Five Ways We Can Help Heal Our Broken World

I recently read this little story of Mozart in an old music appreciation book:

"The last ten years of his short life Mozart spent in the great pleasure-loving city of Vienna, in extreme poverty. He had to earn what he could by playing at concerts and giving piano lessons, and could make hardly anything out of what he wrote, because people didn't understand it and wouldn't buy it. He was so poor that sometimes he could not get food, or even coal in winter, and one cold morning he and his wife were found, by a friend who went to call on them, waltzing together to keep warm. And yet, when his publisher said to him, 'Write in a more easy, popular style, or I will not print a note or give you a cent,' he replied: 'Then, my good sir, I have only to resign myself and die of hunger.'

"Now if Mozart could willingly face starvation rather than lower his ideal of what good music should be, and if not only he, but Bach, and Beethoven, and Schubert, and Schumann, and Wagner, and scores of others, could even glory to be poor, and unknown and overworked, for the sake of making music, oughtn't you and I be glad to take some trouble in order to appreciate it?" (The Appreciation of Music by Daniel Mason)

Sometimes I worry that I am placing an ideal before you that causes you to feel inadequate or guilty or even overwhelmed. I am frequently told that what I am teaching is too hard to understand and apply. And I start thinking about how can I make all of this easier for you.

But given what I know, I can’t teach or offer anything less than what has been placed on my heart to teach you.

Actually, none of this is really hard. But it does go against how most of us have been raised to think. To think differently requires filling ourselves up with new thoughts to think; of creating new neural pathways. That is why I offer you so much to think about. Over time, if you persistently feed and nourish the thoughts being planted, you will naturally start looking at learning and life through new eyes and through a new heart. And your actions will follow.

As we learn to sing this new-old song of the heart, I am reminded of the importance of rhythm in music which I talked about in an earlier talk. The measure bars in music maintain the order so that the song can be sung.

As you have gone through Catch the Vision, you may have noticed some references to five measure bars that are in operation—five guiding principles; five things, five lessons that form the framework of our work here. They can be used as measuring tools as you consider ways to share what you are learning with others.

I truly believe that if we can take these five things to heart, we will find ourselves right in the middle of the great healing of our broken world that has been promised; a promise that should fill us with hope. .

Let me explain where these 5 things came from.

A couple of years ago, I was invited to speak at a conference and share what I thought could change the world for good. Immediately 5 things came to my mind and I quickly jotted them down and they provided the framework of my presentation. I had learned them through the same process of learning and creation I teach you—that journey of exploration and discovery. They were the culmination of my years of study, not only of sacred writings and writings about education, but patterns from the lives of the great men and women who have made notable contributions to the world. Their lives provided evidence of the principles in action that I had been learning about.

And then, in the moment they were needed, they just came out of me.  
  
I was curious about the number 5 and perhaps not coincidentally, the number 5 is the number of regrowth and regeneration.

Not long after I got home from that conference, my mom called me and told me about a book she was reading. It was called The Washington Hypothesis by Timothy Ballard. The thing that grabbed her attention was that he framed his writings around a stained glass window found in the chapel where he had grown up going to church in La Canada, California.

It was the same building I went to church growing up and I, too, had spent each Sunday looking at that beautiful stained glass window behind the organ in the chapel and wondering what the symbols meant.

As a side note, I soon discovered Tim graduated from my high school, although much later than me, and I knew his mother. I love making connections.

The day a copy of the book came, I stayed up late reading it as Tim gave his interpretations of the symbols. I finally tried to go to sleep, but my thoughts were restless. I couldn’t quite put my finger on it when the thought very plainly came to me: Look at the window again. All five lessons are there.

And they were! Plain as day. But they were different than Tim’s. Which one of us was right? And the thought immediately came: He was seeing them through the eyes of a man. Men are given charge over governance and order and that’s what he discussed in his book. I was seeing the symbols through the eyes of a woman.

Later, I invited a dear friend, Donna Nielsen, to spend the afternoon with me to tell me what she was reading in the window. She is a scholar on early Christian symbols, and she added to my understanding.

The thing about a symbol is that it has layers of meanings. It is said a single letter of the Hebrew alphabet can offer 70 layers.   
  
