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SWK 676

Prof. Furness

## JOURNAL AND REFLECTIONS

Week of 1/30/20

“Now I become myself. It’s taken time, many years and places .I have been dissolved and shaken ,Worn other people’s faces....what a long time it can take to become the person one has always been” p.9 [ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]. As I reflect on my life, the journey has been at times joyful, painful, on top of the hill and searching for life meaning in the valley. Sometimes I wonder and remember the many years of getting high in Battery Park, but now raising my education level to a higher plateau. I’m reminded of the scripture Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” and Romans 8:30 “And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified...” Today I can say that I’m called to do the will of GOD and yes it took me a long time to realize the calling. “ I mean the idea that vocation or calling, comes from a voice external to ourselves, a voice of moral demand that asks us to become someone we are not yet-someone different, someone better ,someone just beyond our reach” p.10 [ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]. Someone said I’m not the person I used to be, and God is not finished with me yet.

“The other is on the exciting, emerging (or, as the chapter authors attest, reemerging) environmental activism that social workers are now practicing –a true meeting of “micro” and “macro”p.7 [ CITATION Ste14 \l 1033 ]. The president claims that the environmental concerns of today are all a hoax, however, in the 1950’s and 60’s the Brookhaven Lab (nuclear waste) contaminated the water base in the land that I grew up in Long Island.

Week of 2/6/20

“Finally , Native American , African American , Asian American and Latino activists have not shied away from embracing the spiritual traditions of their ancestors as integral to our work, helping the rest of us learn that progressive reform devoid of spiritual meaning can be very hollow indeed, p18 [ CITATION Ste14 \l 1033 ]. I had a client at my internship program in rehab states that he doesn’t believe in the God stuff and that all church goers are hypocrites. He was upset because the group was about to recite the Serenity Prayer, and it started with God. He wanted to leave the program because it felt that the program was trying to shove God down his throat. I perceived that his problems were not with God, but it was with the Church. Many people have given up on spirituality when actually they have a problem with religion. The group helped the client understand that AA Serenity Prayer and AA meetings is not a religion but is a spiritual program. As a social work, I’m aware that social work is built on the foundation of spirituality.

“We do not find our callings by conforming ourselves to some abstract moral code” p.15 [ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]. At this point in the book, I must disagree with this statement. Firstly, we have the NASW code of ethics, which we should conform too. Secondly, the scripture is clear “Romans 12:1-2, ... present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God...do not be conformed to his world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind”. Moral codes like thou shall not killing, stealing or cheating, and remembering to be honest and fair.

Week of 2-13-20

**Reflective Question**-What is the level-one assessment of the issue your organizing campaign or agency is working under in this period in history? What is it for a clinical practitioner? How has it changed from 20 years ago? P.37 [ CITATION Ste14 \l 1033 ]. My internship placement is at a detox/rehab, it’s a 28-day program. There has been a shift in the level-one assessment going back to the late 1980’s and 1990’s. The Harlem community was dealing with the “crack epidemic” and the political and economic calculus that developed. “Who is deserving of state intervention-both regulatory (to protect the community from harm) and redistributive (to help lift up those deserving of that lift) p.44 [ CITATION Ste14 \l 1033 ]. In the 1990’s the brown community called Harlem, infested with crime due to the crack and heroin epidemic. Substance users considered criminals, few able to go to treatment, most when to lock-up Bruce/ jail. Substance abuse treatment at time one could stay in treatment for two years, today long-term treatment is considered nine months. Today the Heroin users get treatment at Kingsboro Addiction Ctr, in the past the grandfather of that user would have gotten a jail sentence.

Reflective Questions- “What is the definition of community that your campaign or agency works from? What is the strength in that definition? Is there a potential limitation? P. 57 [ CITATION Ste14 \l 1033 ]. See p.56

The clay presses back on the potter’s hands, telling her what it can and cannot do- and if she fails to listen, the outcome will be both frail and ungainly” p.16[ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]. I’ve received many lumps on this hard head, refusing to let God have his way with this piece of clay. He broke this piece of clay over and over again. Jeremiah 18: 2-6 “the word which came to Jeremiah from the lord, saying. Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so, he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it”. Thank God (the potter), he made he over and over again.

Week of 2-20-20

“Faking it”, “The human self also has a nature, limits as well as potentials. If you seek vocation without understanding the material you are working with, what you build with your life will be ungainly and may well put livers in peril, your own and some of those around you. “Faking it” in the service of high values is no virtue and has nothing to do with vocation.pg 16[ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]”. Reflecting on my journey in recovery, I think Jesus for the concept of “Fake it to you make it”. The Bible records in 2 Corinthians 5:7, for we walk by faith, not by sight. I had to believe what the program of recovery was telling me, I had to act on what they were teaching in order to recover. I had to fake it, to get to where I am today. Many years ago, my grandmother prophesied that I would become a preacher just like my father. However, I tried to escape just like Jonah and the whale called Phoenix House taught me the meaning of fake it to you make it.

Week of 2-27-20

“Shadowy parts of our lives”. “But I want to tell that truth for another reason as well: many young people today journey in the dark, as the young always have, and we elder do them a disservice when we withhold the shadowy parts of our lives” pg. 18[ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]”. Reflecting on the past and present church goers, you would think that most have been holy and righteous all of they life. We know this is not true, however, you will not hear it from them. I had a Bishop in my church organization tell me to stop talking about my past because the same people will use it against me. I did not take his advice; I thank God for my past and no one can hurt me more than I hurt myself. If you want to hold on to my

stinking garbage, I will think you. I believe that you need to tell your story, the good and the bad. Your dark past, just might bring light to someone present.

