

Kingdom Report

Week of 12 January 2018

The Kingdom of God and the New Economy...Part 1

Any organization designed for success in the 20th century will probably fail in the 21st century. God has purposed His Kingdom for exponential growth...the Church of the 20th century needs to redesign for the 21st century of exponential growth.

The famous UN report back in I think 1972 titled "The Limits to Growth" set about to explain why the current world business model that required endless growth cannot happen on a limited planet earth. The resources were just not there to sustain such a consumption led basis for economic growth,

Contrary to this obvious observation has been the surprising developments in the world of technology that has dramatically changed the business and growth paradigm by making more with less, driving new innovations that spurred the "knowledge economy" with the digital revolution and trying by all means possible to disprove the Limits to Growth argument with a statistical fact:

In the last 50 years instead of all the gloomy prognostications of energy, food and material resources drying up...the world seems awash in resources and every metric as I mentioned last week shows a world better off now than 50 years ago.

However some caveats here and reality checks. Let me explain the policy of God's government with respect to mankind, earth and our created universe bounded by time, 92 basic elements, 4 forces, 4 dimensions and current estimates of about 1-3 trillion galaxies...it is this:

1) The prediction and requirement of God and revealed in scripture is for the endless exponential growth of His government throughout this created universe.

This is a staggering concept that is not preached or taught or thought through in our pulpits. I cannot here go into the theology of endless growth as it pertains to our various views of eschatology but I shall just mention the following scriptures for your consideration...

Isaiah 9:6-7 "For unto us a child is born a son is given and the government shall be on his shoulder....and of ***the increase and peace of his government there shall be no end...from henceforth even for ever.***"

Psalms 8:3-6 "***When I consider the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars ...what is man that you are mindful of him...you have made him a little lower than the angels and crowned him with glory and honor and made him to have dominion over the work of your hands and has put all things under his feet.***"

Isaiah 45:18 *"For thus says the Lord that created the heavens, God himself that formed the earth and made it: he has established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited."*

So to sum up those three verses:

- God intends to establish a kingdom on our earth and our universe under the government leadership of His Son Jesus Christ that is destined to grow forever.
- The dominion and growth of this kingdom is given to mankind (not angels) to grow forever by taking dominion over all of God's creation.
- Consider the heavens, the planets and moons of the 1-3 trillion galaxies, they have not been made just for pretty night sky's. They were made to be inhabited...by us and our generations after us...forever!

2) The current world system of government, economy and other social structures are not set up for endless growth....regardless of the efforts of the new tech generation.

There is a big difference between people who act as if there are no limits to growth, or corporations who plan for endless 15% growth per year or governments who pile up debts as if there is infinite growth ahead to pay off all those debts....and a difference between the reality of life on a limited planet.

The current operating paradigm of governments and their economies is self-destructive to endless growth regardless of all the wonderful new tech breakthroughs.

- That current capitalist model based on Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations' and his power of the invisible hand of economic growth posits the idea that maximizing private gain organizes the economy to the benefit of all.
- That money created by debt creation as credit trickles down to the masses to create work and wealth for all by the endless creation credit, debt, consumption, production.
- That centralization and size is the solution to large scale economic problems.
- That technology always created more jobs than what automation and artificial intelligence destroys.
- The solution to inequality is to enforce the equality of results.
- That larger government and more laws are the solution to national problems.

And I can go on and name plenty more foundations of sand to our collapsing world order...but you get the idea.

3) My view? God has raised up some wonderful solutions in the new economy and technology that are going to be very useful as we re-design the Church for God's program of endless growth of His Kingdom.

I admit...the world systems as they now are constituted are not able to carry out God's commandment to mankind of endless growth.

But I am not going to fall into a despair of accusations and defeatism, blame the devil, despair of this world, long for the rapture to take me out of here. I will also not throw up my hands and say it cannot be done, mankind is sinful and corrupt and cannot produce anything useful for God's Kingdom so we need to withdraw from the world.

