

Personal Reflection: July 1, 2022

The Pyramid System: Exodus 1: 1-22

In his 2021 text, *Delivered Out of Empire*, Walter Brueggeman offers his liberationist interpretation of the Book of Exodus. One amazing line describes our “vexed” world as: *A world over which the God of glory faithfully presides.*

Walter describes the pyramid system of the Pharaoh in Exodus as *one in which all money and power flowed to the top.*

I see the domination system in education as a kind of pyramid system: the professor knows and tells, and all wealth and power flows to the top where he is in control. That *pyramid pattern* which we met when we were in primary school, emerges as government, as church, as family, as culture!

A goal of education is often described as a “way to the top.”

In Dialogue Education that pyramid pattern is challenged and hopefully replaced by patterns of equality, accountability and indeed, *dialogue.*

Look at a recent educational event in which you took part: notice where the wealth, the praise, the affirmations went. Notice how power was named and used.

I appreciate Walter’s wry image of the Pharaoh’s *pyramid system.* It helps me to look at my behavior as an educator. It gives me questions to ask myself.

--Jane Vella