

Powering Up The Disruptors

Text of Speech	Screen	Soundtrack
<p>Do you like Star Trek?</p> <p>I love Star Trek. And I'm old enough to remember the original series – I was ten when it started in 1966. I don't know whether anyone here is old enough to remember, like I do, when Captain Kirk and Mr Spock would beam down the planet?</p> <p>And can you remember when they arrived all sparkly from the transporter, looking grim faced with phaser guns in hand? And when they stopped sparking they'd spin around both ways looking for... the Klingons.</p> <p>"Phasers on stun," William Shatner would say, in a grim, cautious voice.</p> <p>"Illogical" Leonard Nimoy would reply and then do as he was told anyway – at least until the Klingons arrived!</p>	<p>Star Trek image appears gradually on screen</p>	

Then there would be some kind of confrontation in which Captain Kirk would floor several Klingons with manly punches, while Mr Spock meted out a few Vulcan nerve pinches.

Then the Captain would say, "Beam us up, Scotty."

And they'd go all sparkly again and disappear. Then, in the next scene, you'd see them reappear in the transporter room back on the Star Ship Enterprise in good time for next week's episode *to boldly go where no man had been before*.

Of course, it takes a particularly irritating American TV voiceover actor to really split a good infinitive, particularly one with sexist overtones like that.

And it takes an intolerant Brit grammarian like me to still be moaning about it in 2017!

But truth is, today I don't really want to talk to you about Start Trek at all...

I wanted to talk to you about ... **Star Trek *weaponry***.

And so now the connection to Outcome Based Education and entrepreneurship is obvious to ***everyone***, isn't it?

...Well, isn't it??

Peace, be still.

All will be revealed.

So...

<p>If I asked you which weapons you could remember from Star Trek, I bet pretty much everyone would say <i>Phasers</i>.</p> <p>And how about photon torpedoes? Remember photon torpedoes?</p> <p>Because if the Enterprise got caught snoozing in some remote corner of the universe and a Klingon bird of prey de-cloaked and started bullying the humans, if <i>Phasers</i> didn't do the trick, you could always start hurling Photon torpedoes and pretty soon you could be sure the bad guys would turn tail and run.</p> <p>'Cos we humans always had the best weapons and that's why we always won. Plus, of course, we had the unsurpassable advantage of William Shatner's manly chiselled chin and smouldering good looks that made</p>	<p>Image of star Trek phaser</p> <p>Image of Enterprise firing photon torpedo</p>	
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<p>Lieutenant Uhura swoon and make eyes at him. ‘</p> <p>And we humans were the good guys and more noble than the aliens and we had right on our side and we were going to boldly go where no man had been before and no big eared, bug eyed, scheming aliens were going to stop us. And that’s why we were able to come back and watch the Federation Starship Enterprise defend us against the evil aliens again next week.</p> <p>At least, that was how it was until in episode 26 of the original series, ‘<i>Errand of Mercy</i>,’ when the Klingons turned up with Disruptors. Because</p> <p>Disruptors make everything different.</p> <p>Do you remember the disruptors? The Romulans were always powering up their disruptors or powering down their disruptors or once in awhile even</p>	<p>Image of a hand held disruptor</p>	
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<p>firing their disruptors. And that would ... disrupt everything.</p> <p>Disruptors matter to us in Outcome Based Education and in Entrepreneurship because</p> <p>Disruptors make everything different.</p> <p>Why?</p> <p>Because disruptors bring change.</p> <p>This is a disruptor:</p> <p>But so is this:</p> <p>And actually, so was this:</p> <p>And this:</p>	<p>image: disruptor hand gun from Star Trek</p> <p>image: i-phone</p> <p>image: landline telephone</p> <p>image: early steam engine</p>	
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<p>And this was a really, really big disruptor:</p> <p>Perhaps the biggest disruptor of them all was this:</p> <p>Because all of them changed the way things were done. All of them required someone who thought differently or saw possibilities others did not see ; someone who thought outside the box.</p> <p>You see, most of us humans actually don't really want to boldly go any further than the coffee shop or the pizza house or the sofa to watch Star Trek.</p> <p>The ones who do want to boldly go are the Disruptors.</p> <p>And Disruptors challenge the way things are done.</p>	<p>image: wheel</p> <p>image: fire</p>	
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<p>Most of us don't believe it's really possible to do anything different from how it's always been done.</p> <p>But Entrepreneurs disrupt.</p> <p>They do things differently.</p> <p>They change the game.</p> <p>They break out of the comfort zones.</p> <p>They see further and see what others have not yet seen.</p> <p>They are ordinary people who chase their passion.</p> <p>Teach passion.</p> <p>Be the passion you teach.</p> <p>They make the things happen that others believe cannot happen and in doing so they give customers, or learners, or whoever, what they want and show us possibilities we have never even thought about.</p>		
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They disrupt supply chains by finding more effective ways of doing the jobs needed to get product and service to customers; they find ways that take less time, less of the planet's resources, less human effort. They become the preferred supplier, in some cases the only supplier; until someone else comes along and disrupts the disruptors.

