

What's In Your Basket

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Recently I read an article written by Rev Richard Buessing regarding a talk David Rogers gave about True Father's fishing and ocean activities. It reminded me of a sermon I gave a number of years ago in California titled "What's in Your Basket?" Since I was looking for a "message" to offer for this month's newsletter, I thought maybe God would want me to share portions from that sermon with our Golden Age members. So, here it is.

What is your favorite TV show? You know, I'm not really a TV watcher but, when I do watch TV, I like to watch CHOPPED. For anyone who hasn't seen CHOPPED, it's a competitive cooking show. Four contestants are given a basket containing four obscure food items and asked to make an appetizer, an entrée, or a dessert.

But the basket doesn't have normal stuff in it. Instead it might have, say, peanut butter, squid, mint candies and potato chips, OR flank steak, marshmallows, yellow mustard and green olives - odd seemingly unharmonizable ingredients. Then the contestants make all these amazing things with the strange stuff. I really like this show because it celebrates human creativity, and creativity is something that I'm very excited about.



I think our lives are like the CHOPPED basket. We are all endowed with talents and abilities encountering many different people and circumstances in our lives which are like the CHOPPED basket. Our basket ingredients also change with location, and they change with our physical age and development of new abilities. So, very systematically I'd like to share what's in my basket.

What's in my basket? - My love for service; My Hometown, in Nutley, NJ in North America; Honduras in Central America; and art. Put that together and I'm creating an Art Park in Central America that reflects the unity of the Americas.

Let's look into the basket of David Rogers, the brother Richard Beussing gave testimony about. In his basket, he had a love for the ocean and ocean-related activities; experience in the Navy and Naval Academy; he lives in Washington state and also has an association with a Yacht Club. He is a retired National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) ship deck officer, safety manager, and longtime Kodiak fishing guide. If you put all that together, he has a wonderful platform to speak to an amazing group of people about the Ocean enterprises pioneered in our movement.

Some people have an interest in religion, they like cooking, they like service and they have two like-minded friends. They can surely work in a Church food pantry or kitchen.

Others might enjoy reading, gardening, living far from other church members and longing to share with others. They can certainly start an online book club focused on indoor gardening.

Sometimes people ask me: Do you miss doing art? Drawing? Painting? etc. And I tell them "NO" because I am always involved in art. The medium has just changed. The people are like dots that I connect with a relational "line." I connect one group of people with another, introduce a joint activity and we are doing a project together. Life, I think, is an art form of sorts.

Our founder, our True Father, Rev. Moon was an incredible life artist. And he was doing a great work setting up activities in this part of the world and other parts of the world - activities involving art and science, fishing and farming, religion and gambling, always creating relationships with and between the people he met and the things he did. He was wrapping the entire world up in a web of goodness. However, his life on earth, as we know it, has ended and many of the dots still need to be connected. You may even discover one of those loose ends, one of his dots in your basket. Put that together with some of your talents and abilities, add a friend or family member, maybe add your hobby or interest, and then do something, make something happen. See what's inside your basket; then begin to create!

As I mentioned before, we all have been endowed with talents, abilities, and strengths, no matter what age we are. We all have something to give, something to share, and something that someone else doesn't have or understand. It's time now not to simply follow. It's time to use our creativity to develop our ideas and act on them, offering them up to God and our True Parents. When we take ownership of our ideas, when we take ownership of our projects, God will bless even our smallest efforts abundantly.