What that means is that I can offer this window to you as a way to instantly recall the most vital lessons of what you are learning through the Well-Educated Heart so that we can use them as a framework for our work moving forward, as I just mentioned.

One more side note before moving forward—I contacted Tim’s friend he mentioned in the book because he had posted an image of the stained glass window online and I wanted permission to use it. He taught me more about the window. So far, no one has been able to identify its creator or what he was thinking about as he created it. But I know it was created just after World War II. Later, I learned that many of the beautiful churches and cathedrals in Europe were bombed during the war. Someone in Southern California had the idea that funds could be raised to rebuild those churches in Europe by purchasing the shattered glass of those stained glass windows and using it here to create new ones. That is why there are many stained glass windows in the churches of Southern California built in that era. Was this one of them? I don’t know. But wouldn’t that add another layer of appreciation as we talk of healing a broken world?

You can’t help but notice the central figure of Jesus Christ. In using this, I am excluding no one. He is the most unifying figure on the earth for all men and women of goodwill who desire peace on earth. Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim—all acknowledge and reverence Him as a great teacher and value His example of living a humble life and caring for the poor. He, Himself, was Jewish. Despite denominational differences in religious practices in the Christian world, Christ is still the common central figure of their faith.

Notice the gift He is bringing—it is the gift of light, in particular, spiritual light. Wrapped inside that gift are love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control and JOY. Notice these are the Unseen things of the world—they cannot be tested and measured. But when all the temporal temporary things we see with our eyes crumble into dust, these gifts remain, always and forever. They are Eternal gifts.

But He can only stand at the door and knock. There is no handle on His side. The door must be opened from within. And notice He isn’t standing at the door of a business building or a grand cathedral. He is standing at the door of a home and waits patiently to be allowed in with His gift. This is a personal offering. It appears that it is nighttime, a time of darkness, or why would He be carrying a lighted lantern?

The rest of the symbols on the window provide the clues as to how that door can be opened so that we can receive that gift of Light. Look at how the symbols are arranged along the bottom of the window—they almost look like a smile, don’t they? This is a plan for happiness and joy.

Now. Lesson #1: The stars and the stripes you see on the lamp have become symbols of freedom. Learning in God’s way requires an atmosphere of freedom and choice. The spirit of compulsion is counter to all we are trying to do. “Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” They go hand in hand.

Why does freedom matter?

Do you recall the example I gave of the Escape room? If you have gone to an Escape room, you have felt the thrill of solving puzzles and connecting clues. Imagine if you went to an escape room and they simply gave you a list of tasks to complete. Open the drawer on the dresser and here is the combination to the lock. Now look under the bed and unlock the box. Here is the combination. Everyone will escape, but who cares? And more importantly, who will come back?   
  
I can guarantee there would be no franchise of Escape rooms if they incorporated the methods being used in our classrooms of daily handing our students pre-digested information and tasks to be completed.

It is the thrill of exploration and discovery; of finding answers to our own questions and having those light bulb moments when ideas connect and come together that give the joy to learning and make lifelong learners of us, and most importantly, bear good fruit of that learning.

Like Lincoln suggested: Require a man to produce one bale of hay, and he will produce one bale of hay. Give him a field of hay and tell him he can keep the profit of all he can do, and he will produce ten times more.

There is little or no progress in slavery or compulsion.

Every time a pocket of freedom has opened up in our world, , the poets, artists, scientists, writers, inventors have flocked to it like a moth to the flame. We saw it happen in the Dutch Republic and in the Golden Age of the Saracens and in America.

Yet we somehow don’t let go of the false idea that a child will not perform if we don’t compel him to do so. This is a grave mistake. Our compulsory system of education has not born good fruit. It is time to set it free.

Lesson Number One: We must give our children freedom to learn and room to grow. Freedom to discover is essential for growth and joy.

Lesson #2: Now look at the first of the four symbols that form the smile. It is a dove carrying an olive branch. My friend Donna had taught me that in the early Christian church, everyone knew that the sign of the dove represented the divine feminine; the sacred feminine. White is a symbol of purity. And the olive branch has long represented peace. So when I saw the symbol, I immediately thought of mothers and their vital role in ushering in an era of peace.

