# When Spirituality
# Meets
# Innovation

*An autobiographical perspective on the power and need for Innovation and Spirituality in Urban Education, Personal and Business Relationships, and the spiritual game of Golf*

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***When Spirituality Meets Innovation*** is intended to inspire, motivate, inform and facilitate a mindset for social change, spiritual evolution and build awareness of the need for innovation in our daily lives.

People young and old, who have sought a path for speaking out and up, now, have a vehicle to express their opinions about schools, representation in politics, religion in schools, strategies for spiritual development, their golf game, social change and more. The interactive chat-forum links at the end of each chapter lead to a supporting website that prompts discussion through threaded posts. At last, a book that encourages interactive social discourse and the potential for meaningful change!

I discuss the merits of a student empowerment program that I created and named ***Let them eat P.I.E***. The acronym

means “promoting intellectual expression” and the program is designed to empower at-risk high school students who have demonstrated gifts of intellectual prowess but have no place to express it due to the profound impact of living in poverty. Providing our young scholar in waiting with a safe place to cultivate their intellect is as important as encouraging them to keep their intellectual fires alive. In Chapter 3, starting on page 44, I advocate for coffee houses like Starbucks to support the ***P.I.E***. program at their local shops. I wrote this book at my local Starbucks, so they get the first shot at support this effort. My goal is to make P.I.E. a national effort in support of intellectual development for at-risk youth.

Another project designed for youth empowerment is the after school spiritual development program, ***Mindset for Spiritual Prosperity.*** In Chapter 3, on page 28, I discuss the need for this type of program to be included as an after-school enrichment program in public, charter and choice schools that serve at-risk student populations. I also discuss the value of cultivating a mindset for spiritual prosperity for all of us throughout the book. Chapter 3 also contains details of ***my work to help the Gates Foundation*** gain a better understanding about meeting the needs of at-risk high school students through the development of small high schools within existing schools in the city.

As a proponent of ***Golf Education in urban schools***, I talk about the intrinsic power of the game to improve soft skills of social development for at-risk students in urban schools. In Chapter 5, starting on page 7, I discuss the power of Golf to create meaningful change in the lives of at-risk children by providing an environment for safe play, the development of critical thinking skills and self control.

A ***serious social problem exists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin***. African American children and their families are disproportionately represented as living in poverty. The level of graduation for African American males in high school is under 40%. African American men are incarcerated in the state of Wisconsin at a higher rate than in any other state. The level of teen pregnancy among African American girls between the ages of 15-17 years is 92%. So, how, who and when do these issues get addressed? I offer prayerful discernment about finding solutions to these problems and more in Chapter 3.

***Education reform is at the heart of Chapter 3.*** I discuss the challenges that the Milwaukee Public School system and the suburban Elmbrook Public School system have continued to experience in their attempts to provide quality educational services to at-risk learners enrolled in their schools, most of which are African American students. As a

result of the problems that they face, the NCLB measurements of academic performance have identified these school systems as failing to perform. I offer ***eleven meaningful reforms*** that could improve their outcomes with these students.

***The integration of innovative science*** in our daily life is a subliminal theme of the book. Much of the research that I have engaged in over the past several years as an education and peak performance researcher is with a type of Neurofeedback called audio visual entrainment or AVE. ***The Future Hope Project One, demonstrated a high level of effective intervention*** with at-risk students attending a Milwaukee Charter School. The intervention improved the students' academic performance, social behaviors and sleep patterns. AVE is a form of brain wave training that has shown to improve the academic performance for at-risk K-12 and college students as well as adults. Behaviors that have an adverse affect on reading, such as impulsivity and poor attention to detail are often improved with the use of audio visual entrainment. More details about the power of audio visual entrainment and the next research project, ***The Future Hope Project Two***, that I am engaged in with at-risk learners can be found on my website at: www.ourlifedesigns.com. AVE is delivered via a control box the size of a pack of cards, patented eyeglasses and headphones that are portable and easy to use. These devices are part of a comprehensive line of training devices called the ***DAVID***. The website for the manufacturer of the David training devices, Mind Alive has additional information about research using the DAVID devices and AVE, from improved sleep to symptom reductions of fibromyalgia that highlights the many wellness benefits of audio visual entrainment. Chapters Three, Five and the Addendum feature detailed information about this effective approach to wellness management.

The ***golfing community can receive the same benefits*** using audio visual entrainment because it has a powerful application in golf as part of a pre-game training program. AVE provides a method of sharpening focus and concentration on the course and the driving range and can be used daily.

Also discussed is my work to develop a ***new line of disease specific vitamin supplements*** based on high potency levels of vitamin D. The prospects for these formulas as a prophylaxis against chronic disease are the result of great spiritual focus and innovative thinking.

The spiritual components of our lives are presented to us as ***TouchPoints***. The concept of TouchPoints are presented as a way to promote the importance of taking time to "smell the coffee" as we live our lives at such a hurried pace. In Chapters 2 and 4, many examples of my own personal journey and those of people that I know, come to light around our discovery of meaningful TouchPoints.

A concept called "***Auto-Pilot"*** is presented in Chapter one. Many of us are on the auto-pilot program right now and may not be aware of how it keeps us tied into a mindset of seeing the glass of life as half empty.

The discussion about the ***power of Convergence*** and achieving a mindset for spiritual prosperity in Chapter 4 validates the effort and incredible spiritual power that provided me with the energy to write this book.

A very insightful ***Foreword is written by Reverend Gary Manning*** of Milwaukee. He talks about the difference between religion and spirituality and challenges us to seek our best spiritual path in life.

The ***Preface discusses the power of family legacy*** and duplicating generational success. It is an important element that is often missing in the lives of at-risk teens living in poverty.

In Chapter One, I talk about ***how I helped the city of Milwaukee avert a possible race riot*** while I was working as a Mediator.

All of these situations described had a profound affect on my life and my understanding that everything that we do can be improved through faith, an investment in the development of our spiritual mindset and embracing the power of innovative thought and process. This is the essence of my book.

A portion of the after-tax profits from the sale of this E-book will go towards supporting two worthy social causes for at-risk children. Support will go toward the development of after-school golf education programs in urban schools that serve at-risk K-12 youth. Additional support will go towards the development of after-school spiritual education programs for the same group of children in urban K-12 schools. Funds will be made available through an RFP request process.

So please, consider the benefits of purchasing the book instead of email sharing.

Thank you for your interest and support. This has been a wonderful personal and spiritual journey and the trip is really just getting started.

Peace to all,

Steve Taylor

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**Supporting Websites**
www.ourlifedesigns.com- Our Life Designs
www.mindalive.ca - Mind Alive, Incorporated
www.themlrc.org The Minnesota Learning Resource Center

www.ourmindalive.wordpress.com – Ourmindalive Blog for Clinicians, Educators and Parents
www.youtube.com/ourlifedesigns- Video testimonials about efficacy of audio visual entrainment