



Processed For Success

Your Life Matters

Chris and Carol Green

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by

Chris and Carol Green

Excerpts from the Book
Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies:
You are Success in Process

Processed for Success: Your Life Matters

*Excerpts from – Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies:
You are Success in Process*

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Published by: Fruitful Life Learning Community for
STEP Forward Life Institute™

Cover Design: Amazon/ Kindle Direct Publishing

Photography by Amethyst Roberson

Edited by: Carol L. Green

Printed in the United States of America

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to the Fruitful Life Learning Community. You have stood with us in our mission to equip and empower Believers who would live out 2 Peter 1:5-8, which states:

"But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Yeshua (Jesus) the Christ."

Prologue

I had a dream that someone gave me a contract to write a book. The contract was written in multi-colored print with various fonts and font sizes. The contract did not specify how much I was going to be paid, although it hinted that this was a very lucrative deal. It only stipulated that I had to write the book, using the title that was given in the contract. There were a few other requirements like; it had to be written from personal experience.

However, the title was really strange and I wasn't sure I could write a book with someone telling me what the title was, without telling me what was the book's theme or topic. I was trying to read through the strange multi-colored, multi-font contract when I woke up and realized it was a dream. I got up to record the title before it left me.

REST, RETREATS, REVIVAL and OTHER COMEDIES.

I didn't quite know what to make of this dream and this very strange title for a book. I thought about it all that day as I went about completing my tasks and preparations for our next coaching sessions.

I shared the dream and title with my wife, Carol later that evening and she immediately began to expound on what it meant. She interpreted it perfectly.

We were to write a book about the specific things God has taught us in our years in south central

Pennsylvania. The book's purpose is to reveal the most important principles and lessons God has taught us in preparing us for what HE has planned to do through us, in this region and around the world.

The next morning I came to understand that the multi-fonts and multi-colors of the contract means God will cause the book to speak to people of multi-colors, ethnicity, nationalities and cultures. The multi-fonts and font sizes indicate the book will have a multi-generation appeal to the young and old.

The title meanings are about Resting in God; Retreating after devastating setbacks and disappointments; Reviving or recovering and resetting to come back out fighting again; and the Comedies are the revelations contained in our "Comedy of Errors" or the numerous times we failed, made mistakes, or made bad decisions that somehow, still worked out in our favor. The Comedies are all about how God caused some things to work out anyway.

Having been through countless times of unemployment, two home foreclosures, two rental property evictions, homelessness, experienced two car repossessions, seen credit scores so low that it was a joke, been betrayed, been victims of fraud, been swindled, been denied opportunities, been overlooked, and cast aside; we know what it means to live in bitter times and have to pray, plan, work and rise again; again and again.

Using excerpts from our book, "Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies", we created and produced this scaled-down 42-page publication to continue to push our 'You are Success in Process' campaign.

These books aren't for everyone.

They have been written for that person who is sick and tired of projecting a brave front while hiding their deep disappointment behind spirituality.

They're for the person who is no longer looking for a typical self-help manual, filled with inspirational stories and motivational meditations.

These books are for that soul who is ready to challenge their core beliefs about why their life keeps going off the rails, to stop blaming 'the devil' for everything that goes wrong, and truly desires to finally break FREE from the unending cycles of dead-ends, defeat and discouragement.

- Chris Green

You are Success in Process

There are people who have always had ambition and big dreams, and they fought their way through life to achieve their goals.

Sometimes we see couples that carry the same type of drive and passion, as they work together to build a business or a ministry.

Chris and Carol Green were not those people and we were not that couple. We were both so quiet and reserved that we had to be introduced to one another twice. Let's just say that our beginning was not something that would indicate that we would even be a couple, much less become pastors and own a coaching business together.

We're those people who are extremely private and nothing is more uncomfortable than being private people who find themselves postured in a very public platform.

We're both introverts, and when introverts push past their personal comfort zone to reach out and connect with people, it's overwhelming most of the time.

But we had accepted "the call" to the pastorate and our first congregation was teenagers in the inner city of St. Louis, Missouri back in the early 1990's.

The irony was that everything that God gave us to do involved connecting with people. He had put His

compassion within us. Compassion is love-in-action. We couldn't just stand by and watch people struggle, especially young people. So we opened up our hearts and home to them.

However, we didn't pastor them from a podium or a stage. We invited the teens into our home, and from a space that was safe for them (and us), we built a youth ministry that impacted teens across our city.