“Mother-love works magic on humanity.”

It has been pointed out that “Chess has three parts, opening, middle and end game. The opening is the development of pieces, you’re setting up your strategy. The middle game is the implementation of your strategy. The end game is hopefully where you are seeing the fruition of your strategy and you’re closing the trap. The queen is the most powerful piece on the board and it is conventional chess wisdom that you postpone your queen for as long as you can. The longer you can delay developing your queen the more likely you will have your most powerful piece for the end game.  
“The Lord is the master strategist and knows how to win…

“…the Lord [is] bringing his queens into play in preparation for the end game.”

“Every civilized nation owes much to its women. And the student of history clearly perceives that the advancement of any nation is marked by the progress of its women.”

It has been written: “in proportion as woman is elevated and promoted, will the divine religion of Jesus prevail…I am fully persuaded, that emancipated, enlightened, and enfranchised, she will be equal to the demand. Commissioned by the great Messiah, and clothed in the armor of affection, she will go forth to conquer the world with the sword of the Spirit. The shining hosts of heaven will enlist under her banner of love; and Christ himself will lead the way. The whole world will surrender to her divine command, and before her triumphant march the powers of darkness flee. “

“Woman is God’s appointed agent of morality, the teacher and inspirer of those feelings and sentiments which are termed the virtues of humanity; and the progress of these virtues, and the permanent improvement of our race, depend on the manner in which her mission is treated by man.”

Red is the color of the male and blue of the female. Notice how the red robe on the Christ figure wraps around the blue. This represents the protective role of the man, as he wraps himself around the woman to provide and protect in every way so that she can perform her role. They are as one whole, but with different essential roles—the woman as the primary nurturer, the man as the protector and provider.

At the close of Tocqueville’s work on America, he remarks that, if he were required to point out the cause of the wonderful advance in prosperity and civilization of the American people, he should reply “It was the superior character of their women.”

It is mother-love we are speaking of here. Women do not have to have children of their own to possess it and be of great influence. Much of the writings of the heart educators as well as those who advanced the cause of women’s rights were women who never married or had children.

A great spiritual leader has said: “[Women] have the spiritual power to change the world. “

So Lesson Number Two: We must elevate and support women in their vital role as mothers. You are doing an essential work. The hand that rocks the cradle truly rules the nations. Mother-love plays a vital role in nurturing hearts.

Lesson #3: Now notice the second symbol in the bottom row we are looking at. Here are the keys to unlock the door and let Him in.

In the fourteenth century, a skilled workman who lived near the city of Venice, created an instrument with one of our first keyboards. He was the one who gave it the name “key” board. The name came from the word clavis which means something which gives its owner power to open a closed door. He wrote, “These small bits of wood give me the power to unlock the sound which is in my organ, and so I shall call them keys.”

The Arts—Music, Visual Arts, Poetry and Story—are the keys a mother will use to soften and open the hearts of her children to spiritual light. Hard hearts block the light.

“Every great art is a special language of the human spirit, and he who desires to awaken his artistic [and spiritual] nature will learn to read all the languages . . . Each art is a distinct language, which expresses some aspect of the human soul and reveals some truth which can be apprehended in no other way.”

Happy is the person who is fluent in all of them.

The Arts reach the deepest parts of our souls. All the storms and turbulence and tempests are at the surface of the waters. In the ocean depths, as in the deeps of our souls, it is calm and still and quiet. It is not hard to see why all the Arts are used in healing therapies.

Let’s briefly review each language.

MUSIC:   
God is its author, and not man; he laid

The keynote of all harmonies; he planned

All perfect combinations, and he made

Us so we could hear and understand.”

Music is known as the quickening art.

Confucius taught: “Harmony has the power to draw Heaven downwards to earth. It inspires men to love the good, and to do their duty. If one should desire to know whether a kingdom is well governed, if its morals are good or bad, the quality of its music shall furnish forth the answers.”

VISUAL ARTS:

“It will take years before you come to a full appreciation of art; but when at last you have it, you will be possessed of one of the purest, loftiest and most ennobling pleasures that the civilized world can offer you.”

