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April 28th, 2015

The Tuning Fork

Most of us remember the science experiment with tuning forks. One tuning fork is struck to make it vibrate and across the room another tuning fork begins to resonate because it responds to the same "wave length." The tuning fork is an apt analogy for our entrance into Montessori teaching. There are four ways that this happens. First, when we are introduced to Montessori there is something within the philosophy, the materials, the demonstrations that resonates with us. It could be emotional, intellectual or spiritual but when we see it or feel it or touch it – it speaks to us – and we are "home". The second, is when there is something within us (maybe it is the teacher's feeling that "there's got to be a better way") and we come upon it in Montessori – the feeling of "I found it" is an overwhelming joy. And again we feel at "home" because the missing pieces of our life come together.

Joy is the overwhelming feeling of Montessori for both child and teacher but there is a third dynamic of the tuning fork. That dynamic comes into play (which is a great word) when that wave length, that vibe extends between you and the child. When you are given the grace to see into the child's heart, into the child's being and everything you do speaks to a deeper work than what we call "teaching".

It is this spiritual dynamic of Montessori that is so profound. It is beyond training (but it starts with training), it is experiential but is not always an experience that you can replicate. It is being prepared. It is the prepared environment of our own souls, the prepared environment of our own spirit.

And that brings us to the fourth dynamic of the tuning fork – that is when our hearts vibrate to the very heart beat of God. This is why Christian Montessori teachers need to understand the need of the fruit of the spirit within our own prepared environment. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. These do not come from us but flow to us and through us. This is not just a result of our training or our experiences but it is at the very heart of God loving the world through us, changing us, transforming us, setting us on fire with His love, and that fire warms our children's hearts; that fire is reflected in their eyes and lights up their lives.

Montessori is God's inspiration coming from his heart to embrace His children – both big and small – sharing His love and His good pleasure as we make our way in the world – in tune with Him.