

NATION BUILDING

-DISCIPLING THE NATIONS SO THAT THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN CAN COME TO EARTH !

Thy Kingdom come on earth, as it is in Heaven.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Francis Schaeffer said, “There cannot be true revival unless there has been reformation; and reformation is not complete without revival.”¹ I agree. There has to be a NEW THEOLOGY, and there has to be a NEW PENTECOST, so that there can be a NEW REFORMATION.

2.0 PRESENT GLOBAL PROBLEMS

2.1 Terrorist Threat

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere”, said Martin Luther King Jr.

“Since September 11, 2001, the United States has launched a war on terror, but it has neglected the deeper causes of global instability. The \$450 billion that the United States will spend this year on the military will never buy peace if it continues to spend around one thirtieth of that, just \$15 billion, to address the plight of the world’s poorest of the poor, whose societies are destabilized by extreme poverty and thereby become havens of unrest, violence, and even global terrorism.”²

More than 20 000 people perish every day due to extreme poverty.

“The economic instability that followed World War I led to the Great Depression of the 1930’s and then to World War II. The linkages are subtle and debated in detail, but undeniable in basic fact.....The Great depression, in turn, triggered a calamitous spread of trade protection and the rise of Nazism in Germany and military might in Japan.”³ Economic instability was also responsible for the Bolshevik revolution in Russia.

¹ Francis Schaeffer, Death in the City, 1969, p.10

² Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty,2005,p.1

³ Jeffrey Sachs, The End of Poverty,2005,p.46

We could be facing a similar problem today!

2.2 Enron- Style Capitalism

The abuse of privilege and power fueled by greed and a lack of compassion has robbed innocent victims of their lives savings.

Big business has lost its moral compass.

The recent sub-prime housing crisis is also a result of greed-driven financial planning. We need to stop believing that money is the root to all happiness, and understand what God's word means about "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil." (1 Tim 6:10).

The issue of rising food and oil prices is still going to cause major disruptions to both third and first worlds. This is not only due to increasing demands, bad decisions regarding bio-fuels and climate change, but also due to unfair policies that favor the rich and penalize the poor.

2.3 Modern-day Slavery

There are an estimated 27 million slaves in the world today. This is even more than in Wilberforce's day. Not only do we have human trafficking, but we have economic slavery.

"Almost three billion people, nearly half the world's population, live on less than \$2 a day, 1.2 billion of them on less than \$1 a day."⁴ Sweat shops exist because big business does not have the heart to change.

2.4 Global Crime Syndicates

Globalization has brought a new problem, new international crime networks know as McMafia, "now dominate a shadow economy which accounts for around 15% of the world's GDP."⁵

These include human trafficking, blood diamonds, drugs, illegal migrant labour, smuggling, piracy and money laundering.

⁴ Jim Wallis, God's Politics, 2005, p.285

⁵ Time, May 19, 2008

Just as Toffler predicted gangsters are becoming more powerful and influential than governments.

2.5 Lack of Liberty

Fareed Zakaria says, “Democracy is flourishing; liberty is not.”⁶
E.g. “Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany via free elections.”⁷ Hamas, a terrorist organization, won a democratic election.

We need to put justice and liberty at the top of our priorities, not democracy.

2.6 Abuse of the Environment

Industrial pollution is slowly killing the planet. The basic problem is the greed of man, and the lack of courage from governments to tackle the issues.

In 2007 the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded for the first time that the evidence of global warming in “unequivocal” and that it is with “90% certainty caused by human activity.”

Al Gore has done so much to bring this truth home with his “An Inconvenient Truth.”

Our children’s future is threatened because of greed.

3.0 WHAT IS GOD’S PLAN?

We have a world wide crisis brewing! We have sown to the wind, and now we are going to reap the whirlwind.

But God has been raising up an APOSTOLIC CHURCH.

Nehemiah is a PATTERN of the apostle (1 Cor 3:10; Eph 2:20).

He is concerned for building in three areas:

- the spiritual-the house of God (Neh 13:11)
- the social-marriage (Neh 13:23)
- and the economic- trading on the Sabbath (Neh 13:15).