The gift of fine art is that it opens the inner eye to recognize beauty everywhere in the world. And drawing produces exactness of thought. Once you slow down long enough to draw what you are seeing, mysteries will unfold before you.

POETRY

“O Poet, what power lies in thy magic wand! No sooner dost thou touch us, the dull gray day is aflame with color and sunshine.”

The mission of poetry is to “make glad the hearts of man.” It does not teach—it inspires. “Poetry pierces past the outer husk of things into their inner reality, which it interprets for the soul.”

You may remember Robin Williams performance in Dead Poets Society when he said: “We don’t read and write poetry because it’s cute. We read and write poetry because we are members of the human race. And the human race is filled with passion. And medicine, law, business, engineering, those are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love, these are what we stay alive for.”

STORY

Jesus had just three years of a mortal ministry, of which we have record of only about 35 days. What remains of those 35 days are primarily stories. That should give us a clue of the power of stories in our lives.

“Storytelling is an ageless and beautiful art. When the lights are low and your child is in a quiet, receptive mood, the stories told him will never be forgotten and their influence will follow him the rest of his life.”

Through the arts—Music, Visual Arts, Poetry and Story—our “souls are like a well-tuned harp, when [we] are touched by the spirit of inspiration there is a kindred chord in [our] bosoms, they vibrate to the touch, and [we] are filled with sacred melody.

Nature is God’s classroom where He immerses us in all the languages of the heart and teaches us directly.

As Elizabeth Barrett Browning penned: “Earth’s crammed with heaven. And every common bush afire with God. But only he who sees takes off his shoes. The rest sit around and pluck blackberries.”

“If the trees and flowers, the clouds and the wind, all tell wonderful stories to the child he has sources of happiness of which no power can deprive him.”

The Arts are how we cultivate beautiful Hearts. And Beautiful Hearts will build a Beautiful World.

Lesson #3: The Arts are the keys to soften and open hearts.

Lesson #4:

If you now look at the third symbol along the bottom, you see two hands clasped. If you look closely, one of the hands has lace around the sleeve. This calls to mind that creation requires the joining of male and female. They must work in unison. We have talked about the woman preparing hearts. But hearts must also learn to be obedient and conform themselves to true principles and laws.

We instinctively connect the female to the heart with its feelings and desires and the male to the Mind with its facts, rules and reasoning. The men have traditionally been the Rulers of the world.

But notice--The Heart forms before the Brain within the womb and emotions develop before reasoning outside the womb. The heart can continue to beat when brain waves cease, but when the heart stops beating, life is over.

This symbol reminds us that all learning needs to start in the heart, the home of our desires. And Love is the foundation of all true learning.

This is the first part of the Pattern for Learning and Creation: Heart first, then Mind.

For example, in school:

What good are word decoding skills if a child has no desire to read?

What good is it if a child can construct a sentence perfectly if he has nothing he wants to write about?

We cannot keep pushing academic skills and pouring facts into our kids they don’t care about and expect a good educational harvest. Although the Swiss educator Pestalozzi taught, “It is for a long time the business of the Heart before it is the business of the mind,” he understood both Heart and Mind are necessary and work hand in hand.

As do Faith and Reason, Art and Science, Zeal and Knowledge, Desire and Obedience. Liberty and Law. There cannot be one without the other.

The third part of the pattern is the result of what happens when the two parts work in unison—the result is creation, an act of divinity. Creation is the fruit of our learning. For example, Michelangelo’s heart was filled with beautiful ideas and he developed the skills to express them, but the genius of his work was found In the inspiration that came to him from a Higher Power in the very act of creation, which he freely acknowledged. “My unassisted heart is barren clay.”

Throughout history, we can see the pendulum swinging back and forth between the two sides. . The Golden Ages of History have been when Heart and Mind have worked in unison. And then amazing things have been created.

Once you recognize this pattern, you’ll find it everywhere.

You’ll find it in nature, where the plant requires a strong root system and nutrient rich soil to nourish the plant, which mothers are providing through the Arts. Without it, the plant will wither in the sun and will never grow the flower, which is where the seeds to multiply are found.

