



only at the beginning. From the bottom of the mountains, we could only look up and see our immediate context. Then we climbed for a while.

“Upon arriving at a place to take a rest, we looked around again at the range of mountains and realized that our view had dramatically changed. We commented about the different perspective that now presented itself to us, the enhanced beauty, and the ability to see farther and with more clarity than we had been able to see when we started the climb.

“Then we continued our climb. We had similar revelations about our climb and the range of mountains at the next two rest stops. Finally, we reached the summit of our mountain. What a view! We could now see farther and with greater clarity than we could have imagined at the beginning of our climb. We wondered out loud if this was the same range of mountains we had viewed at the beginning of our journey. They looked so different.

“We realized several things from our new vantage point. First, a whole new world that we could not see at the beginning of our journey was out there. Second, in spite of the fact that the range of mountains looked like a totally different set of mountains than they did when we began the climb, they were the same mountains; and they did not move. We moved. We changed perspective.

“Third, the mountain we climbed was not the highest mountain in the range. Many more mountains beckoned us to climb them and discover even greater perspectives that were further up and further in. Fourth, we can now look out, and not just up, and can begin to have an initial understanding of our mountain-climbing potential. At the same time, our full potential is still elusive to us.

“Fifth, as we climb other mountains in the range of mountains, we will surely see farther and with even greater clarity. What adventures and challenges they will offer we cannot know until we journey toward them. In reality, it would appear our journey will never end, but the learnings, insights, revelations, and discoveries will continue to excite, inspire, and bring us fulfillment beyond what we had ever dreamed.

“What are the implications of this mountain climbing image for the journey of congregations toward their full Kingdom potential? First, at the beginning of our spiritual strategic journey we cannot know the distance or length of our congregational journey. Nor can we see with clarity the vision God has for us. None of us knows our full Kingdom potential. We must live into it, but it will always be further up and further in.

“Second, as we journey in the direction of our current understanding of our full Kingdom potential, we will continually discover, discern, and develop new insights into our potential. We will continually be able to see farther and with more clarity. We will develop capacities that, at the beginning of the journey, we did not even know we would need.

“Third, our understanding of our full Kingdom potential is not static. It is continually changing as we journey in the direction toward which God is pulling us. As we mature in our journey, we have a deeper understanding of our potential and our capacity for Kingdom service” (pp. 131-133).

As we move through our Prayer Triplet studies, I hope you'll keep the googol idea in mind. Keep thinking about the mountain vistas George described. What unimaginable, unthinkable things might God be calling us to be and to do ten years from now? Stay tuned!

Dave

