. Strategies are being developed to work collaboratively in other areas so that there is little overlap of services, yet no needs go unmet in North American SCCs.

To find out more about these organizations, go to the Small Christian Communities in North America Web site at

www.smallchristiancommunities.org

Or go directly to:

Buena Vista

www.buonavista.org

E-mail: *bv@buonavista.org*

Celebrating the Word

www.celebratingtheword.com

E-mail: *fjruetz@celebratingtheword.com*

Diocese of Oakland Small Christian Communities Office

www.oakdiocese.org/pastoral/SCC

E-mail: *npetersen@oakdiocese.org*

With related SCC Web site in Spanish:

Oficina de las Pequeñas Comunidades Cristianas de la Diócesis de Oakland

www.oakdiocese.org/pastoral/Comunidades.htm

Good Ground Press

www.goodgroundpress.com

E-mail: *editor@goodgroundpress.com*

Latin American/North American Church Concerns

www.nd.edu/~kellogg

E-mail: *Robert.S.Pelton.1@nd.edu*

Loyola Institute for Ministry, Loyola University, New Orleans including the LIMEX Program and LIM On-Campus Program

www.loyno.edu/lim/index.html

E-mail: *lim@loyno.edu*

Mexican American Cultural Center

www.maccsa.org

E-mail: *register@maccsa.org*

With related SCC Web site in Spanish:

Centro Mexico Americano de la Cultura:

www.maccsa.org

National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC)

www.naprc.faithweb.com

E-mail: *naprcoffice@ameritech.net*

National Pastoral Life Center

www.nplc.org/smallcommunities.htm

E-mail: *smallcommunities@nplc.org*

North American Forum for Small Christian Communities (NAFSCC)

www.nafsc.org. Inclusive for English-, French-, and Spanish-speaking members.

E-mail: *DMK@dosp.org*

North American Forum on the Catechumenate

www.naforum.org

E-mail: *amanda_drago2005@yahoo.com*

Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese of Hartford

www.sccquest.org

E-mail: *info@sccquest.org*

RENEW International

www.renewintl.org

E-mail: *renew@renewintl.org*

With related SCC Web site in Spanish:

RENEW International en Español

www.renewintl.org/Espanol/index.htm

An Experiment in Online Education for Small Christian Community Leadership

Barbara J. Fleischer

In 2000 Rev. Bernard Lee and fellow researchers published the results of the first national study on Small Christian Communities in the U.S. context (see chapter 9). The study recommended two primary areas for leadership development to enhance the life and direction of SCCs in the United States.

It called for strong attention to the biblical literacy of SCC leaders and a systemic development of group leadership skills.

The Loyola Institute for Ministry of Loyola University, New Orleans, has developed both a Master of Pastoral Studies and a Certificate of Pastoral Studies with an area of concentration in Small Christian Community Formation for both its on-campus program and its distance learning program. It offers both grounding in scripture and Catholic theology in its “theological core” and specific courses in Small Christian Community development. The off-campus program, the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program (or LIMEX, for short), operates in sponsoring dioceses by forming small learning communities that are guided by faculty and a Loyola-certified facilitator through the four-year curriculum.

Since the completion of the national study, the Loyola Institute for Ministry has experimented with a new way of two focus courses in Small Christian Community Formation. The two courses, entitled the “Inner Life of Small Christian Communities” and the “Public Life of Small Christian Communities,” are offered online through the formation of a learning community in cyberspace.

Students register for the semester-long courses either as graduate students or as continuing education students (graduate students complete term papers in addition to their weekly assignments). The course Web site lists required textbooks, supplementary readings and bibliographies, audiotapes for each session, and weekly assignments. Each week students complete the readings and listen to the Web-based presentation. The instructor then assigns each student to post a beginning reflection on an assigned discussion question on the “Discussion Board” located on the course Web site. Other students in the class then post their own reflections in response to the discussion question and their peer’s lead, and an online conversation develops. The advantage of the discussion board is that students can post their responses at any time during the session “week” and do not all have to be online at the same time. Typically, three in-depth discussions will occur for each week’s class, and the instructor will comment on both student responses and course material.

