

HOUSE OF DAVID, MILTON

inspire

MAGAZINE

**PERSONAL
DEVELOPMENT:**
*WHAT DOES THIS
MEAN TO ME?*

Building my Home

**IMPORTANCE OF
COACHING**

JUNE 2019





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- 2nd Friday of every month

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We are seeking for contributors for future issues of the Inspire Magazine.

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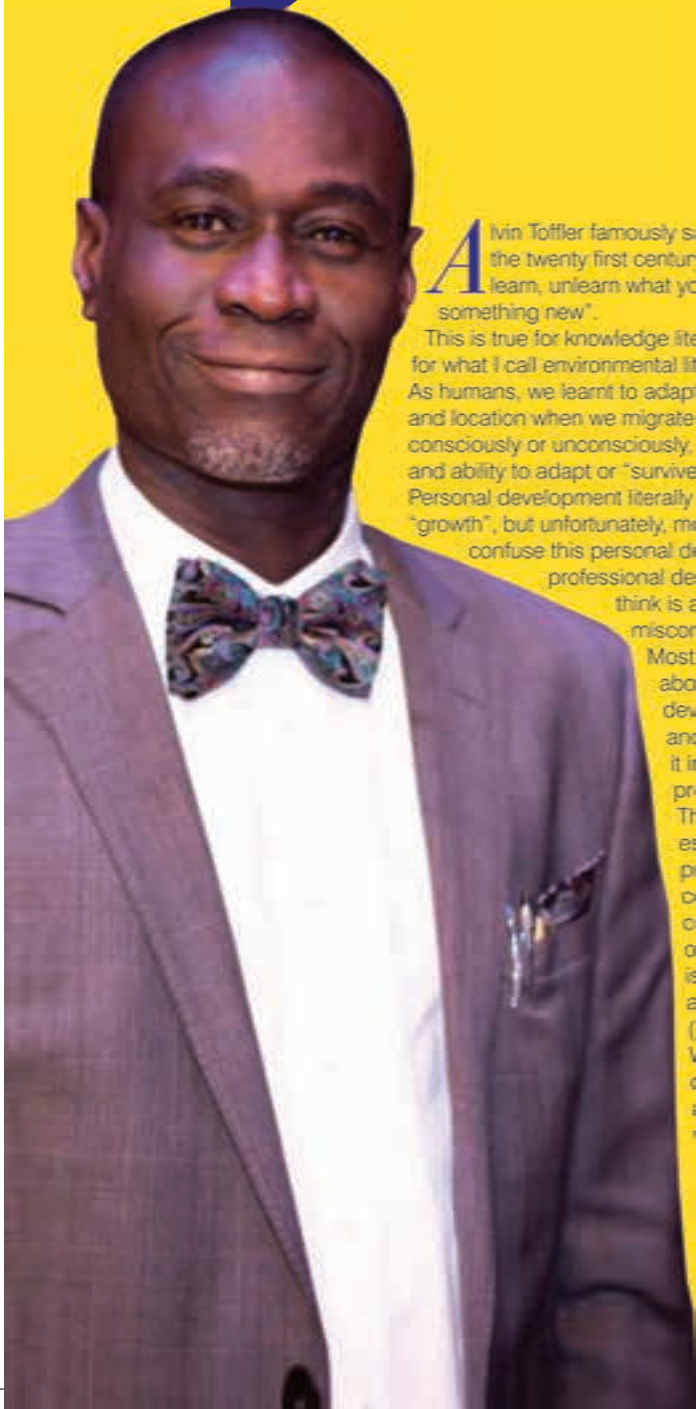
PUBLISHER'S NOTE

PERSONAL

DEVELOPMENT:

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

By **Olumide Ademidun**,
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Alvin Toffler famously said, "The definition of the twenty first century literate is ability to learn, unlearn what you learnt and re-learn something new".

This is true for knowledge literacy, but it is also true for what I call environmental literacy. As humans, we learnt to adapt to our environments and location when we migrate and whether it is consciously or unconsciously, we develop our skill set and ability to adapt or "survive" in new environments. Personal development literally means personal "growth", but unfortunately, most people often confuse this personal development with professional development, which I think is a serious misconception.

Most often, when we talk about personal development most people and organizations think of it in relation to their profession or businesses. This is more so, especially since most professional bodies have come to understand that continuous assessment of a trained professional is the best way to evolve and serve the people (clients) better.

While professional development is good and important, I believe what is even more important is our personal "growth". For most people, our

growth and life purpose are not necessarily connected to our professions nor related to our degrees and academics achievements, it is therefore very important for us to begin to reflect and explore our inquisitiveness and special ability that makes us learn to adapt to new environment.

Learning new skills or acquiring new knowledge whenever we have the opportunity is the real definition of personal development. In other words, it is very important we develop ourselves in areas other than our "profession". If we keep "developing" or getting better in the area or field you are already acquainted with then what distinguishes you as a person with special ability. Real development and growth comes from stepping out of your comfort zone, picking up new skills or knowledge, getting better, and finding passion in such things.

Our ability to continuously learn and be skillful in new things flexes our brain and provide us with huge power and confidence to survive under any circumstances. Sometime these personal growths may cause financial & social inconveniences and may require us to attend to training outside our comfort or regular domain.