And let me tell you, **entrepreneurs LOVE being disrupted!** Business people who are there just to make money and look smart and drive big cars and be in control,

These people hate disruption.

They commonly tolerate disruption only for as long as it takes them to get into a position of control and then they spend all their time trying to stay there and keep everyone else out. But entrepreneurs, disruptors, they just

LOVE being disrupted. Because they know they thrive on disruption. They take the disruption that upsets their established way of thinking and they twist it and they hammer it and they mould it and they create yet more disruption. And in so doing they become more effective, delivering better results using less planetary resources.

So where do you find these entrepreneurs, these disruptive people, entrepreneurs who know how to stir things up and get better results by doing so?

Well, you don't need me to tell you that there are entrepreneurs in business.

They make things, they provide services:

entrepreneurial makers of semi-conductors, transport equipment, garments, copper products, agricultural products, like you do here in the Philippines. In fact Wikipedia tells me that the Philippines is set to grow

from a ranking of the 35th economy by GNP at present to the 16th largest economy in the world by 2050. Wow! That's going it some! And it all takes disruptors to do it better. It takes entrepreneurs to make it happen. So yes, we need entrepreneurial disruptors in all walks of business.

But what about elsewhere?

Do we not need disruptors in politics?

Do we not need entrepreneurial thinking in public administration?

And how about education?

You guys are educators. How do you feel about being disrupted? How do you feel about someone finding better ways of doing what you do now? **How do you feel about your comfort zones being disturbed?**

And why not entrepreneurial ministers of religion?

Or Disruptive homemakers?

Because human development relies on change.

Remember the poem from yesterday:

*The time passed by.
The years did fly,
and comfortable within thy patterns thou became.
And gradually
thine energy
and passion for more truth began to wane.
Thy vision slept.
Thy soul, once kept
in fiery faith, now sadly doused its inner flame.
And comfortable,
intractable
thy former heart of passion thus became.*

We love our ruts do we not?

We settle.

Our comfort zones hate change.

But we only grow when we embrace change.

*When tempests come
and freeze the sun
then put to Heaven not the question "Why?"
Change sets us free
from constancy
and plagues of comfort on which we rely.*

And that spirit of embracing change, of wanting to grow, needs to infuse all we do, all our people, in the all the areas that comprise the reason for our being on this planet. Because

DISRUPTION IS INNOVATION

If our outcome for our learners is to be innovative, we are actually saying we

<p>want them to emulate the most effective disruptors in history.</p> <p>So who are the disruptors we can learn most from?</p> <p>This guy was a disruptor:</p> <p>So is this guy</p> <p>If he ever finally does get his spacecraft into orbit he may be remembered as one of the biggest disruptors in history.</p> <p>But maybe not as big a disruptor as this guy:</p> <p>Was this guy a disruptor?</p> <p>No, I don't think so – or if he was, his disruption did not last. Or if it did, it did so only in the sense that we never want to forget the damage he did.</p>	<p>Image Steve Jobs & Apple computer</p> <p>Image: Richard Branson & Virgin Galactic</p> <p>Image: Thomas Edison & light bulb</p> <p>Image: Hitler, swastika</p>	
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<p>For a long time after his death, this guy was held up as a supreme disruptor.</p> <p>But the truth will always out. And now the whole world knows what devastation he wrought. After his passing his country changed course.</p> <p>This guy was a huge disruptor:</p> <p>This woman too:</p> <p>And what is it that connects these disruptors?</p> <p>Simply this:</p> <p>The willingness to conceive that things don't have to be done they way they are being done;</p> <p>that they can be done better; that it is beneficial to themselves and to</p>	<p>Image: Stalin. Soviet Union Flag.</p> <p>Image: Ghandi</p> <p>Image: Saint Theresa of Calcutta</p>	
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everyone else, if they are done better.

