

Chronicles of Diversity

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Fractured Rapture Tales

Tale 21: God's gifts

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“The purest gift is not of gold, but in art that awakens the soul.” (From the song “When the land belonged to God” by Rob Quest and Jack Gladstone)

When I was thinking about preparing last week's message, part of the inspiration came from watching the NBA playoffs. Hearing Magic Johnson and Charles Barkley discuss the finer aspects of the game, and knowing that you had the knowledge to be part of that discussion was interesting. But what was really cool, was knowing that basketball really was not even on the top ten list of important things in my life, and to really any longer care much about those hoops aspects, is a real gift. Thank God, that he has an eternal perspective for your life that is well beyond the game.

Jeff, the friend I met last year on the trip to Bemidji, echoed a similar statement when he made a comment on last week's message about the gift of watching his plants grow and produce a bountiful harvest. I can attest to the wonderful flavor of those organic cucumbers I secretly carried in my bag for snacks on the bus trip back to Seattle.

I'm sure that Jeff is stoked about the Detroit Pistons being in the NBA championship series. Playing high school basketball in Detroit, and then going to Bemidji State, must have seemed as a trip to nowhere. But it was part of God's plan for his life. Organic fruits and flowers can be bought with some of the gold of Detroit. But to understand God has a unique purpose for your life is a gift that all the gold in Detroit cannot buy. To be able to live in that purpose, even with all the strife and hassles, when we take the time to reflect, is the prime definition of rapture.

*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. **James 1:17***

Everyone needs to take more time for reflection! Could it be the main hindrance to evangelism

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Jerry Bannon

Wonder Springs

7950 Seward Park Avenue South

Seattle, Washington USA 98118

phone: 206.660.0697

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

Please forward prayer requests to: prayer@createleaders.org

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is not the technique, but that we are not able to slow down our hectic lives to the point where we can understand the eternal pace of Gods work, in our life personally, and in our world?

I wrote a book called "God's Garden." We are all part of that artful creation. Each of us has a unique purpose and place to be. We can either whine, moan, and cry about why we are not in some other place, or we can enjoy where we are planted, or we can allow God to transplant us into a new fruitful soil. Even if we think at the time it is nothing but dry desert sand.

To make the desert bloom you need water, diligence, and time. Sounds pretty much a summary of this life. Most of the time the sun, is not a problem. In contrast, in Seattle, water is seldom a problem, but at times, the sun can be a limiting factor in getting your garden to grow year round. There are some spiritual gifts in that statement.

I left Thursday to look seriously at the area around Oroville in North Central Washington. It was raining when I left, it rained off and on all the time I was gone. It rained until I headed back to Seattle yesterday.

What I found, in the sense of God's Garden, was a desert ready to bloom, except for the lack of liquidity. You may need to do some pruning and transplanting of people and resources, but with some financial liquidity you could create a place where reflection could be put in its proper perspective.

For example, in one small town you could buy a unique commercial building, an architecturally significant house, the old school with six acres of south facing irrigated ground, a restaurant, a nice shop with offices, and a ready to use eight bedroom bed and breakfast lodge with lake waterfront all for about \$700,000. total.

Some of it would need some repair, but most of it is in relatively decent shape. Just what you would need to develop a model of God's Garden of Enterprise for all to see, to learn and to transplant, to perhaps the more God forsaken areas of the world, like Seattle, Los Angeles, New York, and foreign countries, where the understanding of God's perfect gifts are not fully understood.

If you move about twenty miles from that village to the big town of Oroville there are many facilities that could be the base to plant a church that could serve not only that town, but also the whole region around Lake Osoyoos and the Okanogan Highlands, which includes both Washington and also British Columbia.

If you play one of those computer generated repeating music themes, and use the term Sustainable Development, you have some concept of a worldly example similar to what I would like to see this program develop. I'm not into that concept of "save the earth sustainability", but I do like Jeff's example of watching your garden grow, which is based not only on natural veggies, but also the eternal aspects of enterprise for man.

