



NEWSLETTER

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Celebrating Your Personal Village

The holidays are a wonderful time of year for reconnecting and renewing relationships. During this season of gathering and sharing, we often find ourselves taking stock of our lives--counting our blessings, acknowledging our accomplishments, and making note of the things we left undone.

Remember that all enduring structures are supported by a solid foundation. Your personal village stands on six pillars--you, your family, your friends, your coterie, your fellowships, and your neighbors. When these pillars are healthy and steady, your life will be rich.

Taking a Personal Village Inventory is one way to assess the people in your life, and identify needs you may have. It may also remind you of some relationships you have neglected.

Consider your family members, both intimate and extended. Perhaps you have an alternative family. Ask yourself how those relationships are working for you. Are there things you could be doing to enrich those relationships? What did you try that worked? What didn't?

What about friends--old, and new? Have you made efforts to rekindle connections with people who have mattered to you in the past? Are you making enough time for new friendships to develop?

Give some thought to your co-workers, colleagues, and the other folks who make your life work. Look at how these key people contribute to your happiness and success. What can you do to strengthen these connections?

Did you reach out and make new commitments? Keep in mind the Principle of Seven, as explained in Personal Village: How to Have People in Your Life by Choice, Not Chance. It takes seven encounters to establish a new relationship or sense of belonging.

As you reflect on the past year and look forward to the future, take time to celebrate the people in your life and the relationships that support you. Recognize the positive steps you have taken to nurture and grow your Personal Village, and contemplate what might yet be done.

You can get started by reviewing Exercise 3 in the Personal Village Workbook and taking the Community Fulfillment test available on my web site: www.personalvillage.com <http://www.personalvillage.com/>.

Contemplation of the month:

Identify several goals and plan ways you can enhance your Personal Village in the New Year.

Wishing you a warm and fulfilling holiday season,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marvin Thomas'.

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