While some may object that online courses do not have the richness of face-to-face communication, they do allow participants to come together to reflect on their SCC leadership and life in ways that would not otherwise be possible. One recent student, for example, lives in Panama where her husband was transferred. Her graduate education was interrupted at the point where she needed to complete her ministry focus courses. By participating in the online class she was able to share her various experiences of SCC life

with others in the class who were similarly involved in fostering the development of SCCs in their locations. The online courses have not only provided these students with resources, content, and verbal communication skills development, they have also offered them a glimpse of what might be a new venue for SCC life in the twenty-first century. For more information, go to www.loyno.edu/lim.

Connecting through a Variety of Internet Resources

There are a wide variety of e-mail mailing lists and e-mail discussion lists on SCCs. Some Listservs are restricted to a specific network or core group. Chat rooms, discussion boards, and message boards on SCCs on popular Web sites such as Yahoo and Hotmail tend to come and go. Blogs (private and public) with SCC content are becoming more popular. There are daily and weekly logs on SCC Web sites. Text messaging on cell phones is a popular form of communication. All these examples are part of what are called the new media that can promote SCCs in different ways.

Some ongoing examples are:

Faith-Sharing Newsletter:

www.goodgroundpress.com/index.asp?PageAction=Custom&ID=54

An interactive newsletter for small groups of people who gather as a faith-based community. The small communities might be parish based, multiparish based, ecumenical, or nonparish based, including RCIA groups, RENEW groups, and post-RENEW groups.

World RENEW Newsletter

www.renewintl.org/NewsEvents/Pages/WorldRenewNewsletter.htm

Covers the spiritual life with behind-the-scenes stories and updates on RENEW International's work with parishes and small communities across the United States and abroad. The RENEW International Web site includes an online community in English and Spanish.

Buena Vista

www.buenavista.org

E-mail, mailing list, and chat room.

North American Forum for Small Christian Communities (NAFSCC)

www.nafsc.org

E-mail, mailing list.

What are the possibilities in the future? Already virtual or online parishes (also called “Online 3D Churches” and “Churches on the Net”) exist. What about virtual or online SCCs?

It is important to keep in touch with changes and updates by going through Google and other search engines regularly and checking SCC Web sites for changes and updates in content as well as new links. For promoting SCCs via the Internet the future is now.

Appendix

How to Use This Book

Suggestions for SCCs

We have tried to make this book user-friendly for a readership of SCC members and interested people from all six continents. There is plenty of practical, pastoral content with many examples, anecdotes, stories, case studies, quotations, references, etc. At the same time we have tried to back up the chapters with solid academic content and references. Our goal is what Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor says in the foreword: "To bring together the varied, prophetic experiences of Small Christian Communities around the world, and allow them to speak to each other." We hope that you will speak to each other and learn from each other's SCC experiences in furthering this new way of being church. Here are a few suggestions for an SCC reading of this book.

1. **Choose** one or two appropriate chapters to reflect on. In your SCC you might take a chapter from a different continent than yours or over a period of time work through all six sections of the book. Prepare by having each person read the suggested chapter in advance (photocopying for such use is permissible), or have one person summarize the chapter and read selected extracts.
2. **Consider** the following questions:
 - What are some similarities to your experience?
 - What are some differences?
 - What is helpful for you and also thought provoking?
 - What of your SCC story would you like to share with the writer(s) if the opportunity is given?
3. **Contact.** You could send a response to the writer(s) by e-mail (see addresses in the list of contributors) or c/o Joe Healey or Jeanne Hinton.

4. **Twin.** Is your SCC twinned with another SCC elsewhere? If not, would it be helpful for you to twin, and where would you choose?
5. **Learn** from one or more of the Web sites mentioned in the book. These can provide excellent discussion material for your SCC. One person could give a summary and some printouts of a particular Web site of interest. The questions above could be helpful here too.

