

## Creativity

By Martie du Plessis

On thinking about creativity- the ultimate creator of creativity and talent is the Creator Himself. He has chosen the prime of His creation to be His people and He has not made one of us the same. Although we are all created in His image - therefore we are all talented - not all of us show the same creativity. "You created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well" (Psalm 139:13-14). Even IN our creativity we are distinctive as God predestined us to be.

Larry Burkett and Rick Osborne in their book "Your child wonderfully made", say this so beautifully, "God pre-designed you and each of your children. He was not surprised by your child's conception. His or her birth did not throw God's plan off track. To the genetic combination created by you and your spouse God added your child's spirit, created by His image. That spirit, designed by God, matched the genetic mix perfectly, so your baby was created to fit perfectly into your family and into the space and time into which he or she was born. With the spirit that God added came all the details of who that person would be and what his or her purpose- God's plan- would be for him or for her. That person was given an identity, a life, natural talents, personality and everything else that makes a unique individual." God's Spirit ultimately makes us very unique.

Through lack of understanding and the sinful nature of man, we as humans try to box creativity and at times try to organise or manage the creative passage in people. This first ceremony of a creative characteristic is demonstrated in a home where families live together. Parents recognise the individuality in their new baby just after birth. If they understand it, they will nurture it. "Parents often begin to help their children build who they are and who they are going to be without knowing about God's blueprint for their lives, without knowing how to read those blueprints, or without understanding what God's building process is and how it works." Rick Osborne

If a child is very different from the parents' own terminologies of behaviour they might want to rearrange the giftedness in this child. So it happens that endless relational fights start at home, due to incompatible behaviour and conclusions. The deepest hunger of the human heart is to be understood. This frustration in incompatibility extends to the next level which is schooling, where many individuals need to be managed under one roof so the ending is satisfactory. Only very creative facilitators can pursue creativity in people and channel it to fruitful outcomes or expression. The lack of directing a creative person during the schooling or educational years can result in wrong job placement and in a frustrated adult who labours his or her whole life as a dissatisfied, unfulfilled and restless person. Then as this person meets with God, even in the pursuit to be resourceful in the church and in Kingdom, this person feels lonely and misunderstood.

I hope that this article will encourage parents, teachers and caregivers to be intentional in defining the creativity in their children and not to rest until they have established the passion in each child. Children watch twenty-one hours of television on average per week, no wonder that parents do not know what their children love to do. They provide the greatest exterminator of any possible creativity by allowing so many hours of meaningless viewing.

If we want to be successful in this area, we must focus on what people can do, not on what they can't do. This natural giftedness is what we call creativity. It is the process of having original ideas that have value. There must be a period for children to be busy with creative activities. Creativity needs to be recognised and then nurtured. Maturity occurs when the personal resources and giftedness in a person has been developed and is then used in community. Ultimately we have received so that we can give out; this makes us mature people in the world. Often years go by where parents and teachers overlook the unexploited potential in a child until

somebody comes along and says, "I can see your potential". My life has been forever changed by this kind of person - a parent, a teacher, a friend or a mentor - who deliberately focused on my unique creativity and my giftedness to others. My life is currently occupied with helping parents to SEE their children in the way God created them.

My suggestion to parents is to channel the giftedness and creativity in their children before the worldly realm gets hold of it. Unfortunately it is true that anything less than an intentional commitment to the important results in an unintentional commitment to the unimportant. I had to make an intentional effort to make sure that all the special creative areas in my daughter got directed - her gift with horses, art, music, people and her beauty. I used gifted adults who had a desire to duplicate themselves in others and who were thoughtful about how gifts get nurtured. Sometimes, those in the world around us are more excited about our children than we are, even deliberately exploiting each gift for their use. We are told in Proverbs 22: 6: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it".

Creativity is imaginative inspiration, inventiveness, originality, productivity and talent. For believers truly to be the salt of the earth, we need to use our creativity in all scopes of life. We need to be placed in a habitation where we can bring the most to those around us.....being faithful to ourselves to be truthful. This placement takes place first and foremost in the family.

These natural talents, which are genetic in a degree, often run in a family. We see different talents like musical talents, mathematical skills or intellectual capacities being linked to God's Spirit but also linked with our personality to make us a whole person. God chooses what to put in each of our vessels from a whole reservoir. He gives each of us an extraordinary amount of creativity so that we can bless our families, our communities and the world at large. These avenues of creativity should be developed and can then perhaps become a career. Some talents do not lead to a career but can still support a person in his career, for example, a gift to persuade can help the salesperson. May it never be said that we were unfaithful with the wonderful, unique, surprising and beautiful creativity God has given us and our children.

John Elredge says: "Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive, and go do that, because what the world needs is people who have come alive." The creativity in us and in our children needs to come alive in order to bring about change of any kind.

Dynamis is a ministry to support and inform families and home educators. The goal is to serve and equip parents to make the most of their learning experiences by focussing on the uniqueness of their children.

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