

Kingdom Vision Report

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By Orlando Mostert

Covenants and Communities : Growing New Nations

As the idea and long term survival of the nation state is visibly crumbling, God is creating space for His people to grow new nations to fill the earth. Here are some preliminary thoughts in this direction....

I was reading portions of Barbara Tuchman's monumental history book this last week called "*A Distant Mirror: The Calamitous 14th Century*". She gives one of the most interesting and authoritative accounts of that era of the 1300's that we refer to as the "Age of Chivalry", you know, knights in shiny armour rescuing maidens in distress and fighting for the weak and oppressed. Well the reality needless to say was more like knights raping the distressed maidens and stealing from the poor before slaughtering the weak.

But the common people were no less barbarous. She relates how one village in rural France decided for their holiday entertainment to buy a convicted thief from another village so that they can publicly torture the poor fellow to death for an afternoon of merriment and entertainment for the village. Their idea of what today goes for "reality TV".

Several points about this book that caused me pause to think.... Ms. Tuchman's point in calling it "A Distant Mirror..." is the idea that we fool ourselves if we think this thin veneer of "civilization" we live in has cured this new world of ours of barbaric acts. The 14th century was the time of the Great Plague when rampant sickness, disease and death broke the thin bonds of feudal order and turned Europe into a general looting arena in a fight for survival.

Her point being, that which keeps order in our world is what we call a "social compact" of functioning governments and functioning economies. If these bonds of mutual covenants and communities for any reason start to unravel then any nation is just a week of empty store shelves and closed banks away from riots and societal collapse.

The further issue that impressed upon me was this:

The calamitous 14th century that she describes was about exactly 1000 years into Roman Catholic church control of the political and social order of Europe and that includes the vast power of being the dominant wealth power of the continent. What kind of testimony is it to the world that after a 1000 years of church rule a whole continent is engulfed in societal savagery worse than the common man was under the Roman empire....a thousand year regression!

Lessons from the Catholic Experience

I have this concern that there are movements afoot in the evangelical circles that can lead to similar calamitous results as the Catholic experience....and for the same reason. Namely...

There is no proper "discipling" process of training people for God's government.

Winning Nations for Christ?

I place a question mark there because I believe there is a major strategic mistake being made when good intentioned ministries talk about ‘winning nations for Christ’.

I am going to outline for you an alternate approach to this issue which I call...

“Growing New Nations for Christ”

Before outlining this new strategy let me make some preliminary comments:

I along with many others in the evangelical movement are now aware that we better have a long term strategy which is generational in scope.

This is not to negate the promise of Christ’s coming. It means fulfilling His command to “occupy till I return”. And as mentioned there are many astute observers that are seeing the real signs of the times...

A disintegrating social, political, cultural and economic world order means:

- new space is being opened by the Lord for us to meaningfully occupy till He comes.
- We cannot realistically continue to depend on the world as we know it to provide us with the finances, resources, order that our families and churches need to grow and prosper.
- Technological advances have been so dramatic in the last decades that the Lord has indeed given us tools to build a new world order while these same technological breakthroughs are going to seriously disrupt the current political and economic structures.

The serious problems and what I consider to be an unbridgeable problems to the “lets win America or South Africa etc for Christ” or this company or that city or the world of entertainment or banking etc are these....

In any societal structure like lets say a large corporation or government or organization you can be working your normal job somewhere in the hierarchy. And it is a job the Lord gave you and you are a witness for Christ in the workplace and you do your work diligently as unto the Lord...

This I understand is scriptural and pleasing unto the Lord. This is what the Roman soldier who got baptized asked John the Baptist “what should I do?”. And John told him to carry on with his duties but don’t extort money from the people and live within his pay.

But the problem is not for the workers who are diligently doing their jobs. The problem comes as you rise up the corporate or government management levels...at some point you reach the level where you are tasked to do things that are legal but are not morally or ethical by Christian standards.

Every corporation or institution has by definition a purpose. Most businesses especially large public companies are constrained by what a CEO can do by the injunction that we exist to “maximize profits for our shareholders”. If a CEO is confronted by a choice of do I help the poor or do I maximize profits for my shareholders has only one legal option open to him regardless of his personal feelings for the poor.

Government ethical compromises are even more troubling for those who rise up the ranks.

You can place your life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and work a job in the world to His honour and glory. But you cannot re-purpose a public company as new CEO and say this company is now going to devote itself to the furtherance of the Kingdom of God...when its sole purpose is to make profits for its shareholders.

