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Ministry Jottings: The Second Right Answer

“Nothing is more dangerous than an idea when it is the only one we have. “
~ Emile Chartier

Children are perhaps the most creative among us because as someone said, “they are fresh from God.” They have a natural sense of curiosity and creativity, of wonder and connection with the world. Unfortunately, our educational process often curbs this inborn curiosity by intimating that there is only one right answer to questions. As a result they begin to limit their vision, fearing the potential wrongness of their answers. We have taught them to stifle one of God’s greatest gifts – creativity.

Creativity is being able to look at whatever else people are looking at – and think something totally different. It’s the ability to rearrange old patterns into new ones, to combine two ideas in a way that no one has ever done before. If we are to combine ideas into original ways of thinking, we need to have more than one idea – but we have been taught to look for only one right answer. Reality, however, doesn’t always cooperate with our ways of thinking. Life rarely presents us with only one option, with only one solution to a problem.

In Acts chapter 16 we find the apostle Paul wanting to go to Phrygia and Galatia, which would have had him keeping his missionary activities in the Asiatic region of the time. He was prevented from making headway with this one approach he had decided on. Instead, Paul gets a vision of a Macedonian man appealing to him to come over to Macedonia. Thus, opening up the European world to the Gospel message, changing the course of the spread of Christianity. Like Paul, we need to be looking for the second right answer, maybe even the third and fourth right answer. Life holds more for us than just one right answer – it all depends on our creativity and what we are looking for.

In Christ's grace,
Pastor Deb