My view is this:

God is in control of history and governments and technology. It all belongs to Him. He is owner of all by right of creation. You make it, you own it. You own it and you are responsible for it!

So I see the tech explosion as the booster rocket for the Church's agenda of endless growth. We are going to take a ride on their great breakthroughs and own it for the Kingdom of God. Their booster rocket will fall back down to earth...we will achieve escape velocity.

Now in this series that I started here I want to lay out for you the parameters of the vision for the Church of endless growth.

I want to crucially identify new and exciting technologies to aid us. But I also want to analyze and come up with re-organization ideas to build a 21st century new look church geared for exponential growth.

There are critical ideas that we are going to need to master...new ways that the world around us is now changing that is already preparing the world for the new world economy that the Lord is planning for us to introduce. new ideas and technologies that we will need to fulfill Rev. 21&22..."to heal the nations". Or as Jesus put it "sheep nations and goat nations".

The New Renaissance and the New Reformation

Let me just add a bit of context here. The first Reformation of Luther and Calvin after 1517 was preceded by the Renaissance period from about 1450 - 1550. That hundred years is recognized by scholars as the renaissance period when out of the Italian city states there grew out new technologies, new ideas, new art, new financial structures, new science. What it did was to lay the groundwork for the real work of God ...the Reformation and the spreading of the gospel into the world.

So likewise I am saying to you: We are now entering into a new Reformation of the Church, a second Reformation that will re-organize the church into a functioning body capable of getting God's agenda of the endless growth of His Kingdom a reality.

But it must be preceded by a new world of technology, a new world of politics, a collapse of the old systems of the world, the outdated economic systems. The transition is going to be painful but necessary.

Here are some trends of the New Renaissance that we will need to familiarize ourselves with and which have already started which we can use to create a new Church order....I will briefly summarize and later we can go into more application depth:

From Market Capitalism to Collaborative Commons

The theory in market capitalism is that the market is a place everyone comes to sell their products or their labour. People are only really have incentive to work and produce if they could get something for it.

This is the selfish or private gain theory of capitalism - the economy only grows when people have incentive to produce and exchange. The total monetary value of all such exchanges is measured in sales and add up to the national GNP or Gross National Product. Every economy and politician wants to see growing GNP figures every year.

But then there is a new phenomenon...people doing work for now financial reward...which is a bummer for economists, the economy and politicians because that cannot reflect in the yearly GNP growth. The addition of new prisons is a growing GNP, so is destruction of property that needs insurance money to be rebuilt or cars that are in accidents and must be fixed or new weapons of war that are never used....all contribute to a growing GNP that gladdens the hearts of the markets and finance industry and positive government figures.

And then there are growing new forms of economic behavior that cannot be financialized....call it the Collaborative Commons. In feudal times there used to be a village commons, like an area where everyone's sheep will graze or a wooded area that everyone uses to chop wood or a lake, stream or ocean where everyone can catch fish. Those were the people's Commons....until the feudal lords fenced in the commons so that they can graze their own sheep for the industrial production of the wool textile industries.

There used to be the Encyclopedia Britannica which cost \$1350 for a full set and encyclopedia salesmen going door to door selling them. Then came the new world of the internet and Wikipedia. Wikipedia is a new form of collaborative commons....it was entirely made by volunteers who were experts in their fields creating data entries...which as it grew till today is far bigger and more complete and up to date than the old Britannica. And it is free and it was freely made by volunteers.

And more and more people are finding that there is a growing world economy of people who are not motivated by money and cannot contribute to GNP but hare happy to give of their time and expertise to create a collaborative commons.

And so we have the new world commons consisting of Google for free searches and free maps; we have Youtube where anyone can contribute either funny videos of their cat at play or in-depth documentaries or teaching knowledge of science or maths or sermons or an endless amount of a world of experience...for free.; Or free international calls on Skype; we have a free world social network from Facebook etc etc.