The pattern is in music. The melody is the part we hum. The rhythm or beat maintains order and keeps moving the music along, just like our laws and principles. But the deepest feelings are stirred by the harmonies. If the beat drowns out the melody, it shuts down feeling. Plus you cannot harmonize a beat. Likewise, strong, repetitive academic beat will kill a love of learning. And the powers of creation will dry up. .

The pattern is in history. First came Ancient Greece with its love of the Arts and Beauty. Then Ancient Rome with its focus on Law and then Jesus came and taught of a Spiritual Kingdom.

In fact He taught the pattern:  
If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will give you the Spirit of Truth.

To keep the commandments without first loving was to be as the Pharisees who He described as whited sepulchres filled with dead men’s bones.. But to love without doing what He said was to be as the hypocrites. To neglect either heart or mind is to lose the gift of the spirit.

I believe that applies to us in our learning.

We are commanded to Ask, Seek and Knock, which is the Pattern for Learning. We ask because there is something we desire to know about. God waits for us to Ask. He knows the folly of providing an answer to a question we haven’t yet asked. Likewise, we need to allow our children the freedom to ask their own questions because it is the beginning of learning. We then seek and study to find our answer, and then we Knock and the spirit opens the door to our understanding, and more importantly, gives us the right-use of our knowledge and understanding. That is right-use-ness; righteousness. It is the fruit of our learning.

One more example. The Old and New Testaments open with Stories of families for the heart. Then come doctrines, rules and commandments. The last books are rich in meaning and can only be fully understood with divine help.

Like I said, as you become aware of the Pattern, you’ll start seeing it everywhere.

LESSON #4: Creation requires Heart and Mind acting in unison. But creation always start in the Heart with vision and desire.

LESSON #5.

The fourth symbol across the bottom has a long history and has been given many interpretations—and many misinterpretations. FDR added it to the back of the dollar bill, where it sits atop an unfinished pyramid or tower of bricks.

Which calls to mind the story of the Tower of Babel, also made of bricks and also unfinished. Babylon grew up around the tower and Babylon has come to be synonymous with the world or Man’s ways of thinking and doing things, which is not God’s way at all. Babylon is destined to fall.

What are some of Man’s ways of thinking? Let me review some of the things you’ve heard me talk about before. Remember the artist’s renditions of the tower of Babel? The purpose is external. It is designed so that one can climb the path that circles round and round the outside of the tower with the intention that one will eventually be able to climb all the way to heaven by his own efforts.

Although artists have depicted the tower with windows, when I look inside, it is dark and empty. It’s not designed to go inside. The tower climber’s progress is visible to everyone. Tower climbers can compare their progress with other climbers. Those higher up on the tower feel confident and self-assured; they are in control of their destiny, while those lower down often feel overwhelmed and discouraged. There are yet so many stairs to climb. And sadly, some of those highest on the tower look down upon those who are far behind. So focused are they on their own climb, they offer no helping hand to those further down the tower.

Although the tower was never finished, I picture that had it been completed, it would have eventually come to a point at the very top where there is room for only one person to stand. I wonder how many other people the climber has to push out of the way to claim the spot. And although the tower climber will see how much higher the heavens are above him, he will be powerless to take one step higher. He will have reached his limit; the peak of his performance.

This represents the ways of the world. And don’t we see it all around us? The world is concerned with all outward things—the size of our bank account; how many trophies we have earned; how many letters behind our name. We obsess over the size and shape of our body, how beautiful we are, what kind of clothes we wear. We are conditioned to climb to the top of the class, climb to the top of the corporate ladder. We must aim to be #1—to be the winning team, to be the fastest runner, the highest scorer. But--There is only one winner. The rest are losers. It’s an endless push to the top. Yet, for those who make it, they often look around and say, “Is that all there is?” And they look for another tower to climb. After all, it's lonely at the top.

Looking from the ground up, the heights they reach seem dazzling and magnificent. Look what man has done! But from heaven’s point of view, Man’s achievements are as a speck of dust in this great universe of ours.

We very much use a tower model in education. From the moment a child starts to climb, he is constantly compared with other climbers. We test and measure to see how high up the tower he has climbed. We talk about levels all the time. We congratulate ourselves when our children score on a higher level than the average child and panic when they fall below level. But we are only testing those outward things that can be tested and measured—which completely excludes the inward condition of the heart.

