



- Going Deeper -

Summer 2018

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**Dear World Team Family, Partners and Friends,**

World Team Global is constantly looking for better ways to communicate our mission and implement our vision. That is why we created What's UP – an internal newsletter that keeps every World Team member up to date on what is going on within the World Team family. New projects, prayer needs, and training information are some of what is shared in this first part of What's UP.

You are now reading the second part of What's UP which we are calling: "What's UP – Going deeper". This part of What's UP is published for World Team workers as well as anyone interested in our mission. In this second newsletter, you will find articles and testimonies that address theological and missiological topics that impact global mission. Our goal is to provide practical tools to better understand and reflect more deeply on such subjects.

This second part of What's UP will be published once every three months and we hope you will enjoy reading through it.

**David Riddell**  
International Director



There are times in our lives when we have felt the weight of loneliness: the first time we went off to university or when we started our first job in a new city or when we landed in our current ministry location to start language school. Yes, those were difficult times, but those particular moments also point to the fact that God created us for community, to do life with others.

Genesis 1:26 states: *"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'"* Much has been written about this verse as to whether it actually describes the work of the Trinity ('Let us make man in our image') and the placement of man in community ('Let us make man in our image'). Even if that is not the full import of this verse, other biblical texts certainly point us to the truth the God lives in community as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that His desire is that we as His creation reflect that community (John 14-17)

*We are not alone.* We are connected to the divine community of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit. *We are not alone.* The triune God has chosen to place us in community with others as a means to grow us up into Him (Ephesians 4:15)

**So what does that look like in 'real' life?**

*Community is the experience of God's people sharing in common their relationship with Christ, stimulating each other toward growth in maturity. This instrument, used by the Holy Spirit together with the Bible, transforms Christians individually and corporately through our service to each other. This kind of community operates through voluntary transparency and through speaking and receiving the truth in love [WT Ministry Framework].*

To put it simply, community is about sharing your life with others. It means opening ourselves up to give to and to receive from others. It may look different in various contexts, but the bottom line is that we are 'different' people as a result of being in community with others.

All of this becomes even more relevant when we reflect on our vision of 'multiplying disciples and communities of believers'. If we are not certain of what is community, nor have experienced community, it will be much harder to convince others that this of vital importance to the Christian life.

David Riddell - WT Global

## HOW IS COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

One of our best experience with community was during a time when we met every other week with two other missionary couples. We lived in close proximity from one another and this is what made us decide to meet for prayer, sharing, fellowship, encouragement. We did not share the same ministry, we were not the same age and our family situations were as different as could be with one empty nester, one couple with teenagers and one with very small children. But we were open towards one another and could share about our ministry and other needs and challenged each other to move forward in faith. We were all amazed how the Lord blessed us through this group.



Detlef and Gabriele - WT Europe

***"We are connected to the divine community of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit"***





## Transformational Community 4U?

*“I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts” (Psalm 119:63).*

The Gospel commands and encourages us to accompany one another in our journey of faith in Jesus Christ. This fellowship is designed to encourage, to instruct, to reprove, to exhort ... in other words, to love one another well as we together seek to follow Jesus. The theme of Ps 119:57-64 is that of obedience. The Psalmist shares that when he thinks on his own ways, he quickly turns his feet into the path of God’s ways. As we expose ourselves to God’s word, we become keenly aware of how out of sync our ways are with His. As we seek the companionship with fellow believers, we find encouragement to walk in His ways.

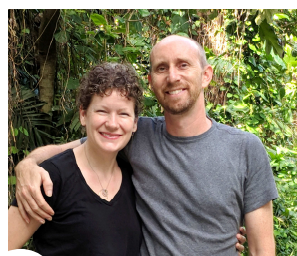
It’s far too easy to have membership in a church (or a mission agency) and remain in superficial relationships, fearful of being transparent about our struggles to obey the Lord. It’s far too easy to get so busy with ministry that we no longer have the time for fellowship with others, fellowship that transforms us. We hide behind activism. We rationalize all kinds of excuses designed to keep us isolated from God and

others. In light of this, the Gospel is incredible good news. Grace and truth were found in full measure in Christ. John wrote, “And from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” With this grace and truth comes the awesome freedom to be graciously real with each other in our fellowship. We can speak words that flow out of our intimacy with Jesus into the lives of our faith companions for their good; for their encouragement toward obedience to God’s commands. We can appropriately expose our own struggles and find the help and encouragement we ourselves need.

Becoming intentional about my companionship with others offers me the grace-filled opportunity to experience mutual encouragement under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Passing it by will have tragic consequences. Embracing it yields the fruit of spiritual transformation.

Carl - Child safety and Pastoral Care

## HOW IS COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?



People are more impacted by the Gospel when it comes in the context of Christian community. When life has been filled with unsafe, unstable relationships, the love, grace & safety of relationships within the Church are a drink of cool water to a parched throat, allowing people to start ingesting the truths of Scripture

Kristin and Tom - WT Philippines

## HOW IS COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO CHURCH PLANTING?

Do I need you? Do you need me?

