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Another Story from the Daycare Laboratory, 1995

SERVICE

JOY IN THE WORM BIN

AT OUR SCHOOL AGE DAY CARE CENTER, WE SUPPORT GREEN BY RECYCLING GLASS, PLASTIC AND PAPER AND JUST RECENTLY HAVE FORGED INTO THE REALMS OF WORM COMPOSTING WHERE WORMS EAT GARBAGE, TURNING DIRT INTO RICH COMPOST GETTING RID OF LEFT OVERS AT THE SAME TIME.

THE WORM EXPERIENCE AT DAY CARE WAS SUCH FUN, THAT I KNEW I WOULD BE SHARING IT WITH OTHERS, BUT LITTLE DID I KNOW THAT I WOULD BE COMPELLED TO SHARE IT IN FRONT OF THIS AUGUST BODY OF FELLOW BELIEVERS.

AT FIRST IT WAS JUST GOING TO ADD SOME LIGHTNESS AND HUMOR, BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY, FUNNY METAPHORS BECAME PRINCIPLES WHICH COULD EASILY BE APPLIED TO OUR TOPIC OF SERVICE.

ONE DAY LAST WEEK AT MY DAY CARE CENTER, A GROUP OF KINDERGARTNERS AND I OPENED UP OUR NEW WORM COMPOSTING ENVIRONMENT AND DISCOVERED TO OUR HORROR THAT NOT ONLY WAS IT TOO DRY, BUT THAT THE FOOD FROM THE SNACKS HAD NOT BEEN STIRRED IN. SINCE I HAD NOT GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS THAT IT WAS TO BE STIRRED IN THE TEACHERS HAD PUT THE SNACK LEFTOVERS ON TOP OF THE DIRT AND IT JUST SAT THERE FERMENTING.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, SOMETHING NEEDED TO BE DONE IMMEDIATELY. I GAVE THE KIDS SOME SPOONS TO STIR THE STUFF ON TOP IN, BUT IT TURNED OUT THAT THE SPOONS WERE NOT LONG ENOUGH TO DO MUCH GOOD.

THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING FOR US TO DO - REACH IN WITH THE BARE HANDS. NONE OF THEM WANTED TO DO THIS AS THEY ALL HELD THEIR NOSES AND LOOKED AT ME, SO I ROLLED UP MY SLEEVES.

AS WE BEGAN THIS PROCESS IT LOOKED AS IF WE MAY HAVE LOST OUR WHOLE WORM POPULATIN, FOR WE BEGAN TO PULL COMATOSE BODIES OUT ONE BY ONE. BUT WE SAID TO EACH OTHER, "IF THE DIRT WAS STIRRED AND WETTED, THEN THE LITTLE CRITTERS MIGHT JUST SOME ALIVE. WE CAN SAVE OUR WORMS."

THERE WAS A GREAT STIR OF ENERGY AS THESE KIDS SAW WHAT TO THEM WAS A CRTICAL SITUATION WHERE THEY COULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE; THEY GOT SOME SQUIRT BOTTLES AND WE GOT INTO A RHYTHM AS THE ENERGY INTENSIFIED TO SAVE OUR WORMS. I WOULD REACH DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE BIN, BRINGING UP THE DRIER DIRT AND ALONG WITH IT A FEW LISTLESS WORMS IN MY HANDS. I WOULD HOLD THEM IN MY HANDS WHILE THE KIDS AIMED THEIR SQUIRT BOTTLES OF WATER AT THE UNMOVING WORM BODIES TRYING TO REVIVE THEM.

THE JOY THAT WAS PRESENT IN THAT 4 ' X 4' SPACE WHEN A COMOTOSE WORM WOULD STIR AFTER BEING SQUIRTED WAS MEASURABLE. I DOUBT THAT THIS HAD MUCH OF THE ATTENTION OF THE SUPREME PERSONALITIES OF THE UNIVERSE, BUT FOR THESE FEW MINUTES, THESE KIDS WERE GIVING IT EVERYTHING THEY HAD TO REVIVE THESE WORMS. THEY WERE ACTUALLY

FIGHTING OVER WHO GOT TO SAVE THE WORMS! THERE WAS SUCH JOY! AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, ONE RATHER SERIOUS KINDERGARTEN BOY SAID, WITH A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT FACE, "THAT SMELLS LIKE CHAMPAGNE!" AND OF COURSE THE FERMENTING FRUIT DID HAVE A TOUCH OF SUCH AN AROMA.

SO WHAT DO WORMS HAVE TO DO WITH SERVICE? AFTER DEEP MEDITATION IN THE GROUND OF MY BEING, I CAME UP WITH NO LESS THAN 12 PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE FROM THIS EXPERIENCE.

I DOUBT THAT THIS FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY TALKED ABOUT ON PAGE 1452: "ALL GOOD WORKS OF TRUE SERVICE COME FROM THE SUPREME", BUT I ALSO THINK THAT OUR CELESTIAL FRIENDS HAVE A WONDERFUL PLAYFUL SENSE OF HUMOR AND HAVE KEEN "JOY SENSORS".

ON PAGE 555 I FOUND AN INVIGORATING PHRASE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE MINISTERING RESERVES CAN DO FOR ASCENDING MORTALS: THEY CAN KINDLE "A DIVINE FIRE OF THE WILL-TO-SERVICE".

THIS PHRASE REALLY CAUGHT MY SOUL'S EYE, BECAUSE THE ENERGY TO SAVE THE WORMS BECAME A METAPHOR FOR THIS "DIVINE FIRE OF THE WILL-TO-SERVICE".