Week of 3-5-20

“Never succeed as a scholar”. “The truth is that I fled because I was afraid- afraid that I could never succeed as a scholar, afraid that I could never measure up to the university’s standards for research and publication. A scholar is committed to building on knowledge that others have gathered, correcting it, confirming it enlarging it. pg. 26[ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]”. When I made a decision to change my life, I enrolled into Phoenix House. One of the strengths of the program is that they trained successful candidates to become a counselor. Jesus had revealed to me that he needed me to pull others out of the fire, becoming a substance use counselor seemed to be a good choice. However, when I mention this to my counselor, he reminded me of my problems with reading and writing stated that I needed to be proficient in both to become a counselor. He stated that while in treatment, I needed to set realistic goals, both short and long-term. Still today I struggle with reading and writing, but Jesus reminds me that I can do all things through Jesus Christ that strengthens me. Today I still have some fear when reading aloud, but I’m getting better. In the future I would love to teach and write a book on my wonderful life journey. After the MSW, next the PHD, yes, I will succeed with Jesus helping me.

Week of 3-12-20

“Hell-bent on keeping us in our place” “It is important to distinguish between two kinds of limitations: those that come with selfhood and those that are imposed by people or political forces hell- bent on keeping us in our place. I do not ask everyone who gets fired to conclude that it was the work of God offering clues to one’s true vocation. P. 42[ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ]”. Is the COVID-19, God’s doing? Is the lord Jesus Christ in charge of this world? Has he put this President Trump in office? Has he cause the Locusts to eat the crops in Africa? Have his messengers predicted wars and rumors of wars? The answer to all to YES. I believe that Jesus is in control of everything that happens in my life, not excluding Coronavirus. The president said that this is a war, I am saying great because in war we use weapons and Jesus has said no weapons formed against me shall prosper. Joseph told his brothers that they meant evil against him, but God meant it for good. We cannot lose if God is on our side, if God be for us who can be against us. There will always be backstabbers, smiling in your face. People putting up

stumbling blocks and hurdles, why not hurdles are made to jump and with God's help we will prevail. Psalm 118:23 records "This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvelous in our eyes".

3-23-20

My reflections on the leadership of this government is that the White House, Congressman and House Representatives are all in the swamp together. Also, many of our religious leaders are in the swamp with them called greed. All the government focus was on the Wall Street market and in-sider trading. Several of our religious leaders concerned with the tithes and offering.

I'm thankful that the Governors and Mayors has taken over the job of the federal government. Matthew 5:45- "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.". My first impulse was to thank Jesus for what he is doing in the earth. I pray that I will be ready when he calls, so every day I am working on self, trying to do the right things to answer his call. I'm fulling aware that Jesus is coming for me like a thief in the night, I will not get a warning I must be ready when he comes. I fully realize that life can end as I know it any moment of the day. I'm not a Christian that is looking for the "rapture", I'm looking for when Jesus comes back looking for his church. Matthew 24:6 states that we will hear of wars and rumors of wars(Trump called COVID-19 a war); famines ( locust is now eating the crops in Africa); pestilences and earth quakes , but the end is not yet he that shall endure unto the end shall be saved. We cannot lose our confidence in Jesus Christ. He said if we want to reign with him, we must suffer with him. I'm confident that things are not going to get better, Matthew records that a great tribulation shall come that the world has never witness since the beginning of time. Yes, the flesh can get weak, Matthew 26:41 records that we should "watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak". I am thanking God for the Holy Ghost and understanding that he is in control. John 14:1-3 -Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.<sup>2</sup>In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. Are you ready?

3/26/20

My reflections on the leadership of this government is that the White House, Congressman and House Representatives are all in the swamp together. We need an insider trading investigation, the focus on congressman and representators and their family members selling and buying stock before COVID 19. I found two acronyms on Facebook that was interesting: Christ-Over-Viruses-Infectious-Diseases, Joshua 1:9 "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Another: C-3,O-15, R-18, O-15, N-14, A-1 =666, the things people will come up with , with time on the hands. Also has I reflect about church issues, a lot of church goes has started several years ago of Home Schooling, now because of

Christ intervention, homeschooling has become a reality. Jerry Falwell Jr. (Trump allied in Lynchburg) Liberty University open the college to students and staff, despite the epidemic. Arrest warrant issued for Tampa Bay pastor who held church services despite “safe-at-home” order. Despite the scriptures: Romans 13:1-2 (NKJV) Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. Another Pastor William Harris has suggested that Trump not forget a stimulus bailout for the church. Lord please forgive my church folks.

“The God I was told about in church, and still hear about from time to time, runs about like an anxious schoolmaster measuring people’s behavior with a moral yardstick. But the God I know is the source of reality rather than morality, the source of what is rather than what ought to be. This does not mean that God has nothing to do with morality: morality and its consequences are built into the God-given structure of reality itself. Moral norms are not something we have to stretch for, and moral consequences are not something we have to wait for: they are right here, right now, waiting for us to honor or violate, the nature of self, other, world. P.50 ([ CITATION Par00 \l 1033 ].” I’m reflecting on that question or statement “nurture vs nature”, it is my belief or opinion, that morals are taught at many levels in this society. Such as, did the congressman or house representators consult they’re God before dumping their stocks? Did the Tampa Bay pastor consult his God before endangering his parishioners and breaking the law? The student that proclaimed that they’re in the ministry but ask you to cheat on a test. Morality, values between right and wrong or integrity doing the right thing when no one is watching.