For most students in this system of learning, as they walk across the stage and pick up their diploma, rather than a commencement to a lifetime of learning, it’s a conclusion. Studies show that the majority of graduates will never pick up another book, and if they do, it certainly won’t be a book of history or poetry or great literature. They’ve reached the peak of learning.

Even God and heaven is a destination point, not unlike The Amazing Race where Phil waits at the end while the contenders fight and scramble and push and strive and overcome challenges, trying to be faster and smarter and outwitting other contestants, all the while knowing that despite their best efforts, they may arrive and find out they’ve been eliminated.

Now look at the background of the stained glass window. Notice its green tint—again, the sign of regeneration and regrowth. Perhaps the artist didn’t have it in mind, but all over, I am reading—Flip the tower over. Flip the tower over. Flip the tower over.

When we flip the tower over, we are now looking at a symbol representing the opposite of the world. I call it a temple or a holy place way of living. It represents letting God prevail in our lives. As Paul taught, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?”

Look what happens—we are now balancing on a single point, but it is strong enough to hold up all eternity. That rock upon which we build is Jesus Christ. He is the anchor to my soul. He is not a destination point; He is my traveling companion. He is in and through all things.

I cannot expect Him to dwell in my dirty bathroom. I must prepare a place where He can come—a place fit for a King. Much of our work centers on this very thing.

No expense is spared in the building of our holy buildings. The finest materials are gathered from around the world with great effort and attention placed to the tiniest of details which are all designed to lift our thoughts heavenward. My inward temple requires nothing less. Every thought, every deed, every picture that hangs on the wall of my temple must be pure and worthy of Him.

Notice how the direction of the symbol changes. Whereas with the tower, the eye travels out to in. When the symbol is flipped over, the eye travels inside, out. God works from the inside out. Everything He does is about gathering, increasing, expanding, layering, multiplying, lifting—there is no end or limit. There is no peak. His joy is not that He made it to the top; His joy is that He is lifting myriads of His children to enjoy all He enjoys.

We cannot create a vision board for ourselves because He tells us: “Eye hath not seen, neither hath ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man what God hath in store for those who love Him.”

How can we begin to set goals or define our mission to take us to this place our hearts cannot even conceive of? Temple thinking requires that we let go and reach up and trust in Him with all our hearts and lean not unto our own understanding. Far from us perfecting ourselves in a program of self-improvement, He personally leads us through a customized hero’s journey where we are transformed in ways we could never have planned out for ourselves. And in the process, He makes us better fit to serve our fellow men. His efforts are always multiplied.

In temple thinking, it is the servant, not the Master who is greatest of all. A temple mindset cares more about lifting his neighbor than working on a program of self-improvement. . In fact, the only way to climb to higher grounds is to bring someone with you. And look! There isn’t one winner and the rest, losers. There is room for everyone at the top! It will expand as wide as all eternity. Because there is no top. The word eternal means there is no end.

What a different world will be ours if we can manage to flip this tower over. Mothers are the primary ones with the spiritual strength and divine gifts to do it and who have access to hearts where the only true change can take place.

Others have tried; we must succeed. We must put an end to our consumer mindset and become creators and producers, always with the intention in our heart of how many other people can we bless instead of how can I make myself richer.

The difference between the wheat and the tare is that, at the harvest, the wheat is laden with grain for the purpose of feeding others.

It’s not surprising that this figure of the tower is on the back of our dollar bill for our world has been built on a foundation of gold. Every day, we’re warned that foundation is in serious trouble and is threatening to come crashing down around us.

We may feel helpless, but the solution was buried in an ancient tale of the Niebelungenlied. Do you remember it?

In the Rhine River lived three beautiful maidens—the Rhine daughters. Carelessly, one day, they lost the gold that had been entrusted to them by their father. The knew whoever molded the gold into a ring would have all power upon the earth, save love. The hideous little creature, Alberich the Niebelung, who seized it, laughed wickedly, “What do I care for love if I have all the gold I want?” Under his cruel power, the people cried out, “That wretched Alberich, with his ring of gold has made us all slaves! With it he drives us down into the earth to get more gold. This curse of gold has filled our world with despair.

