



# The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## The Wonder Springs Chronicle

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## Prospecting for wealth

### Ancient truth relevant for today:

*Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said:*

*“Naked I came from my mother’s womb,*

*And naked shall I return there.*

*The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;*

*Blessed be the name of the LORD.”*

### Job 1:20,21

*Though the fig tree may not blossom,*

*Nor fruit be on the vines;*

*Though the labor of the olive may fail,*

*And the fields yield no food;*

*Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,*

*And there be no herd in the stalls*

*Yet I will rejoice in the LORD,*

*I will joy in the God of my salvation.*

*The LORD God is my strength;*

*He will make my feet like deer’s feet,*

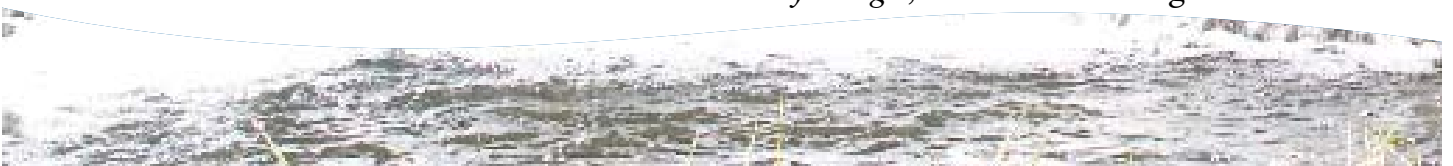
*And He will make me walk on my high hills.*

### Habakkuk 3:17-19

May you find in the above words, consolation that the happenings in this current world are not all there is, and there truly is nothing new under the sun. There is a strength available beyond our own individual capacities.

Furthermore, words really do not fully express what many of you are feeling at this time. People, who told you to trust them, either lied to you, or were just ignorant of true reality, including the consequences of ignoring Natural Law. That reality of absolute truth exists and so do you, begin to deal with it seriously.

There has been a slightly positive development this week. National governments around the world have begun to realize that



the problem is not with energy prices or unsound mortgages, the root of this disease is really the monetary system itself. First steps have been taken to begin to bring a reasoned approach to what we call banking and money in our various currencies.

So far these steps are quite inflationary, but there really is no other alternative at this time. Especially notice that these measures were taken by national governments, not international financial organizations and enterprises. Finally the world's problems are beginning to rise above politics, and governments are beginning to look after their people rather than special interests.

Of course politicians, especially here in the United States, remain a leading indicator of completely being out of touch with those they are called to lead. Slowly the reality that neither the far left or the far right have anything positive to contribute to the solution, will pound its way into some positive actions.

I began very early Tuesday morning in a quest for metaphors to describe what is continuing to happen in the economic world. Bailout and meltdown are really getting so overused they have lost all meaning. I sort of liked the concepts of economic firestorm and wildfire, but really these flames are just beginning in nations around the world, and they will quickly burn through all the available liquidity. See we now have burning water.

We have even used here a paraphrase from the Ancient Mariner, "Money, money everywhere, but not a drop to lend."

Therefore we eventually came to the ashes of the dry desert, to understand what the whole world is currently searching for in all the bloviated hype and hyperbole. The world is currently seeking or prospecting for its underlying wealth. This wealth of course relates all the way back to Adam Smith's "Wealth of Nations."

It is interesting that this searching is truly just beginning with nation states as they try to put some monetary basis into their money. To say "again," would indicate that this debasement of money is a relatively new happening, but it has

been going on for so long that what governments are really doing is beginning afresh the search for national wealth.

Global corporations in the meantime have lost their importance, because they are now finding or they have forgotten, they are or were to be repositories for wealth and its development, not just to have a short term positive bottom line and high stock price. Show us the money no longer is good enough, for their money is gone, most of it for good and for the good.

The management of community wealth is the God given reason for tribes and nations to exist in the first place. True wealth was abandoned in the late 20th century in the search for global markets, trade, and other types of unifying jargon.

So, tribes and nations are made up of individuals, created in the image of God. It is wise and fitting we too, begin this journey of "Prospecting for wealth." There are now "opportunities in them there hills." It maybe gold or other natural resources, or other products and services, but surely if you sift through enough overburden and remove the dross, the underlying wealth of human enterprise will again be found. Are you up for the adventure?

That adventure of course is the supreme qualifier. For most of our lives enterprise adventures really were not in the scheme for success. You got your job, bought your house, bought a lot of stuff you really didn't need or want, just to help with your frustration. Then you invested in various retirement schemes, promoted by your employer and the government and managed by financial experts. Then you could retire after thirty years or so, and do what you really longed to do. That of course was primarily, at least in the short term, not to do anything that someone else told you to do.

Alas, alas, many of those financial experts have recently shown their true colors, they were just using your money, to make them financially rich, and you, well you can now retire to the desert, just like you planned, this of course is the dry financial desert. For some reason they forgot to build the golf course.

Where are your employer and the government in all of this? No shows, when you really need them.

Deserts are a good place to prospect, for all sorts of wealth. The same can be said for prospecting

after wildfires and firestorms, all the underbrush is gone or never existed, therefore true wealth is a little easier to find, than beating your way through the jungle of corporate and bureaucratic red tape. But if you are expecting an easy, well maintained highway, you can think again. You may really need that SUV to go off road.

