

EAST CENTRAL REGION, ACPE

INDIANA, KENTUCKY, MICHIGAN, OHIO & PITTSBURGH, PA.

www.ecr-acpe.org

FRANKLY SPEAKING
APRIL 2002

The Cap Woodling Affair

Back in the 1940's, before the end of The War, my father was selling the well-worn Chevy sedan that had been our family transportation during the lean war years. "Cap" Woodling, a young man from the congregation came to buy it. He was a big man, course in his language and impulsive in his behavior. He decided to buy it and paid for it in cash—perhaps it was a hundred dollars. I remember being impressed at the amount of money he handed to Dad. In the course of looking the car over and discussing the sale, someone shut the door with the lock set and the keys inside. My Dad began looking for some means of getting into the car, but we all turned at the sound of breaking glass. Cap had punched his fist through the vent window in the driver's door and reached in to retrieve the keys. My father, who was a patient, thoughtful, methodical man, was dumbfounded. As I recall, we children, raised by such a father, were impressed with Cap's direct approach to the problem. I think Dad was beginning to wonder how long this fragile old sedan was likely to last in the possession of such an impulsive and heavy-handed young man. Now my father avoided profanity, but he had his own special vocabulary to express strong feelings: Irresponsible roaming about the neighborhood by young people was "ramming around;" Making a mess was "muxing;" People of whose methods or behavior he disapproved were "rascals" or "scalawags." I think that day, Cap made it on to Dad's "rascal" list, if not all the way to "scalawag".

I had occasion to recall this story a few days ago when I discovered a problem with my truck. Almost two years ago now, I bought a truck. I was the second owner, and I familiarized myself with the main things I felt I needed to know. Among these was to check to see that there was a spare tire and a jack to change tires if the need arose. I looked up under the bed of the truck just in front of the rear bumper to see that the spare tire was not only there, but was in good condition. I didn't give it another thought to tire changing till last week. I decided to find out if my truck was wired for trailer lights, so I lay down in the driveway under my truck and looked up under the back bumper. I found out what I needed to know, but I also discovered something else. Hanging down through one of the lug holes in the spare tire was a device I had not noticed before. "What is that, I wondered for a second?" The answer was pretty obvious—it was a lock to prevent the spare tire from being stolen. It was a simple arrangement; a rod that was fastened to the frame above the tire, and threaded down through one of the holes, with a larger block of metal that was drilled out so that it slid up over the rod. It had a keyhole in it. When the key was turned, the metal block locked tightly to the rod, securing the tire against theft. All this was great, but I did not have the key.

I was happy that I had not needed that spare tire up to this point, but frustrated that I would need to find a way to remove the lock before I did find myself with a flat tire and no way to get the spare out of it's storage. I remembered that the security department at the hospital had a big set of bolt cutters that they used from time to time when someone forgot the combination or lost the key to a padlock. I parked in front of their office and borrowed the bolt cutters. Tyrone, one of the maintenance men who is a friend of mine saw me getting ready to do battle with the lock and offered to help me. He was bigger and stronger than me, and was more suitably dressed for getting under the truck, so I gave him the bolt cutter. He worked under the truck for a few minutes and proclaimed the mission impossible. There was not enough room to get the cutter around the shaft because of the shape of the wheel and the position of the lock. I went home pondering what I might do about this dilemma.

That night in bed, I was in that half-awake mode, when this problem drifted into my mind—and a strange thing happened: I flashed back to the moment when the used car salesman was turning over my new truck to me, and in my mind I heard him saying, “Here is a little key that came with the truck, but I don’t know what it is for, if anything.” Bingo! That must be the key. Now, if only I can find it. Well, I did find the key in the bottom of the glove box, and it was, indeed the key to the spare tire lock. Immediately I thought how fortunate for me that Tyrone could not get the bolt-cutters around that lock shaft. My impulsive actions to free the spare tire would, if successful, have unnecessarily destroyed the lock.

No doubt it is clear to you now, as it is to me why I remembered the “Cap Woodling Affair.” This whole incident is characteristic of the quiet, persistent functioning of the unconscious. It was in that almost trance-like state of near awakening that I remembered the key; and it was shortly after remembering the key that my clever unconscious rummaged around in those dusty old files from my childhood and came up with a story that had the same moral: “just be patient!” I witnessed that lesson as a child by experiencing my father’s response to Cap’s impulsive solution, but here I am almost sixty years later, needing to be reminded again.