(With material supplied by Richard Begbie, Michael Brough, Barbara A. Darling, Robert Moriarty, James O'Halloran, Robert Pelton, Irene Wilson, and others.)

Resources and Annotated Bibliography

(including “How to Use This Book”)

Editors’ Note: Many e-mail and Internet resources are found in chapter 26, “Promoting SCCs via the Internet.”

Resources

Newsletters and Magazines

Electronic versions are available. Web site and e-mail addresses are provided in chapter 26.

Buena Vista Ink. A six-times-yearly newsletter for people devoted to the formation and support of Small Christian Communities. Produced by Buena Vista, Inc., a Catholic network of people devoted to the formation and support of SCCs since 1987. Includes a wide variety of SCC articles and resource material. Contact: P.O. Box 745475, Arvada, CO 80006-5475.

Gatherings. A quarterly newsletter published by the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Quality reflection articles with questions and a roundup of SCC happenings. Contact: 467 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002.

New Way of Being Church Newsletter. Published by New Way of Being Church. The New Way Network provides a wide variety of small community information, news about meetings and workshops, special articles, and SCC resource material in the United Kingdom. Contact: Wells, Somerset BA5 2PD, United Kingdom.

OIKOS. A quarterly newsletter originating from Victoria, Australia, that is designed to encourage, network, and provide resources for home churches across Australia. Contact: Bessie Pereira, Editor, 10 Viviani Crescent, Heathmont, Victoria 3135, Australia.

Re-gather the Parish. A newsletter of the Melbourne, Australia, SCC Network. Includes examples and case studies of specific SCCs, ongoing support for SCC facilitators, and SCC resource material. Contact: Una Melville, St. John the Baptist Parish, 21 Forest Road, Ferntree Gully, VIC 3156, Australia. E-mail: [UnaMelville<saintjb@ozemail.com.au>](mailto:UnaMelville@saintjb@ozemail.com.au).

Twist in the Tale: Parables from the Neighbourhood Church. A quarterly newsletter from the Basic Ecclesial Communities Office in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Australia,

that links faith with the stories and experiences of people in their neighborhoods. Contact: Coordinator, BEC Office, 39 Wakefield St., Adelaide, South Australia 5000.

Bible-Sharing and Faith-Sharing Resources

Additional resources are found in the annotated bibliography. Many resources are also found on Internet Web sites.

Bible and Practice. Sheffield: Urban Theology Unit (UTU). How does the Bible lead to and provoke contemporary action, politics, and lifestyle, particularly in an urban context? UTU also provides resource material, booklets, and training material of practical value to those developing SCCs, in particular on the use of the pastoral cycle and biblical reflection. www.utusheffield.fsnet.co.uk. E-mail: office@utusheffield.fsnet.co.uk.

Bible Study and Sharing on the Gospel of Matthew — Year A/Gospel of Mark — Year B/Gospel of Luke — Year C for Christian Communities (English and Swahili). Produced by Richard Baawobr, M.Afr. Published by the AMECEA Pastoral Department and BICAM, Nairobi, Kenya. 1999–2001.

C.T.W.: a weekly process for small faith-sharing groups, based on Sunday's scripture readings *Celebrating the Word*. Weekly publication (excepting July–August). By paper mail or e-mail. A user-friendly process to help people of faith to break open Sunday's Word. It is a weekly faith-sharing experience that participants worldwide find life-giving and Spirit-filled and an effective process for reevangelizing. Contact: *Celebrating the Word*, 265 Westmount Road North, Waterloo, ON, Canada.

Connecting Faith and Life, written by Paul O'Bryan. A "Gathering Format" to foster a spirituality of Christian Community. Depending on the time available there are different components for a long ninety-minute or short twenty-minute prayer gathering such as for an SCC. It links the cycle of Sunday Gospels with current issues, both local and global. It is available free online and can be downloaded in PDF format from the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, Australia, Web site: www.mn.catholic.org.au/diocesan/connecting_life_faith.htm. *Editors' note:* In doing research for this chapter we found that more and more Bible-sharing and faith-sharing resources for SCCs are available only online. This is one example.

