

The Cascade Commentary
An Occasional Paper

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**Cascade Knowledge
Resources**

**Making Your Life Count
for Eternity from
Your Street to Main Street
and Beyond**

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Making Your Life Count for Eternity from Your Street to Main Street and Beyond January 2011

Executive Summary

You have a passion for life as you define your destiny. You are traveling the road of experiential, progressive and continuous lifelong learning. You can only go as far as you can envision yourself going in life.

Life for some is tough, but you are made strong in adversity. You have a treasure of experiences to share to help build your family, communities and even nations abroad. You live in the Kingdom of God in the Earth – that Shalom of hope and peace. You participate in reinforcing the seven domains of culture that are within your reach and influence. We all must live a relevant gospel, dealing with the issues of today.

You are an influencer, an agent, a world changer right where you live and work. Be active to help transform your block, your community, town and country. Let the light of your family of leaders shine bright and far as a beacon showing others that “grace is available here” and hope guides you on.

Jesus is the Lord of the marketplace. Live your life just like He did, helping people find peace, provision and power to reach their potential in partnership with that spirit of grace, hope and eternity. Jesus came to make all things right. Your part also is to help make things right, just and fair in your areas of influence.

Meditate on these thoughts and apply them to your life in every way possible. Share hope with others, pick up the trash on your street and help make your community a greater place to live. This commentary is written to encourage your participation in Kingdom development and nation building from your street to the nation’s political and financial power centers. It is presented to help you grow in geopolitical and global economic understanding and willingness to take action right from your home base to impact the world and eternity that has already begun.

Introduction

In the course of lifelong learning each person develops areas of interest and the understanding that it is imperative to continue to grow in knowledge and the wisdom to apply it. We determined that it would be a valuable benefit to our family, colleagues, associates and friends to receive an occasional bulletin that would pass along the knowledge gained over a lifetime of reading, research and experience. You may have already received some of the commentaries.

Expanding Your Vistas

The articles we develop have a definite purpose. Understanding what is developing **globally**, **nationally** and **locally** connects you to the world of reality which is clearly influenced by the spiritual forces in the universe. You have undoubtedly experienced seasons of change in your life. Each decade brings different challenges, opportunities and blessings. It is adversity that develops character, persistence and confidence.

For some, life is really tough. It seems like life is spinning out of control and counselors, psychologists and even Oprah have not revealed answers for many of the real world issues. However, by grace we all are promised a way out or through the struggles, since our trials are just like those experienced by so many others, today and in centuries past.

Everyone needs an anchor for the soul – that part of your three-part being that is your mind, will and emotions. Through the challenges of life, a treasure of experiences is imbedded in your mind. Through reflection and concentration on your past, the memories that **reinforce values and virtues** can be pulled to the front to reinforce your life today. This is foundational to your future.

You were created in the image of God, so you have more value that you realize, especially on those really bad days! You have achieved things in life that have added value to your family, community and other relationships that make up your world. Hang on to your positive attitude and virtues and realize that you have already entered into eternity – the abiding place of the redeemed because of the grace of God, your confession and obedience.

The Shalom of God

Commit to covenant with that same Creator God that so generously lavishes grace on you and guides you in the way of His Kingdom that is growing in the earth. A tangible way that we can see the Kingdom of God expanding is to see positive effects of His presence.

Landa Cope (Youth With a Mission), Ed Silvano (International Transformation Network), and others have studied and written on the **Seven Domains of Culture**. These seven domains include the most crucial elements affecting our lives, families, environment and society.

As we identify and learn more about these domains we may be able to help mobilize forces to improve them. Working together in synergy we can all contribute to making things better. We might conclude that the ultimate is the full expression of the Shalom of God, the Kingdom of God or simply when Shiloh comes. Some writers relate Shiloh to the Messiah and some to the Prophet Ahijah. (1 Kings 11:29-39) Other writers equate Shiloh to the Kingdom of God announced by Jesus as He spent most of His ministry (3 ½ years) in the **marketplace** proclaiming the Kingdom will come and is coming!

From these sacred writings we learn that the Kingdom being released in the earth and yet to be released more fully, touches (affects) the mountains or domains of culture. Below is a list of those things that can be considered domains to be taken captive by the victorious saints, empowered by the Holy Spirit and living today for life tomorrow and into the future.

Landa Cope agrees with Martin Luther that “the gospel that does not deal with the issues of the day is not the gospel at all.”

Richard Stearns, President of World Vision authored a book, “*The Hole in the Gospel.*” In this book he shows that the gospel that does not have a tangible, touchable, genuine affect on people in the society is hollow and impotent. We recognize that Jesus is Lord over all domains or mountains and expressions of influence.

Domains or Mountains of Culture

- Business
- Education
- Family
- Government
- Media
- Religion
- Arts and Entertainment

The late Bill Bright from Campus Crusade, Loren Cunningham from YWAM and Francis Schaeffer all concurred that the above domains were paramount in culture and should be viewed as essential in any transformational ministry or training efforts.

Some other change agents picked up on these and defined them with skill. These include Landa Cope (YWAM), Os Hillman (Marketplace Leaders), Peter Wagner (The Apostles) and we could add others to the list.

The process of transformation of communities has been presented with clarity and purpose by Ed Silviso (International Transformation Network). Silviso, formerly an Argentinian pastor, bridges the pulpit and the marketplace very effectively. He identifies the **Five Pivotal Paradigms** required for transformation to take place.

