

**Pete Campola**

---

**From:** Jodi Haier [jodester32@twcny.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2005 11:54 AM  
**To:** jodester32@twcny.rr.com  
**Subject:** today's devotion

# 40 Days of Community

A Set of Thoughts, Ideas, Questions and Ponderings  
Submitted for your Digestion  
October 25, 2005 Day 30

Introduction: We are all in “*this*” 2gether. No one is getting out alive. As we explore what it means to be in community through Rick Warren’s better together it is essential that we tailor make this study to fit our communities. This devotional is meant to be a conversation starter. It is personal musings on the daily readings’ subject. If another author is not noted then the opinions expressed are those of Jodi Haier and only reflect her understandings and her journey. If you do not wish to receive a devotional a day for the next 40 days, please respond to this email with a thoughtful “no, thank you” ” **Instead of just forwarding this *please* send people’s email to me. I am not trying to be a control freak but I want to know where God’s going with this. People viewing this on the webpage can contact the webmaster with any comments. THANKS! Jodi**

## **Fellowship 2gether: “cultivating a life in common”**

(1Cor 1:10) “The group that is sick (*and tired*) 2gether, sticks 2gether.” Isn’t that how the saying goes? Well everyone in my group is sick (*and tired*). It is actually funny. Esther cannot breathe through her nose so all her b’s sound like m’s. Yet she did get me to understand that she was concerned for “Metsy.” Metsy, otherwise known as Betsy, is concerned about the rest of the group as she goes to the ER. Bill is trying to get enough medication, so he can be conscious for group. Val is pushing liquids, so she’ll be less contagious. Outside the immediate group we have Marlene and Jay who caught a cold from their grandbaby, Pastor Marilyn who still battles a cold, Marilyn Pontera is home from knee surgery, Kristen Weiss who is having a serious allergic reaction, Andy Haier is hacking up a lung, and the concern board at Trinity is filled. I also received an SOS from a friend of the Melie family as they travel to the ER. As today’s reading suggests, fellowship was created for days such as these. We need to be in prayer for and with these people. (Are you a prayer WARRIOR?) We need to take the responsibilities of daily wear and care off of their shoulders. We may need to bear the burdens with them or for them. It is how we handle the sick (*and tired*) times that will really boost our strengths in the easy, breezy times.

## **Grow 2gether: “accepting, affirming, and advising”**

(Rom 15:7, 1Thess 5:11, Col 3:16) My friend, Bill, accepted Christ this weekend. When I told Ron, he asked what exactly that meant. I had several answers for him but none seemed the right one because I am not Bill. The pat answer is that Bill accepts that Christ alone is his Lord and Savior. Which means exactly what? Perhaps a clearer response would be that Bill now redefines everything in his life in Christ-context. Maybe, Bill sees things through Christ-colored glasses. Perhaps Bill accepts the forgiveness and love that only can be offered in the name of Christ. Could it be that Bill accepts the movement of God in and through his life and names it differently than before? The answer is probably, “yes.” It may be “wait and see.” But Bill now has an understanding of God that fits in his concept of the universe. Our job is to help him affirm it in his life and the life of his family.

## **Serve 2gether: “working 2gether with 1 heart & 1 purpose”**

(Phil 2:2) How well do you take criticism? Generally, I have baby skin and my initial reaction is to be hurt. After all, I gave my best and somehow someone thought it wasn’t good enough. This weekend at licensing school I learned

something more about criticism. If the people you are listening to are working 2gether with one heart and one purpose, criticism loses its sting. As Kevin would remind me, we are striving to move from good to better, better to blessed. My best will always fall short if I act in isolation. It is in a loving community that I can move from my self-centered world views into the kingdom view of the universe.

This weekend I preached in front of my peers, other pastors-to-be. Most of them were older than I am and all have more experience. Upon reading some of their critiques of my sermon, I immediately became defensive. Who were they to criticize ME!? As I read their reviews for the second time, after receiving perspective through prayer, I saw the love, concern, compassion and gratitude in their responses. I guess I was looking for their complaints and so that is what I saw. When I looked at them again, I had asked God to show me where I needed to grow. Now I saw what my peers were really trying to say, “well done, good and faithful one;” but, don’t forget this and be careful of that and above all keep the other thing from becoming too important. My peers were looking out for me by using their perspective, their experience, and their understanding of our purpose. When we share one heart, how can criticism be anything but constructive?

## **Worship 2gether: “come 2gether in my name”**

(Matt 18:20) This is Andy’s (my son) favorite artist and song. It is also the conclusion of the feet trilogy. Enough said?

### No One Like You

Words and music by the David Crowder Band

You are more beautiful  
Than anyone ever  
Everyday You’re the same  
You never change, no never

And how could I ever deny  
The love of my Savior  
You are to me everything  
All I need forever

How could You be so good?

There is no one like You  
There has never ever been anyone like You

Everywhere You are there  
Earth or air surrounding  
I’m not alone, the heavens sing along  
My God You’re so astounding  
How could you be so good to me?  
Eternally I believe

You, You, You, You, You, You\*

How could you be so good to me?  
How could you be so good to me?  
We’re not alone, so sing along  
We’re not alone, so sing along, sing along, sing along

There is no one like You  
There has never been anyone like You  
There is no one like You  
There has never been anyone like You  
There is no one like our God, yeah

\* This is directly from the CD cover. “ If we are ever in the same room and we find ourselves singing this song together, you are now required to let this part escape from you at an unreasonable volume since you have been so astute as to read these words.”

Marguerite’s feet may be just short of grotesque and gruesome, (yet still very scary) and my feet may end in uniform tootsie rolls of flesh but both feet are much loved by God. That is what never changes, God’s love and acceptance. How could God be so good to me? I have freaky feet. (not scary just freaky) Just like in the song when David Crowder sings there has never been anyone like You. (God) There has never ever been anyone like you, dear reader.

And here's a point to ponder, Maybe David Crowder is wrong. God created us in God's image. There is something about us that is exactly like God. Hopefully it is not in Marguerite's feet or mine, but in our capacity to love.

### ***Reach Out 2gether: "get others to believe"***

(Phil 1:27) What makes you believe in God? What helps you survive the days when another person would be destroyed? What do you hold onto when everything else gets stripped away by the world? For me it changes everyday. I learn new things about God. I learn about Jesus' life. I am motivated and equipped by the Holy Spirit. I am loved by the body of Christ. I lose my life in the process of loving others. All this I do. All this I am, because God first loved me, yes, even me. God loves me through my mistakes. Jesus educates me through His life. The Holy Spirit moves me beyond the abilities I take for granted. I believe in God because it works better than anything else I've tried. I'm a smart woman and I don't fall for every trick that comes my way. When I am asked, "Why do I believe in a God I cannot see," I respond, "I can see the effects of God's love, I feel God's grace upon my life, I know God's mighty plan and I live within the framework of God's love." What words do I use? "It works for me, and it could work for you too."