The gold ring passed from one owner to another, causing misery to all who possessed it until it came into the hands of the beautiful and noble Brunhilde—notice, a woman—who courageously returned it to the rightful owners, the Rhine-daughters. At long last, gold no longer held power over the hearts of men. Hurry, worry, falsehood, greed and envy vanished from the earth. Anxiety disappeared from the brows of the tired fathers. A new happiness came into the eyes of the mothers. A greater power than gold had come to rule the world, and that power was Love.”

“The rule now commonly acted upon is that business must be cared for, and men must care for themselves. The principle of action, in the end, must be that men must be cared for, and business must be subservient to this great work.”

Then will come the day Isaiah saw: “When a man will be more precious than fine gold.”

We need to raise children who will not dream of the mansion they can build for themselves, but will find the joy that comes from using talents and skills to make beautiful homes possible for many others. In fact, the greater the inside riches grow, the less attractive the outer riches become.

Of all the ways Jesus blessed others, money was not one of them.

And this is the fifth Lesson—The direction of growth is inward-out. Heaven works from the inside out. It will be out of the treasures of the heart that a more beautiful world will be created.

“The Lord works from the inside out. The world works from the outside in. The world would take people out of the slums. Christ would take the slums out of people, and then they would take themselves out of the slums. The world would mold men by changing their environment. Christ changes men, who then change their environment. The world would shape human behavior, but Christ can change human nature.”

Now notice: If you superimpose the two images — the symbol of the tower and the symbol of the temple, look at what it creates—it is the Star of David; the symbol of Israel. It is man reaching up towards heaven but more importantly, heaven reaching down. The message God has long tried to deliver through Israel is to Let God prevail in our lives and in our world.

So how are we going to accomplish this Herculean feat of flipping the tower over? Well, we’ve seen that mothers play a key role through using the Arts to open and soften the hearts of their children. It involves Desire AND obedience. Now let’s look for more clues.

Notice the roses at Jesus’ feet. Roses have long been a symbol of beauty. Like the fairy tale, beauty has gone to sleep in our world and the world, in many ways, has become gray and lifeless. Sleeping Beauty was named Briar Rose, which these roses call to mind. She was also called the Princess Aurora. Aurora was the Greek goddess of Dawn—a new day awakening. In the Disney version, the Prince picks up his sword of truth and shield of righteousness to fight the evil Maleficent. But it wasn’t the killing of evil that awoke the kingdom. The kingdom awoke only when Beauty received True Love’s first kiss.

A new world will dawn as we awaken our sense of and love for Beauty.

“Beauty is a quality of divinity, and to live much with the beautiful is to live close to the divine. Every beauty in any form . . . refines and elevates character.”

“A rosebud blooms from the pressure outward of an inner fulness.” And so can our world.

“Wisdom is needed for the governance of the world, but beauty is needed for its existence. In arid deserts there is no life. Birds do not sing in the dark of night. ..No faith can live that is not beautiful.”   
  
Now notice that if the four symbols across the bottom of the stained glass form a smile, the two round circles form the eyes and remind us that if the eye be single to the glory of God, the whole body shall be filled with Light. The scriptures are a symbol of His voice and instruction to us. They are the lamp that light our feet.

The capacity to see Beauty is tied into purity of heart. Blessed are the pure in Heart for they shall see God, not only in the life to come, but in the here and now. They will not only see Him in the scriptures, they will see him in the flowers and the trees and the stars, in inspired works of poetry, literature, art and music, the pages of history and in the chapters of their lives.

The pure in heart will see God has been speaking to all His children through all the ages. And the voice has been the same—Lift up your heart and be glad.

“When the multitudes cease to flow into the sanctuary to bathe themselves in God’s divine ether, to wash the grime from their soul’s garments, to sharpen the dulled instrument of the spirit, that moment the bloom and beauty will begin to pass from our arts, our literature, our music, our laws, and the very springs of civilization will dry up.”

It is our job to replenish the springs where our children can ‘bathe themselves in God’s divine ether’; to immerse them in Living Water.

In so doing, we give them new eyes to see, ears to hear, hearts to feel all the Unseen things of the world. It is like being born again into a heavenly kingdom, a kingdom within, where moth and rust cannot destroy..

