

Pete Campola

From: Jodi Haier [jodester32@twcny.rr.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 29, 2005 2:59 PM

To: Pat Zawko; Beth Whalen; Bill & Essie Miller; Cheryl Harris; Cheryl Simmons; Claudia Hartz; CortlandUMC@aol.com; Dawn French; Denise Cavanaugh; Derek Witty; Don & Shirley Spraker; Fran Miazga; Gbarb81@wmconnect.com; Heather Frank; Jeanne & Eddie Roberts; Jeff Childs; Jessica Collis; Jodi Henry; Kayla Chamberlain; Ken & Denise Ciccarelli; Kevin Schmadel; Kristen Weiss; Lori Mcsweeney; Marguerite Edwards; Marilyn Baissa; Mark Rader; Mary Langone; MaryLynn Linstruth; Michele Tosti; Mike & Jo Tollerton; Mike Paduano; Paul Collis; Pauline Kirsch; Ralph & Mary; Raymond; Rhonda Hotaling; Richard Raney; Roberta Matthews; Roxanne Melie; Sharon Ellison; Sharon Schmit; sharonrb@localnet.com; Shirley Kilgore; Sue Barber; Sue Langone; The Roods; Thelma & Alan Lamphear; valerie schmadel; Bob and Sarah Porter; Amanda Gigliotti; Betsy; JoAnn Raker(Crawford); Madeline McDonald; Pete Campola; Reet's brother; Sandy Robinson

Subject: todays, finally

40 Days of Community

A Set of Thoughts, Ideas, Questions and Ponderings
Submitted for your Digestion
September 29, 2005 Day 5

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) Cultivation is work. It involves so much more than planting seeds. It involves preparing the earth and then tending it. Maintenance includes watering, fertilizing and weeding. Cultivating also includes knowing what each kind of plant takes out of the soil so it can be restored. Cultivation even includes letting a field lie fallow. Now that I’ve milked that metaphor, try to apply it to our small groups. Who needs feeding, watering or weeding? What is each person giving and taking in their group? Will you know when someone just needs to be left alone? God is often referred to as a master gardener; let’s count on him to lead us.

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

(Rom 15:7, 1Thess 5:11, Col 3:16) Dr. M. Scott Peck, in his book, The Different Drum, talks about a crucial step to building community. You must become empty. It is not about accepting people despite your judgment of them. Emptiness is about releasing each other from the judgments in the first place. Community is not about patting and hugging each other while we chant, “I’m OK, You’re OK.” Community is about affirming each other’s place in the kingdom. It is difficult to build community if one side is trying to educate the other. Advising has to be about sharing. We need to empty ourselves of the notion that we are the sole heirs of wisdom. Advising also needs to be about accountability. As we take these baby steps together there seems to be many pitfalls. However, as we empty ourselves of preconceptions, judgments and what we think we know, we can be filled with the resources that will help us on our journey. Nothing worth having is ever easy.

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

(Phil 2:2) How do you build a friendship? Imagine serving together. I want to take my husband on a date to Hope House where instead of dinner out, we prepare a dinner for 100. I want to take my friends and tear up a room at Faith Furniture. As I walk with another friend, I want to pull a little red wagon and hand out water to the other water/runners. Our conversation will be deeper. Our time together will be meaningful and the Lord will be served. We will also understand what it means to have 1 heart & 1 purpose. What friendship couldn't use that?

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

(Matt 18:20) When do you privately worship? Is it in the bathroom? Often that is the only place where we can have a moment of privacy. Is it in the car? Many people tell me that often they are singing praise and worship songs in their vehicle with their family. Is it during your exercise routine? What time other than Sunday (or Saturday night) do you worship? Some people sing in the shower, I sometimes worship in the shower. I know it's a bad visual but we'll move on 'cause it's about to get worse.

Invite someone into your private worship. They don't have to even physically be with you. (Thank you God for Small favors) Just name your time and let the secret out. The more we let people know that we are spiritual human beings that connect with our Creator regularly, the more accepted this relationship will become. Ask for quiet during your favorite song, and then explain why that song means so much to you. Ask for some shared private time so you can hear God's small still voice. Ask for a moment of peace to usher in the work of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “Ask and you shall receive.”

Reach Out 2gether: “get others to believe”

(Phil 1:27) Inside Michael's, the craft store, you can buy a pack of cards for \$1 or \$2. And we know we can get a similar deal at the Dollar store. Write a short card to 5 people that don't attend a church. Explain how it took this study to make you take the time to drop them a line and reconnect. Tell them what you appreciate about them and how things are going with you. Many people will be curious about what sparked this sudden move. Cards are no longer an everyday event. More people get junk mail and bills rather than personal correspondence. Be the smile on someone's face. Make their day. You also just renewed a conversation that God has wanted you to have. Let me know how it goes.