

## Words of Encouragement January 26<sup>th</sup> 2016

**'In God's garden of grace, even broken trees bear fruit.'** Rick Warren

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The desire for control, personal success and gratification are all marks of an immature life. In order to grow into adulthood as God intended we need to leave such childish (immature) things behind.

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**The covers of some books are too far apart!**

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**THE IMMATURE IN US MUST DIE:** If we are dominated by the questions '*Am I safe?*' and '*Am I right?*', we will forever remain immature. And yet these are the questions dominating many adult's lives. God is wild in his love for us, he can't be domesticated, and he is more than content to exercise his power to prove it. We need to step out of our need to control and learn afresh the wildness and love of God

Richard Rohr talks about the deficit in adults which he calls '*father hunger*'. This develops into a '*father wound*' when not addressed. He tells the story of leading a gathering in Peru in 1077. A nun who worked with prisoners told him that she encouraged the prisoners to send cards to their mothers on Mother's Day. She kept bringing in boxes and boxes of cards but never had enough. For Father's Day she was ready with a box of cards, but they remained in her office. Not one prisoner asked for a Father's Day card. Rohr writes in *From Wild Man to Wise Man* that **the 'father wound' is cut when adults have never 'seen themselves as son's/daughters of men who admire**

**them'.**

Rohr says: 'In 1959 I was told that my father had died. I was seven years old. My elder brother and I were sitting in the garden of a children's home at the time. I am sure it left me with 'father hunger' and a 'father wound'. But I became a Christian when I was 12 through the help of foster parents, and as an early adolescent I was overwhelmed by the story of God's love for me.

I realised that I was God's beloved son, and that the words of the Father to the Son at the baptism of Jesus, ***'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased'*** (Matthew 3:17), applied to me. Through all of my stupidities, blunderings and excitements, I was deeply loved.

This love and wildness of God had me church planting at 21, heading off to India at 24, choosing a low salary job throughout my life and starting a new organisation when I was 54. It has been great. Yet God has had me on a journey. I never had a human father substitute, but many older men walked with me and loved me in very different ways. I have had so many brothers and sisters who have shared their lives with me, helping me to heal the 'father wound'. ***It is a great day when a husband understands that life is about the flourishing of his wife and children and not about himself.*** This is the way to **true greatness.**

[Extract from Viv Thomas writing in Premier Christianity magazine p.40-45, July 2014]

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*'Each has his past shut in him, like the leaves of a book known to him by heart;  
and his friends can only read the title.'* Virginia Wolf

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*We are inclined to think of holiness as belonging to those*

*referred to as 'saints' - those wonderful men and women who were prepared to give up their lives and go through all sorts of hardship and pain for their faith. But actually our holy place and our holiness should be where we are. **We can't be what we're not, but we should strive always to be connected with God, to humbly pray and live each day as on a journey with Him. Because never forget that you are never not in the presence of God.***

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## **Self-pity is the arch-enemy of trust in God.**

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**As you read the above it is good to consider how it relates to you and allow the healing love of God to touch you where he knows you need healing. Then consider all those you know who you 'think' may also appreciate such healing in themselves. Now send this email on to them and pray for them as you do so. Bill**