In between my childhood and the present I ran across an old book, Methods of Private Religious Devotion by Henry Nelson Weiman. It is, as far as I know, one of the earliest explorations by a western thinker of the value of eastern mysticism as a discipline of spiritual meditation. Among the many helpful things he says is this (and I quote from memory, so it may not be precisely accurate): “There is a method of learning that has been responsible for most high art and scientific progress. *The method consists of exposing one’s self to a problematical situation and waiting.*” He went on to say that prior to this one must gather all the facts and information available, and do what can be done with the powers of intellect and reason to solve it. But when these powers fail, as fail they must, we can turn to the fainter powers of surmise and intuition. He warns that the waiting must be free of struggle. We cannot “force the solution,” but in a quiet time of reflection those “fainter powers” as Weiman calls them are often capable of assembling the bits and pieces of the solution that are stored in files that may be as much as sixty years old (in my case) and present us with an answer.

Patience is a virtue that may be in mortal danger in the twenty-first century. Things happen fast. We need to be decisive. We are trying desperately to stay one step ahead of our clever machines or our competition. Who has time to throw all the elements of a problem into a pot and let them simmer till they are soup? I guess I would like to be one who keeps faith with this more reflective mode for learning and growth. I do not think that I am alone. As we plunge forward at breakneck speed into the future, we still keep casting up images like Yoda, in Star Wars; and Gandalf, in The Lord of the Rings; Albus Dumbledore, in Harry Potter; Images of wizards and wise teachers who know the value of patience and reflection. Among these, in my opinion, should be counted ACPE Supervisors. Not everything you need to teach your students is covered in the “Objectives” and “Outcomes” in the Standard of ACPE. Some of it is locked in your mind and some of it in the students’. The art of being patient, of “trusting the process,” as we put it, is the path to learning, especially in the realm of integration. Sometimes doing nothing is not doing nothing, it is doing something important.

Collegially,

Frank

CPE DAY - JULY 11, 2002

Following on the success of last year's CPE Day, plans are being made for CPE Day 2002. This year's CPE Day will be held on Thursday, July 11, 2002, in Richmond, Indiana at Bethany and Earlham seminaries.

The two previous CPE Days were planned and conducted by a committee of two - Barbara Bullock and Pat Shelden Ward. The program grew to 115 attendants last year. Thankfully, an additional four members of our region have agreed to serve this year as CPE Day committee members - Jim Mitchell, Donald Harris, Elizabeth Price and Rhonda Gillespie. We can use a few more people who would be willing to help on the day of the event, particularly with registration and lunches. Please contact me at SheldenP@chi.osu.edu (or telephone 614-722-5250) if you are willing to join the committee this year.

Those of you who attended previous CPE Days will remember that we have had a key speaker to begin our day and then several different workshops in the morning and afternoon. Please think of suggestions or offers for our speaker and workshop leaders. You will be hearing from us in the near future.

Make sure your summer plans include bringing all supervisors, SITs, and your summer students to this year's CPE Day!

Announcements:

- A summary of the evaluations of the September 2001 conference, which was held in Pittsburgh, is included in the newsletter for your information. Our fall conference will be held at the Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN. September 20-21, 2002.

Calendar of Events

- April 24-27, 2002, ACPE Conference, Hilton Hotel, Pittsburgh, PA.
- September 20-21, 2002 Pastoral Care Associates Meeting, Brown County Inn, Nashville, IN.

Information for the May Newsletter must be received by April 25, 2002. Send to: Regional Business Office, 7672 Cottonwood Lane, Dexter, MI. 48130 Telephone: 1/800-336-5099; or E-mail lykbyl@aol.com

Supervisory Education in the Region

Supervisory Candidates

Ruth Alpers
Carrie Culleen
Jim Mitchell
Jon Paulus
Tim Waits
Pat Sheldon-Ward
Yoshiya Togami

Officers of the Region

Frank Ciampa, Director
Mary Altenbaumer, Certification
Kim Barnett, Accreditation
Alan Bowman, Board of Reps
Urias Beverly, Nominations
Billie Beverly, Secretary
Larry Brandon, Budget & Investment
Carl Buxo, REM & Professional Ethics
Carol Green, Board of Reps
Ted Hodge, Chair
Robert Leas, History
Jeannette Lucas, Standards
BJ Myers-Bradley, Clinical Members
Kathy Nininger, Chair Elect
Larry Smith, Long Range Planning
Henry Uy, Research
(Does not reflect all the changes made at the Feb Conference)

