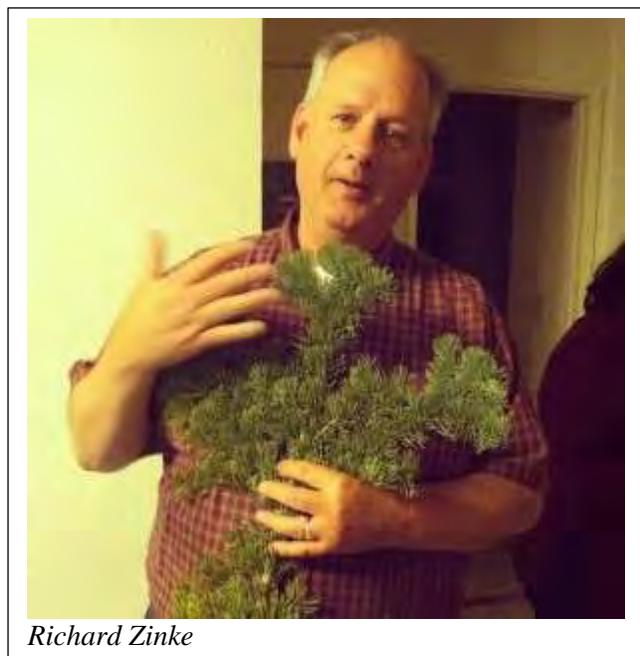


Landmark Insights

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Please take a look through some of the articles in the Landmark forum digital magazine Insights. here is the link:

Landmark Digital Magazine

Although at first glance they might seem existential in language, the transformation they are talking about takes place in a group workshop setting with strong but cordial teachers, testimony-givers, pair-sharing and reconciliation exercises. You do experience a nothingness or floating sensation after a 40 hour weekend of this sharing. I lost a lot of anxieties that I thought were surely part of my identity. The interesting thing is that I also experience this floating feeling at Sunday church after a long day of fellowship including 8 am coffee group, 10 am service followed by extended fellowship and lunch. I believe that it is the feeling of being

supported in one's higher spirit. During the week of business as usual this high can wane or lessen. I have had the privilege of attending Wednesday night Landmark sessions that helped me keep the high going. There are also Tuesday night open testimony nights that are free and open to anyone. Attending a testimony night at BAFC also lifted me up. Remember the element, Rich Spiritual Atmosphere? RSA. It was an important element of spiritual growth in the Principle of Creation.

Landmark Intro Video

There is also a possibility that Landmark Forum will open up your personality and leave you with some raw feelings hanging out or feeling that you have a license to now express all kinds of things to anyone (dumping) which is not really supposed to be the end result. Unfortunately I experienced that as well.

After a few weeks of searching, my goal and possibility for myself is:

“I want to share honestly with all people in a way that leaves them touched, moved and inspired”

It actually took a few weeks for that goal to come out, as spoken by me in the seminar setting. It sounds rather simplistic but it does mean a lot. And it is a challenge not to share things in a way that can hurt others. I have other goals: physical fitness, career fitness and financial fitness.

What is meant to be shared is not the past but the future vision or possibility of what my future can be. Speaking it to others helps bring it into existence. so setting and sharing goals with others can be very strong.

Landmark talks about three crucial points of identity formation during our first 7 years, second 7 years and third 7 years. These crucial events usually cause us to form some kind of defensive posture concerning our sense of our self-worth, our need to be accepted by others, and our sense of aloneness in the world, in that order, corresponding with childhood, youth and young adulthood. These are called “strong suits” in Landmarkian terminology indicating successful postures or habits we have formed to deal with the above challenges to our young identities. We tend to carry them throughout our life as successful habits that are also quite constraining or limiting to our creativity or flexible future.

We also tend to accumulate “rackets”, a Landmarkian term that refers to habits of finding others at fault so that we can enjoy “being right” or “looking good” (at least to ourselves if not to others). Repeated complaining are a sure indication of “rackets” (racket-mouth?) Complaints maybe a part of a blame game. Some have even said that you can be married, or you can be “right”, but you usually can't be both. Also, who is the person you can change, yourself or others? Who do I have control over?

When strong emotional situations are dealt with using the above Landmarkian concepts in a workshop situation people often experience that they have been operating in an unreal fashion, accusing others for things that may not be real, and denying their own responsibility. If we deny our own responsibility by blaming others it makes us feel “right” as a benefit but it also cuts us off from others, so we loose affinity,

the power of being connected or loving. (Do you hear an echo of Divine Principle, the Fall of Man lecture here???? What was God looking for after the fall? Someone to take responsibility so he could forgive them or respect and love them?)

Have we been working “rackets” on others (a blame game with “rightness” as payoff), or operating repeatedly from our same old “strong suits”. If so our life becomes boring, lacking in authenticity, lacking in real relationships and affinity. We may spend a lot of our time and energy trying to look good to others as a defensive posture. This can be exhausting.

Is our racket as Unificationists that we are the chosen ones, or the blessed ones? Is our pay-off that we get to be right, even though we are estranged from many people? Or perhaps Landmarkian would call our religious identity our “strong suit” which constrains us from really relating to others outside of our church wholeheartedly. I know because I have been doing this on some level, assigning lower value to non-church people perhaps unconsciously. This prevents us from being leaders in society because we actually value outsiders less than ourselves as “insiders”. True Father kind of foresaw this and hesitated to put up the sign of “HSA-UWC”, our church name, at Chung Pa Dong temple, knowing that it would create inside and outside, a dichotomy of member and not member.

I think the antidote to all of this is to be involved with many groups and to have many guests at our church for various events, a prime example being “Lego-church”.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=1V_tQF0xRAc

We should value all people as our brothers and sisters universally. I recently read that new guests are our vertical Abel and older members are the horizontal Abel. The thrill of a new person knowing Divine Principle and God for the first time can inspire everyone around!!!

New people, They are relatives that we did not know we had, and they did not know as well. I recently learned of a long lost relative, D. Zinke, who lives in North Oregon, sells Daimler trucks, and hunts elk. He has been unknown to me for 60 years. He is 72 years old. Amazing but true!! I am happy to know of him even though we don't talk yet.

Okay thanks for reading. Happy Holidays!!!

Richard Zinke