

A PERSONAL WORD FOR YOU from Mack McCarter

“Revealing The Veiled Reality Of Caring”

That nineteenth century sage of an Englishman, John Ruskin, once observed, “The greatest thing a human soul ever does in this world is to *see* something and tell what he saw in a plain way. Hundreds of people,” said Ruskin, “can talk, for one who can think! But *thousands* can think, for one who can *see*. **To see clearly is poetry, prophesy, and religion all in one.**”

Ruskin was pondering the majesty of the *mind’s eye* and its wondrous capacity to perceive reality beyond mere mortal eyesight. It is developing *new eyes for invisibles* as another 19th/20th century seer, the Quaker theologian, Rufus Jones has put it. But however eloquently expressed, an extraordinary gift has graced the human race. It is the gift of imagining a reality and then mobilizing an activity to reveal the existence of that which has been imagined.

All creativity is predicated on that gift. Piano keys sit mute until imagined musical notes work their way from the realm of the *mind’s eye* to the practiced fingers of the pianist. A plot of land when *seen* by a farmer becomes a field of corn standing as high as an elephant’s eye when all of the applied methods of modern agriculture play together. Whether building skyscrapers or growing character, humans can *see* what could be and can work to make it reality. It is a wondrous gift.

Think of it. To *see* something which is not there and so to apply oneself to the vision that it *becomes real* is a gift of God. If we had but this one gift then the grand adventure called *LIFE* would be stupendously abundant. But there is a matching gift. Imagine that. And I propose to say that this gift is just as great.

It is one thing to *see* something not there and to dedicate the faculties of our being to the purpose of calling that which is *seen* into our world of concrete reality. **But there is the equally astounding truth of being able to see something that was there all of the time but had heretofore eluded our keenest perception.** Both of these truths comprise the delight which we call “*discovery*.” And I have just discovered something that has been there all along. I am sure it is not a new discovery to you. But it is to me. And this new discovery of a pervasive Presence has changed my whole outlook. And because I now *see* what has been there all along, *I see everything differently!*

(Years ago, I began to pray, “O God help me to see as You see.” I prayed that prayer because I did not want to go through this life and miss reality! I wanted to *see* the real and therefore really live. The greatest tragedy of life, I believe, is to live a trivial existence under mountains of triteness. Great ideas, compelling causes, and the preciousness of every person help us to escape the trap of triviality. And this week I *saw* something!!)

I saw the existence of the reality of caring people. I know that sounds singularly simple. But don’t leave me now. Look with me.

Look at the true reality of Shreveport/Bossier. Look at the true reality of every American city. Here is what I see. In a community of approximately 300,000 I see at least 299,000 persons who want to *help* someone and maybe about 1,000 who want to *hurt* someone. (And when I look at it, that 1000 seems to be an inflated figure!!) Think of it. The true reality of our community and all others is that we are surrounded by caring people, completely surrounded. If we were able to see reality, that is precisely what we would see. But this reality of the existence of the overwhelming abundance of caring people is veiled from our ordinary eyesight in our ordinary everyday.

But let a tornado strike, or an earthquake hit, or have a flat tire, or experience distress in any number of ways and see the under-existence of caring people surface in teeming numbers. Disaster unveils the reality of caring on a massive scale. It was there all of the time, but we could not grasp its whopping dimensions. (I realize this is not the only reality, there is the dark side of each of us, but caring acts predominate – if we could see all of them each day.)

I can *see* the reality of thousands and thousands of caring people surrounding me everyday in our community. And I plan to dedicate my life to a great calling. ***I want to make this reality visible to every single soul.***

Scientists tell me that there is a large spectrum of a reality which we call “light.” *But we can only see a narrow sliver of that spectrum.* And because we can only see a narrow spectrum of “visible” light it does not mean that the reality of ultraviolet light and x-rays do not exist. So with sound, we hear only a

slight portion of all of sound, but blow a “soundless” dog whistle and watch them react to the reality of sounds which we cannot hear.

In a declining culture, we begin to react to a false reality. We begin to believe that we are outnumbered by people who want to hurt people. So we act according to our perceptions and we begin to insulate ourselves thus isolating ourselves and therefore ensuring the process of destruction.

But for every person who wants to hurt people, there are 300 who want to help people. That is reality. Now the key is to unveil this hidden reality for all to *see*. And if we can, imagine our reaction to this world of caring just discovered. Joy! Hope!

Already, 8000 people have signed *I Care* cards. They have told of one caring act. If we printed all of their responses in the newspaper, you would be flabbergasted that so many caring acts are going on around you daily. ***But we have only started!! The unveiling has begun. The real is being made visible.***

You care don't you? Now trust that others do, too! Thousands and thousands of others care about each other. Let it sink in. What a discovery!! So come join with us in the great unveiling of Caring!!