Yes, there were challenges as the ministry grew, but we overcame them through compassion, empathy and patience, as we took a, kind-of parental posture with the young people.

We started writing songs for and with the teenagers and encouraged them in developing their gifts as well. The music and fine arts expressions of dance, rap and acting catapulted the ministry into a new level of popularity.

By the time we handed over the reins to new youth leaders, we were hosting one of, if not, the largest annual youth conference in the city.

All of this happened even though there was no drive or ambition within us to be the biggest and best youth ministry in the city.

We were not the high-energy, buddy-buddy youth pastors. We were just our true authentic selves and the teens loved us just the way we were.

It was a mistake to think that type of connection and synergy would automatically carry over into our next season.

In our next season, when that compassion led us to pastor a small congregation in south central Pennsylvania, and then become life coaches within the local community, we found ourselves constantly on that edge between compassion and exhaustion.

Being introverts meant we much-preferred sitting at home enjoying one another's company, rather than standing behind a podium teaching or preaching.

Don't get us wrong. We enjoyed those things, but they were not a source of energy and drive for us. We're told that extroverts find these things energizing, invigorating and uplifting. Introverts find them draining. We always had to go home and recover after being with people.

If you've ever had to plan special events like a wedding reception, birthday party, graduation party, or anniversary celebration, you know how wonderful those events can be. But you also know how exhausting they can be, and most people come away from those events vowing that they will never do it again. That's what it is like for Chris and Carol Green, over and over again.

We never, in our wildest dreams, ever expected or prepared to be on the stage, in the spotlight, or to be the key leaders of any ministry, organization, institution or business. We saw ourselves as background support.

But God had other plans and that involved taking us on a journey for which we never prayed or asked. It also meant facing challenges and situations that we never anticipated either.

So, when we put ourselves out there, made ourselves vulnerable and accessible, and exposed our true authentic hearts; and when people took advantage of our kindness and compassion, or questioned our competency, motivations and integrity, yes, we were taken aback, hurt, and offended (*which we hate to admit*), and that created a certain level of tension and anxiety. It also triggered the introvert instinct to just go home and close the door.

We reached our breaking points when the pressures began to affect our marriage, as insinuations and accusations from outside forces and entities, advanced far beyond mere words spoken against us, to actual intentional actions taken against us that led to real life-impacting consequences.

So we would retreat. And it would be complete pullback moments, cutting off almost everything and everyone (the guilty, the innocent, the perpetrators, and the by-standers). We were often in survival mode. But even those triggered-trauma responses were part of our process.

Our journey has taken many incredible twists, turns and triumphs; and we can now share a few of the precious stones and priceless gems that we have gathered along the way.

Today, we are primarily known as Life Coach Instructors and Trainers. However, when we were first launched out into the vast world of ministry back in 2004, we were the leaders of a church plant from St. Louis, Missouri to the Capitol City of Pennsylvania, USA.

After serving in our home church for 17 years, we felt, and it was publically confirmed by our leaders, that we should start a local church in Carol's hometown of Harrisburg.

The plan included the merging of two congregations from that city. They were to join with us because both of their senior pastors were moving away.

Our home church made significant investments to position and empower us to lease and renovate a facility. We even made monthly trips to the city to make logistical arrangements, and we would minister to the prospective congregants as well.

However, after we made the move, only one person showed up out of the anticipated 50 to 75 people. For a few months we saw the meeting size slowly rise to about 30 people, so we focused on trying to build a core team, but that went awry as well.

After just one year, we had to close everything down. Thankfully we were able to payout the remainder of the lease on the building. We moved the furniture and equipment into a storage facility and made plans to start meeting in a hotel conference room with the few people that remained.

Our personal financial situation was even worse. We had been living off the equity from the sale of our house in St. Louis, and the temporarily extended salary we were drawing from our ministry headquarters. As we approached the final days of December in 2005, we had about \$25 left in the bank, and stood on the brink of a crossroad moment.

Suddenly, we received a phone call from a woman we had met a year prior. Back then, we exchanged business cards and we filed hers with all of the others we had accumulated in those early months.

It was a year later and she wanted to know if we knew anyone that needed a job. She had a position open for someone who was good with video and audio, PowerPoint, Excel, and had some graphic work experience.

She didn't know it, but she had just described everything that Chris had been doing over the previous 14 years. Not only did he have expertise in those areas, but he had garnered a Producer of the Year Award for the Best Religious TV Broadcast on the local Cable TV's regional network. He was more than qualified to take the position.