To me, personal development simply means exploring and developing my identity while growing and getting better as human being. Things, which transcend well beyond my profession and professional development!

Actionable Tips on Personal Development

- Volunteer in a new area of interest
- Respect what other people do and learn more of their work & profession
- Spend more time reading and acquiring new knowledge/skill and less time on social media
- Personal development is about humanity that is greater than status!

BECAUSE I AM A GIRL

BY ADEJISOLA ATIBA



I WILL PERSONALLY WAKE YOU UP TOMORROW, WE WILL GO TO SCHOOL TOGETHER.

“

My brain is so fried, school is so difficult, the teachers are mean, I wish I could get a break. Eight (8) years old Oyeyinka thinks in her head.

B

1952
Oyeyinka is coming back from school and singing in her thoughts;

Eje ka mu ra sise
Akoko ko ma duro
Akoko ko duro, deni kan
A a a a a, E e e e e
E e e e e, O, O, U

I don't even know what half of that mean, Am I working? And so what has ise got to do with it.

My brain is so fried, school is so difficult, the teachers are mean, I wish I could get a break. Eight (8) years old Oyeyinka thinks in her head.

She got home and her mom looks sad but she was too tired to give her a second look. She cleans her hand and her mother gave her food and she went out to play.

Next morning, she woke up at 9am, she walked out of their room and realized her brother already left for school. Mother, why didn't you wake me up, I am already late for school and she started getting ready.

Oyeyinka, don't worry, you will not be going to school today (my prayer has been answered, I get to sleep in she thought).

She went back into her mother's room to sleep some more, woke up around 12noon and she helped her mother with preparing lunch. They both cleaned their room and the common space.

As they were cleaning, her father's new wife came in cursing under her breath, she

stopped when she saw Oyeyinka and her mom, Uhm, I see that the stupid man finally took my advise, why waste money? She said. Good afternoon Ma, Oyeyinka said; she just starred at her and stomped away to her apartment. Did I do anything wrong mama she asked her mother?, never mind my dear, all is well. Just then, her brother came back from school and they all sat down to lunch. Big head, why didn't you go to school today? Her brother asked, mama told me I could stay home with her and help her, are you jealous? Oyeyinka replied. Mama, how could you, she needs to go to school and stay in school, I keep telling you, it is the only way out of poverty, turning to Oyeyinka; I will personally wake you up tomorrow, we will go to school together.

My son Akanmu, come, mama said and she took him into their room. After a few minutes, he came out looking very angry. But mama, how could he do that, I really must have a word with him, this is not acceptable, this is not right. Akanmu, my dear son, you know how your father is, do not pick fight with him, it is well.

Next day, a week, a month, a year later, Oyeyinka finally got her fill of staying at home and she woke up early after her 9th birthday and dressed up to go to school. Mama, I think I have been gone away from school for too long, I have missed my friends, I would have missed a lot of learning too, my teachers don't sound as bad anymore, I am ready to go, will you walk with me?

Oyeyinka my daughter, I am sorry but you will not be going to school anymore. Tomorrow, I will take you to your father's sister who sells Ankara fabric, you will start living with her and learn the trade. Someday, you will make a good wife to your husband and a good mother to your children. But mama, I don't understand Oyeyinka said, why can't I go to school like everyone else, why can't I go to school like my brother, mama please I love school, my brother said it is the only way out of poverty, do you want me to be poor?

No my dear daughter, I know education is important, but there are many ways to avoid poverty, at least you will learn a trade. Your aunty will also teach you how to take care of

“

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Someday, you
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husband and a
good mother to
your children.

”

the home and cook good meal that will make a man happy in the future. But mama, I want to go to school, she shouted crying out loud. Her father's new wife busted in, why are you both making so much noise early in the morning. Young girl, I told your father not to waste money on you. You will grow up and become somebody's wife, their responsibility and burden and he agreed. It is only boys that he will pay for their school now. Your mother doesn't work and so cannot pay your fees. If I have a daughter she will go to school, unless she doesn't want to, because I work. Your mother is a housewife, so you will also be a housewife. But, but but why will you tell him not to send me to school? Oyeyinka asked? She answered, because you are a GIRL my dear, because you are a GIRL.

Born 1944
Started school 1949
Stopped school 1952



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IMPORTANCE

OF COACHING

By Yemisi Iyilade

You have so much impact to create in the world, and your life is your responsibility.

What is Coaching?

Coaching is a personal developmental process and a step by step guidance to move a person from desire to achieving a goal. Unlike therapy or counselling where you are told what to do, the role of a coach is to challenge you through questioning, feedback and personal reflections, to take action while providing constant support and motivation. Coaching is necessary because most of the time people don't apply the truths or principles they know, according to brain research our body releases adrenaline and glutamate when ever we step out of our comfort zone, in preparation for dealing with a potentially harmful or undesired situation. These chemicals cause our senses to be heightened, our hearts to race and our bodies to sweat sometimes leading to anxiety, fear and stress. This is why so many people set goals but never achieve them.

All successful and high achievers know that they can achieve their goal if they are ready to take action. Usain Bolt, the fastest man in history or any other great athlete have coaches to keep them constantly motivated. When you decide to make a change in your life or career, you will need momentum, you need a push and a nudge to close the gap between where things are and where you want them to be. Nothing just happens you have to intentionally create the life you want, so this is what coaching is all about.

