

# Better Together

*Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-35*



**ACTS 2:42-47**

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE BELIEVERS**

# "I WORK FROM HOME!"



STARTS WORKING WELL PAST NOON

UNWASHED

"DESK"

FORGOT HOW TO TALK TO HUMANS

SAME SHIRT 3 DAYS IN A ROW



COWORKERS



LUNCH BREAK



UNIFORM

HANNAH HILLAM FOR BUZZFEED

*What is life about?*



Harold  
Kushner

*“What is life about? It is not about writing great books, amassing great wealth, achieving great power. It is about loving and being loved. It is about enjoying your food and sitting in the sun rather than racing through lunch and hurrying back to the office. It is about savouring the beauty of the moments that don't last, the sunsets, the leaves turning colour, the rare moments of true communication.*”

*What is life about?*



Harold  
Kushner

*It is about savouring them rather than missing out on them because we are so busy and they will not hold still until we get around to them."*

# “Fellowship” (koinonia)



- <sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

# Contagious Unity



- 4:32: “all the believers were one in heart and mind.”
- <sup>3</sup> *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.* <sup>4</sup> *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;* <sup>5</sup> *one Lord, one faith, one baptism;* <sup>6</sup> *one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

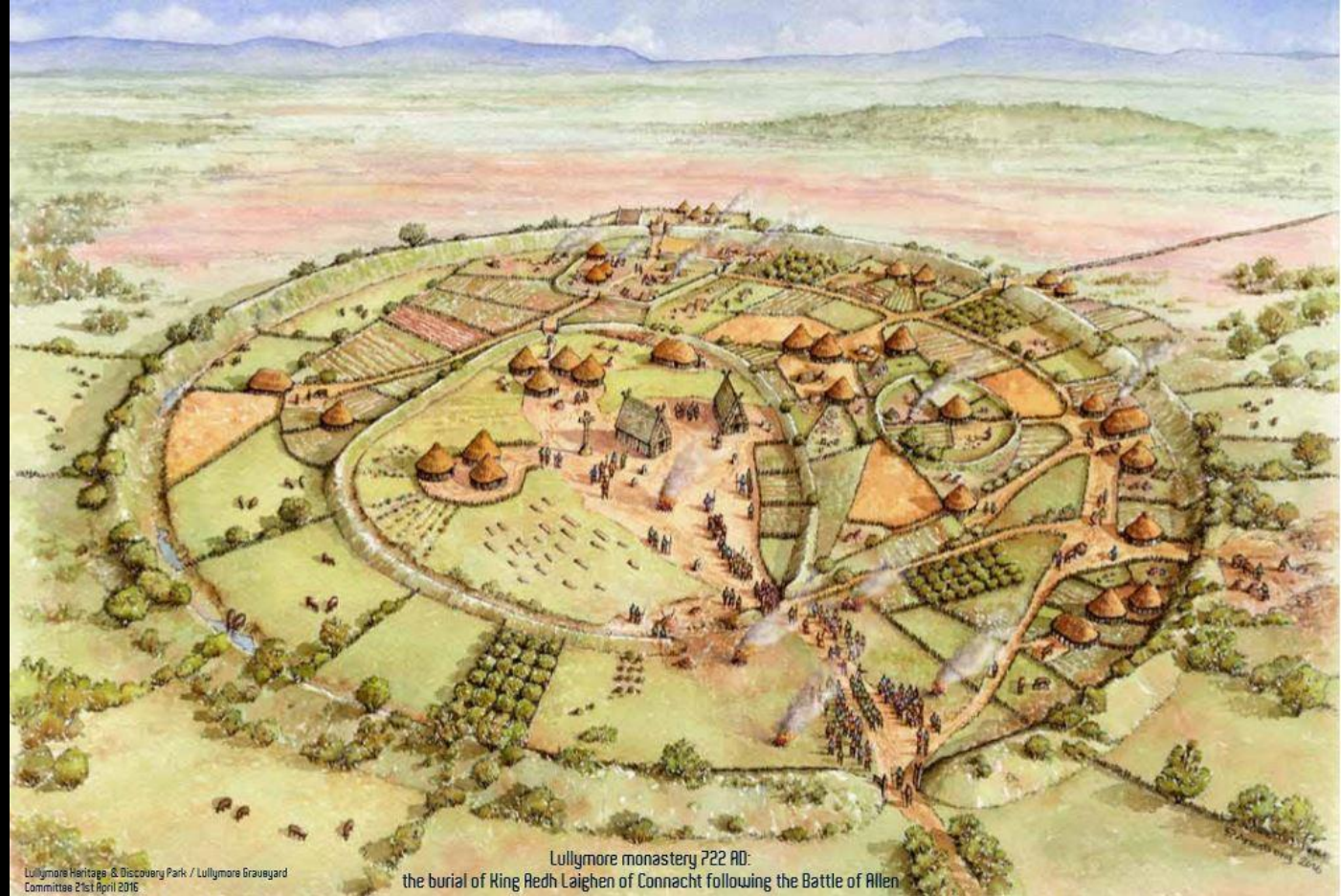
• Ephesians 4:3-6

# Contagious Unity



- We are to make every effort, but it is ultimately only something the Spirit can do in our hearts
- A big part of this unified community is food and hospitality

# Contagious Unity



Lullymore Heritage & Discovery Park / Lullymore Graveyard  
Committee 21st April 2016

Lullymore monastery 722 AD:  
the burial of King Redh Laighen of Connacht following the Battle of Allen

- Patrick of Ireland



# Contagious Unity

OVER 400,000 COPIES SOLD



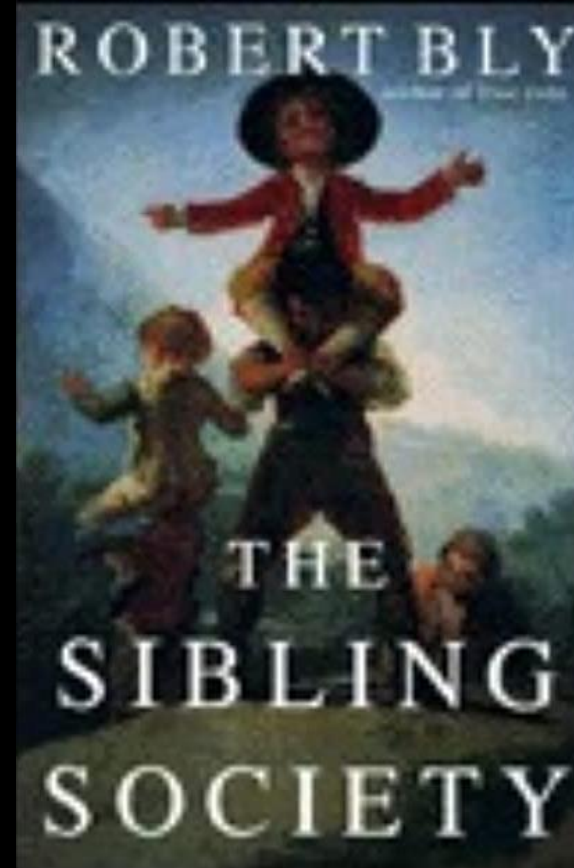
*Open*  
HEART,  
*Open*  
HOME

The Hospitable Way  
to Make Others Feel  
Welcome & Wanted

KAREN MAINS

# Contagious Unity

- *“Family meals, talks, reading together no longer take place... what the young need – stability, presence, attention, advice... is exactly what the sibling society cannot give them.”*



- Robert Bly

# Contagious Unity



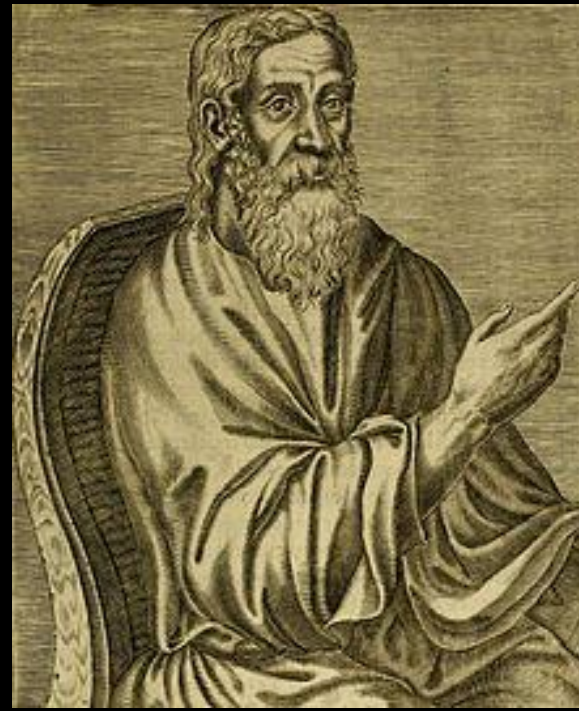
- *“I have a dream of church being family. Of everyone being accepted, loved and valued - where everyone is an uncle and aunty to the youngest and the smallest; where kindness is a lifestyle and forgiveness is always offered. I have a dream that the young will take their place as the church of today and leaders of tomorrow.”*
  - Nigel Dixon, “Village without Walls”

