

Community of Christ
Called to be “The Prophetic” in a “Non Prophetic” World

In life, there are linear and non linear “macro” thinkers and doers. While I tend to think I am the latter, we are all mixtures of past and hopefully, future.

My father left my mother, sister and me when I was a year old and the nature of my growth, upbringing and surroundings led itself to be not only futures bound, but with a suspicion of the past. In recent years, I have been able to appreciate the past in ways that I did not.

I have been in this denomination (organizationally) all of my life. However, I know the church that I am a part of hardly resembles the church of the 1940’s, 1950’s, et al. I was blessed to be raised in a small, loving congregation where, out of that love, judging and critical judgments were limited. People helped each other. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be here.

I had always heard the word “prophetic” but didn’t become immersed in it until my early 40’s. It began to occur in a time of personal, identity crisis. My only sister and father passed away as my grandparents had earlier.

I thought I had been on my own but became aware of blocking and focusing to the extent of losing sight of a continuing blessing that God has been giving me all of my life. That blessing was one of futurism, dimensional vision and insight. This allowed me to put a lot of my fears away and “experiment on my word,” a scriptural phrase that has been with me always.

God began to bless me with allegorical visions and dreams. They almost always fitted a future task or something that was blocking the “Divinity” in me. An earlier set was about a dozen years before completion of our current Temple in the Community of Christ. God showed me that something of this nature was to occur in this timeframe and my current task was to tell people to have faith and “stay the course.” I did this, even to the point where God had to show me again, in similar visions, that I needed to leave this task and focus on what lay in the future: a “something” that had shape but was essentially undefined, a “Community” that was “beyond the horizon.”

“In the Spirit” on more than once occasion, he brought me from the past into the future, when we completed the Temple and a few times since.

Our church continues to struggle with both: “The Prophetic,” which is contrasted with an organization that is significantly caught up in protecting its identity and historical purpose. Moving from this requires something that is not of “this world,” a piece of the “Prophetic” that few understand or even grasp. And before the prophetic, an understanding or feeling of the Divine Identity in all of us.

I have known quite a few “Spiritual Giants” in my life. None of them would ever have agreed to be identified as such, but they were indeed visionaries and did indeed prophesy of something yet to come that would not look like and would not feel like what we were currently part of.

Now I say this, knowing that part of this structure was necessary and required in order for the foundation for the “Prophetic” to occur. But we are so protective; worried about salaries, homes, identities and frameworks that have nothing to do with “The Prophetic:” that piece of the Kingdom of God on Earth that we are called to create so that God can indeed, sometime in the future, bless us with “that Kingdom,” the culmination of “the Prophetic.” Quorums of Seventy, Quorums of Twelve, men, women, youth are all blessed identities but still, sometimes are things that can result in backward focus.

When we dedicated the Temple some years back, I was blessed with a flashing moment of vision, so flashing that few words could be linked to it but those few words did come. Those words that I can recall were, more or less, “When you cease to be RLDS, you will have completed those purposes and I will bless you with who you are to be and what you are to do.” A glimpse of Divine future came before my eyes. In later years, definition of that occurred, i.e. a movement that prophetically used the “keys to the Kingdom” and became the leaven that helped bring God’s people together, people from many identities and dimensions.

As I reflect today, “Called to be the Prophetic” seems to be both an identity and calling offered to us as a movement in a time of fear, protectionism and “looking in the rear view mirror.” But, we have been caught up again with keeping budgets, adjusting staffs, reorganizing (again?) the church where, had we heard “The Prophetic” continually over these many years to the extend God desires, our decisions might have been radically different. Methods would have surfaced in our “open-ness,” in our visionary minds, in our “Called Prophetic Movement” that would be focusing us differently.

“Called to be a Peace Church” is good. A few things we are involved with are good. But, how much of this is “Prophetic” enough that it fits into part of the structure of the “Kingdom of God on Earth?” This is a large question that requires forgiving hearts and sacrificial, creative people. Are we those people? Who are we?

“Let His Mind be in You” is a phrase that came to me that I heard many years ago. It seems appropriate. To be the “Prophetic” requires this.