



CALLED AND ANOINTED AS MARKETPLACE MINISTERS

Anointed for action in the marketplace

Ed Silvos (http://www.harvestevan.org/) says that Christians are anointed to minister in the marketplace, where the marketplace is defined as the government, education and commercial sectors. Christians operating in these areas are ministers of the Gospel as is any other minister of the Word. This is exciting news and releases much pressure from us as Christians who work and play in the marketplace. **All the world** needs to be reached by the Gospel of Jesus Christ: that includes every aspect of the marketplace, and how will the marketplace be reached if Christians do not operate in that sector or if they do not see their activities and conduct in that sector as a ministry!?

While God is the Great I Am, to me personally, He is the Great Restorer. He is in the business of restoration. He restores:

- Relationships between people and nations and Himself
- Each person's self-image, which basically is the relationship a person has with himself so that everybody can say: Hey, I like you who live inside of me!
- The relationship of people among each other
- The economy and business
- Governments and policies
- The natural environment; the land on which we live
- What ever else is broken He can and desires to fix it

The Great Restorer

In executing this great restoration plan, the Great Restorer uses people, us, as His messengers and actors in this Great Commission of restoration, yet He remains a jealous God who does not tolerate any impurity (Micah 6:10-11), nor any unforgiveness (Matt 6:12). To be functional in "Team Restoration", you yourself have to be restored, which is an act of Divine Grace – open and available for all.

As operators in the marketplace, what is our dream? Where do we wish to go? Yes, i) to conduct business in a Godly way, influencing and changing the sectors in which we operate to reflect His glory and thereby redeeming business and transforming the marketplace and, ii) to use the proceeds from such ventures to advance the Kingdom. The practical implication is to see an Africa economically restored.

We dream of an Africa free of poverty, free of abuse, free of exploitation, free of malnutrition and hunger, an Africa where the people of Africa are free to enjoy the produce of their own land, produced by seeds, capital and labour from their own soil. We see an Africa that is not the pity of the world, but an example of God’s restoration power! We see an Africa where the old have planted trees under which their young will sit, and an Africa where the young would care for the old. We see an Africa where the curse of poverty has been broken, where the minds of our people have been renewed – We **see an awakening of a continent**. We see an economy based on the principles of righteousness and stewardship, managed sustainably. We see solutions in every challenge. We see God enthroned and glorified through the action of man.

