

My Inherited Treasure

Intro

A. In his book Can Man Live Without God?, Ravi Zacharius defines true love: "Love and sacrifice go together and in the spending of love members of the family are enriched. That sacrificial love did not come from mindless matter, but from our Creator God Himself. Even our capacity to recognize love comes from God--He is love and He demonstrated that sacrificial love in an ultimate expression--the cross." (p.108-110)

Being raised in a christian family where sacrifice and love go together is what John Trent & Gary Smalley call The Blessing. I received the Blessing in full measure & running over. I didn't deserve it. I was just fortunate enough to receive the Blessing. So I approach this subject of my heritage hesitantly, feeling a little guilty and self-centered for teaching Challenge Groups on my undeserved Blessing. Yet you are the ones who have urged me to share my home life as an encouragement & motivation to you who are parenting your own children.

As you will see, my home life was not grandiose, nor were my parents famous. They were sacrificial, loving, trusting in God & living in obedience to Him. Being raised by them convinced me to commit my life to the Lord as early as I can remember & nothing was ever able to change my commitment.

B. "To give children good instruction and an inconsistent example is beckoning to them with the head to tell them the way to heaven, while we take them by the hand and lead them in the way to hell". Quote from Tillotson in E. Elliott's book The Shaping of a Christian Family.

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3. To give children good instruction and an inconsistent example is looking to them with the head to tell them the way to heaven, while we take them by the hand and lead them in the way to hell. Quote from Ellison in E. Elbert's book

The Shaping of a Christian Family

In reading her book again I found the word which I believe summarizes my home life and gave me the foundation, the confidence, the balanced view of a

Christian life. That word is ORDER --it is the framework--the christian framework which my parents built around our home, their lives, my life--

Their calm control & disciplined orderliness was something I took for granted.

>>they prayed about everything--daily, much time

>>they studied the Word daily & read it to me, teaching me to read through the Bible every year & memorize portions.

>>our home was always open to everyone, but it was not chaotic. My parents saw having missionaries or Africans or Gov't officials stay in our home as a great privilege. Mother's hospitality was unpretentious but warm. Visitors ate what we ate and our home life was kept orderly as they went about their busy schedule.

>>another aspect of my orderly home-life was that I never knew we were poor--money was a non-issue except as it was given to the Lord & His people in need. I only became strongly convinced I was poor when I came to Wheaton & compared my clothes etc. with other students & had to work so many hours a week to keep alive--then I became an avaricious materialist--not at all like my parents!!

As I recount the lives of my Father & Mother it's the Biblical principles I want to emphasize and this is the first one:

I. A Real Christian Home is an Orderly Home

It is enfolded within Christ's life from top to bottom every day all day and night. And that is very reassuring to the children being raised-- a visible sign of an invisible God of order and sovereignty. I felt safe in my home with my parents calmly controlling my environment. But it was not tribal or isolated from the culture--rather it was the 'light'. Christ commanded us to be involved--

>>God keeps open house for the universe. (Chambers)

My dad loved people & he was especially expansive in his hospitality: "Come on in, we'll set another place at the table--plenty of food. Alta, so-and-so is here for

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>> God keeps open house for the universe (Chambers)

My dad loved people & he was especially generous in his hospitality. Come on
 in, we'll get another plate at the table - plenty of food, Alfa, so-and-so, beer for

dinner". We'd set more silverware another plate, and there was always enough.

This would be after Dad offered them a drink he called "The Hoyt sundowner". It was a refreshing combination of fruit juices from our garden---pineapple, passion fruit, loquat, orange & lemon. Dad did this especially for the British gov't officials because they always drank so much alcohol (e.g. cocktails before dinner). So he kidded them by calling ours "The Hoyt sundowner". They loved it!! He had a driving range from our front yard down to his shop & ~~they always drove a few balls~~ before we served dinner. Dad played tennis & golf with the gov't officials at Kakamega & Kisumu whenever he went there. He was good!!

When I talk about the Principle of: Christ Centered Orderliness I'm not talking about legalistic neatness and rules. Though my parents did pray daily, study the Word & we had family devotions... The principle is much deeper and broader than external functions.

My home was a micro-cosm of God's Kingdom combining godliness' and 'contentment' which the Bible says is "great gain". The example of my parents was more profound than I can explain--it was an anchor for me keeping me harbored in Christ even when I was sent around the world to Wheaton College. I was never tempted to leave the Lord & go into the world system, so it must be the reality of God's life was more real and attractive than any life in the world. Their life did not have "things" or "prestige" or "money" or "fame". Rather I look back at my home as my safe haven where my love bank was filled regularly, where life was exciting every day with much activity, & yet strangely calm & secure. Homey things like mom reading aloud to us as we popped corn over the fire or roasted peanuts, Dad playing games with us like chess, puzzles & card games. Long discussions about the mission work & then praying about it. I felt needed & involved-- an integral part of what they were doing & how God was directing them.

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My home was a microcosm of God's Kingdom combining kindness and contentment which the Bible says is "great gain". The example of my parents was more profound than I can explain - it was an anchor for me keeping me grounded in Christ even when I was sent around the world to Wheaton College. I was never tempted to leave the Lord & go into the world system, so it must be the reality of God's life was more real and attractive than any life in the world. Their life did not have things or "pretensions" or "money" or "fame". Rather I look back at my home as my safe haven where my love bank was filled regularly where life was exciting & every day with much activity & yet strangely calm & secure. Homey things like mom reading aloud to us as we popped corn over the fire or roasted peanuts, Dad playing games with us like chess, puzzles & card games. Long discussions about the mission work & then praying about it. I felt needed & involved - an integral part of what they were doing & how God was directing them.

