



Minding the Gap - June 2015

A Faith and Work Publication

Welcome to Minding the Gap, a monthly thought about faith in the workplace!

“Creativity – ‘I’m Not Dead Yet!’ “

Do you recognize the above phrase? If you're a Monty Python fan, it is from one of the opening scenes of the movie: *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975). In this scene, there are two men pushing a cart through a medieval village during the black plague and shouting, "Bring out the dead!". Well, one of the people being brought out to be put on the cart, calls out "I'm not dead yet!". Whereupon one of the men hammers him with a club and exclaims "You're dead now". Ouch!...so much for British humor.

As weak as the connection may be, this scene brought to mind that a significant aspect of our created being is the drive to live and in the process to be resourceful or creative about it - such as shouting out "I'm not dead yet!" And, we find strong support for creativity where in Genesis 1:28 it says: "*God blessed them and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'*" We are made in the Creator's image - one element of that being the ability to create. As the Creator concluded and delighted in his creation (Gen. 1:31), He risked and entrusted us with the responsibility and challenge of continuing the process of creation. Creation of earth as accounted in Genesis is just the beginning and we are given the mandate to continue that process through being fruitful and multiplying all the resources which God has initiated.

All this is said to encourage us in our work responsibilities when we seem to be at a '**dead end**'. Whether it be with a relationship, a design issue, a marketing challenge or whatever

else; to realize that within us is the innate or created ability to step back, pause and look at the issue from a different perspective. By the very account in Genesis, we know we have been entrusted with the challenge of creating further goodness in creation. It is a trust and risk by the Creator, but one we're up for. As one author says: "the world is created by a benevolent God in such a manner that invites a risk-taking attitude and rewards it in the long term."

Of critical importance in that effort is the idea of "pausing". It has been demonstrated in countless instances that this practice leads to refreshment of spirit, mind and body, which stimulates creative thinking or problem solving. In my years with the Reell Corporation, we identified this as the "sleep-on-it" practice. In some of our most desperate issues or lean times, this practice brought new insight and resolution that had been missing only a few hours or a day before.

Blessings and grace as you walk through this day and the days to come!

- Jim Grubs

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