⁶ Fareed Zakaria, The Future of Freedom,2004,p.17

⁷ Fareed Zakaria, The Future of Freedom,2004,p.17

He is involved in rebuilding to God's PATTERN (Note Moses in Nehemiah 8:14 & 10:29; and David in Nehemiah 12:36 & 45). Nehemiah remembered the poor and represented God well (Neh 5:15).

In Acts 19 Paul builds a base in Ephesus and also concentrates on reforming church life, social structures, and economic powers.

We need the motivation and reward of free market CAPITALISM and the COMPASSIONATE heart of Christianity.

God's desire is to bless us with wealth (Deut 8:18), and He requires that we don't forget the poor (Deut 15:10). His plan is not higher taxes or endless handouts, but a PARTNERING with the poor (Lev 19:10; Deut 24:19).

The apostolic mandate is to disciple the nations, but clearly includes not forgetting the poor (Gal 2:10).

This is neither the prosperity doctrine nor the social gospel, it is neither Kingdom now, nor Liberation Theology, but it is nation building according to Kingdom theology.

COMPASSIONATE CAPITALISM is the way forward.

The separating of church and state does not mean the separation of the sacred and the secular. It means that the leader of the church should not be the leader of the state, and vice versa. But our beliefs must impact of living. Big business has lost its moral compass because we have separated our belief system from our governing.

4.0 HOW TO DISCIPLE A NATION

We could learn a lot from John Calvin and William Carey. Both were apostolic men who disciplined a nation. But the best example is probably that of John Wesley.

Wesley has been described as “one of the architects of the modern world” by Roy Hattersley, a politician turned writer.

The reforming of England, or the discipling of England, did not come through one man. The tide turned with the revival preaching of George Whitefield. Then the apostolic genius of John Wesley provided a wineskin for the new wine.

“Only a covenant community can give effectual witness to the Kingdom.... Wesley learned what radical Christians today are beginning to stress: a really effective struggle for social justice begins with building a biblically faithful community of Christian disciples.”⁸

Francis Schaeffer points out the extent of this revival, “We should also mention the impact of the George Whitefield (1714-1770)-John Wesley revivals and the early Methodists and others who emerged from the revivals, from whom came so much emphasis on political, educational, and economic reform. In fact, the Cambridge historian J. H. Plumb (1911-) indicated that it is not too much to say that, without the influence which the Whitefield-Wesley revivals had at the grass roots, it is doubtful whether England would have avoided its own version of the French Revolution.”⁹

Then came the reforming of England through the work William Wilberforce and others.

So we can see the PATTERN of
REVIVAL
APOSTOLIC STRATEGY
& REFORMATION.

This
WHITEFIELD
WESLEY
WILBERFORCE

²⁰ Roy Hattersley, John Wesley, 2002, p.4

⁸ Howard A. Snyder, The Radical Wesley, 1996, p.161 & 165

⁹ Francis Schaeffer, How Should we then Live ?, 1976, p.119

PATTERN is important to remember.

5.0 GOD'S WISDOM

God's plan has always been for the church to proclaim his wisdom and to dethrone the worldly philosophies and ideologies (Ephesians 3:10) In this way we are to occupy the high ground on the battle field of ideas, or the "Commanding Heights" as they have been called ¹⁰(see Ephesians 6:11).

In the 1970s the world was in an economic crisis. The short supply of oil and the rise of inflation caused economic stagnation, "stagflation" as it became known. A radical new solution was needed.

"In the late 1960s, a young Conservative politician named David Howell was charged with working out a plan, as he put it, "to unravel Britain's huge state sector and at the same time widen capital ownership in British society." Scouring the United States for ideas, he ran across the word **privatization** in the work of the economic and social theorist Peter Drucker..... he deployed it in a 1969 pamphlet, "A New Style of Government." But then, as Howell put it, the idea lay "dormant," until Joseph and Thatcher picked it up"¹¹.

Amazing, Peter Drucker, a Christian has the idea to privatize the government sector. It is picked up by Thatcher and then finds its way back into the USA, under Regan's leadership. It then literally changes the whole world.

Today greed is killing Capitalism. Once again the voice of the church is desperately needed in a world disillusioned with rampant capitalism and slowly turning once again to communism.

