Rooted in Abundance
Dance

A conversation between the Very Rev. Matthew Woodward and Dr. Don Taylor

DEAN MATTHEW: Don, so good to see you, I have really enjoyed moments with the Sierra Leonean community. Even the somber moments. Most recently I have participated in funerals, but I recall a remarkable baptism last year. These events have been full of food, full of community, and full of generosity. The Sierra Leonean community is so generous when their members are in need, is that always the way?

DR. TAYLOR: Yes, it is sad that you have experienced this recently around grief, but the same generosity takes place around weddings and baptisms also. The community gathers, supports one another, and gives what it can. This flows from a sense of communalism, that I believe is at the root of humanity. Many believe that civilization spread out from Africa, and this generosity is at the heart of African culture.

> **Questions for Reflection:**
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> How does your family of origin express abundance at milestone events?

DEAN MATTHEW: I remember when I was introduced at that baptism. Everyone who had been introduced had danced to the front of the Hall, I looked at you, and realized I had to dance as well. But as I did, drawing on dance experiences from my youth, you and other elders of the community joined me and danced as well. I felt deeply supported.

DR. TAYLOR: Yes, I had to dance and support you, you are the priest of my church. Dancing is a manifestation of belonging. From this sense of belonging flows generosity. Everyone belongs, and everyone is supported, with food, with dancing, with fellowship and with financial support. To be rooted in abundance is to belong to a community who all want the best for you. | TENS.org

Dr. Don Taylor is the emeritus professor of Communication Studies at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Taylor is also a Verger and Vestry member at Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento. Watch more of the conversation between Dean Matthew and Dr. Taylor at drive.google.com/file/d/1oUchVd9Wwknv4T7x8idCMIuQ3FBgLJLb/view