

.....those qualities that would otherwise lay dormant, wake into life.....

MATTER OF THE HEART :

At the beginning of the year Jane and I came across an inspiring quote from the First Lady Abigail Adams, in a John Adams' biography: "It is not in the still calm of life that great characters are formed. The habits of a vigorous mind are formed in contending with difficulties. Great necessities call out great virtues when a mind is raised and animated by scenes that engage the heart; then, those qualities that would otherwise lay dormant, wake into life and form the character of the hero and the statesman."

Does it sound familiar? The **first part** strikes me as a paraphrase of James 1 "*Consider it all joy, my brethren when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance and let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing*". That is why millions travel to admire the Grand Canyon every year versus parking in the middle of Death Valley to stare at its vast "unchallenged" flat surface.

However, the **second part** is what I find more fascinating: "...when a mind is raised and animated by scenes that engage the heart.." Perhaps I am overly sensitive to this being a visionary/pioneer, but this sentence awakens a lot of thoughts in my mind. I am reminded of Jesus in Matt 9 when upon seeing thousands upon thousands in need, He was **moved with compassion**. So I ponder: "Am I moved with compassion when I see so much spiritual

bankruptcy around me? If not- then what is the **passion** that consumes me?". That is an issue of the heart since the mind cannot answer it properly. We know darn well that a life motivated only by a sense of duty, obligation, and discipline will slowly poison and numb our hearts until the mind finally quenches the last drop of life in our hearts. Life without a purpose is far more devastating than death. That is why Albert Schweitzer says: "**The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives**". Our walk should be a far cry from the "walk of the living dead" In many instances we have created boredom out of our own affluence; that is not what our Lord **promised** us when He referred to the abundant life (John 10:10). Some of us entrepreneurs are "energized"



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by the idea of creating something out of nothing or defeating all odds when embarking in a challenging business scenario. That is when the mind is animated by scenes engaging our hearts. Wrapped with enthusiasm, expectation, and anticipation we are ready to take on the world. Why then most of us do not have the same drive as we look upon the needs of our fellow man?

A highly infectious man of God is one who believes that God is still the worker of miracles. This man is not one that serves God with a sense of duty, but one who truly experiences the depth of God's love in his heart.

I am still trying to understand the immensity of His unconditional love; I can see why Paul's prayer in Eph 3: 17-20 is such a **pillar** and should serve as a foundation for whatever we are called to do. Once I fully grasp the extent of His love I will not have but one passion, one vision, one calling: seek and save the lost. That is why our Lord came and that is what He challenged us to carry on.

May this year bring all of us a new challenge: **Understand His love in a more powerful and transforming manner.** This is what people around us, including our own children, need to see and experience. It is said that leadership is more caught than taught; thus, let us become more **INFECTIOUS!**

[We would be honored to receive your prayer requests and comments at the address below.](#)

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UPDATE:

Our most recent event was held on Jan 20th: a black tie dinner at Mrs. De Moss' Villa Grazia featuring guest speaker Chuck Colson. Many of you recall, Mr. Colson served as Special Counsel to President Nixon; following his conversion he entered a plea of guilty on Watergate related charges for obstruction of justice. Mr.



Colson is founder and CEO of Prison Fellowship International serving the spiritual and practical needs of prisoners and their families. 76 of the approximate 300 non-believing attendees made a first time commitment to Christ during the dinner. Our follow up and mentorship continues from the event in December and now intensifies with the follow up of these new fruits. Please join us in praying that these individuals will be open to our one-on-one appointments and subsequent mentorship/Bible study involvement. Also lift us up in prayer for a men outreach luncheon on Feb. 7th.

The kids are and bounds. finished a won-season last second place teams and a bella, 5, has Marco's



growing by leaps Marco ,11, finished a wonderful football December with a in a league of 14 12-1 record. Isa-been attending school and loving

the bus ride in the company of her bigger brother. Jane this year is blooming and leading her Tues. morning small group study as well as lecturing to the whole women' study group (60-75 ladies).

A big hug from all of us.

Love *Peppo and Jane*