Why you need a Coach

Everyone is born with unique gifts and talents. Unfortunately, too many people go through life without the understanding of that unique thing that only they have to contribute to the world. Why do you think some people are successful and others not? Excuses make us STOP. If you want to get ahead faster in life you need to get accountability. You have to learn to take control of your time and life. You will have to develop habits that are intentionally. No matter what you'd like to change or achieve, the secrets to success are the same...

1. Get clear. As specifically as

possible, decide what you want. The more clear you are on what you want to have in your life, the more likely you are to achieve it.

2. Get perspective. Most people don't tell anyone what they want or what they are struggling with and because of that they don't get an outside perspective.
3. Get support. Very few people (if any) achieve anything great alone. All stars have teammates, mentors and coaches.

Will Coaching work for me?

Coaching will work for anyone, including YOU if you do the work required. There is no magical pill that will build your life and career except the change that you create. YOU are the only one who gets to decide if it will work. If you're willing to take radical action, trust the process, and work through all the coaching assignments and instructions you will get results (and quickly if you have a great coach)!

Why should I care?

You have so much impact to create in the world, and your life is your responsibility. How do you want to make a difference in the world? What is holding your dream from becoming a reality?

Everybody cares about the bigger picture. Coaching accelerates and supports your journey towards any goal, by providing greater focus, structure, accountability, and feedback. Having a life coach is a rewarding and exciting adventure, a new awareness of what's possible. It creates an opportunity to bring wisdom and insight into your specific topic of discussion. Through listening skills, questions and strategies your coach will assist you in taking action steps leading to transition and transformation.

"You can change what you have because you can become more than you are" Jim Rohn

ASK ME

by Adejisola Atiba

Question: What is the importance of Registered Education Plan (RESP), and why should I open it for my children?

Answer: Thank you for this question, it is a very good and important question. Registered Education plan (RESP) is one of the plans regulated by the government of Canada, please see the highlights of the plan as enumerated below:
What is a RESP?

It is a saving's plan (account/investment) regulated by the government that allows you to save money in a tax deferred account for your children's post-secondary education.

TYPES

There are two types of RESP and they are

- 1. Family Plan:** You can have several beneficiaries in this plan but they must be related by blood or adoption. The plan could include your children, adopted children, siblings, and grandchildren. Funds in this plan need not be paid to beneficiaries equally. If one child or beneficiary does not go for post-secondary education, other beneficiaries can use the funds.
- 2. Individual Plan:** This is a sole owner plan that is opened for just one (1) child, that is, one beneficiary.
- 3. Group plans:** It is also called pooled RESP. The provider pools the contributions and grants together and makes investment and contribution schedules for subscribers. This type may have a substantial subscription fee and

By saving up for them,
they will have better chances
and not start from the ground
zero when they go into their
first jobs.

failure to make the contribution may result in termination from the plan and forfeiture of funds already invested. It varies depending on the provider and it is important to understand all fees and restrictions before opening this type of RESP.

- 4. Grandfathered plans:** This may not apply to most people, but for information purposes, they are plans opened before 1998.

Who can open a RESP?

Subscribers of RESP could be the parent, grandparent, public primary caregiver. Some plans allow for joint subscribers, that is; you and your spouse. Some providers do not offer this, so it is important to understand what is offered before opening the plan with any provider.

Requirement to open the plan

RESP is government regulated and so Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) requires that Social Insurance Number (SIN) be provided before opening the account.

Who can be a beneficiary?

- Must be a resident of Canada
- SIN must be provided for the beneficiary when opening the RESP

Contribution limit

There is a lifetime contribution for each beneficiary of \$50,000. Penalty also applies to any over-contribution.

BENEFITS

Canada Learning Bond (CLB)

Children born after January 1st, 2004 with an adjusted family income of \$46,000 qualify for a CLB of \$500 and an instalment of \$100 annually until the year they turn fifteen (15).

Canada Education Savings Grants (CESG)

CESG is the most important feature and benefit of opening an RESP. The government pays 20% on the first \$2500 annual contribution made to the plan regardless of the family income. If there is an unused contribution room, CESG can be paid on a maximum of \$5000. There are some eligibility issues with CESG. To qualify for this, grant, the beneficiary must not be more than fifteen (15) years in the year the plan is opened. Low income, families may qualify for additional grants. Additional government incentives
Depending on the province you reside, additional incentives may apply

Investment Options

There are various investment options available inside the RESP. It is important to understand your goals, risk tolerance, time frame whenever you are investing.

Conclusion

It is always recommended opening the plan as soon as possible as this will help the accumulation of funds in the plan before the child goes for post-secondary education. If the plan is not opened, parents are literally leaving funds on the table (CESG/CLB).

Educational cost is always growing, having a buffer will help the children even if they qualify to obtain a loan. Having huge debts after post-secondary education could be overwhelming for our young adults.

By saving up for them, they will have better chances and not start from the ground zero when they go into their first jobs. It prepares them for their future, and it will afford them peace of mind.

Finally, if your ward do not go for post-secondary education, there are various ways to get all your contributions back. Your provider will educate you on the process.

I hope I have been able to answer your question satisfactorily.

To learn more, please visit the government site

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/tax/individuals/topics/registered-education-savings-plans-resps.html>

This article is only for information purposes, please talk to your advisor or RESP provider for more details before opening the plan.