By the miraculous timing of God, Chris landed the job as a Communications Specialist in the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office of Press and Communications. Soon afterwards, Carol landed a position with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

We later learned that there were people who have lived in this area all of their lives and they were never able to obtain government jobs like this. God had literally walked us into two positions.

For nearly 11 years, we just worked on our government jobs through the week, and met with a small gathering of souls on weekends. We did that as faithfully as we could, while parenting our three teenaged sons, helping them to graduate and move on with their lives.

We didn't know it at that time, but we were already in God's School of *Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies*. We thought that all of our years of service in St. Louis had prepared us to become powerful leaders in this new assignment. Actually, we had simply moved to another college within the University of Life.

Also during the years that followed the closing of that first church, we had a series of losses and setbacks that included surrendering our home in a foreclosure, having a vehicle repossessed, and getting evicted from a rental property. Yes, at one point we lived in a hotel because we were categorically homeless.

Along with those setbacks, we've been targets of theft, fraud, and a swindle. We had people take advantage of us, been stalked, vandalized, had someone attempt to smear our reputation, been denied opportunities, been overlooked, and been cast aside.

We went through horrible seasons in which we lost several loved ones by death, and lost close friends by conflict and misunderstanding.

Even though we had two or three very faithful members, we eventually stepped away from the local church setting. After another wave of people suddenly stopped attending, we could no longer afford to lease the meeting space.

Remember, as introverts, we kept putting ourselves out there, and we kept getting these kinds of results, so it was both baffling and draining. Suffice it to say that we know what it means to live in bitter times, and to have to pray, plan, wait, work and rise again; again and again.

Compassion would not allow us to stop trying to reach those who would receive what God had given us. We knew they were out there somewhere.

So, in the midst of the disappointments we decided to invest in our local community by becoming certified professional Master Life Coaches, which allowed for more 1:1 connections with people, aside from the congregational setting. This also gave us direct access to serve in the human and social service fields in our area.

THANK GOD! We found our niche!

Through our coaching and consulting business we seized the opportunity to shift our ministry from harboring within the four walls of a church facility,

to activating it in the crucible of real-world challenges in under-served communities.

We learned how to rebrand and change our terminology. We learned how to stand firm in the world's system, with no compromise on the principles of God's Word and His Kingdom.

An unemployment center, a women's shelter, and an ex-offender, re-entry facility opened their doors to us, and the community's perception of us completely changed.

Proverbs 22:1 declares: *"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold."*

Through establishing a good name in the community, we gained favor. We even received a Volunteer of the Year nomination from the United Way. That nomination changed many people's view of us and they became open to our business services. Then we were afforded trust and openness to speak into many lives.

We want you to understand that God will take His time to work on you. It has taken over 40 years for God to prepare us for this current season in our lives, which we believe is the time of the culminating of all of the seasons and reasons for God giving us life and breath.

We stepped into the eternal purpose that God had for us all along. For some people, it takes a long time to reach that one season.

One day we were invited to attend the Dauphin County Systems of Care monthly Community Partners meeting.

The first person to greet us was the meeting coordinator, Helen Spence. She said, *"You'll find that we're all family here, so welcome to your new family!"*

And she was absolutely right.

THANK GOD! We found our people!

It had taken 13 years to find them, but we did, and they supported us in ways that elevated our coaching business from struggling to thriving.

So please know that if your expectations are not aligning for you right now, we're asking you to consider where you might be in the overall process.

We don't say that to discourage you, but to let you know that when you see life not lining up like what you thought, that's the time, more than ever, to trust God.

God put you in a marathon. This is not a sprint and the preparations that you have gone through in elementary school, high school, and for those who have obtained bachelors, masters, even doctorate degrees; it still was all part of the preparation to get you ready for ultimately, what God wants to do with your life.

In this book, we're going to walk back through an 18-year span of our 40+-year journey, recalling the lessons we learned about:

- **Resting** in God or getting out of the grind mentality;
- **Retreats** after experiencing devastating setbacks and disappointments;
- **Revival** which were moments of encouragement and resetting to come back out fighting again;

and we're going to reveal what we learned about the

- **Comedy of Errors**, which were the times we failed due to bad decisions or unforeseen challenges. God taught us about the excellence of His power as He turned our faults, fears and falls into expressions of His success.

