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Divine Inspiration for a Postmodern Generation

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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The academic and spiritual culture of certain institutions like Fisk University encourages students to “lift as they climb.” College students are encouraged to make an academic, cultural and spiritual investment in young people as they begin to “climb” various professional ranks and assume leadership positions in a host of different fields. The idea of helping people in general, and children and youth in particular undoubtedly has biblical roots. Jesus said that we should love our neighbors as we love ourselves (Matthew 22:39). He also said: “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Matthew 19:14).” In an effort to embrace the ideals of my alma mater, Morehouse College, and to follow the mandates of Jesus the Christ, I became the Director of a Homework Center, the Director of a Homeless Children’s Service Project, a Youth

Minister and eventually a pastor. My love for working with young people is currently expressed in my role as University Chaplain at Fisk. I remain indebted to my academic and spiritual mentors who demonstrated to me that Christian education should not be limited to Sunday School or weekly bible study lessons. Christian education, which is sharing the practical lessons and eternal truths of the gospel of Jesus Christ, can take place in any arena. Although the gospel message is two-thousand years old, I would submit that it is as relevant today as it has ever been.

I believe that many young people, who are outside of the church but within this postmodern generation, would greatly benefit from the value of a Christian education. I applaud the efforts of Christian educators who are working with young people throughout the city, state and world. They would probably agree, however, that

more work needs to be done. Postmodernity is marked by cultural fragmentation. I found it helpful to tell or remind young people that the cross is more than a fashionable, jewelry piece within hip-hop culture, is it also a symbol of our redemption and salvation in Jesus Christ. Postmodernity is also known for its emphasis on the individual and what he or she can gain financially. I found it helpful to share with young people that there is also a blessing found in giving as opposed to receiving. Many young people are also open to the idea that love, as opposed to hate, hating or “hateration (to use a popular saying),” is able to solve problems. There is a real need for Christian education inside and outside of the church. The Holy Spirit will continue to provide us with the inspiration necessary for this postmodern generation so that we may continue to help the young people of today.