



B: SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

B\5

SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES EVALUATE THEMSELVES

TOPICS OF AsIPA TEXTS:

A : GOSPEL SHARING

B : SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES

C : A PARTICIPATORY CHURCH

D : TRAINING FOR PARISH TEAMS

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AsIPA Desk, FABC

34, Lane 32, Kuangfu, S.Road,

Taipei, Taiwan (1052)

Tel/Fax: [886]- 2-577 2007

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Illustrated by Lee Kowling

AsIPA B: SMALL CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES
Programmes for Training the Christian Community

B\5

SCCs EVALUATE THEMSELVES

INTRODUCTION:

SCCs will often need to stop and look at how things are going. There is always room for improvement and growth. Our self-evaluation scheme on the following pages can assist them to detect weak areas in their life as a community and encourage them to do something about it.

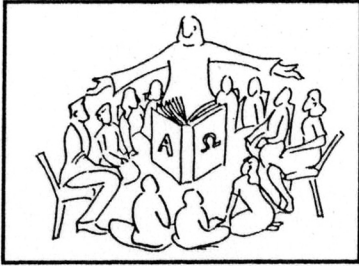
Our “Self-evaluation Scheme” is guided by five major features of an ‘ideal’ SCC.

- 1. CHRIST**
- 2. COMMUNITY**
- 3. SERVICE**
- 4. LINK**
- 5. LEADERSHIP**

On different occasions the members of a SCC can discuss some questions provided in the scheme. If they feel something is lacking or one-sided in their SCC they should ask themselves, ‘What can we do about it?’

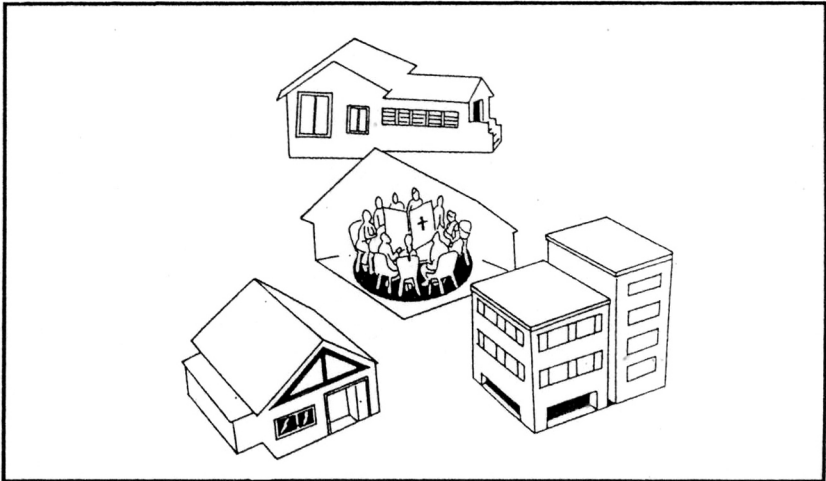
SELF-EVALUATION SCHEME FOR SCCs

1. Is CHRIST the centre of our SCC?



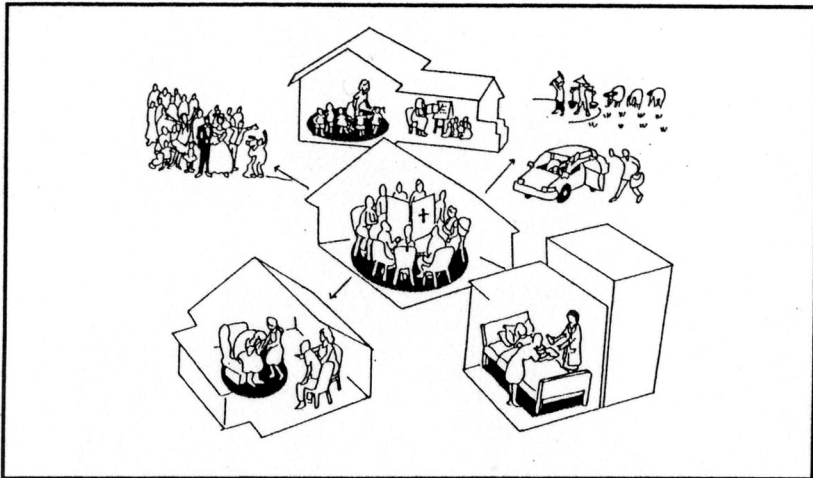
- What did we do to make Christ the centre of our SCC?
 - Did we remain faithful to gospel sharing?
-
- Did we search for the deeper meaning of the 7-step method by using, for instance, one of the AsIPA texts A\1-5 from time to time?
 - Did we let the light of Christ shine on problems in our area or society through using the “Bible Mirror Method” of Gospel Sharing (Group Response, AsIPA text A\7)?
 - Did we ask the question in our discussions and planning, “What does Christ expect from us?” “What solution is closer to the mind of Christ?”
 - Do all members of our SCC bring their Bible to the SCC meetings?
 - During gospel sharing, do we keep the spirit of prayer in which we can experience the presence of Christ or do we spoil it through ‘preaching’ and discussing?

