

CETI: FAITH & LIFE

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**PEDAGOGY, PURPOSE, PRAXIS**

## SOME OUTLINE

- ▶ Us: Who, Where, Why
- ▶ Diagnosis of Theological Education in your Context
- ▶ An idea from Latin America
- ▶ An idea from Scripture
- ▶ A poem
- ▶ Your testimony
- ▶ Your collective prescription and plan
- ▶ Meta Analysis: What just happened? Why?
  - ▶ Assumptions, black boxes, machinery

## JAMES PADILLA DEBORST

- ▶ Used to be a gringo, raised in Grand Rapids, MI, USA
- ▶ Second conversion to the poor in Central America
- ▶ Years doing Christian International Development
- ▶ Some education and some diplomas
- ▶ Doing, then teaching International Development
- ▶ Invited to direct Community of Interdisciplinary Theological Studies, CETI: Faith & Life

## SOMEBODY

- ▶ Who are you?
- ▶ Where are you from?
- ▶ Why are you here?
- ▶ Share this someone sitting near you in one minute.

## SOME CONTEXT

- ▶ Draw a picture of theologically informed higher education in your context.
- ▶ Share it with your neighbor.
- ▶ Discuss.

## SOME THEORY

Theology is done in the communion of the chosen ones living out the agony of the vocation experience. Theology is done in community, and experienced in community as well. In the sharing of stories and in the anguish of trying to understand and discern everything well. It's a shame that we have reduced theology to an individualistic speech, expressed in words accumulated in books and dissertations. Theology must recover its place in the gathering of the called ones.

Valdir Steuernagel

## SOME SCRIPTURE

Micah 3:9-11 New International Version (NIV)

Hear this, you leaders of Jacob,

you rulers of Israel,

who despise justice

and distort all that is right;

who build Zion with bloodshed,

and Jerusalem with wickedness.

Her leaders judge for a bribe,

her priests teach for a price,

and her prophets tell fortunes for money.

## SOME POETRY

Join us!

Masked

We grow hidden under hills and valleys  
linked under the parking lots of this world.

Armed

with only our spindly roots

Shattering

the surface  
we scatter and trespass boundaries

Burning,

with thirst  
we spread like wild, grasses.

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Be grass

slowly, yet inevitably  
pulling down walls  
crumbling barriers  
renewing barren and polluted land.

Eat dust

Drink spilt blood

Sprout and flower

unexpected and beautiful across dry plains

Feed hungry cattle

Become bedding for the weary refugee

and in the abandoned vacant lot

shelter with us

even the worm slithering away from the strangely hot sun.

## SOME TESTIMONY

- ▶ Share a story of Christian Higher Education at its best
- ▶ Where have you seen God's Spirit at work?
- ▶ What insight does this give you?

## SOME DIALOGUE

- ▶ Reflect together at the intersection of all the elements we have covered.
- ▶ What new reflections do you have?
- ▶ What actions do they suggest?

## SOME PRAXIS

- ▶ What will you do?
- ▶ What does this workshop suggest doing?
- ▶ What does this conference call you to change, renew, start or stop?

## SOME META ANALYSIS

- ▶ What just happened?
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ How?
- ▶ Who?
- ▶ Process vrs. Content?
- ▶ Forms of knowledge?

# THEOLOGICAL FORMATION FOR LIFE

- ▶ Contextual
- ▶ Missional
- ▶ Interdisciplinary
- ▶ Church, Society, Family, Work
- ▶ Narrative, Poetic, Testimonial, Empirical, Theoretical
- ▶ Communal
- ▶ Normative
- ▶ Praxis

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