



Marketplace Moments

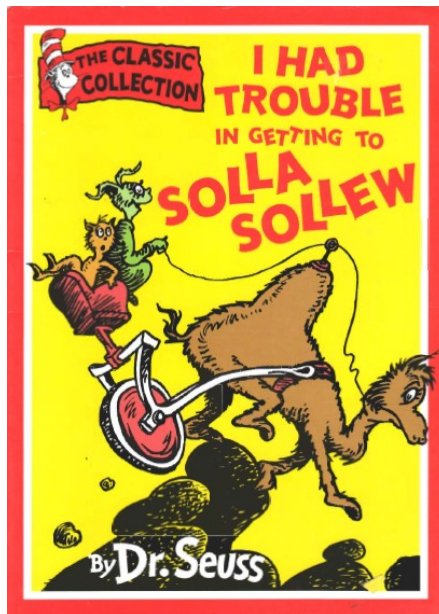
Bibliophoria

I Had Trouble in getting to Solla Sollew by Dr. Seuss.

Now for something lighter in the last edition of the year. The introduction of this book is by no means for children alone. This is one of my son's favorite bedtime stories that I read to him. Searching on the internet, I found that Robert L. Short, the author of 'The Gospel According to Peanuts' have also written something about Dr. Seuss titled 'The Parables According to Dr. Seuss.'

Dr Seuss, is Theodor Geisel who wrote a number of children's books including *Green Eggs and Ham* and recently made into a movie, *Horton the Elephant*. But among the many stories, I really enjoy this about Solla Sollew. You see, the 'fella' in the story has met with some troubles at home. Someone suggested that he gets on his 'One-Wheeler Wubble' to the land of Solla Sollew, 'where they never have troubles, at least very few.

While searching for this utopia, our 'fella' ran into a whole hosts of problems. When he finally reached Solla Sollew, the gate keeper said they have just one trouble; they could not open the only door to the city because a Key Slapping Slippard has moved in. The gate keeper is now moving to Boola



Boo Ball... where they never have troubles! No troubles at all!

I don't think our 'fella' is the only one who have difficulty finding a city where they have no troubles at all. Many of us, are pathologically looking for this illusive city. Perhaps in these times of economic crisis, bombings, terrorist attacks, crying and death, we realize and hope that this is not eternity.

The good news is that it isn't. There shall be a new heaven and a new earth, where there will be no more tears, no more pain, no more sorrows. (Rev 21,22). In this coming year, in such distressing times, let us take time to point others to the real Solla Sollew. Faith in Jesus Christ is The ONLY Way, the ONLY truth and the ONLY life.

Inside this issue:

Bibliophoria	1
Of the Heart and Mind	2
Eyes in a Darkened Room	3
What's Up?	4

Highlights

- I had trouble in getting to Solla Sollew
- What good can come from an Economic Depression?
- Juno
- Events Update

Of the Heart and Mind

What good can come from an Economic Depression?

Christianity Today columnist Rob Moll writes, 'Recessions, before the Great Depression, were often viewed as good things. Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon, even after the crash of 1929, expressed the common view of the time: "It will purge the rottenness out of the system. High costs of living and high living will come down. People will work harder, live a more moral life. Values will be adjusted, and enterprising people will pick up the wrecks from less competent people.'" But in more recent times, 'A Conservative leader in Britain was forced to apologize today for extolling the health virtues of an economic decline. "Recession can be good for us. People tend to smoke less, drink less alcohol, eat less rich food and spend more time at home with their families."

The economy has been on a consumption high for a very long time. Most of the efforts are placed in increasing consumer spending. In a closed system, where there are limited natural resources, sooner or later, something will break. Many Christians are at a loss as to what the bible has to say about economics. In order to understand how economic systems work, I suggest going back to a basic game which most of us have played when we were young called Monopoly.

You see, in Monopoly everyone earns a wage when they pass

'Go'. They then decide how to invest in property (a buying process). If you spend enough time rolling dices, there will come a time where people loose money and others win some. Those that eventually cannot pay up gets out of the game.

Now let us modify the basic rules and start adding 'real life' scenarios. First, you can borrow more money from 'the bank' with more mortgages than usual. Like a good bank, make repayments required for each round and add interest. Place a person in the role of the banker who truly has a 'monopoly' to set interest rates, repayment per round of each borrowing. I guarantee you run out of paper money. Increase money supply by creating more paper money than is allowed in the bank.

Now add natural disasters to the system. Appoint another player in the role of 'mother nature'. Randomly take away houses or hotels that were built. Can add role to play government which levy taxes on income and restrictions to borrowing. Let a few persons start becoming lenders in competition to 'the banker', the loansharks or 'ah-long' if you would like to call them.

By now, you either find it intriguing or confusing. Either way, I hope you begin to find the game Monopoly is no longer just child's play. It can be a tool to teach us many lessons about the economy.

Now turning this to be used in teaching the Old Testa-

ment book of Leviticus. I tried this out with my Sunday school class many years back with surprising results. It turned boring OT rules into something that teenagers could remember.

There are rules about how Christians treat each other and strangers in biblical times. The whole idea of debt cancellation, returning to each families' property / land and property within walled cities are under explored and could provide valuable lessons for us.

Though we are not able to return to biblical times and start administrating laws such as the Jubilee, property laws etc, we can definitely translate some of those concepts in our business dealings and proposal for legal changes to better take care of the poor, widows and orphans.