The Church of Jesus Christ needs to be a creative part of creating our own collaborative commons. We have people, we have skills, we have work that needs to be done....and we are going to be surprised at how many people will volunteer for nothing

Cooperatives instead of Corporations

I was shocked and surprised at the incredible number and rise of the cooperative movements in the world. Instead of the growth of corporations owned by a few shareholders...the new world developing is the world of cooperatives...where people come together for a community bank to pool their money or a community cooperative to clean up the environment, or a community cooperative to buy in bulk to lower costs...and the new technology is speeding up the rise of cooperatives.

The future is workers forming cooperatives to own the factories they work in. People cooperating to buy together to own together, to produce together.

Access instead of Ownership

The modern age of technology is allowing networks of people to meet each other in cyberspace. This allows for collaboration. It also means that people can gain access to goods instead of owning goods. In your neighborhood, does everyone need to own a lawnmower or specialized tools? No, you can share.

Uber the taxi company is changing the need for car ownership. People want access to transport. Traditionally we buy a car...now we call Uber or Lyft or any of a number of new start-ups. Smart phones make access to transport easy to obtain and safe to pay.

Collaborative Consumption and the Sharing Economy

Years ago at the start of the internet age a revolution occurred in the music industry - it started in the proverbial garage by some youngsters who discovered something about the new internet...peer - to - peer file sharing. I can send you a file of information you can send me a file. They called the new company Napster and it allowed everyone to post on line whatever music files they had and wanted to share. Soon CD sales plummeted as people all over the world shared their favorite music. Now you didn't need to buy a whole record or a CD just to get that one song...someone had it and was willing to share it with you for free.

The list of things now available for free for sharing is growing exponentially.

This is also true of new companies like AirBnb. People with empty guest room willing to share with strangers who are on business or vacation. Cheaper than hotels and more money in the pocket for people with house bonds to pay.

Collaborative Production instead of Creative Destruction

This is a new developing phenomenon. People or consumers are starting to work directly with factories to help design exactly what they want in terms of furniture of shoes or clothes or many other consumer items.

In traditional market capitalism producers go out of business who do not satisfy consumer needs and results in great waste of capital. What Schumpeter the economist called "creative destruction". But writers of books like 'Big Data' show us that

instead of the market place destruction of capital assets producers can now gain access to better information directly from consumers and big data sets as to where the market trends are, instead of wasting capital on guess work.

Direct Democracy instead of Representative Democracy

Citizen participation in government is greatly needed. We developed representative democracy because it was technically impossible for every one to vote on every bill coming up in parliament. So we vote for political parties who supposedly represent us.

But that is old tech. Today every citizen can vote by internet and proper technical vetting on every decision in Parliament. And we can take back control of our future.

Local Network instead of National Hierarchy

The future is local! The church is going to have to learn that. Government needs to learn that. The new tech available now means there are a multitude of things that can now be made in a local economy.

Energy and power can be generated locally. Local factories can easily gain access to national markets. Schooling should be local as well as policing. More and more power needs to be devolved to local communities. The new technology has a myriad number of solutions and advantages for helping to create vibrant local communities.

The church in my future re-organization is also a collection of local assemblies of various denominations who band together to form a "city church" so that they can implement all the wonderful tech solutions for local problems and challenges.

In future blogs we will explore those. And even more new tech like a new finance system and new energy technologies and new city design and new forms of education and many other things that need exploration and discussion.

Here is our take-away this week....

God requires of us endless growth. When Jesus said "I will build my Church..." you better understand that He read those three scriptures I quoted above. He is building a Church for endless growth of His government and administration.

We as a church are not structured and neither are the world economic and political systems structured for endless growth. We have a painful transition ahead of us. The end of the old order...the introduction of the new world order.

I had a new grandson born last year 2018. He will live to 2100 AD. Think of the world in 1918 and the world in 2000 AD. That is what he is facing. I need to lay the foundations for a new world order so that he can make it to 2100 AD. And you need to do the same for your children and grandchildren.

There are incredible challenges ahead for us. It is going to be really tough. But it is time for God's serious people to gather and build a new world order. I will contribute

with some of my ideas as the Lord shows me...I hope they will stimulate and excite you to get serious about our long term future here in South Africa.