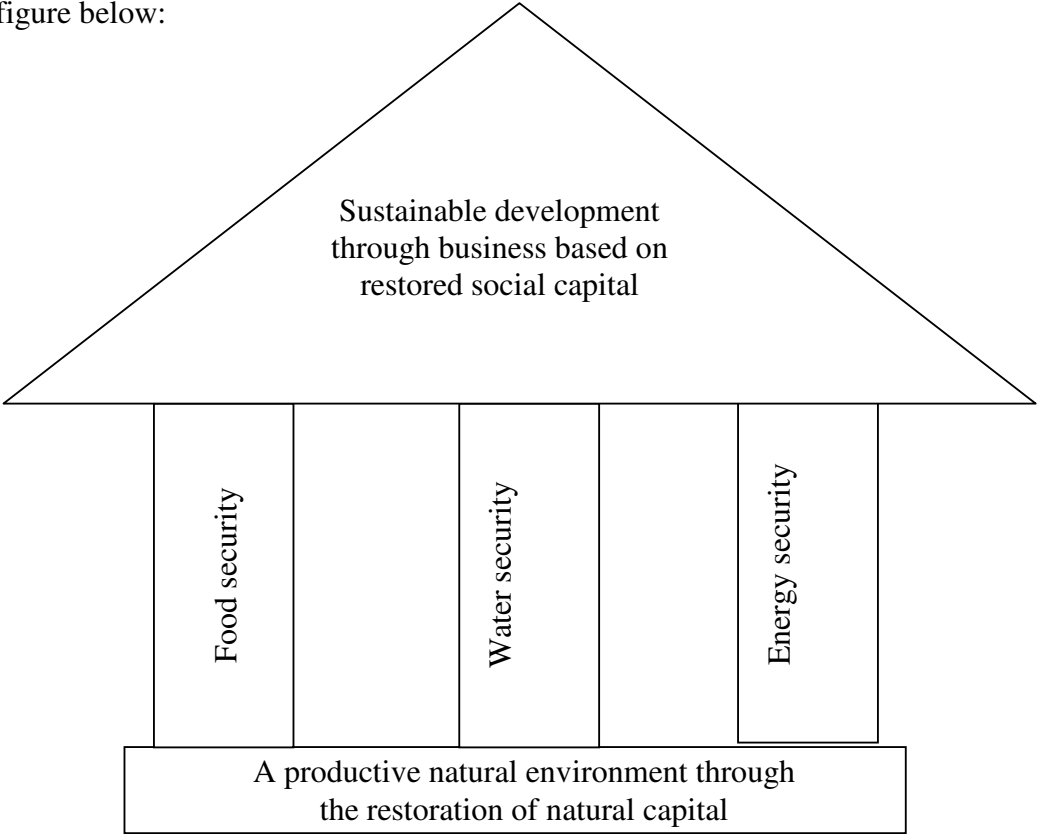
Using us to restore His Kingdom

We acknowledge that poverty is an image-breaker – it breaks the image of Himself God has implanted in the hearts of men and women so that they do not see themselves as crafted after the image of the Great I AM. They only observe, and even partake actively in, the acts of the evil destroyer. To break this malicious cycle of inferiority and destruction, we need to declare the presence of Jehovah Rophe, the One that heals our land, our economy, our people, across all of Africa. This can only happen when prayer and action – apostolically and prophetically – take hands.

To accomplish this we concentrate our actions on:

- prayer and intercession for Africa and its healing;
- the restoration of natural capital;
- food, water and energy security; and
- the restoration of social capital.

This we do since we believe that economic development comprises the elements as depicted in the figure below:



Firstly, the land is our base resource; it is where we derive all our livelihood needs from. Once that is degraded, the development of the livelihood of the people who depends on it is seriously compromised. Much of Africa's land is heavily degraded due to a variety of reasons. We envision, and work towards, a regional restoring natural capital project, without which the future economic prospects of those living on it are bleak. The land HAS to be restored if we would like to have any hope for restored/developed economies. A restored land becomes the pre-requisite for what is to follow.

People's most essential economic development needs (the pillars of development) are food, water, and energy, hence the need to develop food, water and energy security programmes based on the principles of self-sufficiency and productive and profitable trade. The access and affordability of these pillars determine the quality of life, self-esteem, and the ability to participate in the economy at a higher level for all who are currently marginalised.

Lastly, once food, water and energy security is in place (or being put in place) as the development pillars one can establish local businesses and achieve true sustainable development by activating/facilitating/stimulating new businesses, which could be food, water and energy-related, but also others. These businesses will only be sustainable if the social capital is restored, that is the presence of functioning institutions based on the principles of care and mutual respect.

As a company and within the network of organisations we interact with we actively develop projects promoting food, water and energy security while promoting the restoration of natural capital and are therefore engaged in several projects and programmes across the sub-continent to achieve this. A business's action can be both apostolic and prophetic.

The challenge

We need to, apostolically, break new grounds in the marketplace so that His Kingdom can come in every area on earth as it is in Heaven! We need to prophetically declare that it is time for Africa's restoration.

There is no more time for contemplating soulish objectives, however beautiful they might seem. Africa, you've been called for a time such as this. It is the time to reap a great harvest of souls. It is a time to prepare the bride for her Bridegroom, He is coming!

Invitation

Should you work in any of the areas mentioned above, or should you have a vision towards an Africa economically restored, or should you be an intercessor wishing to take hands with us: please contact us.

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