

SAPPHIRE LEADERSHIP GROUP

Noble Subjects of the Great King

March 30, 2011 Newsletter

Coffee Anyone?

Q. Arthur does not drink coffee, so why is he using this newsletter to pitch a new brand of coffee that is now available?

A. Because it is not the coffee, it is the man behind the coffee, and he does know men!

GoodAfrican.com is the website where you can order Ugandan coffee from their Stateside distribution center. For those of you who are connoisseurs, enjoy!

But the real story is of Andrew Rugasira. He is a social entrepreneur. That means he changes the values of a sector of society to such a large degree that the way people do life also change for the better.

The core value he has inculcated into everyone from his 15,000 coffee growers to the government officials he interfaces with is, "Africa needs trade, not aid."

Most of Africa's raw materials are exported. He is changing that by building a coffee processing plant in Uganda so that a major portion of the value added chain is a local enterprise, and the income remains in the nation.

In addition to running a business with an ethical and legal framework, they plow a high percentage of their profits back into the community to heal their nation's wounds.

It is an honor for me to call Andrew and Jackie Rugasira my friends. They are people with a vision, who have fought long and hard, and are seeing their vision realized. Their coffee has a high profile in the UK retail market and now they have brought it to the US.

More significant however, is their long range vision for Uganda. People who used to be victims are learning to step up and become rebuilders instead. THIS is the work of a social entrepreneur.

Read the rest of their story at www.GoodAfrican.com.

New Product

Visionaries are a dime a dozen, but very few people manage to implement their vision. For those who do manage to produce some measurable, verifiable, sustained change, it is usually only a shadow of what the original dream was.

Why? What is it that relentlessly erodes the core of a trailblazer's passion, leaving a shell that impersonates the real thing?

Arthur explores this pattern in a new teaching called "Discovering God." There is one tool the enemy uses more than any other to gut the life from a dream, and there is an antidote for this strategy from the devil.

If you are operating a ministry today that is fine, viable, transformational, but only a fraction of what you dreamed about when you began, you owe it to yourself to listen to this teaching. [Click here](#) to download it.

Here are some reviews of that message:

- I had been quenching my constant seeking, having been told time and again that I need to settle down, and be content. When I left the service that day, I felt like I had been given permission to keep seeking, and searching in a continual treasure hunt. R.M.
- "Discovering God" is a powerful message. During six decades of life I have never heard this topic delivered in such a way. The passion expressed by Arthur is a result of a lifestyle of pursuing his God and encouraging others to do the same. If you are serious about your personal pursuit of God, prepare to be challenged and changed as a result of this dynamic message. S.B.
- I saw myself with my little issues framed magnificently in a place of honor and empowerment. I am not stuck. From the beginning we were designed in His image. Our scars are not only badges of honor, but the stepping stones to our destiny, the very tools for owning who we really are. H.E.



Did you know that there is an audio version of each of the Noble Subject blessings available in the Download Store? If there is one you missed, or one you want to give to a friend, or one you simply want to listen to again, you can find it under [Clips](#) in the Download Store.

New Additions to the Download Store

The following teachings are now available in the Download Store. We are excited about having uploaded all the albums from the Personal Growth, Redemptive Gifts and Spiritual Warfare sections. Hopefully within two weeks, we will finish all of the albums from the Nurture for the Spirit section.

That will free up time to start converting the 1,500 individual clips we have left. We will start with the Prayers for Brides that we recorded last year.

- [The Redemptive Gift of England](#)
- [The Redemptive Gift of Scotland](#)
- [The Redemptive Gift of Nigeria](#)
- [The Redemptive Gift of Hungary](#)
- [The Redemptive Gift of New York City](#)
- [Nurturing Your Spirit Level II](#)
- [Nurturing Your Spirit Level III](#)
- [Ministering to Babies in the Womb](#)



Tools for Cleansing Time and Land

This continues to be a runaway best seller. We now have it available as a CD album in the Product Store. [Click here.](#)

Redemptive Gift Training with Arthur

Our web-based interactive training on the redemptive gifts is scheduled to be released in early May.

There will be six lessons for each of the gifts. Each lesson is designed to take two weeks for you to do. This is not entry level training. It is for those who are very familiar with the original teaching, but have been disappointed at not seeing more change in their lives after learning about the immense potential of each gift.

The missing piece is our ability to take the potential of the gift and convert it into a dynamic product. Very simply, flour, eggs, baking powder, salt, sugar, milk and a recipe are not the same as a cake. They provide the resources for making a cake, but until someone leverages the resources in the proper manner, all of the potential remains unexpressed.