One of those principles is gleaning. In OT days, at times of harvest, workers are to go through the field to harvest the fields. However, they are to not pick up crops that were dropped or left behind but let the widows or the poor to glean. I believe this to be a wonderful principle that honours both work and charity. Rather than a handout, it gives dignity to those who can work meaning and purpose.

As we prepare for a new year ahead, why not take time to study and look into the OT for time tested principles and how they can be applied in contemporary issues and social concerns. The bible is more practical than most people know.

Eyes in a Darkened Room

Juno

A breath of fresh air has emerged from Hollywood. Some religious group has labeled this a triumph of being a pro-life movie. Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin in the US has been associated with the situation of her daughter Bristol age 17, who in real life was found pregnant, fathered by a teenager as well.

Sixteen-year-old Minnesotan high-schooler Juno MacGuff (Ellen Page) discovers she is pregnant with a child fathered by her friend and longtime admirer, Paulie Bleeker (Michael Cera). While at first she intends to have an abortion, she changes her mind and decides to make a plan for the child's adoption. With the help of her friend Leah (Olivia Thirlby), Juno searches the ads in the *Pennysaver* and finds a couple she

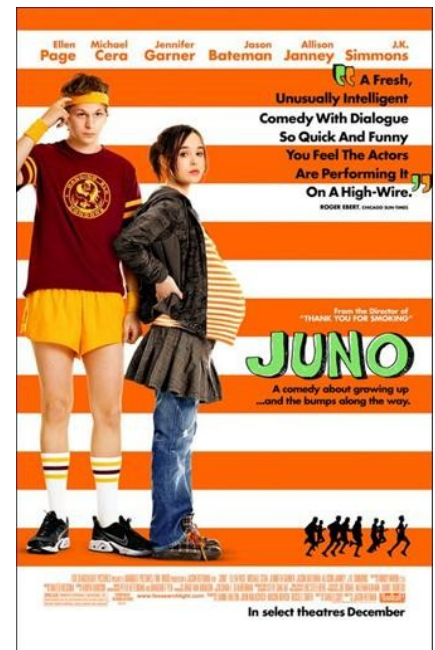


Diablo Cody (Brook Busey)

feels will provide a suitable home. Along with her father, Mac (J. K. Simmons), Juno meets the couple, Mark and Vanessa Loring (Jason Bateman and Jennifer Garner), in their expensive home and expresses a desire for a closed adoption. (Synopsis from Wikipedia)

The film won the Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and earned three other Oscar nominations, including Best Picture and Best Actress for Page. The screenplay was written by Diablo Cody (real name is Brook Busey), who interestingly wrote in a memoir of her life experience as a stripper in *Candy Girl: A Year in the Life of an Unlikely Stripper*. Despite all the seemingly pro-life messages, Cody in her interview with the Telegraph in Feb 08 said, 'She is surprised but not put out by the outpouring of goodwill from pro-lifers who perceive an anti-abortion message in Juno. "Personally, I am pro-choice and liberal, but anyone who enjoys the movie is OK with me," she says with a shrug. "To me, it is a movie about relationships, unconditional love and maturity. The pregnancy is just a trigger." One commentator writes that this film is not anti-abortion but pro-adulthood.

The other theme that runs through this movie is with regard to the role of women. Vanessa, though successful in her career is deeply desiring to be a mother. Interestingly, in this movie, the men almost seems irrelevant. The conclusion was that



Vanessa ends up adopting as a single parent.

This movie is successful I believe because it brings to bear on a number of issues. In and of itself, very conflicted, both in the movie and also in real life. It brings to mind how easy it is in life to make mistakes, sometimes small and insignificant, others with huge responsibility and commitment. It brings to light the struggle of the autonomous self, desires to fulfill our own ambitions versus consideration for others before our own. For Juno, it was a moment of experimentation with Paulie, Mark was his music making and Vanessa for wanting to be a mother.

Sin is what was created to be good, twisted and lived out in the wrong context. Life choices unfortunately are mostly between good and better or between bad and worse. Through them we learn to grow up, even as adults.

Marketplace Christian Network

Teban Garden Post Office
PO Box 669
Singapore 916003

Phone: +65 6872 4732

Email:

info@marketplacechristian.net

Web-site:

www.marketplacechristian.net

Kingdom Building at the Workplace

Coming Events

For more information check our web-site.

17 Jan – Euthanasia (A Christian
Perspective)

5–7 Feb – Calling and Vocation
Gordon Smith



Marketplace Christian Network bids farewell to our advisor and friend, John 'Pete' Hammond who died on 29 Dec 2008 of unexpected natural causes. He was married for 49 incredibly rich and rewarding years to Shirley D. Hammond who died Oct. 19, 2007. Together, they have 3 married children with 10 grandchildren. It was his encouragement, without which MCN as a ministry could not come into existence. He was a staff worker with Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship USA since 1966 ending his 41 years as Vice President at large in 2007. His life passion was to help Christians integrate faith with life and was a champion for Ministry in Daily life (or the marketplace). He was the creative director of the Word in Life bible and many other initiatives for Christians in the marketplace. He came to Singapore to speak at our GCF conference in 2002.

To see more visit the below web-site:

www.ivcf.org

[http://www.madison.com/obits/print.php?](http://www.madison.com/obits/print.php?refDate=2454836&refPage=listing&ad_number=1331080)

[refDate=2454836&refPage=listing&ad_number=1331080](http://www.madison.com/obits/print.php?refDate=2454836&refPage=listing&ad_number=1331080)