

# Seventh-day Adventist Church *Australia*



Dear Family,

Whilst I was reading Christ Dyer's book 'The Power of Company Culture,' I came across an interesting concept that I feel is applicable for us as Christians today, especially with the closure of our churches indefinitely.

*"For CEO's and other accomplished managers, going back to basics can be tough. Whether out of optimism or wishful thinking, we expect to move forward and never double back. But, in order to move forward, we must gauge our baseline. Where are we now? Do we need to instil, resurrect or improve our company culture?"*

The point I want to highlight from this paragraph is, in order to move forward, we must gauge our baseline. When we started out as a denomination, social meeting was something our forebearers borrowed and adopted from the Methodists, where members participated in small group weekly meetings. These meetings were held in the members' homes, where they would hold each other accountable in their spiritual journey with Christ.

Some components of social meetings include:

- Singing
- Prayer
- Sharing Scriptures
- Applying lessons revealed in Scriptures
- Testimonies
- Accountability

Accountability I believe is something we can do better. So, how did the early Adventists hold each other accountable in these social meetings? They simply asked each other direct questions concerning their joys and struggles in life, especially temptations that were holding them back from a closer walk with Jesus. After their confessions, members would then support each other through prayers and encouraging words in every meeting. Listen to Ellen White's comments on these Social Meetings.

*"The five o'clock social meeting this morning was the best we have had. Brother was on his knees confessing to brother; there were broken hearts, tears, forgiveness, and rejoicing. We expect to see more of the salvation of God ere this meeting closes."* (Signs of the Times, May 6, 1880).

In fact, the Social Meeting with its testimonies, prayer, songs, and words of mutual encouragement held a greater ability to sustain the early Adventists' faith, instead

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of the preaching from the denomination's best preachers at that time. Our pioneers concentrated on the establishment and maintenance of relationships between their church members. Although these Bible students attained a fervent love for studying the word, they understood the importance of creating a healthy balance between the cognitive and relational aspects of Christian living.

Therefore, in order for us to strive ahead with the changes thrust upon us, and without doubling back, we need to gauge our baseline by attempting to realign our beliefs, purpose and attitude with our forebearers' by implementing the components of their social meetings in our weekly small groups meetings.

Even though we are stepping into the unknown, let us take each step confidently knowing that our God is still in control and He is able to use this situation for His glory.

May the grace of Lord Jesus Christ be with you all my church family, and may God shine His light of love and hope through us to our community.

Regards  
Pr Tony Moala