# Peculiar Generosity



- 2:45: *they sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.*
- There were no needy persons among them

# Peculiar Generosity



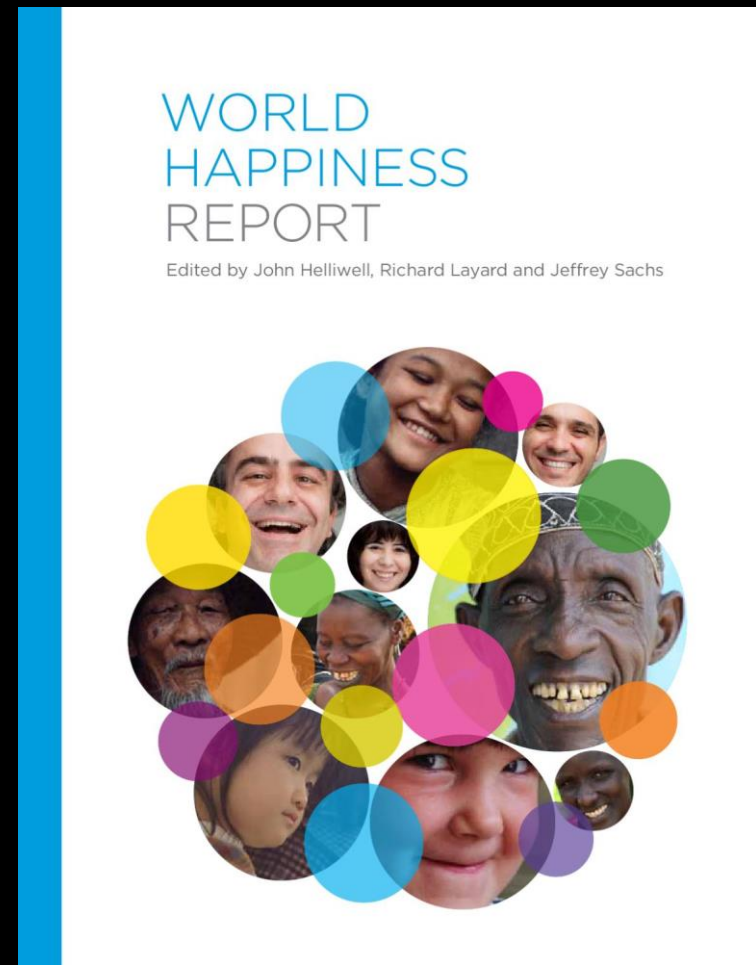
- *When non-Christians hear from our mouths the words of God, they are amazed at their beauty and majesty; but when they discover that our actions do not match up with the words we say, they turn from wonder to blasphemy, saying that it must all be a myth and delusion.*
  - Clement of Alexandria

# Peculiar Generosity

- Moses told the people to stop giving because they had already given more than was needed



# Peculiar Generosity



- *"[Generosity] is clearly a marker for a sense of positive community engagement, and a central way that humans connect with each other."*

# What now?

- Get involved in church
- Find a place to serve
- When the church is functioning well, it will be a place we want to come to and bring others and put up our hand to ask, “What can I do?”





# What now?

- *People in the church are laying down their lives for the sake of the Kingdom. They are growing an obedience and fruitfulness. This is what a true disciple looks like.*
- *The church practises being a family together. Their love and generosity toward each other is being noted by outsiders - it is a foretaste of the Kingdom. They choose to resolve conflict and extend forgiveness rather than walk away.*
- *The church's ministry of reconciliation to the world is bearing fruit in the community. They're befriending outsiders and wooing them to Jesus. They call on each other for help and encouragement. We see newcomers at the family table Sunday by Sunday.*
  - Redemptive Family, Howard Webb

# What now?



Welcoming in

Growing up

Moving out

• *Round Table 21/3/21*





- *“If there should emerge in our day such a fellowship ... a society of genuine loving friends, set free from the self-seeking struggle for personal prestige and from all unreality, [that] would be something unutterably priceless and powerful. A wise person would travel any distance to join it.”*
  - Elton Trueblood