Disciples in Mission — An Evangelization Experience. A ministry of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA). English and Spanish materials for Lectionary-based faith-sharing groups (adults, teens, and families with young children) especially in Lent. Group Study Guides for Lectionary Cycles A, B, and C including African American editions. Contact: Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, 3031 Fourth Street, NE, Washington, DC 20017-1102. E-mail: pncea@pncea.org.

Disciples on the Journey: Faith-Sharing Booklets for Small Groups. Cycles ABC (English and Spanish). Victoria, Texas: Faith-sharing publications. Separate sections for each group: adult, teen, family. Contact: Faith Journey Publications, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903-4070. www.victoriadiocese.org.

Education for Ministry (EFM). A well-designed four-year training program in biblical studies, church history, theology, and liturgy. With Episcopalian/Anglican roots, it is not home-church specific, but in Australia at least is home-church friendly. Based at the University of the South in the United States, EFM operates in many countries

around the world. To check if EFM has a base in your country, or for further details: www.sewanee.edu/EFM/EFMhome.html. E-mail: efm@sewanee.edu.

Faith Sharing for Small Church Communities: Questions and Commentaries on the Sunday Readings. Edited by Art Baranowski and the National Alliance for Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC). Cincinnati: St. Anthony Messenger Press, 1993. Life focus commentaries and questions on Cycles ABC from seventy-five hundred members of SCCs around the world.

Healing the Body of Christ (English and Spanish). Faith-sharing booklet produced by RENEW International, Plainfield, New Jersey. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 2002. Designed to help people work through the impact of the serious sexual abuse crisis and scandal in the church and to invite Christ to heal us in the midst of suffering.

PRAYERTIME: Faith-Sharing Reflections on the Sunday Gospels. Cycles ABC (English and Spanish). Produced by RENEW International, Plainfield, New Jersey. Mahwah, N.J.: Paulist Press, 2002. Adapted by Westminster Diocese for the United Kingdom in the AYWL Program. An important resource for adult faith formation. RENEW International also sponsors a subscription Web site specifically designed for Small Church Communities. Faith-sharing material on the Sunday Gospel and a variety of topics is updated weekly. www.parishlife.com. E-mail: Subscription@ParishLife.com.

Quest — A Reflection Booklet for Small Christian Communities. Published three times a year by the Pastoral Department for Small Christian Communities of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Week-by-week reflection booklet based on the Sunday readings of the three-year lectionary. *Quest* is used in small communities throughout the United States and in about a dozen countries around the world.

Resource Booklets for Small Christian Communities. Reflections on all four Gospels by Peter B. Price. Wells, Somerset, England: New Way of Being Church (variable dates). Four booklets based on readings for each Sunday throughout the year. A resource for daily living and transforming communities.

Sunday by Sunday. A four-page weekly newsletter published by Good Ground Press, St. Paul, Minnesota. It invites adults, groups, or individuals to reflect on the Sunday readings. Perfect for group reflection and a very good resource for all kinds of SCCs.

Videos

20/20 Vision for the Parish: A Clear Direction for the Future. A three-part video: Part I — “Is the Church Working? Why Change?” Part II — “The Basics of the Called to Be Church Vision for Parish.” Part III — “Implementation in Several Parishes.” 35 minutes. Three-part process guide included. Produced by and available from the National Alliance of Parishes Restructuring into Communities (NAPRC), 310 Allen Street, Dayton, OH 45410.

Bridges to Build. 29 minutes. Insights into churches seeking to engage effectively with the communities around them. Ties into the book *Changing Churches: Building Bridges in Local Mission*. Produced by and available from the Churches Commission on Mission/CTBI, 35–41 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7SA, England. E-mail: bbh@ctbi.org.uk.