WE CAN FEEL THIS "DIVINE FIRE OF THE WILL-TO-SERVICE" IN OUR VERY SOULS. THE ADJUSTERS ARE DISPATCHED FOR MORTAL SERVICE FROM DIVINGTON CARRYING THE EMBERS OF THIS "DIVINE FIRE OF THE- WILL-TO- SERVICE."

FOR A FEW MOMENTS ALLOW ME TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES OF SERVICE WHICH I DUG UP FROM THE WORM BIN EXPERIENCE, AND I THINK THAT ALL OF THEM APPLY TO US AS INDIVIDUAL, AND MOST ARE APPLICABLE TO US AS A GROUP OF RELIGIONISTS DEDICATED TO THIS 5TH EPOCHAL REVELATION:

1. STAY GROUNDED

2. DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU TO DO - SERVE WHERE YOU ARE FIRST, THEN LOOK OFF TO THE MORE EXCITING HEIGHTS. IT IS ENTICING TO LOOK FOR SERVICE IN MORE GLORIOUS PLACES THAN YOUR OWN BACK YARD.

3. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES AND GET DIRTY. TOO MANY OF US ARE BECOMING ARM CHAIR SERVERS - FROM OUR HIGH PHILOSOPHICAL PLACES - THINKING THAT WE CAN SERVE WITH JUST OUR THOUGHTS, OUR REVELATION, WHILE THE MOTHER TERESAS OF THE WORLD ARE DOING THE WORK WITH THEIR HANDS AND THEIR SWEAT. OUR FAMILIES AND THE WORLD NEEDS OUR HANDS AS WELL AS OUR REVELATION. PLUS GETTING DIRTY IS HUMBLING, AND IT KEEPS US GROUNDED IN THE REALITY OF THIS PLANET. THERE IS A LOT OF DIRT ON OUR WORLD.

4. EVERY LITTLE THING COUNTS - LOOK HOW MANY TIMES JESUS WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD - LITTLE THINGS - HE SMILED ON THOSE WHOM HE PASSED BY. I REMEMBER DRIVING ALONG A STREET RATHER SLOWLY, CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC. A YOUNG WOMAN AND MAN WERE WALKING ALONG OBVIOUSLY VERY ENGAGED WITH EACH OTHER. SHE SAW ME LOOKING AT HER AND I

SMILED. I FELT AN ENERGY AND A REINFORCEMENT GO INTO HER.

5. INVOLVE THOSE AROUND YOU TO PARTICIPATE WITH YOU IN SERVING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT ALONE. GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE THE SERVICE EXHILARATION, THE JOY, THE PERFECTION.

6. WATER THE DRY GROUND WITH THE TRUE WATER OF LIFE AND LOVE, WHEREVER YOU GO.

7. KNOW AND UNDERSTAND WHY YOU ARE SERVING - TO MEET YOUR OWN NEEDS? TO LOOK GOOD? FOR OTHERS TO SEE? BECAUSE WE ARE SUPPOSED TO? TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD ABOUT THE URANTIA BOOK, OR TO LIVE THE TRUTHS OF IT DAY BY DAY.

8. BE DILIGENT AND CHECK CONDITIONS AROUND YOU OFTEN TO SEE IF THERE IS SOMETHING NEEDING TO BE DONE.

9. DO NOT TAKE YOURSELF TOO SERIOUSLY AS YOU SERVE.

10. KNOW WHEN TO STOP SERVING. SOME KIDS GOT CAUGHT UP IN THE PROCESS OF SQUIRTING THE WORMS AND ALMOST DROWNED THEM AFTER REVIVING THEM.

11. KEEP THE PRIORITY OF RELATIONSHIP ALWAYS IN MIND. WAS THE REALLY IMPORTANT THING IN THE WORM BIN THE WORMS? NO, IT WAS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE KIDS AND BETWEEN THE KIDS AND ME THAT WAS THE ESSENTIAL THING HAPPENING THERE. THIS IS WHERE PERHAPS THE SUPREME WAS INTERFACING. IS THE IMPORTANT THING TO BANG PEOPLE OVER THE HEAD WITH THE BOOK TO THE DETRIMENT OF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THEM?

12. DO IT JOYFULLY, AND WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR. AT ONE POINT I AND THE KIDS WERE ALMOST ROLLING ON THE FLOOR WITH LAUGHTER. AND THE ONES WHO WERE STANDING AT THE SIDELINES WATCHING HAD UNPLUGGED THEIR NOSES AND MOVED CLOSER.

13. RESPECT DIVERSITY IN SERVICE. SOME OF THE KIDS DID NOT WANT TO COME WITHIN 8 FEET OF THE WORM BIN, BUT THEY WATCHED AND WERE CAUGHT UP IN THE ENTHUSIASM. 15 KIDS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN DOING THE SAME THING ANYWAY.

14. KEEP PERSPECTIVE. WE COULD STAY AT THE WORM BIN STIRRING AND SQUIRTING JUST SO LONG, AND THEN THE REST OF LIFE CALLS US ON TO SCHOOL. ON PG. 526 - WORK, PROGRESS PLAY, SERVICE, STUDY, RELAXATION.

15. ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT IS PERSONALLY GOOD FOR US TO ENGAGE IN SERVICE. 1530 - "SEEK PERFECTION THROUGH SERVICE." WE GET CLOSER TO GOD THROUGH WORSHIP AND SERVICE. SERVICE KINDLES OUR SOUL GROWTH.

16. BE SPONTANEOUS, ALLOWING THE " DIVINE FIRE OF THE WILL- TO-SERVICE." TO BURN BRIGHTLY, WITHOUT FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES OR OF WHAT OTHERS WILL THINK.