Our world is filled with people with great potential and huge dreams. It's also filled with philosophies, theories, life trauma, and even desperation-driven schemes that can derail, delay and detour people who are striving to make their dreams come true.

Therefore, coupled with learning about and cultivating individual potential, one must respect and receive the process that brings dreams into fruition at the right time, in the right place, with the right people.

In our journey, we learned that God's Process of Success involved stopping in places and working with people that were not in our route plans.

That process took us through a winding maze of detours, disappointments, and discoveries that were all necessary to build our spiritual arsenal and expand wisdom's practical application toolkit. We had to trust God with the path and process that could move us to a place of success.

There are eight essential elements that emerged in our core values as introverted leaders who were constantly being pushed forward by compassion.

These elements became part of our foundation.

They are:

- 1.) **Discernment**
- 2.) **Direction**
- 3.) **Discipline**
- 4.) **Diligence**
- 5.) **Determination**
- 6.) **Devotion**
- 7.) **Documentation**
- 8.) **Duplication**

In some way or another, we're sure that God has been embedding these elements of success in your foundation as well, and as you are reading through this book, we pray that you recognize them within yourself.

The Success Interview

During the pivotal years of the covid-19 pandemic and the global reset, Professor Mateus Mutola, a brilliant colleague who authored a book titled *The Genius Code*, and who was also the Vice Chancellor of Online Academics at United Graduate College and Seminary International, brought us onto his live streaming broadcast from his native country of Mozambique.

He interviewed us about our Success in Process philosophy. He asked some very poignant questions, to which we shared the following thoughts and responses. We only ask that you prayerfully consider these words.

Prof. Mutola: How should someone deal with the despair of failure, roadblocks and dead ends? It clouds their mind and there's no way to go forward. How do they deal with the pain?

If you're in that place right now in your life, and you say I'm in despair because of failure and things are not going as I planned; that there are roadblocks, I'm at a dead end, I can't go any further and it's on my mind all the time, day and night; I can't even think straight. I can't think my way out of here. So how do they deal with this pain?

Chris and Carol: Number one is to go back to the Creator. Ask yourself, did I really hear God's voice?

Was this failure a result of missing something in the instruction of God or missing the wisdom of God? Is this the opposition that comes as a result obeying God? Sometimes opposition comes because you are doing what you're supposed to do.

The pain drove us to our knees and seeking God for wisdom. We had nowhere else to go, but to Him.

#1) Choose to press past your pain, press toward God.

Ask for God's strategy, God's wisdom, and God's direction. Seek clarification, and here's what we mean by this. Ask yourself, first of all, did I really count up the costs? Christ said that if you're going to build something, the first thing you need to do is count up the cost.

Here's another question to ask yourself in seeking clarification. Take inventory of yourself if you're repeatedly landing in a place where you're saying, how do I move forward from where I am right now? So we're saying take this inventory: Did I follow God's steps? Did I skip any steps to go faster in laying the foundation?

I certainly did that. We when we first moved to this part of the country, where we are in America, I was going fast and skipped some steps, and misunderstood instructions. When you skip steps, it burns you, and you find yourself at a dead end.

#2) Be honest with yourself; don't blame anyone or anything else for where you are.

Don't blame pastors, churches, or other people and then not be honest with yourself.

Here's another thought to consider. We're not saying that there aren't some real crooked, corrupt and dysfunctional people and pastors out there, but when we first came here to this area, we described our situation like this:

We were pastors who had been hurt by people who encountered people who had been hurt by pastors. So you can see the explosion that was waiting to happen; the train wreck that was just waiting to happen.

We came here and there were people for whom it had never even occurred to them, that pastors could be hurt by people because they only experienced hurtful pastors.

It also never occurred to them that you could actually have pastors like us, who were genuinely, sincerely, trying to follow God, but they had been hurt by people.

So you can see, we came from two different ways of approaching the ministry, and we had a disaster. So, we knew we had to be honest with ourselves and not assign blame to anyone; and just own up to our part in the conflicts.

#3) Seek the counsel of those who have a history of success. We have noticed a tendency for people to only ask for advice from those who they are comfortable with asking, rather than asking someone who has been successful. It might be somewhat intimidating to do, but it is wiser to seek out the successful. That's been one of the patterns that we've noticed.

We try to explain it this way. If you are on a sinking ship, then why are you only taking advice from the people who are on the ship with you? You should be talking to the people who are on the steady ships around you. Find somebody who has a history of success in the areas that you feel like God has called you, and take counsel or coaching from them. The Bible says that in a multitude of counselors, there is safety.

