

Who needs a Church Family?

Meet Richard. Richard is our new Connections reporter.

Richard recently talked to Karen about why a Church Family is so important to her. Here is what he found out.

Richard: Was there a specific time when you found your Church Family most valuable?

Karen: When I became a Christian, my Church Family meant everything to me.

Richard: Really?

Karen: Yes, as a 30-something young adult, becoming a Christian was a huge change for me.

Richard: What do you mean by “change?”

Karen: Well, for one thing I had been quite the partier but as a new believer, I didn’t want to do that anymore.

Richard: That sounds like it was a good change.

Karen: Yes, I think so too. Unfortunately though, all my friends and family didn’t change with me. They still partied; and this was especially difficult for me during the holidays.

Richard: What do you mean?

Karen: Well, I finally realized the real meaning behind the holidays, especially Christmas and Easter. These are certainly times to celebrate, but not with drinking late into the night. In fact, most of the time I wanted to be at church, or with my new Church Family.

Richard: Why?

Karen: A couple of reasons. The most important one was that my new Church Family had the same beliefs I did. They celebrated, but with love and respect for Jesus. They also understood some of the guilt I was feeling; no longer being comfortable with some of the behaviors the people I had loved and been so close to for so many years.

I also wonder - what if I didn’t have that Church Family, loving and encouraging me? Would I have slipped back into my previous bad habits.

Richard: Isn’t there some statistics about how hard it is for people that become Christians after 18 years old to stick with it? Is that what you mean?

Karen: Possibly; but I think Jesus made it clear when he explained the parable of the sower:

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the

seed sown along the path.

The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

My Church Family helped me understand the message; they shared their struggles so I knew I could get through mine too.

And they spent time with me, teaching me NEW ways to have fun.

Richard: So you really believe you might not be here today if it weren't for your Church Family supporting you through that major transition in your life.

Karen: I honestly do.

If you have a similar story that you're willing to share about how the Church Family has impacted your life, Richard would like to talk to you too. Please contact Kelly Cousineau (803-8080 / Connections@SheboyganEFC.org) to plan a time to chat with Richard.

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