

Woodcrest

One visit could change the way you think about church

Pieter Van Waarde
Senior Pastor

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Dear Bruce:

So often in ministry we labor on, not knowing how we are influencing those we seldom see or hear about. I thought it would be a good idea to let you know how my life and ministry has been effected by your obedience to God's calling and to thank you for birthing,, developing and producing Network.

In 1992, our church had a brief encounter with Network material under a previous staff person but didn't get the system up and running at that time. However, through this process and several previous "spiritual gift seminars," I got hooked by a passion for equipping the local church and my soul resonated with the soundness of this teaching. Network provided that missing piece of the puzzle of how to achieve practical application. The next 2 years my fascination with this approach to doing church lay dormant while we went through some fast growth, several staff changes and a pastoral change.

In 1994, I made a proposal to develop Network and was given the opportunity to proceed. We followed the implementation procedure and I attended your workshop at Willowcreek in 1994. In January of 1995 we had a great launch from a sermon series. In 1996 my volunteer Network director and I had the privilege of attending, Network University at Rancho Capistrano and began to use those systems for training our teams. By 1997 we had all our files transferred to the new Network software and had 322 individuals processed and placed.

So how has your development of Network been of benefit to me? Let me count the ways!

We have over 500 people currently serving, who have the basics of serving and gift based thinking in place. Our staff and key volunteers walk and talk the language, and think in terms of ministry job descriptions that break into bite-sized components. There is appreciation for one another as members of the body and encouragement to develop individual passion and gifting. There is genuine concern for the development of each individual in their God-ordained direction - I love it!

Last year we helped four area churches begin to develop Network in their churches and we serve as a "peer encouragement post" for others using Network in the area. The enthusiasm for the Network discovery experience grows as people see the benefits and talk about their experiences of serving in the right place with satisfaction and results. Our last sign-up for Network in January, was a class of 124. We are thrilled. (We are a seeker church attended by about 1600/Sunday.) And better yet, scores of people refer to their Network experience as a crossroads in finding who they were created to be in Christ and where they began significant spiritual growth in their walk. Last but not least, I have job I was created to do.

Anyway ... just wanted you to know that out in the trenches things are good, because:

- Your plan for implementation is well thought out and easy to follow
- The material is well written, easy to present and understand
- The concept is Biblical! and God ordained
- The training is excellent and builds confidence
- The PowerPoint and computer software works.

So ... give a big Yeah God, and a pat on the back for his obedient servant Bruce and his team. We appreciate you.

Thanks,

Janet

Janet Elmore
Send Area Staff Coordinator

Woodcrest Church - 2201 West Nifong - Columbia, Missouri 65203