Please send your questions to
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BUILDING MY HOME

Pastor Amos Dada PhD P.Eng



**YOU MUST HAVE HEARD THE EXPRESSION
“THERE’S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.”
“HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.”
“HOME, SWEET HOME”**

The issue of the home is very critical and should delight everyone. We all have a home; the only difference is in functionality or dysfunctionality. But we all are products of one home or the other. As they say; the way the family goes the society follows suit. In other words, the society is a reflection of our homes. It's like saying show me your home and I will show you who you are or who you will become both on individual and corporate levels. How is your family going? I have come to encourage and pray for your home, marriage and family, this month it shall be well with you. The God who saw the misery of being alone and loneliness of Adam and gave him a helpmeet for him will again look at the totality of your home this month and whatever is needed to make things better for you will be supplied appropriately and promptly. As lovely as the home and relationships can be, it is sometimes not the best, it is full of challenges, intrigues, betrayals, lack of trust from one person to the other, husband to wife and vice versa, children to parents and vice versa, in-laws to couples, nuclear or extended family but guess what, God is always ahead of you to help you out if you will cooperate with Him. I see God rebuilding your home if you will let him, for the scripture says "If God doesn't build the house, the builders only build shacks" Psalm 127 :1a (MSG).

On May 29, 2019 a new administration led by Muhammed Buhari as President was sworn in for

Nigeria. Happy new administration to Nigerians. Let me remind you Nigeria is our home. My simple advice, let us build Nigeria of our dream. Let us stop spreading evil report, let us stop imagining fear, particularly as Christians let us use our faith to build our nation on prayer, hard work and integrity. Our God is greater than any Fulanization or Islamization planned by the devil or his cohorts. The walls of Jericho will always fall by our simple, shouting Hallelujah, singing and praying. This Next Level shall bring an end to insecurity, corruption and lack. I see Jesuslization of Nigeria. Dry bones will rise again. I see a better and prosperous New Nigeria. The Nigeria of our dream. What do you see?

What is a Home and why is a home very important?

You must have heard the expression "there's no place like home." "Home is where the heart is." "Home, sweet home" Jacob after being away for over two decades in a foreign land, with wife and children, blurted out to Laban his uncle "when will I provide for my house?" He was apparently home sick. Have you heard the whole world is now a village? The airlines are the beneficiaries, in this age of heavy and diverse immigration, people fly thousands of miles to find a place they can call home. These expressions and actions indicate that home is somewhere that is both desirable and that exists in the mind's eye as much as in a particular physical location. Across cultures and over the centuries people of varied means have made homes for themselves and for those they care about.

Humans have clearly evolved to be home builders, homemakers, and home-nesters. Home has always been a gathering place, shelter, and sanctuary, providing escape from the busyness and intrusiveness of the world. It is not the buildings or houses that are homes but the people that live there.

The family is the single most important influence in a child's life. From their first moments, children depend on parents and family to protect them and provide for their needs. Every parent knows that it's sometimes difficult to do this important work without help, support, and additional resources.

The purpose of a family is to give you a safe and supportive base from which to explore the world. This applies both to the family your parents make for you, and the one you eventually make for yourself and (if applicable) your children. Values learning has been a traditional function of the family. Families introduce their children to their spiritual views. They teach their children right from wrong and encourage them to follow the laws of the land unless disobeying the law will benefit society. God himself gave that as a command to Moses: "O Israel, listen: Jehovah is our God, Jehovah alone. 5 You must love him with all your heart, soul, and might. 6 And you must think constantly about these commandments I am giving you today. 7 You must teach them to your children and talk about them when you are at home or out for a walk; at bedtime and the first thing in the morning. 8 Tie them on your finger, wear them on your forehead, 9 and write them on the doorposts of your house!" Deut 6:4-8 TLB

The Reality of homes- We all belong to each other

No matter how seemingly expensive and beautiful a house looks from outside when you come inside you will find areas that are not perfect fit. Trust me in that expensive house there must be a garbage bin! No matter how beautiful or handsome you are you will still need to go to the toilet. Home is similar to the body, and the body is similar to ministry. Hear what Paul says: "Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many

parts of one body, and we **all belong to each other.**" Rom 12:4-5. Home has many parts that perform different functions. Problems arise when one part defaults. Paul goes on – "In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly." Rom 12:6-8. The corollary is true of the home. If you are the husband be a good husband, and

simple abscess or boil in any part of a body can cause many sleepless nights. The reality of the home is that we all have responsibility to build the home we desire.

How do we build our homes?

Home is an off shoot of a house therefore I want to look at our home from these three major perspectives.

1. Foundation,
2. Internal structure.
- 3 External structures

Foundation. "Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that

house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Matt 7:24-7

The foundation of a house is what the entire structure rests on. It has to be strong and solid. Building our spiritual house (life) is similar to building physical houses is what Jesus is saying. The foundational structure depends on the type/height of what you want to build. That of a bungalow cannot be like that of a skyscraper. It is on your spiritual house you will carry all the structures of marriage, financial life, career, relationship and so

on. The reason why some fail as a husband and others succeed is that they have better foundation in those areas. If you don't have proper marital foundation it will collapse. When most marriages fail one partner blames the other. The bible had forewarned you not to be unequally yoked. That is look for proper material (spouse) to build your marriage on. If you go to the market to buy fake materials to build your home who are you going to blame? You have been warned that there will be storms. Jesus provides some solid brick and mortar for good house building. What are the bricks and mortar? "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the

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Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.”

