

Chronicles of Diversity

Your leadership weekly



St. Paul's Mission in NE Washington

One half

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As I make preparations for my operation next week, the question of what to do with these weekly messages has been encountered.

Last week, while searching through a drawer looking for a ruler, I came across the last term paper I wrote in my undergraduate college days. This short memoir entitled "Philosophy and Science, A Problem even a First Grader can Understand" is something I always thought in some way fit in this series, so for lack of better inspiration, I will send it out as next week's installment Sunday or early Monday.

As far as the week following, I believe, God willing, I will have time to prepare something, it is just getting it from where ever I may be, to the server and distributed. At this time I will leave this minor problem in the hands of the Lord.

For this week, which is seemingly filling up quite rapidly, the question concerning whether the glass is half full, or half empty has been flushing through my mind. These fluid thoughts not only concern my own situation, but also the recent war protests that have been happening around the world. It will also give you some thoughts to where next week's message will run aground.

In my final elective, all college requirement, Philosophy 251, Mr. Gibbons and I spent the quarter discussing the role of language in interpreting reality. This of course stems from the meaningless topic, "Does the tree falling in the forest, make any sound?" Our particular discussion if I remember correctly, had to do with whether the sky was blue (my philosophy) or whether it was bluing (as the context of some languages indicate).

The true difference between the science of the blue sky, and the philosophy of the bluing sky, will treat you in an unusual discourse next week. That insight aside, getting back to the reality of the apparent half glass of something, in reality that remainder of the glass is also filled, with air.

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Jerry Bannon

Wonder Springs

P.O. Box 88702

Tukwila, Washington USA 98138

phone: 206.723.7433

eFax: 425.675.8022

email: bannon@createleaders.org or chronicles@createleaders.org

Please forward prayer requests to: prayer@createleaders.org

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With my own situation, there is a very high probability I will survive this very serious operation, but my hope really is coming from another source, other than the medical expertise, that source, like the air, invisible. God is giving me the peace that this unfolding episode will give Him glory, but He seems also to be giving me concrete things to do, not only after I have recovered, but while I am recovering from this operation.

This impending war however, I find much more disquieting than my personal situation.

First of all, the war protesters seem to think, that if everyone says enough peace mantras, that peace will happen. They don't have a concept that Saddam, might be an evil man focused upon their destruction, or the destruction of thousands of others, who just don't agree with his philosophy of conquest. Whether you perceive the glass as half full, or half empty of violence, does not change the reality, that even half a cup of violence is more than the lethal dose of bad news. Saying it isn't so borders on insanity, or more correctly, sociopathic behavior. This wishful thinking has no basis in reality.

On the other side of the situation, the Bush Administration seems to think, with a similar mentality, that a week of war, and a couple of years of benign neglect in the new Iraq will be the only costs. I think the saying, "It's a pipe dream." was coined long before the flower children of the sixties, but this is one half glass of a bad concoction and it doesn't lead to a good trip.

That Osama guy, who through wishful thinking everyone assumed was dead, hasn't in recent weeks, seemed to have followed our understanding of reality either. But you have to give him credit, he at least speaks of the reality of his religion pitted against the infidel west. Of course in the post religious culture of the west, including America and Old Europe, we have evolved well beyond religion, hence religious conflict. In our case this glass is completely full of passivity, or self righteous love in unity with the karma mother earth.

While our business enterprise system is actually based upon the creation model, economic viability is really quite simplistic compared to natural diversity. When you add to sound management and operations, a terrorist potential for disruption, subsequent greed and self (or corporate) corruption, you have created a formula that could quickly overturn the economic stability of the United States and the world. Another full glass of hardship no one will relish.

We could see, if not the demise of the United Nations, NATO, and the European Union, their great weakening as powers for international stability. These institutions were designed for a period when nation states were the ultimate source of power against calamity. Whether these institutions have the management skills to deal with Islamic terrorism versus the world remains to be seen. The reality of the liquid in this glass could run crimson.

So what is ultimate reality? The glass exists with part of its contents filled with perceived fullness. Part of the glass is filled with empty fullness. We in our attitudes develop a mind set to determine for ourselves whether that is good or bad, but it is a gross error in our self righteousness, to think that our actions by themselves alter the reality of the glass and its fullness, or lack of fullness. The vessel was designed, built and filled by God, and He alone has ultimate power and authority to determine the recipe for fullness.

So what is our role in this? We either have the choice to seek God through Jesus Christ, or live in this illusionary world, we God's creation, foolishly think we are creating for our future.

But is it God's way, or the highway? To the extent our sin makes us believe that we are, or desire to be as God, the answer is yes. So hit the road Jack! But to those who submit to His Lordship in their lives, another path opens. This is the path to true fulfillment, the reason you were created. It is not an easy path, for the best is never easy. It is rewarding in that the gain greatly surpasses the pain, if not in this life then the life to come.

By moving beyond our understanding of the fuzzy reality of worldly thinking, a full glass prepared by God is the only attractive view of the future, because it is the only one based on real reality. But each of us must make that choice, and give our lives to God as the ultimate source and creator of the real reality. This is not a new idea for a television series, this is the only way to lead a life of fulfillment and peace, in a world that is quickly losing its grip on the definitions of those words, fulfillment, peace, and reality.

Seeds for Prayer

As of this writing I really have nothing to add concerning my aorta surgery, that I didn't share last week. By late this week I should know more. I really do not have an idea how quickly I will regain my strength and what I will be able to do and when. So for now continue to pray for my doctors, the operation, healing, and recovery.

As many of you know for many years I have been looking for some type of retreat center, missions training-support facility. During a conversation with a friend last week it was mentioned that there is a former convent available on the west slope of Queen Anne Hill, in Seattle. I just went to look at it. It is very well built, vacant, has 8 bedrooms, lots of community space for upgrading, and is offered at a good price.

The Bible says, when we are weak He is strong. For the next few weeks I will be at my weakest, so looking at a full cup of God's strength, this would be an excellent time for Him to put something together. Mark Ossinger (425) 450-1617, or (206) 713-1045, buyagent@gte.net, is aware of my thoughts. This is a great opportunity to see what God might do, so I will proceed down this path as best as I am able under these conditions.