In the Grand Scheme of Things

We are sometimes tempted to think our experience trivial as we watch the spectacle of the news of the world unfolding on the ubiquitous big screens around us. Understanding our own feelings and ideas, we fall victim to Eblow syndrome, retreating to our private caves to play solitaire with our possessed indulgences. One unfortunate victim in this process is curiosity. Eugene Wilson says that the "quest quotient" is more important than the "intelligence quotient." He's right. The programs of the Buechner Institute are an invitation to keep the search for curiosity alive enough to ask a fine question: "Where are you staying?"

You may recall that wondrous moment early in the Gospels when John the Baptist's followers become curious about this newly arrived Jesus Christ. Here are some folks still alive enough to ask a fine question. Where are you staying? Can curiosity draw them to ask such a question. Do you remember the response? "Come and see," says the Messiah. The invitation remains.

We have too many channels these days, of course. So many distractions dull our sense of requiteness, our capacity for hope, our faith in possible change. Buechner Institute programs aim at keeping the tension of transfer and contemplation alive.

In a whirl of diversion, we offer these moments of focused consideration, opportunities for reflection. In the grand scheme of things, ideas matter. The curious know that life is more than meat and drink. Again this year, we invite you beyond surfaces to conversations that matter. Do come and see.

Blessings,
Dale Brown
Director, The Buechner Institute
NPR earned her the Peabody and Foreign Press Club awards. Her book, *Science, and launching an intense spiritual search. Her coverage for was instrumental in her leaving the faith of her childhood, Christian she was posted in Japan as Asia correspondent for the . At 29, “Barbie always listens very carefully to the things people say,” she told the teacher. “I think she is a very good teacher.” —Andrew Crouch

Most of the Bucheron Institute events are free of charge and all are open to the public. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities in our community life.

Your contributions help carry this work. To make a donation or offer ideas for programming, please see buchechern Institute.org.