Each lesson will begin with an exploration of a particular kind of resource God has already given us. Then we will work long and hard on what you need to do to unpack that resource, and to leverage it into a finished product that you can use for the King as a Noble Subject.

It will be extremely personal, guaranteed to be painful, and will hopefully be one of the most productive studies you have ever done. Look for more details in future newsletters.

Redeeming

Scheming

I have a friend who grew up playing the trumpet with skill and uncommon flair. By the time she was an adult, she was winning first and second place trophies in statewide competitions.

It wasn't just about competition. She loved her trumpet and expressed herself through her music.

When she got saved, someone told her that if she really loved God she would give up her trumpet playing and offer it as a sacrifice to God.

So . . . she did. She got a doctorate in music and became the director of a church choir – until she got tired of the lack of fulfillment.

Is this the God of the Bible? God the kill joy?

I have another friend who is the son of two artists. All of his growing up days, he planned to go to the finest school for his particular niche of art and spend his life doing what he loved doing.

When he got saved, someone told him that if he really loved God he would lay down his art and offer it as a sacrifice to God.

So . . . he did. He got a job as a youth leader at the church and went to Bible school to prepare for being in full time Christian ministry – until he got tired of the lack of fulfillment and left the ministry to go to art school.

Is this the God of the Bible? God the kill joy? God who designs us then won't let us be us? God whose greatest gratification comes from our greatest pain? God who only accepts church work from us?

I fully understand that there are many things that we can love more than God, and this can become a problem. I know that God at times, out of His infinite love, will break our toys if we won't give them up, in order to draw our hearts to Him.

But all of that overlooks the end of the story. As soon as God has our hearts, it is His delight to give us back the things we were designed (by Him) to do and be.

I love the story of Naomi. She appears to have been a wheeler dealer. A schemer. She had an angle on everything. The evidence is that her controlling ways were an obstacle to her relationship with God.

Because her scheming was a problem, God allowed her to crash and burn in Moab. When she made it back to Bethlehem, she was pretty contrite. She had come to the wrong conclusion.

She thought God was mad at her and that is why He bankrupted her, stripping her of capital leaving her powerless to leverage much of anything.

I take a very different view of things. I see a God who designed her to be a deal maker, to see the available options when others don't see them and to weave together a stream of variables into a finished product.

I believe God thoroughly enjoyed watching her be herself.

I believe God thoroughly enjoyed watching her be herself – because that is what He made her to do.

He set her up in her home town with Ruth as a player in the scenario. Naomi appears to be too broken in health to glean in the fields, but Ruth was willing and able. However, Ruth did not know the Mosaic Law which said such gleaning was permissible to widows and the poor.

Guess who did? Yup. Naomi. So with no financial capital, Naomi leveraged the three things she had: the time of year (harvest time), a willing daughter-in-law and her knowledge of the culture and the Law.

God stepped in and breathed on Naomi's fragile venture by placing Ruth in the right field to be seen by Boaz. That little bit of help from God was all Naomi needed. She was off and running and worked the deal all the way to the wedding and the grandkids.

God smiled as He watched Naomi being herself.

Her redemption was not complete until her design was validated.

Can you see that He did not just redeem her? He redeemed her scheming. She was made to see opportunities others didn't. Granted her pursuit of deals did lead her away from God for awhile. The redemption of her heart began when she went back home where God had placed her. But her redemption was not complete until her design was validated.

Let me press this point. God did not need her involvement. Allow me to rewrite the story of Ruth.

Naomi and Ruth arrive in town. Ruth goes to the store at the same time Boaz does (due to God's control of timing). He sees Ruth, it is love at first sight, and off they go to make history. So easy for God.

I am convinced God took the long route so He could redeem Naomi's scheming.

Did my two friends need to give up their trumpet and art? Possibly, if those things were defiantly held as obstacles to obeying God. But that is not the way I heard the story. The advice they got was preventative crushing, just to be sure that nothing they loved could possibly diminish their spiritual walk.

I don't get it. God made a happy place for Adam and Eve. He is going to make a happy place for His people in the Millennial Kingdom. He is looking forward to some real happy people in heaven.

Who started this goofy theology that experiencing fulfillment by doing what God designed us to do was a sure fire way to ruin our relationship with Him? That is just plain weird, twisted, bizarre . . .

Arthur Burk
March 30, 2011