#4) Am I following a fantasy?

There is a difference between following the dream of God and chasing a fantasy. A fantasy pursuit is basically when you're chasing an image; something that you want to do, and something that you want to be, but it's really only fulfilling a personal need for affirmation. There are many, many people that are chasing fantasies even in business, education, ministry, entertainment or sports, and they believe it's a call of God. Actually, many haven't even begun to discover where God is sending them.

Prof. Mutola: We must learn to embrace the painful situation without surrendering to it.

Chris and Carol: Wouldn't that be pessimistic? Saying it's never going to happen or never change, is giving in to despair, and saying, 'God has abandoned me.' You're going to have to embrace the situation in that it's real; it's here. But know that even if God is not going to bail you out of it; He's going to process you through it.

It's so important for leaders to embrace the process of success, so that we will not inadvertently fall back on old clichés and old ways of teaching, when we are working with people.

We have found that when you're in a crisis moment with somebody (rather it's in the hospital, in their home, or wherever it is), it's very easy, when you get overwhelmed by what they're going through, to fall back on those old religious clichés. Such errant phrases as: God won't give you more than you can bear. Why do people do that? A lot of times it's because they haven't really been taught.

It can also be because there are certain things that they have never really embraced for themselves, or they never went through the process themselves. They avoided it and did what we have talked about, they skipped steps, or they blamed other people and now that they're in a situation where they're being called upon to help somebody else. What can they do except fall back on the old clichés?

We're sharing this so that you can wrestle with this in your own life, in your own study, and in your own process with God. So that they can move forward,

and they can really begin to be effective in helping people.

Prof. Mutola: Why is it, in most instances, Believers do not embrace this aspect of the faith, meaning **the process**? Why won't they embrace this? They say, '*I'm building my life expecting no failure.*' They call that faith.

Chris and Carol: God understands that for many people, this is their definition of faith. They're building their life, expecting no failure, and therefore, they are not trained in how to handle it.

Actually we don't like using the word failure, because a lot of times it's not a failure. It's really just a part of your process. It's for learning. It's a hard place and a difficult circumstance. It's not really a failure from the traditional sense of the word failure.

Let us say it to you this way. If you are not doing what Christ said when He gave the parable; if you're not learning to build on the rock, He said, **when** (not if) the storm comes, you won't be able to stand.

So you're not in faith to just simply say, I'll just speak to that the storm and it won't come. That's not biblical, because Christ said they're coming.

What is the foundation upon which you have built?

Many Believers have not been taught the *whole* word of God in *context*. They have had incomplete teaching and have been taught fancy clichés; and been taught today's social media memes, but not the whole word of God in context. Their foundations have been built on sand.

One mother in our Faith Community always says, "*Give me the whole loaf, and give me the whole word.*" She means, give her the scripture in context, and its full meaning, so that when hard times are happening in her life, she knows what to do. But if we have only been told half of the meaning, and we respond to life with half an answer, we get half a result. We believe that's why many people are walking away from the faith today.

It's because, right from the beginning, they weren't taught the whole word of God in context. This is why; it seems that a lot of Believers are not embracing this aspect of the faith that clearly teaches us to be prepared for the storms of life.

Some are not willing to learn how to persevere.

We've learned that God uses failures, disappointments, setbacks and the moments when we feel like giving up. He uses those things to build intestinal fortitude inside of us. These moments make us wiser than those who are considered wise in our era.

There are a lot of people who think of themselves as wise, but they really are only operating in the power (influence) of excellence.

They're also operating in the ways of the world, according to man's ways, and according to man's doctrine which, can only take you so far.

If you're not learning from God's perspective and learning His heart, learning how He thinks, and receiving wisdom from Him, then you are building on sand.

God is always working on WHO we will be when we arrive at the destination.

When folks are chasing a fantasy, they're not ready for the next level of storms that are coming into their lives, because the fantasy chaser is not even thinking about storms.

All they're thinking about is the good feeling that they're going to have when they get their millions of dollars, and can tell all of their haters that I told you, so.

Success is not only about what we will do. It's about who we will be when we arrive at that place of where our success is visible.

Will we be compassionate? Will we be respectful, empathetic, and somebody whom others would like to be in our presence?

<End Interview>

Interruptions Are Not Endings

Failure is not the finale. Your setback is not the end, even when things don't go right at all.

