

Welcome to Care Conversations



The  
Excellence  
Centre

CARE CONVERSATIONS

FORWARD  
FROM  
DR TINA LAMONT // Director TEC



Dear Friend,

Welcome to this week's Care Conversation where we are looking at the Biblical perspective on entrepreneurial innovation.

Being entrepreneurial and innovative is an expression of being made in God's image. It is the outworking of God's creational mandate. God's intention was for humanity to cultivate, be innovative and flourish. "God created the garden not as an end point but as a starting point." (Dyer). Humanity was equipped to be entrepreneurial. God, however intends humanity to follow his example of entrepreneurialism and innovation. "In God's own creative work, He acts for the good of what he has made and not for his own selfish pleasure". (Bartholomew and Goheen).

Stay with us as we explore this wonderful gift God has given humanity. We pray this will bring a fresh view of entrepreneurial innovation in Christian leadership.

Yours in Christ,

*Dr Tina Lamont*

*Director TEC*

*The Excellence Centre*



## REFLECTION BY BRIAN COX

Consultant in Leadership & Education



Entrepreneurial is one of those words that some Christians find uncomfortable. It seems somehow incompatible with ideas of Christian faith, or humility. It seems somehow “worldly”.

One of the reasons that we come to this conclusion is that many entrepreneurs seem to be focussed upon financial gain, or being successful in business at any cost.

So, entrepreneurship has a public relations problem; some of the greatest temptations for humans seem to occur in this area (greed, envy, selfishness,

and others).

We also have an innate bias when we think about human vocations in the Body of Christ. Pastors and Missionaries are way up there... Entrepreneurs? Maybe a necessary evil!

We need to have the correct goal and purpose. If we see entrepreneurship as using a variety of methods to boldly, unashamedly but humbly proclaim Christ, and the mission and purpose of our Christian ministries, then maybe we're moving part-way to redeeming the concept.

Was Paul entrepreneurial as he travelled so widely, establishing churches wherever he went? Bold, but vulnerable. Focussed and determined. Risking health, safety, comfort and security for the joy of the Gospel and the growth of Christian communities.

We need to ensure the right methods and attitudes. Entrepreneurship requires initiative, motivation, sacrifice, and patience - all traits that the Bible encourages.

So, leaders being entrepreneurial could be a good thing. Encouraging new initiatives, proclaiming the great value of Biblical Christian Education, establishing sustainable schools of quality and excellence whilst being founded on Christ. Taking a few risks that actually require faith. Innovating new programs that effectively enhance the Mission and Purpose; supporting other schools that are experiencing a few struggles. Yes – we can redeem the word entrepreneur.

This is a prayer supposedly by the 16<sup>th</sup> Century explorer, Francis Drake.

*Disturb us, Lord, when  
We are too pleased with ourselves,  
When our dreams have come true  
Because we dreamed too little,  
When we arrived safely  
Because we sailed too close to the shore.  
Disturb us, Lord, when  
With the abundance of things we possess  
We have lost our thirst  
For the waters of life;*

*Having fallen in love with life,  
We have ceased to dream of eternity  
And in our efforts to build a new earth,  
We have allowed our vision  
Of the new Heaven to dim.  
Disturb us, Lord, to dare more boldly,  
To venture on wilder seas  
Where storms will show Your mastery;  
Where losing sight of land,  
We shall find the stars.  
We ask you to push back  
The horizons of our hopes;  
And to push us into the future  
In strength, courage, hope, and love.  
This we ask in the name of our Captain,  
Who is Jesus Christ.*

Excitedly moving forward together

*Brian Cox*

Consultant in Leadership & Education



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Growth is actually contagious; so if you want to reach your goals, you've got to get around people that are going in the same direction you want to be going, and you will catch the success.

~Dr Henry Cloud

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