The Greatest Innovations start with Compassion

 “It was the best of times…it was the worst of times”. It was such that began my journey into solving problems for others and pondering global problems. More often than not, for those of us who have not studied to solve problems and are not involved in the business of solving problems, we must be put in a place where our only option is to come face to face with eternity, to open our eyes to the vastness of it, and to take a long hard, respectful look at how great and sweeping it is. To me…eternity is the place at the end of infinity. It swallows it, and spirals out into forever in all directions, in all areas. For example, when saying I love you…you can say, I love you to infinity, and that’s beautiful, but your heart hears finiteness…a definite point, some place. But I have loved you from eternity speaks of an expansive love, that always was, and always will be, in every area and every way that love can be defined…forever. That is the place I had to touch, when my body was losing its hold on life. Superior intellect couldn’t help me…common sense couldn’t help me, being in the top one percent of students, and the top 2 percent of the world intellectuals, did me no good whatsoever. Doctors thought I was crazy, until it was over, and I found my doctor from years ago, and he, knowing my body, operated, and told me “when we should be dead…there are some people who have a willpower that makes them refuse to die.” I knew in my heart that it was only because eternity had whispered my name…and I heard… “I have the cure.”

 I started inventing things on a dare…more as a gesture of faith, that the universe held its own answers, and anyone brave enough to question would surely get an answer. Heaven held answers to questions earth had not even formed…of that I was sure. So I began spending time meditating, with my little pen at the ready, jotting down ideas that sprung forth. Some were simple, like keychain antibiotics, which I thought of years before they came out. Others were more complicated, like inflatable hail protection devices for those without garages. Still others were even more complicated – like the “little genius” stroller and baby mat, which had not less than 10 inventions each…including speakers for the stroller walls that could pipe in everything from nature sounds to abc’s and 123’s, to foreign languages because children retain languages faster before gradeschool, to a child’s father’s voice, calming it as it lays there, and a water filled matress for comfort and to mimic the feel of being in the uterus, that could be heated in the winter and chilled in the summer, and motor and fine skill activities to keep them alert and active through onboard, but removable child computers, mirrors that spoke words of encouragement, and balls, squares and triangles, extended for play. There were peep holes so you wouldn’t have to come around to see your baby, and places for your tablet, and a cupholder, and other things, on an expandable desk. Looking back, the cost would have been prohibitive…but the few who saw early learning as good might have overlooked the cost. Such were some of the hundreds of designs I came up with. I didn’t just end there, I thought of ice pads for those with fevers to lay on in hospitals, ice blankets to cover them, digital charts so doctors could requests tests right from the pad, and extended uses for phones and tablets for medications, connectivity, and the like (when tablets and phones had no special function in the hospital), and beds with advanced features. I thought of ways to protect orphans, and ways to protect homes from floods (though I found later, this idea was already taken, or at least parts of it). I thought of ways for the entire world to participate in global catastrophic events, and a world tax of $10 to offset tsunamis, hurricanes, and the like for third world countries. Ways to get health care to third world countries by connectivity and apps and things like the Second Life Platform or go to meeting or whatever it was at the time, where communities could meet around one connected computer(with phone lines or satellites) and talk to a doctor in another part of the world for a few minutes each (in my mind it was better than nothing).

Sadly, my knowledge of computers was not the same as my insatiable curiosity and so, I lost most to dead computers, failed USB storage devices, hacking, and even copies I sent to my daughter, who subsequently closed down those accounts. My one hope is that the hard copies that were lost, when my Mom cleaned her garage, will turn up some day, and my dead computers will suddenly come to life, usb devices will suddenly be usable, so my dozens or hundreds of inventions will miraculously be recovered.

In the intervening years, other things have drowned out those things as I had different responsibilities that had to be attended to.

But I did not forget those times of being able to come up with 15 inventions in 20 minutes.

I guess my most important invention was one that is ongoing. I wrote a book on my experiences, after I came out of that life threatening situation. One whose information blessed our little church community, well, not so little, and I saw somewhere that it had traveled around the world. But I know now, after perfecting at least the medicinal part of my own life, that there is perfection for each life. Things you need to do to optimize your health. There is a place each of us must reach to live the fullest life possible...

I have seen people told by the doctor that they must change their lifestyle…and chose to die. Triple bypass recipients who refuse to give up pork and smoking. Unfortunately, I have been one of them.

There are things this country could do to make health care more comprehensive for everyone, but there are things only we can do to help ourselves.

I don’t know if there is a cure for all forms of cancer out there…but I know there is a cure for some. I don’t know if there is a cure for every type of heart disease patient…but I know there is a cure for some. I don’t even know if there is a cure for every type of diabetes. But again I know there is a cure for some.

It frightens me that this is the path I was praying just today, that it might be too big for me to handle. But it seems to be the path that has been chosen to make the best use of the skill set I have been given. With the Lord Jesus by my side, and faith in my heart, I may never be Louis Pasteur…but I can be that small town research scientist, who makes a difference in someone’s life. And that person might just change the world.

I guess the absolute truth in me now is that everyone has a responsibility to be the change they want to see in the world. So because I know my first priority is finding a forever home for orphans…that is what I will do. In my job, I will take those hours, should I be given the opportunity to finish my Master’s in Public Health, and try to help others find answers to health concerns with the hopes of improving the global quality of life.

The problem I see with the world is that there is no way to teach people how to raise up children who will want the change required to heal the world. You have to be willing to raise your children every day to be kind, to help strangers, and to be an agent of change. Then if 30 percent of the world catches on, then we become better. Children will fight for their toys at 2 years old, some will share those toys. Somewhere around 7 to 10, it looks like their hearts expand, I know mine did. By the time they were in 7th grade and high school, they were giving their own lunch and lunch money away to feed other students in class who were hungry, or feeding the homeless and hungry. It was those times that make a parent proudest, so, even though I couldn’t afford it, I would send enough for twice as many meals so my daughter could eat for the full week along with everyone else.

My daughter has a degree in elementary education because she wants to teach the deaf in third world countries as a missionary. My son is a police officer who mentors young people. These young adults hopefully will be the stones of the “Village it takes to raise a child”.

Then money will not matter as much as compassion and we will each open our hearts and hands to change the world.

Everyone is a change…they have to find that purpose through soul searching. I don’t qualify to solve global problems, but solving the problems of those around me drew the attention of heaven…so I could be trusted with ideas to change the world. Nothing disqualifies you when eternity calls you. Nothing can stop you when you have a spark of enlightenment. Not everyone has to come to the gates of death to dare to live. We can start where we are…and be the light in our neighborhood. Then, if we believe. God will make you light for the world.