¹⁰Yergin & Stanislaw, The Commanding Heights, 2002,p.xii

¹¹ Yergin & Stanislaw, The Commanding Heights,2002,p.96

We need to wrestle with God's word to find answers to our present problems. The "churches theological values" must "make sense to those beyond its membership" and must be "given expression through secular debate in a language understandable to a broad constituency of people".¹² . I THINK THAT THIS IS OUR GREAT CHALLENGE!

5.1 LEARNING FROM THE QUAKERS

Quaker businessmen changed the face of business in England in the 18th and 19th century. Great chocolate companies like Cadbury, Rowntree, Fry and Terry were all Quakers. Lloyds of London and Barclays Bank were formed by Quakers. The first railway line was started by Quakers and so was the iron and steel industry. Clark's Shoes and Carr's Biscuits were started by Quakers.

Even the abolition of slavery was initiated by Quakers in 1787. Quaker businessmen practiced abolition before it became law. They provided an example and PATTERN for others to follow. Once again we need a model for business that can prove to be a success, and can be copied by others. The Quakers were only 0,2% of British society!

5.2 LEARNING FROM THE ABOLITIONISTS

The historian G.M. Trevelyn said that the abolition of slavery was "one of the turning points of the world".

Two hundred years ago slavery was common, "well over three quarters of all people alive were in bondage of one kind or another, not the captivity of striped prison uniforms, but of various systems of slavery or serfdom.....Slavery had existed before money or written law." ¹³

¹² Charles Villa-Vicencio, A Theology of Reconstruction, 1992,p.4

¹³ Adam Hochschild, Bury the Chains,2005,p.2

Many different individuals and groups formed an integrated and united assault against Abolition.

In 1784 “the leaders of the Quaker campaign-an informal committee of six who met every two weeks to concert their publicity in the London and provincial press- were all businessmen and, they liked to think, hard of head if tender of heart.”¹⁴

Later the campaign was joined by Anglicans like William Wilberforce and Thomas Clarkson. Preachers like John Wesley and John Newton also got behind the campaign and so did businessmen like Josiah Wedgwood, the potter to the Queen.

The Clapham Sect gathered as an informal support to Wilberforce. This was depicted so well in the “Amazing Grace” movie.

They were a team of Christians made of from ministers, members of parliament, directors of companies, and authors and scholars. Now, once again, we need the coming together of pastors and saints with an apostolic mandate to reform our nations.

6.0 WHAT CAN WE DO?

The facts of abuse and injustice must be presented in as many ways as possible so that society can be motivated to change. We must become convinced that it is God’s will that we do something to bring about systemic change; God’s Kingdom is a kingdom of justice. We cannot sit and wait for the rapture to remove us from this troubled world. Jesus taught us to pray, “Thy kingdom come on earth, as it is in heaven.”

6.1 RAISE AWARENESS

Truth brings freedom. We need to preach and teach from our pulpits. Christians must understand that the Kingdom will only come in some measure by the power of the Holy Spirit, as we serve Christ and please God (Rom 14:17). We must take action!

Documentaries such as “The Commanding Heights”, Schaeffer’s “How Should We Then Live?”, “God’s Ambassador” (the Billy

¹⁴ Simon Schama, Rough Crossings,2005,p.204-205

Graham story) and “An Inconvenient Truth” should be prescribed watching.

Movies such as “Blood Diamond”, “Amazing Grace”, “Wall Street” and “The Constant Gardener” should be watched and discussed.

“Blood Diamond” was inspired by the movie “Cry Freedomtown” and the documentary “Blood of the Stone” made by Sorious Samura. We too need to be making documentaries showing the social and economic evils of our day. We need to write songs, and theatre productions, and magazine articles to expose evil (Eph 5:11).

I think that church leaders should not become aligned to party politics but expose and attack the ideologies and philosophies behind the structures of our day. In this way we don’t fight against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

And of course we must pray! We need God’s grace and direction, we need the power of the Holy Spirit. It is a war ! But we must also act. Things must change. We need to REFORM society.

Resource books such as Jim Wallis-“God’s Politics” & “Seven Ways to Change the World”, Fred Catherwood-“The Creation of Wealth”, John Perkins- “Confessions of an Economic Hit Man” and Jeffery Sachs-“The End of Poverty” should be read by all.

“The Jubilee Manifesto: A framework, agenda & strategy for Christian social reform”, edited by Schluter and Ashcroft is an amazing resource.

