



Before Technology Falters

"Remember him ... before the wheel [is] broken at the well" Ecclesiastes 12:6 (NIV).

The beginning of 2003 marked a new technological influence on my life, when I purchased my first electronic datebook, a "personal digital assistant" (PDA). Shortly after Christmas, one of my colleagues at Eastern Mennonite University, Dr. Joseph Mast, an ASAer of long standing, was demonstrating the nifty features of his new PDA. I thought, "That's neat, maybe it's time for me to 'move to the next level' and engage a technology that has the potential to enhance my personal schedule and help me set priorities!" So a few days later I pleasantly interrupted my normal school preparation time by learning the features of my new PDA (a Palm m130) and programming its database with essential information.

Technology is grand when it works. It allows us to output higher quality and greater quantity of work in a shorter period of time. That is true whether the technology is a "well-wheel" or pulley that eases the task of raising and lowering a bucket to draw water from an open well or if the technology is a good word processor computer that expedites writing and re-writing a manuscript by allowing the author to edit and delete sections of text with ease and efficiency or check word spelling and grammar usages. That's the "up-side" of technology. The down-side is that sometime the pulley breaks, the computer hard drive crashes, or the battery of the PDA fails forcing us to resort to less-technologically driven methods to complete our tasks.

In Scripture, the wise counselor calls us to remember God, not only in the difficult times when the routines of life are disrupted, but

in the good times when our technology seems stable. Our response to the Creator, who formed us with the ability to create new technologies, needs to be continual. Our Creator desires to be a central part of our everyday existence. Programming my PDA to remind me to encounter God at discrete points in my schedule is one way of blending the functionality of technology with the call to "remember him."

Similarly as scientists and educators, we need to remember the importance and involvement of our God in natural science. Consider the regular articles in this issue of *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith*. J. P. Moreland describes his understanding of mind by promoting an autonomous theory of dualism dependent upon philosophy and theology rather than scientific data. David Lahti describes the African village weaverbird as a model of understanding the power of nature in guiding us to remember the Creator. By re-assessing understandings from Intelligent Design and miracles, Jack Collins attempts to avoid a "God-of-the-gaps" while reminding us that "special revelation" is needed to understand the identity and will of God. Finally, Richard Thornhill considers the issue of optimality and design both in historical philosophy and in the example of the panda's thumb. Other articles, including a Communication, an Early Career Scientists' article, an essay book review, numerous book reviews, and letters responding to current issues or prior published comments, conclude our issue. ❁

Shalom,
Roman J. Miller, Editor

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