

## **GOD'S PURPOSE: THE "TWO-WINGED" CHURCH**

Home fellowships are purposed by God to form an integral and vital part of the **structure** of the Church, enabling the Church to be and do all that God purposed her to be and do. From the time the Church was inaugurated at Pentecost until the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D., home fellowships formed one of the two "wings" of the Church that **enabled** her to "fly." The one wing consisted of large group meetings that took place in the temple and the other wing consisted of small group meetings that took place in members' homes (Acts 5 v 42\*, Acts 20 v 20\*). The temple (large group) meetings facilitated **primarily** the **public ministering of God's Word by the apostles (leadership)**; Jesus had commanded **them**: "Go and make disciples ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt 28 v 20 NIV), and the home (small group) meetings facilitated **primarily** the **fellowship of Christ's disciples** in order to **obey** what they were being taught; all with a view to **obeying Christ's one, great, all-encompassing New Commandment**: "A new command I give you: **Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.** By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13 v 34 – 35 NIV) (John 15 v 12 – 13\*, 1 John 2 v 5\*, 1 Pet 1 v 22\*). **Home fellowships, therefore, primarily serve the purpose of providing the facility for Christ's disciples to love and perfect their love for one another.**

**The early two-winged Church was vital, powerful and effective** (Acts 2 v 42 – 47\*). By the third century an estimated 6 000 000 Christians lived in the Roman Empire alone. As Jesus had said, Satan was powerless to destroy the Church (Matt 16 v 18\*). However, if he could not destroy her, what could he do? He would **neutralize** her. One of the two major ways he did this (infiltrating the truth with deception being the other) was by attacking and eliminating her home fellowship structure. The transition from a two-winged to a one-winged Church was completed in the 4<sup>th</sup> century A.D. and changed the face of the Church for the next 17 centuries, rendering her virtually powerless. Today Jesus is restoring His Church to the two-winged design (as well as to the unadulterated truth) – in order to prepare her for His second coming.

The following is an excerpt from W.A Beckham's book entitled "The Second Reformation – Reshaping the Church for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century":-



"The Creator once created a church with two wings: one wing was for **large group celebration**, the other wing was for **small group community**. Using both wings, the church could soar high into the heavens, entering into His presence and do His will over all the earth.

After a few hundred years of flying across the earth, the Two-Winged Church began to question the need for the small group wing. The jealous, wicked serpent who had no wings, loudly applauded this idea. Over the years, the small group wing became weaker and weaker from lack of exercise until it virtually had no strength at all. The Two-Winged Church that had soared high in the heavens was now for all practical purposes one-winged.

The Creator of the church was very sad. He knew the Two-Winged design had allowed the church to soar into His presence and do His bidding. Now with only one wing, just lifting off of the ground required tremendous energy and effort. And if the church did manage to become airborne, it was prone to fly in circles, lose its sense of direction, and not fly very far from its take off point. Spending more and more time in the safety and comfort of its habitat, it grew contented with an earth bound existence."



**You are encouraged to "fly" by attending a Home Fellowship!**