So what does it take to be a disruptor? To bring beneficial entrepreneurial change to all walks of life.

Well, it's very difficult, isn't it?

It's really, really hard, isn't it?

Is it?

Maybe.

And most of us can't be like that, can we?

Can we?

Actually, in my opinion, yes, we can.

Because to be a disruptor, to be an entrepreneur,

You need these:

<p>And you need some of these:</p> <p>And you need one of these:</p> <p>You do not need to know about rocket science .</p> <p>And You do not necessarily need lots of this:</p> <p>Disruptors listen to what people want</p> <p>Disruptors look at their own activities in order to see how to do it better.</p> <p>And they think, think, think</p> <p>But we SO don't want to do that!!!</p> <p><i>"There is no expedient to which a man will not resort to avoid the real labour of thinking,"</i> wrote Sir Joshua Reynolds. And Thomas Edison kept the quote on a plaque on his desk in his laboratory.</p> <p>But more than any of that, disruptors need one of these:</p>	<p>image: eyes</p> <p>image: ears</p> <p>image: brain</p> <p>image: rocket over mathematical formulae</p> <p>Image: \$\$\$</p>	
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<p>Enough courage to dare to be different</p> <p>and to carry on when the feedback is discouraging.</p> <p>It's said that Edison conducted more than eleven thousand experiments in the pursuit of a workable electric light bulb – and this, after others had already tried and failed repeatedly in the quest. The story has it, that around half way through that process, after 5,000 failed experiments, he was interviewed for a magazine article and asked why he carried on after so much failure. He is said to have replied that he had not failed once; he had simply identified five thousand ways in which a light bulb would not work.</p>	<p>Image: heart</p> <p>Image: the cowardly lion from Wizard of Oz</p> <p>Image: early light bulb</p>	
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<p>In 1946 Saint Theresa of Calcutta, according to her own record, received a call to live among, and work with, the poorest of the poor. She started that work in 1948. And in that first year she passed through every kind of discouragement, begging for food herself, repeatedly tempted to return to the comfort of the convent.</p> <p>She wrote this:</p> <p><i>Our Lord wants me to be a free nun covered with the poverty of the cross. Today, I learned a good lesson. The poverty of the poor must be so hard for them. While looking for a home I walked and walked till my arms and legs ached. I thought how much they must ache in body and soul, looking for a home, food and health. Then, the comfort of Loreto [her former congregation] came to tempt me.</i></p> <p><i>'You have only to say the word and all that will be yours again,' the Tempter kept on saying ...</i></p> <p><i>Of free choice, my God, and out of love for you, I desire to remain and do whatever be your Holy will in my regard.</i></p> <p><i>I did not let a single tear come.</i></p> <p>Was Saint Theresa a disruptor? An entrepreneur? Without question.</p>	<p>Image: Saint Theresa of Calcutta</p>	
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<p>Entrepreneurs have to have enough love to care about their calling, their preoccupation, if you will, their obsession. Their priority is benefit. Yes, often to themselves, but more so to the people they serve, their customers, the world about them. They often create wealth, but they know that wealth is a consequence of, not a reason for, being in business.</p> <p>Saint Theresa's work eventually attracted astonishing levels of funding and expanded throughout the world.</p> <p>Yet Mother Theresa died owning a bucket and a pair of sandals.</p> <p>The entrepreneurial heart lies not in wealth itself but</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• in business,• in benefit,• in building. <p>Entrepreneurs know money is the oil of enterprise, lubricating, facilitating</p>		
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business, facilitating creativity. They know it is not the reason for doing business. And quite often, beyond the basics they care little for what money can buy them personally. They know it can become a distraction, killing entrepreneurship and the spirit of disruption.

They may well only be dwarfs, but they stand on the shoulders of giants.
And thus they see further.

Now, most of us associate that quote about standing on the shoulders of

giants with Sir Isaac Newton who wrote in 1676, "*If I have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.*" But in reality, the first person we know of who used those words was Bernard of Chartres who died in 1124. Seventy years *after* Bernard died, in 1194 the building of Chartres Cathedral commenced. And right there on the floor of the cathedral, right now, is the Labyrinth. If you go to Chartres you may be fortunate enough to arrive on a day when it is possible to walk the labyrinth. I did it. Many do. It's not so hard to see your way round the labyrinth. It's not so hard to walk from the entrance to the centre.

