

THE TED^{*} LETTER

By David Emerald

December 2007



Registration Now Open for *Power of TED** Public Seminars in Seattle and Dallas!

By popular request, I am delighted to announce the opening of registration for two public seminars in the first quarter of 2008 and dates for the second quarter!

“Introducing *The Power of TED” (IPOT)** – In this one-day seminar, learn the remarkably simple and immediately applicable frameworks, tools and techniques that make up *The Power of TED** and begin using them to make the “shift happen” in your work and life. ([For More Information](#))

February 15: Seattle Registration Open! (see <http://www.powerofted.com>) for more information

March 28: Dallas Registration Open! (see <http://www.powerofted.com>) for more information

April 18: Boulder (Tentative – Date will be confirmed soon!)


May 16: Columbus, OH (Tentative – Date will be confirmed soon!)

“Experiencing *The Power of TED” (EPOT)** – This three-day seminar takes a deeper dive into your own work with the tools and techniques of TED* and prepares you to work with others in making “shift happen.” This seminar includes *The TED* Handbook*, which provides concrete, replicable tools and techniques for coaching individuals and groups away from destructive cycles of blame, resentment, and denial toward creativity, mutual support and high performance. (Visit <http://www.powerofted.com> for more information)

March 14-16: Seattle Registration Open! (see <http://www.powerofted.com>) for more information

June 13-15: Dallas (Tentative – Date will be confirmed soon!)

Register for IPOT & EPOT online at <http://www.powerofted.com>



"Experiencing The Power of TED (EPOT) was the best investment I've ever made in myself... It was a life altering experience. Reading The Power of TED* gave me an awareness of how I was living in the Victim Orientation. EPOT brought greater depth to that awareness and the interactive group exercises gave me the tools and support I needed to shift to the Creator Orientation... I found a hidden door in the walls around my life and now that I have stepped through that door I will never be the same."*

Tracy Christopherson
Health Consultant

PLEASE NOTE: While registration IS open, due to the holidays we will not be responding to registrations until after January 5, 2008. HAPPY HOLIDAYS and here's to a GREAT '08!

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Discerning Purpose

It is Winter here in the Northern Hemisphere. While our neighbors in the Southern Hemisphere are experiencing the height of summer, in just a few days we will reach the peak of long, dark nights – and begin the return toward more and more light. This is not only a special time in many religious and spiritual traditions, it is an important time that calls us to discern and cultivate the light of passion and purpose within.

As we all prepare to enter the New Year – regardless of where we find ourselves on the Earth – it is an opportune time to reflect on the trials and triumphs of the year about to pass and envision the outcomes we choose to express and manifest in the seasons to come.

One of the disciplines of living life as a Creator is to discern and articulate the context within which we feel called to create those outcomes. Taking the time to discern and clarify our personal and/or professional purpose is critical. Without that clarity, we run the risk of scattering our creative energies in ways that, in the end, may be less than fulfilling. With a clear sense of purpose, we increase our capacity to prioritize the opportunities for creating outcomes that matter most to us.

As we pause during this “interior time” of the year, we listen for what David Spangler, in his book *The Call*, refers to as our “summons to service.” We discern a direction. We find and hone our voice in the world. We evolve our sense of what our contribution to Creation may be. We claim our purpose.

We can begin by asking ourselves the question, “What is it that seeks expression in and through my life?” Such an inquiry takes us far beyond the problem-focused mode of the Victim Orientation and its reactivity. Our focus is no longer on what we want to make go away but rather on what we want to bring about. We ask additional questions, such as “What gives my life purpose? What brings me joy? What fuels my passion? What am I being summoned to? What am I willing to take a stand for in the world? How am I to serve?” These are core powerful questions to ponder and that lead to a deeper definition of the meaning of our lives.

Our purpose can take many forms:

- Some express their purpose through their work. They connect their sense of personal purpose with their professional expression.
- It may be a summons to a specific task or role (i.e. wife/husband/significant other, etc.).
- It could be a summons recognized by others as very grand, like a scientist who studies DNA to help find a cure for a certain type of cancer or a “Mother Theresa,” devoting their life to serve the poor.
- Just as honorable is what might be called “ordinary greatness:” being a great parent, a world-class

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gardener, a great listener (perhaps as a Coach or Facilitator), a teacher, an entrepreneur – and the list can go on and on.

- For some, a sense of purpose can be very general: a call to artistic expression, a call to love, a call to help others.

What is true for us as individuals is also true for the organizations in which we work. Taking the time to define the purpose and mission of the organization, or department, or work team can help in prioritizing projects and tasks that express our purpose and passion toward our clients/customers and the Co-Creators with whom we work.

As you engage in the process of discerning your purpose, I encourage you to craft a statement that expresses your current perceptions. This statement is one that can – and, in my experience, does – evolve over time. I first wrote a “personal policy statement” nearly 20 years ago, which has evolved over many iterations to the following “mission statement”, which I share as merely one example:

“I am Called to support and facilitate individuals, teams, and organizations in consciously shifting to a co-creative, vision-focused and passion-motivated orientation for their lives and livelihoods. This is my lifelong ministry of service to humankind. I am a partner in Creation with God. As Spirit works in and through me, I serve as a channel of God’s abundance, love, wisdom, and power to touch, heal, and transform my own and others’ lives and ways of being in the world.”

I revisit, revise (when necessary) and reaffirm this statement on at least an annual basis – and sometimes more often. I offer this as but one example and one that needs to inspire no one but myself – for it is the “star” that guides my choices as a Creator. You will find your own voice and own words in your own time.

So, take time during this special season to discern and define your purpose. If this is not a new practice for you – GREAT! – take time to revisit and either refine or recommit to it. If this is a new idea to you, see it as an essential discipline for defining your particular “field of play” as a Creator. Our world needs your gifts and your talents. Creation Calls!

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Putting TED* into Practice

As you sit before the fire in your hearth (real or imaginary; in front of a winter's fireplace or a summer's campfire) contemplate and, perhaps, journal in response to the following scene:

Imagine that today is your 100th birthday. You are attending a party being held in your honor. Gathered around you are family members, friends, neighbors, and others whose lives you have influenced or touched. One by one they rise and offer a toast in recognition of the contributions you have made to their lives and to the example you've set by the way you've lived your life. What do you imagine they are saying? What principles do you want them to be able to say you have lived by? How do you want other people to describe you? What is the "life legacy" you have left with others? Take as much time as you need to journal about what this tells you about your purpose and what you value most deeply.

The Spread of TED*

TED* continues to find its way into a variety of venues, fields, and organizations. It is spreading as an antidote to the "DDT virus" that is running rampant in our world.

2008 promises to be a year in which many more seeds are sown and there is already the promise that the spread of TED* will continue, including:

- A special evening with the Women's Empowerment Network (Seattle) on January 14th.
- A keynote presentation to the Junior League of Seattle on January 15th.
- And more to come!

If you know of other places in which TED* is popping up, please let me know by emailing me at david@powerofTED.com!

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Please let me know what you think of "The TED* Letter" & including what you'd like to see in future issues and/or how it can be improved! Write me: David@PowerofTED.com.

Have a great month!

David Emerald