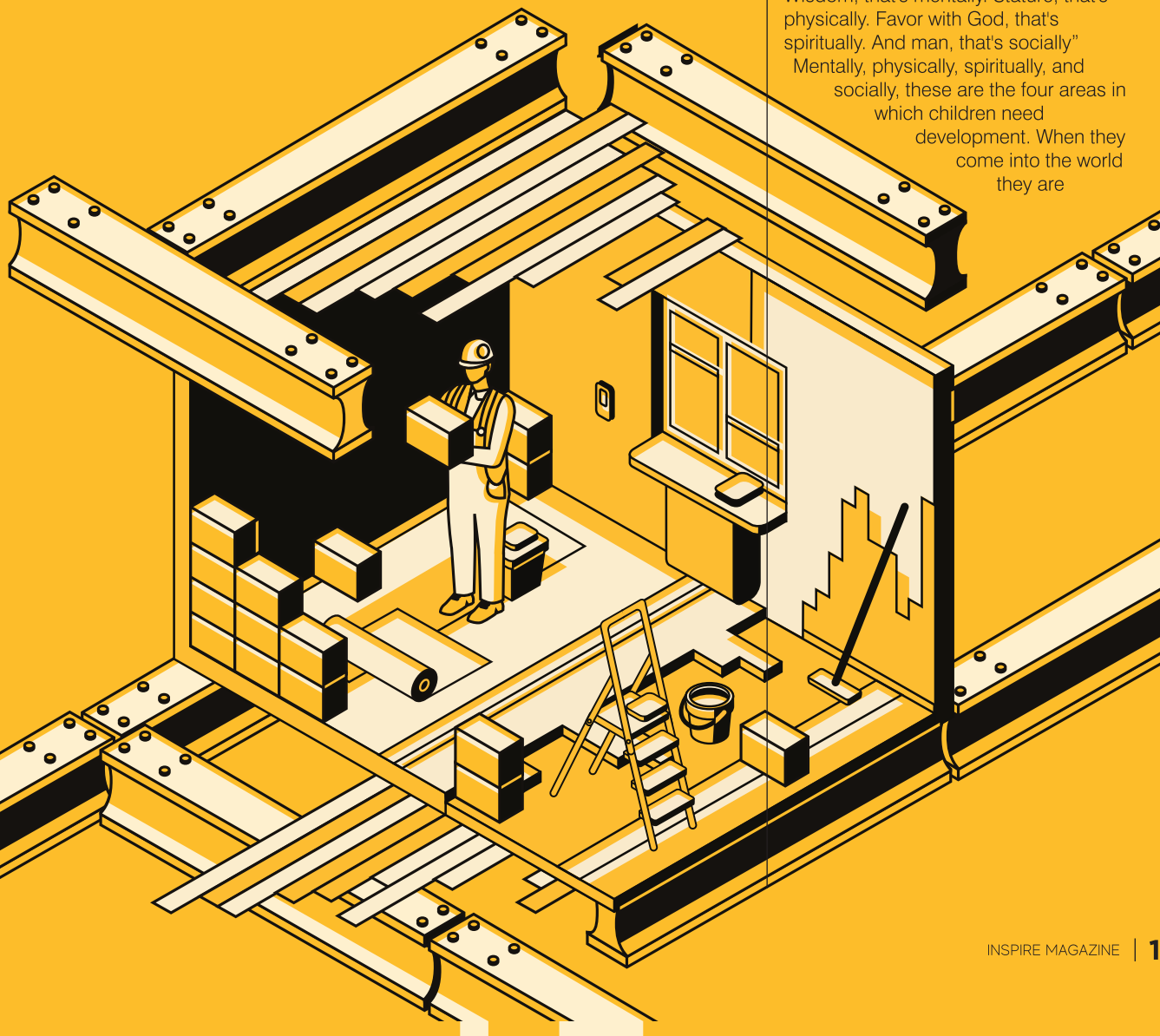
perform the functions of a husband, similarly the wife and the children. If you are the father, be a godly father, not absentee father, not a father that does not value the children. If you are the parent in-law treat your son/daughter in-law well. If you are the son/daughter in-law –treat your parents- in-law well. The reality of a home is that we have children, parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and we are not only blood related we are socially, financially and spiritually related and are all longing to be loved, cared for and cherished. Not only are we related, we all have a common goal to make the best of that relationship. When one part of that network malfunctions it affects the whole network, just as a