"Your setback is just your step back,"

---Ben and Erin Napier, HGTV hosts of *Hometown*

You know how sometimes a TV show or movie will stop while the main character is in trouble? We don't know how they're going to solve the mystery or get out of trouble and they interrupt the scene and say, "To be continued."

Have you ever had some "To be continued" moments in your life with God? In the movies and TV shows, they would call such moments a cliffhanger.

We all experience cliffhanger situations in our lives; the situations or circumstances in which we don't know how it will be resolved.

When the next segment of the TV show or movie begins, the hero gets through the situation successfully, and of course, we fully expected that to happen anyway. Why is it that in our life segments with God, we can't or don't fully expect to get through the situation and triumph?

We don't always see it, but God already knows how He will provide for us. It's about trusting Him to guide us as we place our hope (expectation) in Him. The setback and disappointment is not the end.

That's why we have shared our journey. We did not know how this was going to unfold, but the interruptions were never the end.

If you observe the lives and stories of the individuals we most admire in the Bible, you will notice that some people were given their divine assignment through dreams (i.e. Jacob, Joseph, Peter).

Some were given their divine assignment by directives or provided directions (i.e. Abram, Paul, Phillip).

Some were given their divine assignment with detailed designs (i.e. Noah, Moses).

And some were given their divine assignment through a dilemma (i.e. David and Esther).

Each of them was born to accomplish something special in this life. All went through a process that enabled and empowered them to accomplish it.

Your process of success is the lifelong manifestation of God's answers, solutions and message coming through your life. You are God's success in process.

Now GO and be who you were created to be, and do what you were created to do!

From Pots to Plates

(An open letter to our sons and daughters)

For many years we (Chris and Carol) have been like the large clay pots that hold plants. God would plant tender fledging seeds or plants in the soil of our lives, and we would nurture them by listening to them, lifting or encouraging them, and then one day we would launch them or release them into the world where they could flourish on their own.

It was our profound honor to be used of God in that way in your lives. Many of our spiritual children came to us as plants that were starved for water and nourishment.

Some came to us because they had outgrown where they were, and needed a safe place to grow stronger as a final phase before being planted in the ground where God would have them to flourish.

Others were barely alive; broken and hanging on by a thread, and we were a place of safety and protection, as well as nourishment.

Of course, we didn't know all of this at that time. We were just responding to God and opening up our flawed and fragile hearts (along with our heads that battled with faulty views and opinions about people and society) to teenagers, young adults, married couples, wayward hearts, and older souls who needed a place to vent or a place to heal.

It was a role that we enjoyed and even cherished. And dare we say; we even became comfortable in that role.

But when we moved to south central Pennsylvania, everything changed. Our roles were to change so we had to change.

In the Bible, there is a description of what a clay pot goes through in order to be remade. In the book of Jeremiah it reads:

"The word which came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying: 'Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.' Then I went down to the potter's house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make."

---Jeremiah 18: 1-4

Little did we know that we would undergo a most brutal and violent transition. The great potter did not need us to be pots that held growing and maturing plants anymore.

The great potter needed us to be something else, and the only way we could become those new vessels would be by breaking us down, grinding us to a powder, adding water to make us pliable clay again, and then reshaping us into something new and different.

And that's what happened. God took us through a long and trying 17-year process to turn the old clay pots that once held plants, into a cup and a plate to hold nourishing meals and refreshing drinks.

We're not sure which one of us is the plate and who is the cup.

The great potter absolutely shattered us into a billion pieces. We mean it when we say that we were shattered at every level: knowledge, confidence, security, expectations, and faith.

As if that wasn't enough, then the great potter ground us to a powder so that there would not be one single remnant left, of what we had been. Only the substance would remain.

The grinding process included closing that first Church and starting over again because we were not meant to be plant pots anymore.

It meant surrendering our house in a foreclosure because that home was not going to be that stop over place anymore.

When we were evicted from a rental property, and at one point we lived in a hotel because we were categorically homeless, every false and incomplete teaching or understanding about faith was brought to nothing.

The great potter added water, which symbolizes the Spirit of God, to flow through us. With water added, our shattered and ground-up substance became

soft clay that could be reshaped into whatever the potter desired. And the potter used circumstances, situations and opposition to reshape us.

He allowed us to become targets of theft, fraud, and a swindle. He let people take advantage of us.

We were stalked, vandalized, had an attempt to smear our reputation, were denied opportunities, were overlooked, and were cast aside. We lost several loved ones by death, and lost close friends by conflict and misunderstanding.