The Church in the Neighborhood. 43 minutes in the PAL System. A very instructive video showing how to develop and animate/facilitate Small Christian Communities within the parish in East Africa. It has two parts: (1) shows the basis and formation of Small Christian Communities; and (2) shows the different services that can

be established within the community. The life and activities of several Small Christian Communities in Kenya are shown. Produced by and available from Ukweli Video, P.O. Box 14465, Nairobi, Kenya. www.geocities.com/UkweliVideo. E-mail: ukweli@wananchi.com.

- Church: Past, Present, Future.* Three-set video: (1) "Insights from the Past, Discovering Our Biblical Roots." (2) "Gift for the Present, Being Church Where We Are." (3) "Legacy for the Future, Living into the Reign of God." The internationally known SCC team led by Father José Marins invites viewers to discover the sense of where history is going in our church. Facilitator guide and participant material are included. Produced by and available from Buena Vista, Inc., P.O. Box 745475, Arvada, CO 80006-5475.
- Imagine That: Small Christian Communities.* Video on the "Second International Consultation on Small Christian Communities" at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, in October 1996. 22 minutes. In answer to the question, "Is there a simple way that an SCC in America could begin to live out a public life in light of the universal church?" Father Bob Pelton, C.S.C., of Notre Dame (13 minutes into the videotape) explains the tradition of twinning in the Catholic Church on the diocesan, parish, and SCC levels. He describes the international Small Christian Community (SCC) twinning program as a new way of experiencing church—from small community to small community. Produced by Fatima Media Ministry and Buena Vista, Inc. Available from Buena Vista (see above).
- It's a Small Church After All* (Spanish version is *Ven Con Nosotros*). Video on the "Third International Consultation on Small Christian Communities" in Cochabamba, Bolivia, in November 1999. English and Spanish. 46 minutes. Under the section on "Local and Global Networking for Small Christian Communities," twinning is explained as an important means for SCCs to develop a broader viewpoint and a wider vision. Sister Rita Ishengoma, STH, of Tanzania (36 minutes into the videotape) describes the characteristics of the International Small Christian Community (SCC) twinning program that involves sister or partner communities around the world. Produced by Fatima Media Ministry and Buena Vista, Inc. Available from Buena Vista (see above).
- Parish Core Communities: Renewing the Face of the Earth.* Two hours. A four-part video series to help the Parish Core Community for Small Community Development: (1) *Community: As It Was in the Beginning and Is Now.* Stresses the importance of the Core Community as a permanent structure in the parish and highlights its responsibilities. (2) *Conversion: The Heart of the Matter.* Proclaims Christ as truly at the center of Small Christian Communities and at the center of the lives of its members. (3) *Small Communities: Reaching Out.* Inspires Core Communities to reach out in evangelization and social action. (4) *Core Communities: Charting the Course.* Enumerates the challenges facing Core Communities as they form SCCs: planning, evaluating, inviting others, nurturing parish ministries, developing leaders, pastoring, etc. Produced by and available from RENEW International, 1232 George Street, Plainfield, NJ 07062-1717.
- Rediscovering Community—International Perspectives.* Video on the "First International Consultation on Small Christian Communities," at the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, in December 1991. Participants came from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America to promote the communion between the local churches of the various regions of the world. Produced by and available from

Fatima Media Ministry, P.O. Box 929, Notre Dame, IN 46556. www.nd.edu/~fatima/mediaministry.html. E-mail: fatima@nd.edu.