The house you build is where your children and family will be, if there is no proper house their safety, and security will be jeopardized

rock". The bricks and mortar are first of all HEARING the words of Jesus and then putting them into PRACTICE. You must study His word on a regular basis. We know it isn't enough to buy the materials and let them sit. If we just left the cabinets to sit in the basement and never put them up, they wouldn't do much good, would they? You have to sooner or later put the work into putting the materials up. It takes work to do this. I propose to you then that the more I hear the words of Jesus - the more bricks I will have to build with. In other words, the more I practice God's Word, the bigger and stronger my house will become. When Jesus tells us to pray, we are to go home and actually pray. Have you not heard 'the family that prays together stay together'. How can you build a home without effective family prayer altar? When Jesus tells us to avoid sexual immorality, we are to avoid putting ourselves in compromising situations or have sex outside of marriage or have children out of wedlock or commit abortion. When he tells men to be the spiritual leaders of the household, he wants them to lead. How can you be a

good leader if you come to church once a week or month? When building a house, it takes time and effort. If you only spent one hour a week building a house, it would take a long time to ever finish that house. If someone only spent one hour a week building his house, you would have to conclude that either it was not a priority in his life or he was lazy. The house you build is where your children and family will be, if there is no proper house their safety, and security will be jeopardized. As a pastor you cannot preach properly on marriage if you are not properly groomed. The kind of messages we hear today are products of the foundation of the preachers, period. Many preachers today should be in Sunday school building their spiritual cum home foundations! Another critical foundational matter is our children as major foundation for our home. As they say they are our future. "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and Man" Luke 2:52. I like the exposition of Jim Mooney on this matter how he explained that scripture "This scripture reveals four areas in which children need to develop. Wisdom, that's mentally. Stature, that's physically. Favor with God, that's spiritually. And man, that's socially" Mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially, these are the four areas in which children need development. When they come into the world they are



undeveloped. It is up to you and I as parents to develop our children in these four areas. If we don't they will never reach their full potential. In order to grow mentally our children, need instructions and guidelines on how to live their lives. In order to grow in stature they need to know that their bodies are the temples of God. To grow Spiritually They need to learn to live in a way that is pleasing to God. To grow socially they need to learn to respect others." Give your children that foundation!

Internal. The internal aspect of our home is the characteristics of the people that make the home. Every human being has internal organs like heart, lungs, kidneys, intestines and stomach, these internal structures run our lives. If you don't pay attention to them they will cause sickness or death. Our internal values are disregarded in this generation. Warren Wiersbe writes, "It seems no matter where we look in modern society, we see antagonism, division, and rebellion. Husbands and wives are divorcing each other; children are rebelling against their parents, and employers and employees are seeking for new ways to avoid strikes and keep the machinery of industry running productively. We have tried education, legislation, and every other approach, but nothing seems to work. Paul's solution to antagonisms in the home and in society was REGENERATION, a new heart from God and a new submission to Christ and to one another. God's great program is to 'gather together in one all things in Christ.' Paul indicated that this spiritual harmony begins in the lives of Christians who are submitted to the Lordship of Christ" (Be Wise, p.149). Christian families are to be different, "set apart" from the world. What unbelievers want to know is "Does Christianity work?" If our faith won't work at home it won't work anywhere. Parents, you may not be able to do anything about our national dilemmas, but you can do something about your family, your children. Marriages and families in our time tend to be war zones and disaster areas. Homes aren't havens. There is no peace, joy, contentment and bliss. Rather conflict, intimidation, and separation. Too often

Lay a good foundation, develop inner virtues by developing a godly character and be modest and decent in our external appearances.

today the parents are so busy trying to make a living for the family that they forget about the family as a whole. There are times that we need to push our busy schedule aside and make time to spend with each other. Pay attention to your internal organs especially your heart, you can go no further than your character. You have heard the adage your charisma will open doors your character will close.

External. By external I want to address the way we dress in this generation. That is in terms of what we wear, the makeups, the automobiles, church buildings etc. Why is the church of this generation building sepulchers at the expense of the rotten corpses? Why do we easily forget the issue of internal beauty and concentrate on external matters? We keep running here and there making money to buy toys for children who need us to take them to Sunday school. "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34. Love is more than a feeling. Love is a choice and action. There will be time when you will feel like you don't love your spouse and sometime even your children. But we do, our families need love. We need to spend time nurturing unconditional love. At some time or another we need the loving support of family members. Someone

that we can go to with our problems. Someone we can share our pains with without being criticized. Someone that will lend us a shoulder to lean on or cry on if necessary. The society doesn't want you to dress sexy to impress them as a Christian. They want you to show that you care. As pastor's wife, the younger ones are interested in your character not your latest dress from Italy.

Given the current state of things, does modesty even matter anymore? Our culture tells us no, and we've been so affected by the world around us that sometimes we don't even stop to think about what our appearance say about us, or how it measures up to God's standards. God calls us to a life of purity, and modesty is a natural outworking of a pure heart. To build a proper home this generation must return to family standard of modesty- The dictionary tells us that to be modest is to avoid impropriety or indecency, to be reserved in sexual matters, and to be unpretentious in appearance. Indecency is a strong word, meaning 'highly unsuitable,' but unfortunately our society has redefined this word as well. What was once considered unsuitable dress in public is now the norm. The church must stop following the world! We are to be the pace setters, the salt, the light even in our external appearances. Fathers, mothers how are you dressing? If you don't dress well you have no moral right to control your children. Young woman whom are you impressing by exposing all that needs to be covered to the public? Summer is here now when you see a deplorable dressing in Canada by the youth of this generation. My advice stop dressing indecently. Stop encouraging vices of rape and other sexual assaults. Build yourself to build your home. Parents when that your youngster dressed immorally and he/she is going out, to school or church or work, correct them! Charity they say begins at home. -Your home!

Conclusion. It is time to build our homes. It's time to follow biblical patterns to build our homes. Lay a good foundation, develop inner virtues by developing a godly character and be modest and decent in our external appearances.

