

February 1, 2006

Gleanings

by Gerald R. Chester, Ph.D.

The Thrill of a Miracle



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During college, Bryan loved media production classes and envisioned owning his own business. Following graduation, the reality of starting a company was daunting. His chosen field of business was capital intensive and highly competitive, so he abandoned his dream and went to work for his father who owned a technology consulting company. To introduce him to this business, Bryan was given different job assignments, but none of them captured his heart.

After a few years of frustration, he attended the Strategic Life Alignment Seminar. The seminar challenged Bryan to believe that God created him for a purpose and that his responsibility before God was to discover and fulfill that purpose. Bryan's vision and passion to have a media production company were rekindled. He launched his company after several months of research and meetings with advisors. The business was thinly capitalized, as is typical of most new companies. Bryan and his wife, then new parents, made many personal sacrifices. They sold their home and moved in with relatives. Bryan worked a night job for a season. Every available dollar was invested in the business—buying the necessary assets and building the business's reputation.

The week before Christmas 2005, the business's primary computer, a top-of-the-line Apple machine, failed. After extensive but fruitless troubleshooting, Bryan posted a message on the Internet seeking help. Numerous responses were received and all communicated the same message. Despite being only eighteen months old, the machine was not repairable, at least not economically. To buy a replacement machine would cost several thousand dollars, which he didn't have. Without this machine or one equivalent to it, Bryan was out of business.

During the course of the trauma of the day, Bryan spoke to his wife about the problem and the serious implications for the business. He called her again on the way home. She shared that she and their four-year-old son had been praying all day about Daddy's work. Bryan was deeply moved that his family was bearing his burden with him. The idea of his little son praying for his business would have been inconceivable to him just a few years before.

After the conversation with his wife, Bryan began to pray. He didn't know if the situation was a sign to shut down or not. He prayed that if it was God's will for him to continue the business that God would provide a solution. If there was a solution, he had no idea what it might look like.

Bryan's prayer that night was critical for him. It totally removed all the fears and stress that he had experienced that day. This may have been the first time he honestly gave something totally to God and quit trying to fix it himself.

The next day Bryan received an unexpected e-mail from an Apple engineer who read his message on the electronic bulletin board. The engineer asked a few questions. Momentarily hope returned to Bryan. After due consideration, however, the engineer's assessment was the same as the others'—the machine was not economically repairable. Bryan's heart sank again; the situation appeared hopeless.

But for some reason the engineer, whom Bryan had never met, took an interest in Bryan's predicament. The engineer told Bryan that because of the age of the machine there were no parts readily available to engineers at Apple. Then amazingly, the engineer offered to send Bryan a new Apple computer on long-term loan—in other words, for free! Not only was it free, but the machine was far superior to Bryan's.

Stunned, Bryan could hardly believe his ears. What would motivate this engineer, whom he had never met, to extend this magnanimous offer? Deep inside, Bryan knew the answer—God had answered his prayer and the prayer of his family. Instead of shutting the business down, God was upgrading the business and He did it without money. He did it by moving the heart of a stranger to help His servant Bryan.

The touch from God was tantamount to a "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in a little, now it is promotion time!" Bryan was promoted, although for a while it didn't look like a promotion, which is all too typical of how God works. But in the end, Bryan experienced the thrill of a miracle touch from an unshakable, unstopable, undefeatable, and unpredictable God!

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Strategic Life Alignment Seminar - Friday, February 17th

Business Transformation Seminar: The Power of Being Strategic - Friday, April 7th