But I venture to suggest that it takes a Bernard of Chartres, someone who is

Image: Chartres Cathedral
Labrynth

willing to climb up onto the shoulders of giants to see over the labyrinth.

You think that's folly? Because the labyrinth is laid out on the floor, any
anyone can see over it?

Then if it is so easy to see what is already there, why did it take Sir Isaac
Newton to show us refraction when we can all see rainbows?

And why did we need Newton to define the law of universal gravitation
when we can all watch fruit fall from trees?

Entrepreneurs stand on the shoulders of giants and thus see further, over
the labyrinth that is laid out on the floor and into what the labyrinth
actually means, even, if necessary, before the rest of us get round to
constructing the labyrinth.

[PAUSE]

What those disruptors, those entrepreneurs see when they're high up there on those giants' shoulders, what they see, and what they tell us, is their gift to the world.

So what will you give to the world? In twenty years or so, maybe less, my time will be up. In thirty years, forty years, fifty years, so will yours. **What will you give to the world during this time in exchange for the privilege you have enjoyed of walking on the planet?**

How will we be richer for the fact that you have walked among us?

Will we remain undisrupted when you pass?

Will the terrain return to its former topography?

OR WILL YOU DISRUPT?

Will you disrupt, by teaching the disruptors to disrupt?

Because to create entrepreneurs, to teach disruption, you have to enable people to think outside the box, to see over the labyrinth.

How do you teach that?

[PAUSE]

YOU DON'T

You don't teach it.

<p>You simply stop showing people the '<i>right</i>' way to do it – whatever that 'it' happens to be and you facilitate their find new ways of doing it</p> <p>You put them in situations where they have to find new solutions.</p> <p>And then you get out of the way.</p> <p>When you educate, truly educate entrepreneurs, you do not induct.</p> <p>YOU FACILITATE.</p> <p>You allow the creativity out.</p> <p>You unshackle the poet and you let him, her, sing their poetry out to the</p>		
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world.

Because believe you me, those poets are in there.

And they are rattling on the bars to get out.

They're desperate to climb up onto the shoulders of those giants and shout and sing and scream their poetry to the world, a world that is so hungry to hear them.

And all you and I have to do is tuck our rule books under our arms and step out of the way before we have so inculcated in our learners the *'right'* way of doing things that their poets lie in the darkest deepest dungeons, starved of the sunlight, emaciated from hunger and so far from our stopped-up ears up there in the ivory towers of our edifices that no one can hear them.

[PAUSE]

There's a story I heard tell. It's about a man, so disabled, so paralysed, that he had lain on his bed unable to get up for as long as anyone could remember. The doctors, and the healers and the religious people had tried, time and again to make him better, but no one had achieved any kind of change for this man. And as the years wore on and hope gradually drained from him, his family and friends began to despair of his ever recovering.

Well, one day his friend heard of a place which might at least offer some hope – a swimming pool covered by five colonnades. And this friend discovered that all the sick people, the helpless ones that no one could do anything for, these hopeless ones were gathering by the swimming pool. You see, rumour had it, that periodically an angel would disturb the water in the

Image of Pool of Bethesda
comes up slowly

swimming pool. And when that happened, these sick folk actually believed that whoever jumped into the pool first would get healed. Well, the friend of the paralysed man, he was sceptical. Because sick people don't really get healed, do they? But he figured it might at least give his disabled friend some hope. So he got a group of helpers together, and they carried the man's bed down to the swimming pool. And they waited.

And you know what? It was true! One day, without warning the water in the swimming pool started bubbling. And this guy with a withered arm, he jumped in before anyone else could. And when he came up out of the water, his arm was healed. Well, he climbed out and went running round the streets dripping wet showing everyone his arm, and shouting and yelling in his excitement.

So the paralysed guy, he' really excited now. Because if the man with the

withered arm can be healed, well so can he, can't he?

And a couple of days later it happens again! The water bubbles and a blind girl jumps in... comes out being able to see. She leaps from the water soaking wet and her parents just have time to throw a towel round her before she becomes an embarrassment in her excitement.

Then a few days later, it happens again! And again; and again. So the paralysed guy on the bed is really, really excited because his turn is coming to get healed. Until, that it, it finally dawns on him, that there's a problem. Because the healing is just not going to happen for him, is it? And why? Because someone always gets into the pool before he does. And it doesn't matter how often the angel disrupts the pool, he just **knows** he's never going to get healed, because he can't ever get into the water first.