We came to know what it means to live in bitter times, and to have to pray, plan, wait and work. All of this was what it took to reshape us and make us who and what we needed to become today.

Over the past few years or so, we've reconnected with some of you. Apologies have been exchanged and reconciliations made, as we shared our journeys since the last time we saw or spoke to one another.

Sometimes our new encounters felt a bit awkward because we were no longer the nurturing pots. That had been the only role we had known. That was the context of our previous relationships with most of you.

But we wanted you to know, that **we know** that you don't need us in that way. You have long since moved on and have been flourishing or at least growing in new places and spaces.

When we became empty-nesters and later became grandparents, those milestones became part of our shifts within our own parental and nurturing roles as well.

We're just letting you in on mom and dad's journey and process.

Now we spend most of our time *'on the shelf'* until the Master decides to use us to serve someone a meal or a cool drink to strengthen or refresh them in their journey.

Most times, we don't have a clue how the Master is using us because we don't have any idea what meal is being served, or what is coming out of the cup.

We don't get to choose the meal or the drink, and God doesn't always tell us. We just have to trust that whatever we're sharing or pouring out from our life experience, that it is truly grounded in the word and wisdom of God.

We write this letter to each of you, just to thank you for trusting us all of those years ago, when you were planted in our little pots.

And even though our roles and shapes have changed, our substance remains the same: We love God. We love each other. We love you.

It just feels like many of us are having a really, really hard time these days; and we needed to write this. Life is crazy cruel for many of you right now.

Perhaps this is one of our new plate and cup moments and we're supposed to give some food for thought and a cool drink to refresh you.

Just know that when the times of reshaping come upon you and your life, you can trust God through it all. Some of you may already be in that grueling process.

We know it feels like you're going to die. In some ways you will.

But afterwards, you will come out of it with a new understanding about God, and about your purpose for being on this planet.

So go through your process, because it will produce what God truly desires for your life.

Endorsement

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire world changed. We were forced to do things differently. Operating systems have been modified or have completely been altered forever. Everything we knew pre-COVID has changed. Even processes have changed. Likewise, we must change to accommodate the shifts in a new reality.

This book is a revelation on how to understand change. It lays out the truth about "*process*", as productive lives are always on a journey of constant growth and change. To stop growing and changing is to die.

The Greens are top *Searcherdemcians* who are not afraid to take new paths to help lift and better humanity. They are not scared to be Searchers of a new way of doing things and because of this, they are fruitful.

They have gone through growth, death, and rebirth, while leading in a new philosophy of education for which the world is crying out.

In *Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies*, Chris and Carol Green share the lived-out, evidence-based results and principles they learned from their process. To understand your process is to embrace a productive life.

In my experience as an international educator, I have learned that truly understanding the reality of process leads to peace and empowerment.

I've had the privilege of knowing and working with the Greens for nearly a decade. I have observed their approach and can vouch for their genuineness and

productivity. They have diligently worked, scraped, and sacrificed their way to top *stages of influence*.

The Greens know what it means to live in bitter seasons, having to pray, plan, wait, work and rise again; again and again. They have lived their philosophy, and their life's work is their proof and irrefutable data. They've become the *Professors of Process* as they live and breathe.

As the 2020 Global Educator of the Year and Chancellor of United Graduate College and Seminary International, it is an honor to introduce a work of good fruit.

I say, "When all else fails, follow the fruit." Professors Chris and Carol Green are good fruit and have produced tangible evidence and results of their life skills theory, "You are Success in Process."

In this book, you are sure to find where you are "*in your process*." You are sure to find your next step. You will be encouraged and reassured that you are not alone in your journey. You will find that you are "*God's Success in Process*." How refreshing is that?!

This is a riveting book that has inspired and impacted my life. You are already succeeding by picking it up. Keep reading to find out how.

Chancellor Michal P. Pitzl
United Graduate College and Seminary, Int'l

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About the Authors

Chris and Carol Green are Board-certified mental health coaches (BCMHC), certified master life coaches (CMLC), holistic wellness promoters, human value advocates, and marriage, family and ministry mentors. They have been educated, trained and certified in Christian Leadership, Lay-Counseling, Chaplaincy (Chris), and Business Administration (Chris).

They carry decades of personal and professional experience and for their many accomplishments, they have received numerous awards and acknowledgements, highlighted by each being conferred a life-achievement, competency-based ministry doctorate (DSe), and two honorary doctorates (Hon.Causa).