“There is something in all of us that loves the Beautiful. Wrought into the heart of a beautiful thing is the spirit of Truth itself. The more we love beauty, the more beautiful we are.”

“Where you tend a rose,

A thistle cannot grow”

“Fortunate is the person who has been educated to the perception of beauty; he possesses a heritage of which no reverses can rob him. Yet it is a heritage possible to all who will take the trouble to begin early in life to cultivate the finer qualities of the soul, the eye and the heart.”

The Mother’s University has been organized to teach mothers how to do this, drawing from the writings of the heart educators of the early 20th century, whose words I have abundantly and liberally woven into the Catch the Vision introductory course. . Women are gathering into Mothers of Influence groups to support and strengthen each other in this work.

We have been given all we need to accomplish the task, with the help of the Lord.

There is an ancient Iroquois prophecy that outlines the way of the Great Peace. It was a great plan for social order that centered its strength around the family fire. It taught of the essential inner balance of male and female within the self and in all relationships; that it was always in the heart of a thing that its spirit can be found. It taught the Creator’s deeds from the heart are always righteous and Sacred.

The Iroquois confederacy planted an evergreen tree as an expression of their commitment to the Great Peace. It represented the Tree of Life, sending its roots deep into the earth to draw its nourishment and strength from the Mother, as did the people. The Mother was wrapped in a robe of purity and wisdom. The Council of Grandmothers assured no structure of tyranny or dictatorship could arise. The branches reached high to the heavens, to the Father.

They taught the family fire will be the strength when the times of change and calamity overcame them. Standing together, they were told they would have the strength to withstand the storms that would come. Standing separately, without order, they would easily fall prey to the powers of darkness.

This peace which is born of the heart, and the people who live through the heart, shall be forever.

In the prophecy it said in a day when the ways of the heart were forgotten, and the Great Peace broken, some would manage to run away to the hilly country towards the West where their wounds would begin to slowly heal and a people would seek once more a peaceful way of life and begin to return to divine order seeking harmony. The people living close to the Earth would learn to become strong in their hearts. And as they began to re-establish the principles of the Great Peace among themselves, people would come to them from all over from all nations to learn from them and they would once again walk the way of the Great Peace.

That which is created shall be born of the heart.

Frederick Douglass was right: “It is easier to grow strong children than repair broken men.”

We can grow strong children by remembering these 5 things:

1. Freedom to discover is essential for growth and joy.
2. Mother-love plays a vital role in nurturing hearts.
3. The Arts are the keys to soften and open hearts.
4. Creation requires Heart and Mind acting in unison.
5. The direction of growth is inward-out.

While politicians and intellectuals scramble to figure out how to fix the complex problems facing our world, Jesus’ ways have always been small and simple. Tend to the kingdom within. And all will be well. He tells us to not worry about numbers. You’ve baked enough bread to know that a little leaven raises an entire loaf, and Jesus likened the kingdom of God to the leaven.

What we are attempting to do may seem impossible. But in the strength of the Lord, we can do all things.

A mother brought her young son to watch the great Polish pianist, Paderewski, perform. Their seats were near the front of the concert hall. While waiting for the performance to begin, the mother visited with friends and didn’t notice her boy slip away.

The lights were dimmed and a single spotlight shined on the grand piano on the middle of the stage. It was only then the audience noticed a little boy, seated at the piano, trying to pick out the melody of Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.

Before the mother could rush onstage, Paderewski appeared and walked over to the piano. He quietly whispered in the boy’s ear, “Don’t quit. Keep playing.” The Master then reached down with his left hand and began playing the bass part of the song. Soon his right arm reached around the other side, encircling the child, and added a running obbligato. The crowd was mesmerized by what they saw and heard—Master and Novice—performing together as one.

“In our lives, unpolished though we may be, it is the Master who surrounds us and whispers in our ear, time and time again, “Don’t quit. Keep playing.” And as we do, He augments and supplements until a work of amazing beauty is created. He is right there with all of us, telling us over and over, “Keep playing.”

The heavens are watching. Angels stand by ready to assist.

So keep playing!

I have a feeling we are about to be part of something extraordinary.