And this goes on for thirty-eight years.

Thirty

Eight

Years.

Until one day everything changes.

Because along comes a healer who catches the eye of the disabled guy and he says to him, 'So do you want to get healed or not?'

And the disabled guy says, 'Sure I do, but when the angel disrupts the water, someone else always gets into the pool before me.'

And the healer says to the disabled guy, 'Get up! And while you're about it, pick that mattress up too. And now walk away.'

<p>And that was all he needed to say. In that moment the man who had been paralysed thirty-eight years, he gets up and walks off carrying his bed.</p> <p>Well, you'd think everyone would be seriously excited about this, wouldn't you? After all it's a pretty big deal when a man, paralysed for thirty-eight years, gets up and carries his bed away. You'd think this healer would be on the evening news, in the papers, all over the Internet. But what do the authorities say?</p> <p><i>It's against the regulations to carry your bed on the Sabbath day.</i></p> <p>Thirty-eight years paralysed, and all they can do is tell him he's breaking the rules to carry his bed home!</p> <p>Of course, you'll know by now that the healer in this story was Jesus .</p> <p>But think about this one:</p> <p>Who was the disruptor in this story?</p> <p>The angel? Certainly. The angel disrupted the water.</p>		
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<p>But I suggest to you Jesus was the real innovator here, because he challenged the established way of doing things. And, the story says, that it was this event that first made the top dogs in Israel decide that Jesus had to be killed. Because that healing and the carrying of the bed <i>broke the rules</i>. And if you're part of the power elite that loves the way things are done now, disruptors, innovators, the people who break the rules are very often just too inconvenient to live with.</p> <p>And you know something? Quite often Disruptors and innovators don't to live too long. Or perhaps, more correctly, they tend not to outlive their calling.</p> <p>Jesus departed the planet at 33, leaving the world changed forever.</p>	<p>Pool image fades away</p>	
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<p>Ghandi was assassinated.</p> <p>Mother Theresa died within six months of standing down from leadership of her organisation.</p> <p>Steve Jobs died of cancer at 56.</p> <p>If you're prepared to be a disruptor, you may not last too long either. You may very well pass over when your work here is done. But when you do, you will leave the world changed forever.</p> <p>Angels stir up waters. Men and women get healed. Wonderful; but it's not</p>	<p>Any appropriate painting of Jesus</p> <p>Image: Ghandi</p> <p>Image: Saint Theresa</p> <p>Image: Steve Jobs</p> <p>Image: Fire</p>	
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<p>wonderful for the ones who can't get to the waters. Not the ones who don't fit the system, who can't get what they need from the established way of doing things. They get left behind. To reach these takes a real innovator. Someone willing to tear up the rulebook. And when that person appears, those that benefit most from the established order will not like it.</p> <p>They want the world to stay just the way as it is. Cos it's comfortable. It's easy. It's nice. And if they get their way, the rest of us continue to count on abacuses and light our way through the world with candles.</p> <p>So I'm going to put it to you today, that if you really want to inspire</p>	<p>Image: anything appropriate from a Google search on the term: <i>Image: Political Power</i></p>	<p>xx</p>
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entrepreneurs, hold on tight. When you unshackle those poets inside them and they climb onto the shoulders of the giants, **they will see further.** And then the ride can get rough. The change they bring disrupts the *plagues of comfort on which we rely.* They remind us that *our calling's now to rise and grow, and learn and grow in grace until we die.*

But the alternative is abacuses and gas lamps. And who would want that? Power up your disruptors and we all get to boldly go where no man has been before.

Image: from Google search: ***Standing on the shoulders of giants***

Image of an abacus

<p>You may not feel you can be an innovator in the way Jesus was. Maybe you're right. But how about being a disruptor like the angel was? Because if you're prepared to make a habit of stirring up the waters two things are going to happen.</p> <p>The first is that people are going to get healed. They're going to get healed of their inability to see, or their inability to move or they'll be changed in other ways.</p>	<p>An appropriate angel image</p>	
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And the second thing is this. If you're willing to make a life's work of stirring up the waters, one day along is going to come a disruptor, an innovator of great consequence who will change the lives of the ones who can't get into the pool quick enough. **And that is what is going to change the world.**

So my advice to you today is that you decide to boldly go where no one has been before. Disrupt in new ways, in new places.

Disrupt

Disrupt,

Disrupt.

Namaste.

Image: Starship Enterprise heading away from screen

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