ECR/ACPE
7672 Cottonwood Lane
Dexter, MI. 48130

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair
Friday AM				
Worship	6	6	2	
Plenary Session	9	3	1	
Dr. Ronald E. Peters			2	
"Historical and Theological Perspectives on Urban Ministry in Pittsburgh"				
Panel Discussion	7	5	3	
Dr. James McLemore, Pastor				
Mother to Son Parenting/Mentoring Program				
Dr. Johnnie Monroe, Pastor				
A Step After School Tutoring/Mentoring Program				
Ms. Arlette T. Dolphin, Esquire, Exec Director, Macedonia Family and Community and Enrichment Center				
Urban Plunge	5	3	1	
Mother to Son Parenting/Mentoring	1	1	1	
A Step After School Tutoring/Mentoring	1	1		
Macedonia Family and Community	3	2		
Accreditation Workshop			1	
John Peterson				
The Gathering After Urban Plunge		1	2	
Moderated by Dr. Peters				
Banquet & Entertainment	6	3	4	
Saturday AM				
Worship	2	6	5	
National Issues Panel	1	7	6	
Business Meeting	1	7	6	
Comments:				
1. General				
-This has been different than past conferences but I thought it was excellent.				
2. Friday Worship				
-Very good to give a voice to the pain following Sept. 11.				
- Not well planned.				
-It was good to have an informal worship service to share our grief, support each other and reaffirm our faith after September 11.				
-Helpful to share concerns and prayers after September 11.				
-Solid, nondenominational without seeking just to be different.				
-Good to share with God and fellow-man.				
3. Plenary session				
-Outstanding speaker - very provocative, should have had more time to speak.				
-Dr. Peters was well organized and thought provoking. He was an excellent speaker with useful content.				
-Very well organized and presented.				
-I left with new understanding of "Urban" and a Biblical vision for the "city" of God.				
-He was personal and gave a good overview of his work.				

Comments:
-He was creative in imagination/visioning and had his theory well grounded in personal experience and research.
4. Panel discussion
-They did a good job of presenting.
-More like a lecture than discussion.
-It was good to hear some creative ways faith groups are ministering to people's needs and working together.
-The competence and vision of these community leaders was a delight.
-Great programs in each setting.
-These are persons with vision, experience, and high motivation for addressing community needs creatively and courageously.
-Seemed it wasn't a discussion, more of describing their ministries.
5. Site Visits
Grace - did not get to witness the program in action - no kids present.
FACE-Not to be redundant, but they did a great job of presenting an interesting program.
FACE-A well conceived wholistic approach. It was good to meet with several staff and hear about their vision, challenges and expertise.
FACE-Knowledgeable - great program. Hospitality was wonderful. Articulate director.
-Mother-to-Son - It was good to see the actual setting in which ministry happens.
-Mother-to-Son - The pastor has an outstanding gift/ability to select/facilitate other gifted persons for ideas and leadership.
-Good to get out and see.
-The field trip was the best part of the whole conference!
6. Gathering after Urban Plunge
-I waited a while, a few of us spoke briefly, but this really didn't happen- which was good. I was ready for some down time!
-Did this happen?!
-Didn't really come off because of groups returning at various times.
-Disappointed that it did not happen.
-Too short and/or not done.
7. Banquet/Entertainment
-Too expensive, too much noise, food was not that good.
-Music was awfully loud but good. Food was average;
good cultural experience.
-This was really a lot of fun.
-It was fun to eat at a Jazz Club, listen to music, and get a "feel" for Pittsburgh at this level.
-OK - I didn't like the long wait and extremely loud music - it hurt my ears.
-The event was not to be missed. Food was good, not excellent but atmosphere, music was excellent.
-Would have preferred more information about entertainment so I could have stayed for all evening.
-Music too loud; too long of a wait to eat - food very good; establishment very good.
-Loud.

Comments:
8. Saturday Worship
-Not well planned.
-It is good to join and share with like minded people.
9. National Issues Panel
-This isn't fun, but important.
-Difficult to grasp for newcomer.
-Good to be kept up to date on national issues. Would have liked more time for discussion. Standards Committee was not represented.
-Good to know the issues and the different approaches.
10. Business Meeting
-Rather boring for newcomer.
-We were ourselves, which is always a mixed blessing!
-Seems that some national issues could have been combined with our business meeting. We have a strong region!
-Sensitivity for desires of people to get on the road - quickly done.
-Succinct - to the point, Done Early!