I consider myself a wealthy man; I just don't have any money. That is because for the last quarter of a century or so, I have been off the beaten path, led by God to places, I really didn't want to go, for reasons I am just beginning to understand. Truthfully if I look at my whole life, it has been that way, that God was in control, it is just in that recent period, my focus has been shifted from me to God's desire for my life, rather than my own folly.

From all that I can now see somewhat, that God is sovereign, and through Jesus Christ, that wealth of God's sovereignty is now mine as an inheritance. It doesn't get any better than that.

There were some people I have met in my life, that made me question the security that this world, especially the American world of material prosperity, seemed to offer. Interestingly of the two I am going to now describe, neither one was of American, meaning the United States, extraction.

The first was my former father in law. Cesar had a PHD in Agricultural Engineering. Utilizing his broad background in agriculture, he was able to design and patent a new method of irrigation. It was so successful, that by the time he was 42 he had achieved enough wealth to retire comfortably.

Shortly thereafter, Fidel Castro came to power, and that comfortable retirement of semitropical ease was no more. He and his wife, who had a PHD in education, were able to get their two daughters out of Cuba through a Catholic relief agency. They were settled in of all places, Quincy, Washington.

A few of years later, through good connections in Mexico, they were able to get out of Cuba and soon were settled in Quincy also. The only job he could get in Quincy was as a laborer in a local agricultural warehouse. A few years later he ended up owning the company.

His take on life was that money, was not as important as the wealth that you could carry in your mind. That wealth you take with you wherever you may live, whatever you may do.

More to the point of this prospecting for material wealth relates to my seeking funding for the development of my gold mining equipment. Through connections I was given the names of some investment brokers for the Vancouver Stock Exchange VSE . Canadians have a method, which has been somewhat redefined since that time, but still essentially is focused upon business development rather than, for lack of a better term, big business and global finance.

For about six months I made at least a monthly trip to Vancouver to meet with lawyers, accountants, brokers, and people who basically sold, publicly traded shell companies. Some companies had some tangible assets, but most were formed basically to fund development of a potential mining property. If those development tests proved successful, the company flourished, if not, there were more properties, and hence other opportunities.

One afternoon, I was wandering through the maze of small shell offices in downtown Vancouver, with a broker from one of the small brokerage firms. As we progressed, this gentleman told me that basically there were 2000 public companies traded on the VSE, 1980 of them were not worth, well anything, to soften his description.

We had just finished looking at a number of the 1980, not finding anything close to the 20 with real potential. The brokerage office was located on the top floor of a small office building. Being somewhat late in the day this broker introduced me to the President of the company. I suppose since trading was over for the day, and he had nothing better to do that afternoon, this President said he would explain to me how to make money in Canada, working with these venture companies.

So for the next couple of hours, I got a personal lesson of not only Canadian finance, but also world finance. To make it enjoyable I was given the opportunity to drink many cups of strong coffee, like French Press, or espresso, sweetened with Contreau.

In these small venture companies, the brokerage house only served as essentially an access point to the market for outside investors. The brokerages themselves might have some stock position in the company, but since 1980 of them would never amount to anything, that position really had little to do with current or potential wealth. The brokerages made money on the transactions; it was essentially up to the companies themselves to make a market for their shares.

To digress for a moment, the leveraged market making ability of energy speculators in the run of oil up to in excess of 140 per barrel is an example of the potential of such manipulation on a global scale. Using their leverage to move the market just a little in whatever direction they wanted, then leaking a reason, or just letting the press make up their own oil trading reason, was enough to be one of the causes of the bailout meltdown now facing the world.

When I asked about this potential to make excessive profits, I was told that these companies were too small to really have a drastic effect on anything other than their own net worth. Furthermore, everyone pretty much expected a certain amount of manipulation, but excessive abuses would soon be noticed and essentially those behind the scheme would soon have to find more difficult ways to make a living. In other words, this was small scale capitalism with a certain moral ethos.

As we were finishing up, and me being the Yank up from the States, it was pointed out, big business, big investment bankers, and big securities dealers in the United States, were banned from any sort of insider trading, therefore the only way for them to make money was to trade shares, option shares, or get paid directly. Essentially the more money you get and the more shares you have the more money you can make. It really made no difference about the health of the underlying company; to make money you needed to move shares one way or the other and get well paid for doing so.

Finally, I was given the warning, that to be prudent and maintain any wealth you may obtain in this world, only invest in companies in which you have some direct knowledge of their internal operations and the goals and personal objectives of management.

That final warning I never forgot, hence I have always invested in little companies and people I have come in contact. Furthermore, I have gone around and around with a number of Christian people, who seem to think, it is their money, not God's wealth. As a general rule, God's wealth is invested in people, not IRA's, hedge funds, and speculative investments, including real estate.

Enron and WorldCom were only precursors of what is now happening. As the Special Report we posted on Monday states, "Stupid does, as stupid is." It will be a long list of casualties before the excess money is burned off or evaporated. Big corporations and related financial services will be crippled for a long time. What will emerge and remain from that desert however, are virtually countless small business opportunities that need the wealth of your expertise and your financial resources.

Prospecting for wealth is difficult work, but the rewards are much more generous than the price you pay. The problem is that they don't teach you that in school, you don't read about it in books, or newspapers, and you definitely don't hear about it from the lips of politicians or bureaucrats.

But for the foreseeable future you will hear about it at the Wonder Springs Chronicle, as we continue to prospect for wealth, in this new world of universal financial deserts.