

## Theological Musings from Dave's Laptop

August 4, 2020

It's potpourri this week . . . .

### A.S.P.E.N. update

You'll remember that I've recently written about an idea I've called "A.S.P.E.N."; an acronym for "A Spiritual Presence Enriching Neighborhoods." This idea has to do with caring for our neighbors and neighborhoods through small group Bible studies, initially using ZOOM during quarantine.



Well . . . I've sent a *lovely* letter to the eleven other families that live in my building inviting them to such a ZOOM gathering to discuss the idea, and so far . . . nobody has responded. I'm pondering what to do next. Hmmm.

### On **SINGING**

Yeah, I know we can't sing in the same room during COVID, but we CAN sing!

"Singing in harmony involves everyone doing the same thing at the same time but doing it with a difference. In harmony we learn that we all don't have to sing the same beat; we all don't have to sing the same words; we all don't have to sing the same notes; sometimes we all don't have to be on the same page, but we can all be singing the same love song to Jesus."

### On **PRAYER**

Archbishop William Temple once said, "When I pray, miracles occur."

A friend traveling with him replied, "Perhaps what you call miracle is nothing more than mere coincidence."

The archbishop replied, "Yes, I suppose so, but I have noticed that when I do not pray, the coincidences do not occur."

### On **FAITH**

James 1:3-4 *For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything.*

God will put more on you than you can bear . . . so He can bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

God never calls you to do what you can do.

God calls you to do something too big for you . . . so He can do it.

**CBF: transforming Oakland Mills into a community others wish to replicate.**

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## On **CIRCUMSTANCES**

“Everything that happens to a child of God is *Father-filtered*, and He intends to use it for good even when Satan and others mean it for evil.”

“Your circumstances are temporary, but your character will last forever.”

**No matter what happens**, always be thankful, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

## On **the BIBLE**

We are what we remember; so memorize the Bible:

“This Book is the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding; its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

“Read it to be wise, believe it to be safe, practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you.

“It is the traveler’s map, the pilgrim’s staff, the pilot’s compass, the soldier’s sword, and the Christian’s character.

“Here paradise is restored, heaven opened, and the gates of hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, and the glory of God its end.

“It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet. Read it slowly, frequently, prayerfully.

“It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. Follow its precepts and it will lead you to Calvary, to the empty tomb, to a resurrected life in Christ; yes, to glory itself, for eternity.”

“To become like Jesus, we must fill our lives with his Word. . . . God’s Word is unlike any other word. It is alive. . . . When God speaks, things change.”

“God’s Word generates life, creates faith, produces change, frightens the Devil, causes miracles, heals hurts, builds character, transforms circumstances, imparts joy, overcomes adversity, defeats temptation, infuses hope, releases power, cleanses our minds, brings things into being, and guarantees our future forever!”<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Most of these quotes are from Rick Warren. The ones that sound older than that have unknown authors.