- Sharing Faith across the Hemisphere*. English and Spanish. 28 minutes with discussion guide. What happens when North meets South? This video portrays the story of the relationship of the church in the United States and in Latin America — a mutual sharing of faith come alive. Men, women, priests, religious, and laypersons tell their amazing story of the dynamic faith that is present in the church. Portrays the context for the development of SCCs. Washington, D.C.: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 1997. A book (English and Spanish) by the same title is available.
- Small Community Basics in a Nutshell*. 30 minutes. The “nutshell” contains basic steps to consider before implementing Small Christian Communities in a parish or diocesan setting. The video, easily divided into four sessions, is an excellent tool for pastors, staff, parish leaders, and SCC facilitators. Produced by and available from Buena Vista (see above).
- This Is the Moment*. Celebrating the Launch of the “At Your Word, Lord” (AYWL) Spiritual and Pastoral Renewal Program in the Diocese of Westminster, England. Wembley Arena, London, September 2003. 14 minutes. Stresses the importance of the weekly small groups in the five seasons of the AYWL Program. Participants share what the Gospel means to them. The Holy Spirit does the work. Produced by and available from At Your Word, Lord (AYWL), Archbishop’s House, Ambrosden Avenue, London, SW1P 1QJ, England.
- Three Videos from the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Australia: An Interview with Pat Edwards* (No. 10). Pat Edwards, a former BEC Key Leader, speaks about the experience of starting BECs in Glenelg Parish. *Stories of Neighbourhood Visiting* (No. 11). Neighborhood Pastoral Team Leaders Joe and Vicki Dall’Armi speak about their experience of BECs visiting. *Marins Lectures* (No. 12). José Marins, Teo Trevisan, and Robert Mueller speak during a BEC Conference in Adelaide in April 2001. Topics include “The Early Church,” “The Reign of God,” “Miracles,” “Exorcism,” “The Good News,” and “Prayer” (2 hours, 53 minutes). Available from the Archdiocese of Adelaide: The Coordinator, BEC Office, 39 Wakefield Street, Adelaide, South Australia 5000.
- We Are the Church — Lay Involvement in the Church*. 45 minutes in the PAL System. A timely video showing in so many ways how the Catholic laity in Kenya are involved in proclaiming “the Word of God.” Their work is portrayed through preaching, teaching, hymns, vibrant liturgies, healing ministries, dramas, youth activities, Small Christian Communities, nonviolent marches, and peace and justice initiatives. Produced by and available from Ukweli Video (see above).

International SCC Twinning Coordinators

(See chapter 22, “Reenergizing International SCC Twinning”)

East Africa:

Kenya: Mr. Alphonse Omolo: alphonce@pandipieri.org

Tanzania: Sister Rita Ishengoma, STH: rishengomak@yahoo.com

Uganda: Father John Vianney Muweesi: weekembe@hotmail.com

El Salvador: Mrs. Irma Chávez: renelsal@navegante.com.sv

United States: Barbara A. Darling: badarling@juno.com

Annotated Bibliography

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- . *Basic Is Beautiful*. London: Fount Harper Collins Publishers, 1993. Deals with the issue of how to translate Basic Ecclesial Communities from the Third World to the First World. Includes valuable accounts of, and reflection on, practical experiences.
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- . *Walking in the Same Direction*. Geneva: WCC Publications, 1995. The author, who has considerable experience, examines the new church that is emerging in the world largely through the vision and action of small communities.
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with the most basic questions — from the theology of community to issues of who does the housework — in a very readable way.

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- . Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *The Church in Africa*. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 1995. See also *The African Synod Comes Home — A Simplified Text*. Ed. AMECEA Pastoral Department. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa, 1995. No. 89 treats the theme “Living (or Vital) Christian Communities.” Small or living Christian communities should “reflect on different human problems in the light of the Gospel.”
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- . Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *The Church in Asia*. “The Synod Fathers underlined the value of *basic ecclesial communities* as an effective way of promoting communion and participation in parishes and dioceses, and as a genuine force for evangelization. These small groups help the faithful to live as believing, praying, and loving communities like the early Christians (cf. Acts 2:44–47; 4:32–35). They aim to help their members to live the Gospel in a spirit of fraternal love and service, and are therefore a solid starting point for building a new society, the expression of *a civilization of love*. With the Synod, I encourage the Church in Asia, where possible, to consider these basic communities as a positive feature of the Church’s evangelizing activity.”
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