



Chronicles of Diversity

13 April 2005; Volume 7, Number 15

Chronicles of Diversity
Contact
Information:
©2005

*non-commercial education &
forwarding encouraged, all
other rights reserved*

*Jerry Bannon
Wonder Springs
7950 Seward Park Ave. S.
Seattle, Washington USA
98118
phone: 206.660.0697
email:
bannon@createleaders.org or
chronicles@createleaders.org*

*Please forward prayer requests
to: prayer@createleaders.org*

*Washington State Charity
Number: 7529*

*Visit our web site at:
www.createleaders.org
www.wondersprings.com*

*To subscribe to these free
weekly messages please send
us an email*

Metis Economics: Unconscious Conscience

We manage our lives predicated on the belief that our conscious decisions are the cause and effect relationship by which most events enter our lives. We hedge these bets with influences such as chance, fate, or faith, dependent on religious decisions we have made in our in epistemological cosmology.

“How did I get here? and “What am I to do?” have become pretty much irrelevant and irreverent in our desire to get through the day, the week, the year. “I’ll handle those questions once I retire, and travel for a while. - - - Then I will find a mountainous retreat, there to meditate on the great universe, until I find the answer(s) to life.”

Contrary to the desires of many in modern society, western culture is based upon two great paradigms of consciousness. The first is Christianity, and the other is individualism.

To say that mankind evolved from amoeba, was only an accepted doctrine for perhaps one hundred years of the two thousand year history of the church. Different theologies will set those dates somewhat differently, but the fact remains for the majority of western history, all of western culture was creationist.

As the church followed atheistic prophets of science into the evolutionary swamp, we find the evolution of a cultural art form that not too long ago was called situational ethics. Moving onward and upward on the evolutionary progression, it is not too hard to picture a day in the not too distant future, when entropy becomes god. In other politically correct terms, nothingness is everything, which is essentially eastern religion. This of course, stated in more fundamental Christian dogma states: Jesus must return very



soon, for we are rapidly becoming too stupid to understand the gospel, no matter how simply it is proclaimed.

If you are a church goer you will have invariably heard the story on how the adult eagles make the nest so uncomfortable that the baby eagles leave home to find a more suitable roost. This is tied to the promised exhortation in Isaiah 40:31:

But those who wait on the LORD

Shall renew *their* strength;

They shall mount up with wings like eagles,

They shall run and not be weary,

They shall walk and not faint.

If you are not now a church goer, you now know the essence of the tale. But descriptive science tells us that you must leave home's security to find not necessarily your life's work but your personal perspective in fulfilling your life's work. If the only learning you get on how the world works is what you get from mom and dad eagle, your growth will be limited to their highest achievements. That is sort of a low sore, rather than high soaring.

What you probably never thought about, is that this eagles tale is a common grace example of the gospel. Jesus had to leave His home in heaven, to fulfill His life's calling to become Messiah. The Trinity knew all the details beforehand, but Jesus still had to leave the comfort of His heavenly home to bring the whole concept of salvation of mankind, into time, space, and matter.

Natural law and common grace are visual, creative, natural examples of God's specific law and specific grace, as this eagle illustration simply illustrates. However, details of that specific revelation only come to us from the Bible. Therein, lies the power of western civilization. The individual person sacrificing his life for the common good. Today we still call it love, before we evolved into loving however, it was called charity.

We now live in a century where charity isn't cool, and the expression of love has evolved

into self love, and service is associated with unselfishness rather than charity. Simply put, charity finds its goal in others, unselfishness still maintains its focus on the individual. I take a small portion of me and give it away, offer it, or tithe it, to the common good. This stands in stark contrast to true charity, and the gospel, where I give all of me to the common good, and take back to myself only my basic needs.

The church has lost its effectiveness, because like the world, she now focuses her message on demonstrating unselfish service, rather than true charity. Give what you like to God's work is personalized into; give what you like after you pay for the Mariners season tickets, and the bigger house, and the bigger SUV, and the yearly vacation.

We can't get people to go to the highlands of Guatemala to serve the desperately poor, so instead we will go to some high class destination for a short term mission, for those people need a relationship with Jesus too. We call this a mission's contribution, not a vacation, to which Hudson Taylor probably would not be amused. Hudson Taylor was the founder of China Inland Mission, which was responsible for first bringing the gospel to China in the 19th century.

In his work, Brother Taylor came to understand what it meant to be the brother of Jesus Christ, by sharing in His sufferings in works of charity and divine love. Passing out tracks in a distant cosmopolitan destination may demonstrate you have a relationship with Jesus, but it does open at least the possibility that we may find it difficult to call Him brother, or the other way around, when our jet set journey of this life is through.

When you only ask for relationship, that is all you are going to get. Relationships only asks you to become involved in the work. Family expects a certain level of commitment. But until you are committed to something, you can never find your true strengths and weaknesses.

This week the (family of the) Boston Red Sox, received their 2004 World Series rings for being the best team in professional baseball. They did this at the first game at Fenway Park against the New York Yankees. The Red Sox

then went out to play the game against their arch foes, and won handily, I think it was 6-1. Their involved fans cheered wonderfully from the green bleachers, a good time was had by all. I would suspect even many playing for the Yankees found it at least amusing, perhaps also they thought the BoSox even truly had earned the crown, because to get there they had to beat, guess who?

At the high school level, it is now commonly taught that if you want to make a living in professional athletics the sport to play is baseball. It takes less practice, your career is longer, and there is less chance of permanent injury. This is especially true if you are gifted with the gifts to be a catcher, or a left hand pitcher.

I played first base on my high school baseball team. I could field with anyone, at any level, and in high school I hit about .300. Well if you are going to play for either the Yankees or the Red Sox, you are going to need to hit closer to .300 at the major league level, than .003 which is about what I could do with major league pitching.