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At the beginning of May my coworker mentioned she had extra tickets to Collision Conference, the “fastest growing tech conference in North America” and asked if anyone would be interested. I messaged her and said yes. So first, I want to thank Jessica for getting me free tickets to the conference. Second, I want to share some of my thoughts on Collision Conference specifically and Conferences and Networking in general.

Sections
Strong Opinions
Weakly Held
Disclaimer
Are Conferences
Overrated?
Is Networking



Tomiwa (me) at Collision Conference 2019

COLLISION CONFERENCE 2019 REVIEW - IS GOING TO CONFERENCES AND NETWORKING OVERRATED?

Most Networking is useful but the way we do some aspects of Networking in 2019 is inefficient.”

Overrated and a better way to Network Why I Respect and Disagree with Ev Williams

Strong Opinions Weakly Held Disclaimer

First, this title is 50% clickbait. A more rigorous title would be: “Some conferences are useful. But for most people, depending on your goals and how efficiently you want to spend your time, some conferences are overrated. Most Networking is useful but the way we do some aspects of Networking in 2019 is inefficient.” Obviously, that title is too long and you’ve probably already forgotten half

of it. So it's better to start with a more concise, arguably glib title that sticks in your memory and then address the nuances in the blog post.

I also somehow feel obligated to hedge my opinions by saying that this article is a strong opinion weakly held type article. This means that I am going to take an opinionated stance in this essay but I am fully open to listening to someone proposing a counter-argument and realizing that I'm wrong about something or even realizing in 6 months from now that I no longer think the things I am saying in this essay are true.

Basically, what I'm saying is if I end up attending or speaking at Collision 2020, no one is allowed to call me a hypocrite. In the words of John Keynes, "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do?"

Are Conferences Overrated?

Before we can answer if conferences are overrated let's find out why we go to conferences and our goals:

1. Networking: meet interesting people that you could help or could help you with your career
2. Be Educated
3. Be Entertained

I think 80% of the value of conferences are in the first point about networking and meeting people which I will talk about in the next section.

For the second two points, I have always wondered what is the difference between listening to a speaker you enjoy in person versus watching a video of them talk on Youtube or listening to them give a long form podcast interview. After listening to Williams and Max Levchin's talks at Collision, two founders I admire and have listened to before online, I can conclude that the difference is almost zero.

From an entertainment perspective, it's pretty cool to see someone who you've seen on the internet live in person and the little mannerisms they have up close, maybe even get a selfie. Otherwise, 95% of the value can still be received by watching a Youtube video. Youtube might even be better because you can skip forward the boring parts, go backwards for interesting parts and control your listening experience.

I think the value of going to these talks live is having the live audience ask questions. Most people who speak at panels/conferences a lot often get asked the same questions. By having the audience ask questions, you get to receive a broader set of questions. Also, the people who get to ask the questions, get access to a speaker that they may not have been able to get otherwise.

I think the Collision organizers could have done a better job of allowing more time for audience questions. To be fair, the speakers only had about 20 minutes to talk so I would have just reduced the amount of time the

moderator asked questions and increase the time audience members could ask questions. I would have the moderator give a brief intro, keep audience questions short and filter out crazy questions and just spend the rest of the time taking questions from the audience.

Maybe they could even have a twitter poll and just ask people at the talk to vote on Twitter if they want the moderator to ask questions or the audience to ask questions. In a digital world, physical events really need to start thinking more about why attending conferences physically is better than attending them digitally.

Is Networking Overrated and a Better Way to Network

The real value from these conferences is networking and meeting people. But I believe in 2019 this value proposition is a lot less compelling than it was in the past. I think the environment of a conference is not conducive to building relationships and I actually think social media does a better job of building meaningful relationships. I think creating thoughtful, useful content (blog posts, slide decks, videos), sharing it with your network and people you admire on social media and engaging and providing value to them is a much more effective way of building relationships. This is not to say that networking at conferences doesn't work. It's more so a question of efficiency and opportunity cost.

In a world of time scarcity, It might be a better use of your time (and more fun!) to:

1. Write a thoughtful Medium post, slide deck, Youtube video, white paper etc.
2. Share it on your Twitter, Medium etc.
3. Add useful comments to tweets of eminent people you follow on Twitter, LinkedIn
4. Ask them to get a coffee, 15 minute phone call etc.
5. Bonus: Someone eminent comes across your content, serendipity happens and THEY ask if YOU are free for a coffee.

Why I Respect and Disagree with Ev Williams

Out of all the speakers at Collision, Ev Williams' talk was the one I was most

looking forward to. Ev is the founder of Twitter and Medium, two products that I love and use daily. A lot of the ways I think about building the media company and community aspect of Atila is partly inspired by Twitter and Medium. These are two products that I think have radically transformed the way we humans communicate, yet I feel both are significantly not living up to their full potential. While I continue to admire and respect Ev's accomplishments, I realized I disagree with some of his opinions. One of the few times Ev got very animated during his talk was when he was asked what is wrong with the media industry and he blamed advertising. There are a few problems with this. First, is that advertising essentially subsidizes people in poor economic conditions to access the same internet resources as those like us who are more privileged. It is sort



I think the environment of a conference is not conducive to building relationships and I actually think social media does a better job of building meaningful relationships.