There are many organizations and websites that can be joined or consulted to help us get motivated. Bono’s work to make poverty history has been great. His keynote address at the 54th National Prayer Breakfast in February 2006, and his interview with Bill Hybels are great tools for inspiration.

6.2 CONNECTION

We need round table gatherings in Clapham Sect fashion. I think that we need three basic groups represented: local pastors, apostolic team and the saints. Each party influencing and learning

from each other. Some are already doing this in their churches and are showing amazing results.

6.3 SOCIAL BUSINESS

The work of Muhammed Yunus and the Grameen Bank should be duplicated by Christians all over the world. Yunus pioneered micro-lending to the poor. He has helped the poor in Bangladesh break the poverty cycle. Grameen Bank has loaned out U\$3,8 billion to 2,4 million families. It has been copied by over 250 institutions in nearly 100 countries. Their repayment rate is 98% ! That's better than most banks loaning to the rich! This is a real strategy to partner with the poor and break their chains.

Now Yunus has got involved in social business, marrying the interests of corporations with economic development. His Grameen Danone is a great project to benefit poor families in the villages of Bangladesh.

The challenge should be for all Christians in business to get involved with Base of the Pyramid, or PARTNERING with the poor projects. See Stuart Hart's "Capitalism at the Crossroads" for some amazing and inspiring examples.

We need to rediscover our roots and our mandate as Christians in the Marketplace, just as Joseph in Egypt, Daniel in Babylon and Esther in Persia.

6.4 SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING (SRI)

This is a major area where Christians all over the world can have an impact on the world economy. We must put our money where our belief is! We can encourage companies that are socially and environmentally responsible and boycott those that are not.

"Socially responsible investing dates back to the seventeenth-century Quakers who refused to invest in armaments. But today's movement began in the early 1970's, when the first spiritual investors-church groups-protested the Vietnam war by divesting their holdings of Dow Chemical and creating the PAX World Fund.

During apartheid, pioneering SRI funds pulled their money out of firms doing business in South Africa.”¹⁵

SRI have proved to be financially good investments; Kingsway SRI Asia Fund gave a return of 61% in 2006.¹⁶

6.5 JUBILEE

The heart of Leviticus 25 and the year of Jubilee is that each family should have security and the ability to produce because of owning land. Jubilee 2000 and Bono used this principle effectively to “Drop the Debt” in Africa.

Hernando de Soto, the Peruvian economist, argues that the poor do not have the legal systems to raise capital; they have houses but not titles; land but not deeds; businesses but not statutes of incorporation.

This does not mean that all land reverts back to its original settlers, but that rural farmers and poor urban shack dwellers are given legal title to their existing land thus releasing the ability to raise capital and create security.

Henry Louis Gates Jnr. reports, “I have been studying the family trees of 20 successful African-Americans, people in fields ranging from entertainment and sports (Oprah Winfrey, the track star Jackie Joyner-Kersey) to space travel and medicine (the astronaut Mae Jemison and Ben Carson, a pediatric neurosurgeon). And I’ve seen an astonishing pattern: 15 of the 20 descend from at least one line of former slaves who managed to obtain property by 1920 — a time when only 25 percent of all African-American families owned property.”¹⁷

Leviticus 25 is more radical than Das Kapital!

7.0 SPIRITUAL WARFARE-PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

When Jerusalem set their slaves free God caused the Babylonian army to retreat. Then Jerusalem re-enslaved those set free. And

¹⁵ Patricia Aburdene, Megatrends 2010, 2005,p.145

¹⁶ The Standard Money, Hong Kong ,Jan 29, 2007

¹⁷ New York Times, November 18, 2007

God caused the retreating Babylonian army to return to Jerusalem and destroy it! (Jeremiah 34).

Remember that Britain abolished the slave trade at the height of the Napoleonic Wars. Britain won the war not just because of a superior navy, but as Nial Ferguson points out they had more “financial might” than France.¹⁸ At a time when the critics of Abolition were worried about the financial cost of losing slave labour, God blessed the nation with a financial strategy and gave them victory.

Spiritual warfare is a PARTNERSHIP with God.

Let the Kingdom come!

¹⁸ Nial Ferguson, *Empire*, 2003, p.34-35