You need to lay new foundations with new vision with other disciples of Christ!

The Critical Need for Discipleship

The critical mistake made by many in their vision of the future Kingdom of God is the idea that Jesus sits in Jerusalem one day and appoints new rulers over America or China or Russia and then has a vast Jerusalem bureaucracy overseeing the nations.

Any misbehaviour is swiftly dealt with by warring angels as sort of spiritual SWAT teams to keep the unruly in line.

This is not how the government of God works.

I am going to show you using the Israel template who the Lord has a naturally spiritual plan and pattern for organically and spiritually growing a nation from one individual and from there step by step into larger communities.

The first absolutely vital principle to understand is that in essence the “Kingdom” of God is actually the extended family of God.

You gain entrance of “citizenship” by being born into it through the new birth.

The governmental structure of the family of God is what we would call a “free enterprise republic”. Meaning that all members of the family have by right of birth the right to participate in family decisions which are governed by the rule of law...God’s law Word by which all creation was created.

That means you can only make decisions based on the reality which God has created.. There is no other reality by which you can live.

The Kingdom of God is therefore a covenant community by which all family members are bound by the bond of family love and are motivated and energized by the supreme law of love.

Because the Kingdom of God is designed to have bonds so strong that the family community ties will last forever, it is vitally important that as each child is added to the family that child must be disciplined into the family law structure.

As the child matures then added responsibilities are given with added rights.

The purpose of this earth starting point for each child of God is so that the basics of Kingdom relationships can be learned in an environment that limits any damage or mistakes we make so that we can correct them, receive forgiveness and re-learn our lessons.

Our first lessons we as we open our eyes to life is that we are placed in a human family so that we can start to learn the reality of family love.

We are then moved on to start our own families so that we can learn the reality of agape self-sacrificing love of a parent for a child.

We then move on to the world of creative work and skills and culture so that we can develop our own unique creative personalities.

Now here is the critical point to my explanation of the eternal government of God and how it functions:

You cannot bring anything into the Kingdom of God that has not been “converted” or repurposed to function according to family laws of God.

Individuals, families, organizations, institutions all must come under the Lordship of Jesus through a process of discipleship so that they operate by God’s laws for His purposes. Any other way will not work because they will not last. Leave them alone, let them fail and then start fresh by being “born again” from God’s incorruptible seed pattern.

Here is an example to grow a nation....

Growing a Nation: The Israel Template

God called Jacob and made him this promise: *“I am God Almighty, be fruitful and multiply for a nation and a multitude of nations will come of thee...”* Gen. 35:11 The nation that came of him was Israel...the multitude (Hebrew word “kaw-hawl” meaning “company or multitude”) of nations to come from him are we the seed of Abraham who are to form those multitude of new nations in the earth for Christ to inherit. The current evangelical obsession with the “nation” of Israel instead of the multitude of nations we are to birth is a theological dead end for the Church. Let’s get on with birthing new nations for Christ.

**Abraham
an individual to**



**Patriarchy
Isaac and extended family**



**Jacob’s Clan
of 70 that entered Egypt.**



**Clans form cities
In the promised land 48 cities
given to Levites to do Levitic
work**



**Tribes
The 12 tribes form regions of
cities**



Tribes form Nations

Within the evangelical church movement we have been good at going into Ur of Chaldees and bringing the light of the gospel to Abram. Or what Abram did when he went to Egypt with Sarah and converted Egyptians into Hebrews (i.e. ‘Hebrew meaning those that cross over...as in crossing from many gods to the One God.)

We even do Patriarchy of extended Christian fellowships that then form a “clan” under a Pastor. And like Jacob/Israel we have learned to turn Hebrews into Israelites.

But our next great move of God is to now possess the land that or territory opening up to us and bring our small church clans together in a region and form the City Church of Pretoria or the City Church of Los Angeles or London.

Every grouping of God’s people that we form into larger communities of covenanted, disciplined believers we extend the family of God and our ability to create and mobilize resources to do greater work and get more things done.

On city level we can do schools, on a Tribal regional level we can do universities. On a city level we can do Levitic ministry of justice, education. Social welfare. On a tribal regional level we can national corporations, regional energy supplies, mining, manufacturing.

On a national level we can do king David and Solomon level infrastructure work, create a Kingdom culture of media and entertainment, banking and currency and international relations with other Kingdom nations.

Next week some “how to explorations of growing nations for Christ.