2. Are we a loving 'COMMUNITY'?



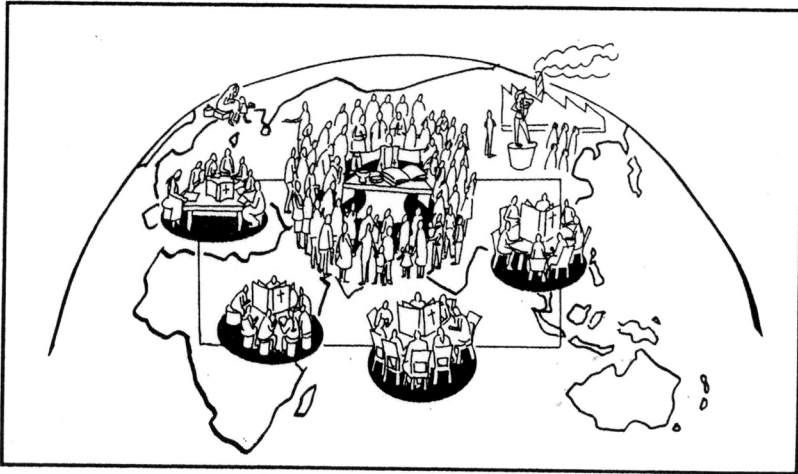
- What joys do we experience in our SCC?
- What effect has our SCC on our personal life?
- What problems do we experience in our SCC?
- What spoils the community spirit?
- Do all feel accepted or do some feel they are pushed aside in our SCC?
- Was the whole group involved in decision making and performing tasks?

3. Do we offer 'SERVICE' to others?



- What were the activities in our SCC?
 - What activities succeeded?
 - What activities failed? Why?
- Did we reach out beyond our little group?
 - Did we reach out beyond the Catholic Church?
- In what way did we bring Christ to others?
 - Did we bring the gospel to others who do not belong to any Church yet?
- Did we engage ourselves in social and public issues in order to practice love on a wider basis?
- Did we work in teams?

4. Are we LINKED to the whole Church?



- How is our SCC linked to the parish and to the diocese?
- In what way is our SCC concerned with the anxieties and mission of the whole Church in the world?
- Do we feel that our SCC is accepted as part of the parish?
 - Do we act as though we are a part of the parish?
- How are the priests and pastoral workers involved with us?
 - Do we invite the priests and pastoral workers to join us from time to time for celebrations etc?
- How much training and animation do they offer us?
 - Do we take up the invitations to be trained given by the parish or diocese?

5. How is LEADERSHIP practised in our SCC?



- How were the members of our SCC involved in getting leaders for the SCC?
- Where did we experience 'guiding' and 'enabling' leadership in our SCC?
 - Did we experience 'dominating' or 'bulldozing' leadership? When?
- How long do the leaders of our SCC stay in office? Do they give others a chance to develop their talents?
- Do the leaders of our SCC work as a team?
- Do our leaders receive regular skill-training and spiritual formation?

METHOD OF ASIPA TEXTS

ASIPA TEXTS are compiled for Christian men and women at grass root level of the parish. They can be conducted most fruitfully in Small Christian Communities, Neighbourhood Communities, Parish Pastoral Councils or any other small groups in the parish.

ASIPA TEXTS can also be used with larger groups, e.g. in the parish hall - provided the “participatory method” is maintained in smaller working groups.

Features of the “ASIPA approach”

1. ASIPA TEXTS adopt a **“participatory approach”** in which all participants of a group search and discover for themselves as far as they are able to.
2. The texts are compiled in such a way that the facilitator can use them with a **minimum of preparation**.
3. The facilitator is requested to **follow the text** as closely as possible and allow the participants to contribute when indicated in the text.
4. The facilitator is not content with one answer to a question but he/she encourages as many participants as possible to search for an answer. **“Buzz groups”** of 2/3 are helpful to achieve maximum participation.
5. The **SUPPLEMENT** can help add to the findings of the participants and summarize them.
6. The **SUMMARY** is meant to be used as ‘input’.

ASIPA:

As-ian -I-ntegral -P-astoral -A-pproach

The Asian Bishops declared in the Final Statement of their Fifth Plenary Session in Bandung: The Church of 1990s has to be a "Participatory Church", a "Communion of Communities", a Church that "witnesses to the Risen Lord" (*FABC5,#8*).

The question was, how to promote this "new way of being Church". Therefore, late in 1993, jointly sponsored by the FABC Offices of Human Development and of Laity, a consultation meeting was held in Malaysia. It was during this consultation that the pastoral process for promoting a "Participatory Church" in Asia was termed ASIPA: Asian Integral Pastoral Approach.

ASIPA TEXTS (training programmes) follow this directive:

ASIAN

They want to implement the vision of the Asian Bishops and help Asian Christians face Asian life in the light of the gospel.

INTEGRAL

They aim at achieving a balance between the "spiritual" and the "social", between the individual and the community, between hierarchical leadership and the co-responsibility of the laity.

PASTORAL

They train the laity in their pastoral mission in Church and world.

APPROACH

The process of ASIPA TEXTS can be described as a pastoral approach which is "Christ- and Community centred". It involves the participants of workshops to search for themselves and allows them to experience a "New Way of Being Church."