Twenty or more years ago I developed the term Business Ecology. In that concept I used natural ecology as a predictor of business events. Over time, I learned that the business environment is really a poor model of the ecology of God's natural garden. When I began these Chronicles, I did a series on Enterprise Symbiosis. That series is on the website.

So how do you develop a gift of God's Garden for the world to see, and how do you put that in somewhat of a perspective that doesn't turn off the "save the earth folks", like their concept of sustainable development turns me off?

Enterprise is a good example of all man's endeavors. It can stand for a fruitful business, or even a fruitful church or ministry. So Enterprise is something good to use somewhere in the title.

One great thing about this particular word processor is that not only does it give you a spelling checker on the fly, it also gives you a thesaurus. Therefore, all you have to do is type in some words and see what synonyms it generates and then follow that path into the main thesaurus if a word looks interesting. In that light I found the word: Ontogenesis from my input of growth. Now ontogenesis is not one of my frequently used words so I thought I would look it up. Following the thesaurus path I came up with the following definitions.

Growth = Ontogenesis (*as in "growth"*) *n.* : *the process of an individual organism growing organically; a purely biological unfolding of events involved in an organism changing gradually from a simple to a more complex level; "he proposed an indicator of osseous development in children"*

Phylogeny = Phylogenesis (*as in "evolution"*) *n.* : *the sequence of events involved in the evolu-*

tionary development of a species or taxonomic group of organisms.

Genesis (as in "origin") n. : an event that is a beginning; a first part or stage of subsequent events.

Genesis (as in "book") n. : the first book of the Old Testament: tells of creation; Adam and Eve; the Fall of Man; Cain and Abel; Noah and the flood; God's covenant with Abraham; Abraham and Isaac; Jacob and Esau; Joseph and his brothers.

Other dictionaries don't have the same emphasis on evolution for phylogenesis as in the above. *Phylo-* is the prefix for race, tribe etc., from the Greek *phulon*. So we have created the Enterprise Phylogenesis Institute, or you could swap the enterprise and phylogenesis. I'm not too sure which order I like best, or how happy I am with Institute, but for this week and until inspired for another organization this will have to do.

So would you contribute your time and resources to this weird organization?

Just before I started this naming section I got a call from the real estate agent for the restaurant that includes the shop with offices, who I called late yesterday after I returned. It seems that she is a Christian, and the owner of the this particular place is also a Christian and would like to have a Christian buy this piece of property. So God willing, next week I will go over an look at the property and maybe some of the others.

If the Wonder Springs Phylogenesis Enterprise Institute has any traction, we shall look to buy and organize these diverse properties into a phylogenesis tribe or nation. What this means for the immediate future is that we need access to a line of credit, from an individual or organization, that could be faithfully converted into some sort of long term financing. This would mean we should be able to search for liquidity where ever God's chosen path may lead. That includes grants and gifts from Christian and non Christian individuals and enterprises. Equity participation for those same groups in Wonder Spring's Adventures Limited. But more important than the liquidity is the prayer and other support from our readers.

Every person on this earth, whether they understand it or not, is on a journey to try to learn why they are here, and what they are supposed to do with their life. Most of the time we think we are on the wrong track, or headed up a trail to a dead end canyon in this dry desert land. In reality, if we camped more and traveled less, we would soon see that the beauty of God's creation and opportunity for enterprise is magnificent anywhere we may roam, we just need to take the time to see the contrast and the opportunity that life presents.

This is why not only do we need to understand, but to stand on the promise of the Bible: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.*

It is only God who has the true perspective of the eternal, but He will share glimpses of His wonderful grace and love if we are willing to travel, as did the nation of Israel in the Old Testament journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. To quote Thoreau, that is the "beat of a different drummer."

The problem with this drummer application, as with sustainable development, is that without the absolutes of the Bible and God, all we are left with is the chaos of individual's wrongly perceived choices. Using my understanding from my youth, I would now think that the only important things of life really had something to do with the NBA and basketball.

I now perceive that the land belongs to God, and in His land the greatest gift is not of gold, but of being able to accept and enjoy the gifts God has artfully created to edify the soul.