

Do they collide?

Two worlds

To some people, they would think that Christian dancers and artists live between two strange worlds – one that is the mysterious world of arts and the other that of the church. In fact, our faith in Christ seems odd to people in the dance community for there do not seem to have any place for that. However, I do not see why these worlds have to be separated from each other. Christians called to draw, paint, sculpt, sing, act, dance and play music have the same extraordinary opportunities as anyone to honor God in our daily life and to bear witness to the grace, beauty and truth of the gospel.

The two worlds do not collide.

They are one.

A little background

I have always been keen in arts. I was in the art stream during my secondary school days but did not have any exposure to dance. My mother picked up ballroom dancing **after her kids had**



started working and she had been pushing me to join her in it. When I finally went into it, I was there for 2 years. Didn't particularly enjoy it and being terribly scarred by my instructor and the complicated world behind it, I left ballroom dancing thinking I was not really gifted in dance, even though I did partake in several competitions. When I left that dance world, I stayed as far away from it as possible. However, I became aware of other dance genres and began following US dance competitions but I was not that keen to pick it up, preferring to admire them from a distance, as an audience.

A year ago, I had a break in work when I lost a bulk of my students due to them graduating or moving to a new place and hardly any referrals to replace the ones I lost. Usually, I would have a continuous stream of work. When that stopped, I realised I have a choice of using this break to pick up a new hobby (arts or dance) or start looking for new students. During that period, I was greatly inspired by a humble U.S contemporary dancer who shared he wasn't talented but credited his achievements as being diligent. I decided to cast aside my inhibitions and venture into contemporary dance. I gave myself a year since this dance genre is considerably hard to pick up as an adult since it is ballet based. Anyway, I decided that in this one year, I will work hard. If it



Light scrapes from car accident

doesn't bear fruit, I'll just do something else. Even in simple decisions such as this, I commit it onto the Lord as I believe in involving Him in my everyday life. He did involve Himself in many parts of my life – from guiding me to good dance instructors to keeping me intact in a recent car accident. Skinned and bruised, I was still able to attend dance classes a few days after the accident. To a dancer, being involved

in an accident is the least thing one would want. Even my ballet instructor sweated a little on my behalf upon hearing about the car accident.

God's involvement

A few months ago, I became very apprehensive of a certain dance instructor. It really made me want to quit dancing due to that horrible experience. For the subsequent lesson, I prayed very hard for some miracle to happen, that I would be inspired instead.

A replacement instructor came and boy he was good. His lines seem to go on forever and he was so kind, patient and experienced. He was so good that every student in class started asking him where his regular classes were. We were still talking about him the next few weeks. That replacement instructor was God sent for I was very much inspired by what he had shared.

When that *evil* dance instructor returned, she seemed daunted by the attention received by the replacement instructor and subsequently, she began injecting more passion into her work. Though I was still very wary of her, I was once again interested in honing my craft.



Me, in a dance class

Honoring God

Being called into dance might seem odd and incomprehensible to some as not everyone has the same appreciation and understanding to the different art forms. In fact, most would just see dance as just any other workout, serving no other purpose

than to keep our body, God's temple, healthy. My dedication to the craft seems incomprehensible even to fellow fresh dancers. One asked if I have a goal to achieve. I told her that I desire to be good enough to perform in church one day using the skills I've acquired. She tilted her head in thought before nodding her head in understanding.

Don't get overly excited, asking me when my 1st praise dance is going to be. I don't know yet. As God leads is the convenient answer but seriously, I don't think I'm led in this direction simply just to perform in church. My ballet instructor once remarked that I seem very different from other Christians. I laughed as she struggled to describe the differences between us because it did sound like she was describing the Pharisees. (Matthew 23:3 came into my mind at that point, *that everything they do is done for people to see*) Basically she was saying that there are those who talk about God but their lives and attitude seem separated. What she observed about me is that I do not deliberately bring God into the conversation but will naturally share about Him as He is very much involved in my life. Whenever I talk about God, it doesn't sound deliberate but natural. She did further highlight several positive aspects of my behavior.

My response?

I smiled and said plainly, "The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom. My words and actions are governed by a healthy fear and reverence of Him."

God's call

I once remarked to Alvin that I wish God's messages can be as loud as a burning bush, at which he quaintly replied that I really wouldn't want that to happen. Oh. If it happens literally, I wonder what my response would be...And yes, God speaks in whispers at times and there are times I miss hearing them too. I just go about life as per normal, praying, hoping that I don't mess up too much along the way, believing that as long as I am with Him, He is with me. Whatever direction I go, He leads.

I don't really know if there is anyone who is as passionate in dance as I am. If there are any like-minded people who would like to talk about it or even work on some projects with me, please approach me. I don't believe my journey in dance ends with this sharing because I feel the tapestry God is weaving has yet to stop. What I can see is just the back of the tapestry where it seems like some unorganized mess. However, I trust that whatever direction it may take me, I pray that God is always in me and with me.

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