

By Revs. Robert and Casey Baggott

Dreaming Big Dreams

Have you ever been called a dreamer? Usually, if someone wants to slap that label on us, they don't mean it to be a compliment! But we'd like to argue with the low estimation of dreamers.

From the scriptures, in the book of Joel, come these words, offered as a hopeful promise: "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your elders shall dream dreams, and your young ones will see visions." There is energy and enthusiasm in that promise. Dreamers take note: your services are important enough to be predicted as a great blessing which will come to others through God's spirit.

Are you a dreamer? If you are, then you may recognize that there is more than one variety of dreamer. D. H. Lawrence once wrote: "Everyone dreams, but not equally: Those who dream at night with their eyes closed awake to find it was all fantasy. But the dreamers of the day are the dangerous ones. They live their dreams with open eyes and make them possible."

The words from the scriptural book of Joel about dreamers seem to refer to Lawrence's daytime dreamers: the dangerous ones who dream with their eyes open! What does it mean to dream with eyes open? Can we dream like that? We think people of faith ought to dream regularly, with eyes opened wide, and here is why:

First, to dream with our eyes open will mean that we'll look outside our comfortable surroundings and see the need and the pain in the world. By the rest of the world's standards, we live in such privileged surroundings. It's easy for us to forget that. It's convenient to close our eyes to what we do not wish to see. Yet, faith and open-eyed dreaming calls us out of our comfort zones, to care for those we dare not close our eyes to.

Second, to dream with our eyes open also means that we see what needs to be changed. We don't just look at the painful stuff around us and then slam our eyelids shut tight. We who dream with open eyes will weep with those who are weeping and stand in solidarity with them to effect helpful change.

We dreamers realize that there may be roadblocks in our path. But we trust that just taking one step at a time toward the goal ahead will keep us working toward every dream's realization. And we know that those of us who try to dream God's dreams never have to do the needed work of transformation all by ourselves.

Are there dreams hidden inside of you? Maybe they need to be brought out into the light of day to be seen clear-eyed, with hope and faith. Have you been granted a dream for this life, for your family, your friends, your town? We knew it! You're a dreamer, too! With God's help, may your best, daylight dreams all come true.