My high school baseball coach, essentially told me that as he moved after my junior year. Coach Caton had been a professional baseball pitcher before he became a coach. He had a major league fast ball, a great knuckle ball, a decent slider, and an acceptable curve ball, except when he hung it. When he hung one of his curve balls, even I could hit it hard. A curve ball which hung with the frequency of Coach's, kept him out of the big leagues. He had worked long and hard on the pitch, with the best of coaches, but it just did not perform at the major league level.

Life is not a game, life is real world and as the advertisement for the NCAA says, few are the participants that go professional in their athletic endeavors. The truth is that few of these sports have any professional organization at all, but that does not mean that the participation is in vain.

In western culture in order to be considered a real winner, you have to play baseball for either the Red Sox or the Yankees. If you are not good enough to play you have to be a spectator. If at one time you were good enough to play, but got

too old, then you can be a coach. But it is also well known that the very best players, don't make the best coaches.

The old ABC "Wide World of Sports" use to talk about the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat. But what we have created is a society where for virtually all citizens, that whole concept is undefined. Now that term really is not that accurate, but if you have never competed, and are told you can not successfully compete in anything, how are you going to be anything other than a spectator. You don't even know where to begin.

Relationship just can not get you beyond unselfishness. True commitment and true charity requires organization. There is a term used generally in the world and in the church, "Preaching to the choir." What is not understood is that you can not lead the choir by preaching too them. Only a choir director, can lead the choir. The preacher may unselfishly give hours and hours preaching to choirs around the world, but it does no good musically, because the choir is supposed to sing music.

The choir like the baseball team is organized into distinct coachable units. Instead, of infield, outfield, pitchers, and the like, you have tenors, baritones, altos, and sopranos. If everyone wanted to play center field it would be impossible to play baseball. Yet we expect everyone to sing in harmony, when all we do is place the words on the projector screen. Even for everyone to sing in unison, to do it any more than in a mediocre way you need the music score, and everyone needs to know how to read music. Only then can you find out if you can sing or not, and at what level of performance.

The church has become unconscious to her historic conscience, but only the church can lead any culture out of the Slough of (evolutionary) Despair. Mere Christianity is the only consciousness that can have that vision. But this can not be a preaching pep rally, nor can it be a 7 or 12 step program to personal or corporate success, because all these are based upon unselfishness instead of charity.

The Bible's specific revelation clearly states that God created the heavens and the earth through a complex organizational scheme that we can only see through a very dark filter. However, God created man in His image and set him and woman in a garden and basically said, "Creatively organize creation any way you like and I will bless you."

Revivalism swept through the church and revitalized her not because of the excellence of the theology. It was because a few preachers systematically organized revival ministries, that became committed to the charity of the gospel message. Before revivalism, was the Reformation that featured a similar charitable commitment to sound Biblical exposition of the word into practical theology. It had some outstanding examples of individual leadership, and some not of major league potential. But all have had and impact until this day. Yet few leaders, pastors, or even the frozen chosen, venture, or adventure far from the home nest's security.

There is a movie about playing baseball in a corn field. There was the presumption that if you build the "Field of Dreams" the old heros of the game would miraculously appear.

The evangelical church lost its leadership in the world, because it became content to pray for an new awakening, and go to watch the Red Sox play at Fenway Park, or Yankee Stadium. So now we have Safeco Field, and other stadiums with corporate sponsors to help pay baseball's high salaries. However, precious few have ever played the game, and even fewer know the joy of coaching.

God created the church to be a team of charity workers. All they do however, is come together for a few hours each week and say, "Hi, how are you doing? Great! I'm doing wonderful too! It sure rained last week didn't it. I hope it continues, we could sure use some more. How about those Mariners, they won the first game of the season, since then they have played slightly better than last year."

So what's missing? You can't be a major league team of charity workers with just major league preaching from the pulpit. All preachers in God's eyes are major league, either in practice, or in training. It might be a large church or a small church, but it is really just a room filled with involved spectators. In the only true eternal winning game in town, they just sit, dream, and doze. When nudged properly they might even occasionally cheer, but that's pretty much it.

I suppose the first question to ask is what does this Field of Dreams look like? It's been centuries since anyone has ever built one that actually worked, truly built on any foundation other than unselfish relationship.

Baseball season began in high school playing catch in the gym, while the snow was still on the ground. One year there was still five inches of snow and ice on the field the weekend before our first game. Miraculously, a Chinook wind came through early in the week, melted the snow and dried up the field so that the first game took place without any natural problem. The problems only related to real baseball practice, like fielding and batting.

Playing that first game was sure a lot more fun than playing catch in the gym. I don't remember if we won that game or not, but for sure, everyone else had practiced by playing catch in their gym also. So win, or lose, it was just playing the game that changed everything.

So instead of preaching next week, we are going to hold signups to play for God's charity workers. Everyone has a position to play and it is expected, before next week you begin to get in shape to play your unique position, to sing on key with the rest of the tenors, or whatever God has created you to be. We are also looking for a few coaches to help us to be effective as a team of charity workers. God has paid you well all these years, to sit and watch, now it is time for you to get in the game.

Alas, alas just another field of dreams.

Last six articles in this Phylogenesis Series:

Metis Economics, Rendezvous; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisrendezvous3-2-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Communion; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiscommunion3-9-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Rest; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisrest3-16-5.pdf>

Metis Economics, Easter Eats; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiseastereats3-23-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: Time to lead; PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metisleadtime3-30-5.pdf>

Metis Economics: What did Jesus do? PDF link: <http://www.wondersprings.com/2005pdffiles/metiswdjd4-6-5.pdf>