II. Pioneering: a hard life. Surviving through persistence and dependence on God

I need to trace my heritage back to their families and homes and find other principles which were built into my parents.

Both my parents' families rolled into Kansas from Iowa in covered wagons. The time was in the 1880's.

My grandmother Elmina Howard, kept a journal. She was a Quaker minister who with her brother held many revival meetings: "There were many conversions and some consecrations. We had unusual power as the HS moved".--this was written in 1886. ~~In 1889 her ministry life was cut short when she died~~ birth of her 13th child--she was 46. My mother was only 8 years old. At 12, the whole family moved to Oklahoma. Mom's father had remarried and the step-mother was not a loving woman, so my mother was worked very hard. It was difficult pioneer life living in a 2 room shack with sod piled up against the walls outside to protect from the bitterly cold winds during the winter. For heat, the men drove the wagon 20 miles to a stream where they cut down black-jack trees; the younger children collected dried cow-chips (manure) to burn along with the wood.

The older girls taught the younger children & soon started a Christian school for all the children in that area of Oklahoma. It was called Stella Academy for my Aunt who taught, and later became a boarding school for girls. The family had a pump organ and had church service on Sunday for all the families. That's how Mom met Dad & his family.

Mother got her teaching certificate after graduating at 16 & was going to teach at the Academy...but suddenly her father died, and the family broke up because the step-mother left & went back to Iowa. Mom decided to go to Friend's University for a BA. She worked her way through by cleaning & cooking for the President's

Sod house

School

Church

College

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God always

Stella

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College

family--up at 6:00 making breakfast, studying past midnight to keep her straight A

Princ. II average in Languages--Latin, French, and English.

**Mom's
reaction**

Mom was a very lonely young 17 year old, an orphan, no money, no family--

hard hard work. But her journal is full of Scripture quotations & recounting God's care for her, her spiritual insights & the C. E. youth group she was in.

→ II. This is the second principle I see:

Her difficult and sad childhood did not make her a 'victim' or angry with God.

ⓐ She drew closer to the Lord, depending on Him and building an intimate relationship with Him. She was the one who spent the last hours with her father

as he died, and her brother who died of Typhoid fever. Tragedy produced

ⓑ compassion and a deeper walk with her Lord--not anger or alienation. As a

missionary she was able to comfort those who suffered, and she was not damaged

by her loss of both mother and father. That speaks to me volumes about the loving

family she had and her mother's deep faith. Mom said as her mother lay dying she

prayed through all her 13 children asking the Lord to look after them & she felt

confident they would all be saved.

Both my parents had committed Christian families. As I mentioned, they worshipped together & Dad went to the Academy also. But his Dad made him finish the harvest in the fall before he could go to school, & took him out of school for spring planting. Still, he ended up at Friends University like Mom did.

ⓑ However, as he joked, his major was football & he never let his studies interfere with it. He was the star all 4 years--and captain the last 2 years.

I know he had his eye on Mom all through college, but played it cautiously, dating other girls as well as Mom. He always managed to give Mom a football ticket--I'm sure so he could show off for her. Mom told me that whenever he was tackled she'd duck her head & pray for his safety until her friends said he was up unhurt. Football players had very little protection from injuries in those days & he

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Family
Mission

Football

carried the ball a lot as the fullback. But he was a big man & exceptionally strong. I've seen quite a few articles about ^{him} the football field ^{was} named after him when he retired.

III. Marriage: One in Christ, united in ministry, variety of gifts Eph 4, 1 Cor 12, Rom 12

My mother knew Dad was interested in her but she had the foolish idea that she should serve the Lord as a single. A dear old Quaker woman minister took mom to task: "What a foolish idea! How could thee help parents and youth if thee never married nor had the blessed experience of family life? I hope thee will get that foolish idea right out of thy mind at once. Go right ahead and marry Fred Hoyt, he's a fine christian man. Marriage is the best preparation thee could have for the ministry."

Mom loved Dad but he was shy and cautious. Finally, in their senior year as ^{after 4 yrs. of going together} "he said goodnight at the door he gave me a gentle kiss on my cheek--and was gone. I heard him whistling as he strode down the street. There it was, my first kiss, and I felt that kiss until I dropped off to sleep". In the spring of 1904 Dad asked Mom to marry him & she accepted--"he danced around the room like a crazy man saying 'At last! At last! I thought you would never say yes to me'" They were married a year later--she taught for a year, he helped his parents pioneer a new farm in California. After 3 years in Oklahoma and two little boys, they moved to Calif. where Dad ran the farm for his parents.

One in Christ

Consecrated This is the time where I see my mother becoming totally abandoned to Christ. She read Frances Havergal's BIO Kept for the Master's Use & prayed each line of her famous song "Take my life that I may be consecrated Lord to Thee. Take my moments and my days let them flow in endless praise."

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After 11 years of marriage

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One in Christ

Gal 2:20 This is the time when I saw my mother becoming fully abandoned to Christ. She read Frances Havergal's BIO KING for the Master's Use & prayed each line of her famous song "Take my life that I may be consecrated back to Thee. Take my moments and my days let them flow in endless praise!"