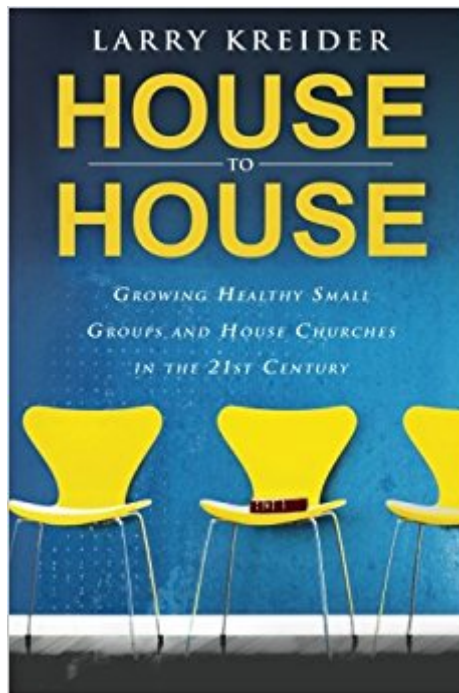




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House To House: Growing Healthy Small Groups And House Churches In The 21st Century



Synopsis

House to House documents how God transformed a small fellowship of young believers into a worldwide movement. DOVE Christian Fellowship International grew from 25 people to a cell church of over 2,300, and then transitioned into a family of small group churches and house churches that is now networking together throughout six continents. This field-tested book is a blueprint and training guide for believers, Christian leaders, and churches to make an impact on today's world, and serves as an invaluable tool to train potential leaders. The House to House model will inspire churches across the country, transforming them from individual congregations, large and small, into church-planting movements, encouraging many to start new churches to reach the coming harvest.

Book Information

Paperback: 276 pages

Publisher: Destiny Image; Reissue edition (August 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0768430577

ISBN-13: 978-0768430578

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #783,572 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #33 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Religions, Practices & Sacred Texts > Eckankar](#) #1414 in [Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Ministry & Evangelism > Evangelism](#)

Customer Reviews

Larry Kreider is the founder and international director of DOVE Christian Fellowship International, a family of churches established on six continents. As an author of more than 25 books and a speaker at conferences and churches, he travels extensively training Christian leaders and believers in practical Christian living. Larry and his wife, LaVerne, live in Lititz, Pennsylvania. They have four children and three grandchildren.

Larry Kreider's book "House to House: Spiritual Insights for the 21st Century" (1995 edition) is 216 pages long and is divided into 17 chapters and 2 appendices. The main focus of the book is introducing and instructing the reader on how to build a successful evangelistic cell-based model of the church for greater missional impact. There are several strengths. First, it is written by someone

who has years of experience as a pastor of a large mega church using a cell group model and who now leads an international network of cell and house churches (DOVE Christian Fellowship International). Second, it is an easy-to-read, step-by-step, practical work that is meant for a popular level audience, which will be a useful tool for anyone interested in the topic. Third, the author is mission-driven and is not satisfied with people just getting streamed into inward-looking small groups, but rather wishes to help reap a harvest among the lost. Fourth, there are numerous anecdotal stories that help the reader understand how this can work in a real-world context, as well as stories from the author's own experience that is spread across several chapters. Fifth, the book examines many relevant issues, such as evangelism, leadership training, multiplication, dangers/pitfalls to avoid, biblical leadership examples, etc. There are some weaknesses to the book. In the cell church's attempt to get away from the overly-programmed approach of the traditional congregational model, it has become overly-programmed itself with all the "hoops to jump through" for cell members and cell leaders with its potentially limitless leadership hierarchy of cell leaders, section leaders, elders, pastors, etc, and, despite Kreider's protests to the contrary, there will always be an ongoing dependence on buildings or large spaces for regular congregational celebration meetings of all the cells (pp. 25, 165-167). This is based on an attempt to artificially bring into the church a combination of the multi-level hierarchical system using the "Jethro Principle" based on Exodus 18:21-24 (pp.27-30) and the apostles and elders of the New Testament (pp.147-157). This can lead to a mechanistic approach to structuring the New Testament church. None of this can be found explicitly in the New Testament for how the early house churches were formed and functioned (Acts 2:41-47, 5:12, 5:42, 20:20; Rom 16:3-5). Only two levels of leadership existed in the New Testament church: local elders and translocal apostles. There is an attempt, however, to develop something like a New Testament basis for ecclesiology (pp.147-167). Overall, however, the book does offer good insight into the cell church model, it is very practical, and will be immensely beneficial to those interested in restructuring the church for harvest and hostility. RAD ZDERO, author of LETTERS TO THE HOUSE CHURCH MOVEMENT and THE GLOBAL HOUSE CHURCH MOVEMENT

Today most churches enjoy small groups, or home groups, or fellowship groups, or the many manes that are attached to them. Do they have spiritual growth study plans, or teach leadership, or reach out to the neighborhood, or truly learn others to serve? This important and timely book by Larry Kreider provides the many answers to these questions and to so many more as the Lord directed him in the area of growing healthy small groups and house churches. This is an excellent

book for senior pastors, church pastors of small group leaders, and for the small group leader, as well as those who lead house churches. As churches grow and small groups grow this book will provide and guide the spiritual growth information for all.

This book is about having a God-given vision to plant new churches. Larry tells you how to form home groups and train leaders to take over as new groups are formed. He has cell groups all over the world and is now doing home studies over the internet. Recommend to those that want to start or be trained as a leader for home groups.

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