*This is a function of technology and progress.
To paraphrase Jeff Bezos, “Medium didn't
happen to the media industry, the future
happened to the media industry”.*

of an elitist argument to suggest that everyone should have to pay for certain software when some of these people literally can't even afford to put food on the table.

I also think that advertising is not inherently bad. Advertising, when done right is actually very useful for helping people become aware of things they may not have known about otherwise. For example, I actually remembered to apply to Collision Conference after seeing an Instagram ad.

Also, advertising when done right is actually useful. For example, I wanted to go to Collision conference as early as last year, forgot about it and saw an Instagram ad that reminded me to follow up on getting a ticket. The reality is that there is a demand for advertising. Businesses want people to know about their products and consumers want to know about products which are relevant for them. Maybe that's why I've noticed a few ads on Medium as well. But I'm sure Medium would say that those are in fact not ads but “native branded content”.

Of course, there are downsides to advertising such as: incentivizing excessive data collection and misuse and rewards spammy practices that drive traffic. Like everything, there are tradeoffs to be made and I think he could have done a better job of addressing the nuanced pros and cons of both sides.

I always get very skeptical when founders start a company based on their ideological perspective on how they believe society should behave. The paradox is that some of the best founders (e.g. Larry Page, Elon Musk) have a very opinionated and somewhat ideological perspective on how they believe the world should be. I think they also balance that with a

very pragmatic understanding of free markets, incentives and human nature.

During his talk he also mentioned the importance in having human editors curating content for Medium. I disagree with the idea that humans are the optimal solution for curating and recommending content for users. I think that humans are more prone to bias and irrationality and don't scale as well compared to algorithms. I think that while from an emotional point of view we may “feel” like we want humans recommending content to us, the honest reality is that algorithms are much more effective at providing relevant, personalized content that we are more likely to enjoy.

I really liked his thesis on how Medium allows anyone to share their story with the world. One of the thing that Medium has done to make the world a better place in my opinion, is they have probably helped a million people start writing and share their stories with the world. People who may not have done so otherwise. I think this is an incredible accomplishment that I really commend Ev for achieving. Ironically, this is also part of the cause of the decline in the traditional mainstream media. Anyone can write a story from their laptop or smartphone and get wide distribution. Contrasted with traditional media and the economics of having a full-time staff of writers, expensive office real estate and overhead, declining ad sales etc. The economics and business model of most traditional media companies no longer makes sense. I would also put companies like BuzzFeed, ESPN, MSNBC in this category as well.

[On a side note: it would be interesting to talk with people who

work for newspapers or companies like BuzzFeed, ESPN, MSNBC and ask why they haven't jumped ship yet. I'm sure it's not that easy and many people have been working there for a long time and developed skills and relationships in that niche. It's not fair to expect them to just quit and “learn to code” or “become an entrepreneur” while they may have a family to support and loans to pay. Though, I'm interested in the people who think that newspaper and traditional media is still a solid long term bet and would love to hear their arguments. If you know such a person, let me know!]

Back to the decline of traditional media: 20 years ago, Jeff Bezos' Famous “No Thank You Mr. Pecker” Medium post would have been distributed as a NY Times or Wall Street Journal Op Ed. By the way, this isn't Ev Williams' fault. This is a function of technology and progress. To paraphrase Jeff Bezos, “Medium didn't happen to the media industry, the future happened to the media industry”.

I wonder if Ev is aware of the dynamics at play here and is just being very cautious about how much he can share due to the nature of his audience. One solution is to have these conversations be off the record and with a smaller, more curated audience, where speakers feel more comfortable talking candidly. Overall, the Collision Conference was a fairly good experience. I'm glad I went because at least I got to write a blog post about Collision and take a nice cover photo.



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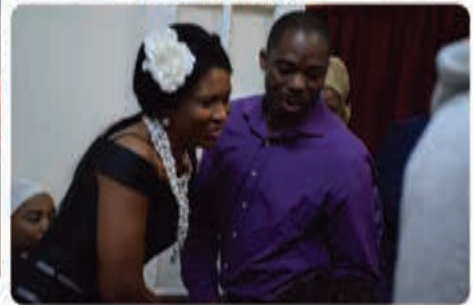
EDUCATIONAL

Quotes

Compiled by Oreofe Oluwa Dimeji

- 01** ▶ **Oscar Wilde**
"You can never be overdressed or overeducated,"
- 02** ▶ **Groucho Marx**
"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book,"
- 03** ▶ **Brigham Young**
"You educate a man, you educate a man, you educate a woman, you educate a generation,"
- 04** ▶ **Mahatma Gandhi**
"Live as if you die tomorrow, Learn as if you live forever,"
- 05** ▶ **Nelson Mandela**
"Education is the most important weapon which you could use to change the world,"
- 06** ▶ **Oscar Wilde**
"Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught,"
- 07** ▶ **Seth Godin**
"In a crowded marketplace, fitting in is a failure. In a busy marketplace, not standing out is the same as being invisible,"
- 08** ▶ **Seth Godin**
"Being aware of your fear is smart. Overcoming it is the mark of a successful person,"
- 09** ▶ **By T.H. White, The Once and Future King**
"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love, you may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honor trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it. That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn,"
- 10** ▶ **Margaret Mead**
"Children must be taught how to think, not what to think,"

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