

to have a communion service. Your spirituality will deepen and be enriched through worship, prayer, the study of the Bible and learning to minister to others with your spiritual gifts—you will change!

⑧ You will be a New Testament Christian! The Book of Acts is very clear about how God intends for his people to grow and have their needs met in the church - the household of God. We will never be able to hire enough professional pastors to meet all the individual needs in our family. God never intended for it to be like that anyway! Consider these Bible verses ...

*“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Every day they continued to meet together ... **they broke bread in their homes and ate together ...** and the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.”*

- Acts 2:24,44,46-47.

*“Day after day, in the temple courts and from **house to house they never stopped** teaching and proclaiming the Good News that Jesus is the Christ.”*

- Acts 5:42

*“Greet also the church that meets **at their house.**”*

- Acts 5:42

*“Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets **at their house.**”*

- 1 Corinthians 16:19

*“Give my greetings ... to Nympha and the church in **her house.**” - Colossians 4:15*

I am excited about the incredible potential of the network of connect groups we’re building within RPCC! Connect groups of all kinds have these eight benefits that no believer can afford to pass up. As our church grows larger in size, we add more connect groups so that we never lose this ability to care for each other and grow in friendship.

If you are not participating in a group, why not join one this week? Call the church office or request information from reception or Pastor Milton Oliver who oversees all the group programs. He can direct you to a group that will be most suitable for you. If we need to establish a connect group in your area, we’ll even help do that. - Ps. Milton

Council of Elders

Milton Oliver ☎ 0412 368 918

Kerry Looi ☎ 0411 654 651

Ian McKenna ☎ 9309 0782

Anne Oliver ☎ 0412 268 918

Helen Rayner ☎ 0417 540 337

James Looi ☎ 0419 332 329



Administration Centre

9 Lachlan Crescent

Roxburgh Park VIC. 3064

Phone: (03) 9305 1114

Fax: (03) 9303 9991

E-mail: admin@rpcc.com.au

www.rpcc.com.au

Roxburgh Park Community Church

“Building you and your community!”

Why join a Connect Group?



Eight Good Reasons

① You will understand the Bible better in a connect group. If you've ever listened to a Bible teacher or preacher and wanted to stop that person and say, "But what about...?" or "I don't understand ..." - then a connect group is for you! At RPCC we have two kinds of groups, Connect Groups (CGs) and Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Preaching and teaching is one-way communication - you listen while the speaker speaks. It's fine for imparting knowledge but not nearly as effective for personal application as a small group is. In a small group setting, you can ask questions, participate in discussions on the text, and hear others share insights and illustrations of the truth you are trying to grasp. The Bible must be applied to our own personal situations and that happens best in small groups.

Sometimes I've had people tell me after a service, "Pastor, it would be helpful if I could sit down with some others and discuss the implications of your message today. You said so much I need to process it all!" Many of our groups discuss the implications of Sunday's messages from time to time, using the sermon notes as a guide.

② You will begin to really feel a part of God's family. Most people who have been a part of a group say the greatest benefit is the close relationships and friendships that develop. They will frequently telephone each other during the week, have lunch together, share an urgent prayer request or celebrate an exciting answer. You'll discover that your needs and problems aren't unique - we're all in the same boat. It helps to know that others are facing the same difficulties, or have lived through them and have learned spiritual principles as they have overcome life's challenges.

Over fifty times in the New Testament the phrase "one another" is used to describe our relationship to other believers. We are instructed to love one another, encourage one another, pray for one another, accept one another, bear one another's burdens, and build one another up. The only way you can consistently obey these commands is in a connect group! We really do need each other. God never meant for you to go it alone in the Christian life. If you are lonely, the answer to your problem is to join a connect group and meet new friends!

③ Prayer will become more meaningful to you. Many people are hesitant to pray in front of others, especially in a large church. In a connect group of 6-10 people, you will learn to participate in prayer in your own way by having a conversation together with God. No one is pressured to pray, but as you become comfortable, you'll be able to pray sentence prayers and join in. There are many promises in the Bible related to group prayer. In praying together with a few others, we are drawn together much more deeply and we find answers to the needs in our lives.

④ You will be able to handle stress and pressure better. Connect groups provide excellent support in times of crisis, change, grief, loss and stress. You'll have a sense of stability and security knowing there are people who really care for you and are committed to standing with you in your time of need.

When someone loses a job, or a family member has an extended illness, or a mother needs a baby-sitter - these are practical needs that will be naturally taken care of through your connect group. Your group will co-ordinate the sharing of hot meals to be brought in when your family is in need. Many people in our church could testify that they would not have been able to make it through a difficult time if it had not been for the support of their group. We have many different connect groups and support systems that are currently in place. Other special support groups that

deal with problems like addictions or financial difficulty, abuse and other needs are on the drawing board. More CGs are planned, too!

⑤ You will have a natural way to share Christ with unbelieving friends, relatives and work associates. It may be that some of your friends who don't know the Lord wouldn't be "caught dead" in a church. They have a preconceived idea and just the thought makes them defensive. But those same people may be open to an invitation to a casual Bible discussion in a home or office setting. In a connect group, your unbelieving friend can ask questions and express honest doubts without feeling "put on the spot". When your friend sees the love and warmth and honesty of your group, it will make them more receptive to the Good News.

⑥ You will develop leadership and other skills. The Bible teaches that every believer is given certain talents and spiritual gifts by which others in the family of God are meant to benefit. Unfortunately, most Christians remain as Sunday morning spectators all their lives because large group meetings are primarily "sit and listen" situations. As you share and participate in a relaxed small group setting, you'll discover your confidence and self-esteem gaining strength. This will help you at work, at church, and in every other relationship. You'll make lasting friendships too!

⑦ You will deepen your understanding of worship and deepen your spirituality. Many believers mistakenly believe that worship can only happen on Sunday mornings in a large group with a sermon, singing and an offering plate! Worship happens whenever we focus on God. Sometimes that happens best in a smaller group in praying or singing together. At Roxburgh Park Community Church, the group leader is authorised by the Elders to lead the Lord's Supper whenever the group wants