

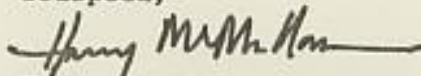
Why is the Fellowship being formed?

Our movement needs to give far more attention to the necessity of meeting together. The Master warned of the dangers of isolation, and strongly encouraged his apostles to stay together. Since the book is so extraordinarily replete, too many imagine that they can study it exclusively in the privacy of their homes most efficiently, and that group study is superfluous. Such people ignore the balancing and corrective influence of the group on our individual opinions, and the nurturing and spiritually reinforcing effect of group participation. Without the support of our fellows, we lose our enthusiasm. Another common mistake is for new readers to imagine that they should know a great deal about the book before attending a study group. The truth is more nearly the exact opposite, since that early period is when a study group can help the new reader most! It is God's plan that we find him and grow spiritually not only by means of what he teaches us directly, but through close association with our fellows. Rodan spoke to the urgency of forming protective habitual practices designed to conserve and augment spiritual energies, of which, next to worship itself, study group fellowship is our archetypal example.

Study groups approach their meetings in as many ways as there are study groups, but experience has established that the essential ingredient of a successful group is that a core of its members are faithful in their attendance. The less-regular members cease attending if they cannot be reasonably sure that someone will be there. With even a small committed core, however, the group can grow.

We are very excited about the formation of the Study Group Fellowship, and hope you are. Please share this letter with your study group, in the event some of them have not received it, and if you have further questions concerning what it means to join, do not hesitate to call me. We look forward to hearing from you.

Godspeed,



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