The spiritual answer is “yes” of course I need you and you need me. The Bible says “now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it”. No, “the eye cannot say to the hand, I don’t need you, etc...”

Unfortunately, I can stray from the “truth” I know, especially when it is not convenient or even uncomfortable for me. Living in community is hard work – you delve into the lives of others (either other WT missionaries, nationals, etc) to a level that many of us are uncomfortable with. My argument for being a lone ranger is that I can be more effective, and get more done, by working alone. My wife and I joke sometimes (ok partially joking) that wouldn’t the world be a better place if people thought and acted like I did? I don’t really believe that – do I?

At the core of that thought process is pride, because what I am really saying is that I know better, I lead better, I’m smarter, I’m a better church planter, etc. “Considering the interest of others before my own” (Phil 2) becomes a lofty, unattainable goal, as opposed to a truth that guides my life in relationship to others. What if I/we would live out of “The” truth, and not my/our truth? I wonder what the peoples we’ve been called to reach would think if they saw us attempting to live in community with the “mind of Christ”?

PAT - WT Asia

Having healthy community in church planting is important. Nobody would disagree with that statement but let me tell you why I value it so much.

**It’s biblical**—Paul always had a group of people working with him (among other biblical points).

**It stimulates me to love and good deeds**—our team was our community on the field and our team meetings were one of my favorite times of the week because I got to put my head together with others who are in ministry, pray and glean insight on the work *together*. Ministry usually benefited from all of us conversing together about the work.

**It’s encouraging**—during times of defeat, we encouraged one-another to continue on in the spiritual battle at hand. Occasionally, we would get together and just be a little sad together before the Lord and I felt immense gratitude for my community.

**Integrity**—my character has been sanctified by rubbing close with my community. We have to work through disagreements, etc. It’s not always the easiest way to live (in close relationships), but we set a tone for other believers around us. How can we challenge others in their relationships if we don’t do the work of community ourselves? **The cost of not valuing/having community in church planting is too high**—the longer I walk with the Lord, the more I realize what a lopsided person I am. I need (the ministry needs) the giftings of others deeply involved with me.

LAURA - WT Europe

Working in community is indispensable to the work of growing the Church. God is community in Himself (The Trinity – Gen. 1:26). He has brought us into that community to be one with Him/Them “so that the world will believe” (Jn 17:21). No one can see God, but in community we show God’s love to the lost (I Jn 4:12). We need community to show Christ to the world, as we are His body and, as a body, we are most effective together as we need each other’s gifts to fulfill the work of ministry (I Cor 12). The church, by definition, is “a community of believers”. How better to help disciples grow into this community, the church, than by modeling that in the teams we work in to disciple the nations?

NATHAN - WT Africa

*“We need each other’s gifts to fulfill the work of ministry”*

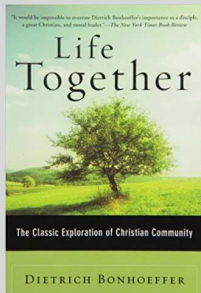
# HOW IS COMMUNITY IMPORTANT TO YOU?



What is so special about “community?” Everything. When we come together as community, involved closely in one another’s lives, our love for each other grows. We are able to lovingly speak into one another’s lives.. We uphold one another in prayer and seek the best for each other. It is this mutual love and care which displays the Saviour to those around us.

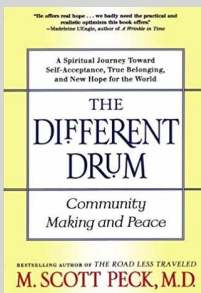
Gary - WT Americas

## - To Go Deeper -



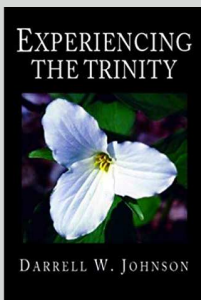
### LIFE TOGETHER

In *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, renowned Christian minister, professor, and author of *The Cost of Discipleship* recounts his unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. Giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups, *Life Together* is bread for all who are hungry for the real life of Christian fellowship.



### THE DIFFERENT DRUM

Dr M. Scott Peck believes that if we are to prevent civilization destroying itself, we must urgently rebuild on all levels, local, national and international and that is the first step to spiritual survival. In this radical and challenging book he describes how the communities work, how group action can be developed on the principles of tolerance and love, and how we can start to transform world society into a true community.



### EXPERIENCING THE TRINITY

For many people the doctrine of the Trinity is a hopeless puzzle, an outdated philosophical idea far removed from everyday life. What does it all mean? And how can something so mysterious possibly make a difference in our everyday lives? In *Experiencing the Trinity*, Darrell Johnson shows that this doctrine is not only at the heart of biblical Christianity, but that it is also at the center of Christian experience.

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[www.global.wordteam.org](http://www.global.wordteam.org)



Your comments, news items and content ideas are always welcome. Write Cindy at: [WTGlobal2U@worldteam.org](mailto:WTGlobal2U@worldteam.org). Thank you!