These former bi-vocational pastors have been international leadership advisors/consultants/ professors/ and humanitarian statesmen; as well as songwriters, poets, authors, contributing authors (in an international best-seller), and served as ordained, licensed and commissioned ministers for more than 30 years. They see themselves simply as community servants.

Having been through times of unemployment and homelessness; been targets of theft, fraud, betrayal, character smearing and swindle; been denied, detoured, delayed, disappointed, disillusioned, discouraged, and battled through the mental and emotional wear and tear that comes with life's setbacks; they know what it means to live in bitter seasons, and to have to pray, plan, wait, work and rise again; again and again.

Inspired to demonstrate servant-leadership by example, they stepped outside of traditional religious settings and facilities to directly connect with and serve their community. Their community-supporting initiatives have included volunteering and hosting monthly workshops in an unemployment center, on-call life coaching support and monthly training for the staff of a women's emergency shelter, consultation and training for

local human service organizations, and collaborating with various community outreach efforts.

Now, from a priceless wealth of experience, wisdom and insight, they encourage, empower and equip other servant leaders in business, community outreach, government, education, human services, households, neighborhoods and ministries.

Their collaboration with local and international partners has been essential to their work with the professionals and volunteers who labor in diverse and under-served communities, and all who are seeking to inspire a higher quality of life and greater purpose for living.

Honors, Awards, and Acknowledgements

- Creators of the CARE-Ready Life Coaching® model/ training and certifications
- Visionaries of the STEP Forward Life Institute™
- Business Owners/ C and C Connections, LLC
- Founders/ Leaders of the Fruitful Life Learning Community
- Certified Chaplain Assistant (Chris)
- ICN™ 2022 World Civility Icon Awards: Educators of the Year
- Life Achievement Doctorates: Searcherdemics (UGCSI, 2022)
- Productive Business Civility Award for Global Civility Business Leaders (2021)
- Inducted as Icons of Greatness in the 2021 World Book of Greatness (London, UK)
- Harambee 2019 Community Leadership Award (Ujamaa, Cooperative Economics)
- Honorary Doctorates: Society and Human Rights (LUT, 2018)
- International Statesmanship – 2017 (ICN™)
- United Way 2017 Volunteer of the Year Nominations
- Honorary Doctorates: Christian Leadership (Chris) and Humanities (Carol) – UGCSI, 2016
- Goodwill Ambassadors of World Peace and Civility (ICN™)
- Authors of 20 Books
- Songwriters and publishers of 150 songs since the 1990's
- Affiliate Members of the Urban Pastors and Leaders Alliance
- Founders Awards (Metro Christian Worship Center, St. Louis, MO, USA)
- Producer of the Year - DHTV: 1999 Best Religious Cable Television Broadcast (Chris), St. Louis, MO, USA

The Greens, who have been faithfully married over 40 years, have three adult sons, two daughters-in-law, two grandchildren, and people throughout the world who call them 'mom and dad'. They are a husband-wife team that was commissioned to rebuild, restore and renew hearts and homes.

Therefore, they are not aligned with any political party, religious dogma, or 'bandwagon' social movements. They have been leaders within an under-the-radar, international phenomenon in which people of faith have been moving, by the thousands, outside of their traditions and buildings to take healing and hope to their personal and professional communities.

Access more insight and inspiration from the Greens at

www.ChrisandCarolGreen.com

Using excerpts from their book, "Rest, Retreats, Revival and Other Comedies", Chris and Carol Green produced and released this scaled down 42-page publication to continue to push their 'You are Success in Process' campaign.

This 'excerpt book' was written for that person who is sick and tired of projecting a brave front while hiding their deep disappointment behind spirituality.

It's for the person who is no longer looking for a typical self-help manual, filled with inspirational stories and motivational meditations.

Both books are for that soul who is ready to challenge their core beliefs about why their life keeps going off the rails, to stop blaming 'the devil' for everything that goes wrong, and truly desires to finally break FREE from the unending cycles of dead-ends, defeat and discouragement.

These books aren't for everyone, but they are for those who are ready to embrace the reality that, "Your Life Matters to God."



Chris and Carol Green are retired bi-vocational pastors who are now holistic wellness promoters, human value advocates, and marriage, family and ministry mentors, since they carry decades of personal and professional experience, and have been educated, trained and certified in Christian Leadership, Lay-counseling, Life coaching, Chaplaincy (Chris) and Mental health coaching.