The Five Pivotal Paradigms for Transformation

1. The **Great Commission** is about discipling nations, not just people.
2. The marketplace (the heart of the nation) has already been **redeemed** by Jesus and now needs to be **reclaimed** by His followers.
3. **Labor** is the premier expression of worship on Earth, and every believer is a minister.
4. Our primary call is not only to build the Church but to take the **Kingdom of God** forward where the kingdom of darkness is still entrenched, in order for Jesus to overcome the darkness and to build His Church. (Christ in Community)
5. The premier social indicator that transformation has taken place is the **elimination of systemic poverty.**

“These paradigms might seem radical, and are not necessarily what we hear from the pulpit every week, but they are thoroughly biblical and clearly reflect God’s perspective. However, to be able to see them we need to wear the right lenses, because it is our tendency to be short-sighted when processing divine instructions; that is, we tend to focus on what is closer in the

present at the expense of capturing the full scope of all that God has in store for us and wants to accomplish through us.” Ed Silvano in *Transformation* p. 29

“By exclusively discipling individuals, we have missed the higher prize of bringing transformation to nations.” Ed Silvano

Silvano goes on to discuss church on week days as God is investing in people, bringing His power to bear in their sphere of influence and stretching beyond to transform communities and even nations.

Jesus was and is **Lord of the marketplace** where he conducted the major part of His miracles and life-transforming ministry. One example: that ministry went from an individual (Cornelius), to the family (household of Cornelius) and then touched entire communities.

Envisioned Early in Life for my Future

As a high school student, our pastor mentored me and encouraged me to go on to Bible College. I must have been a disappointment to him when I joined the military, completed two degrees at Oregon State University in the College of Agriculture, and later a Ph.D. in Business.

Our family moved to Ethiopia in 1973 with Christian Missionary Fellowship (now called CMF International). In 1979, after it was no longer possible to work in Ethiopia, we began to work with ACROSS (Association of Christian Resources Serving Sudan) in Southern Sudan. There we effected community restoration and rehabilitation following a 17 year war that ravaged the country.

In 1993 we joined Calvary International (now called Go To Nations) where we have served in executive positions at the World Headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. We also worked for more than three years on a special assignment in the jungle region of Northern Guatemala developing the Global Training and Ministry Base for training missionary interns and developing significant community transformation programs.

It was the degrees in agriculture – Animal Science and Agricultural Economics, plus the Ph.D. in Business Management that made it possible for us to obtain visas to do valuable, holistic ministry in community and rural development across many nations.

I was always driven to the marketplace and not to the pulpit!

Our greater contribution will be the spark that we ignited and continue to fan the flame of **uniting families in Christ** and building communities through community action. Our work in community transformation, church planting and development of leaders is being multiplied through those that we disciple and are mentoring. This is making a significant difference as people are **lifted out of poverty and despair** and **established in faith and hope**.

We, and the many people who have participated with us in various ways, have had a significant part in helping to transform the lives of individuals, families, communities and beyond. You, too,

have family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and fellow church members with whom you have influence.

Janet and I are active members of our Homeowners' Association. This is our civic responsibility. We joined the prayer initiative from Transform Northeast Florida to Adopt-a-Street and regularly pray over the homes and people on the streets where we walk.

We pick up the trash thrown from passing cars and school kids littering our block. If we want our community to be nice, we have a responsibility to make it nice. Our yard is among the most beautiful and well-kept in our subdivision of about 450 homes. If it is going to be—it's up to me!

Some well meaning believers reason that pastors, missionaries and Christian workers should not engage in politics. **They are absolutely wrong!** We all must actively participate and promote His righteous cause with sincerity, passion and resolve. This requires becoming knowledgeable and informed in politics on the local and national level.

Family is so important to us all. It has been said, "The light that shines the farthest, shines the brightest at home." This is very true for us as parents as we procreate, train, live as examples and release our children into their own marriages. We continue to mentor, pray for and share in their joys and disappointments. Through thick and thin, in prosperity and adversity we must be there for one another.

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You are an influencer, an agent, a world changer right where you live and work. Be active to help transform your block, your community, town and country. Let the light of your family as leaders shine bright and far as a beacon showing others that "grace is available here" and hope can be realized.

About the Author

Dr. George Meyers and his wife, Janet, have been married since 1956 and have three married children and 13 grandchildren. Their home state is Oregon and they have maintained a home in Jacksonville, Florida, where they work since 1993.

Dr. Meyers has a wealth of international experience as an agricultural and community transformation advisor. He has traveled in 62 countries over the past forty years. He was raised on an Oregon dairy farm and completed Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Animal Science at Oregon State University where he also served on the faculty for five years. His Ph.D. degree is in Business Administration.

His military experience began in 1954 in the Army National Guard. Subsequently he served in the U.S. Army Reserve, attaining the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry. He is a graduate of several military schools including the War College.

He and Janet have successfully formed and managed several small companies, primarily real estate related. Their latest venture is as Independent Business Owners with the Qivana Corporation, an international company of exceptional nutrition products and a weight management system.

Dr. Meyers, his wife and children are investors, business people and active in marketplace ministry in the U.S. Meyers is an advocate and trainer in the work of the Great Commission and leadership development. He is an advisor in international livestock development and an instructor in community transformation. There is an active marketplace and transformation ministry emphasis in North Florida, of which he has an active part.

As an active author, Dr. Meyers has written numerous manuscripts and essays on geopolitical and economic topics as well as leadership and development. He has written books on family finance, managing small companies and God's plan for prosperous living. Recently we published the book, *Granddad's Money Camp*, www.granddadsmoneycamp.com, a mentoring and training guide for training the next generations how to manage money and resources and to build wealth God's way.