

Excerpt from a letter from Lin Zahrt in Memphis to Terry & Diann McCabe in Bontoa, South Sulawesi, Indonesia, January 31, 1981

This fall it came clear to us that the sewer in Pace was to consume all their time and the industry would just have to wait. You would be so proud of the fine dinner we had at Sizzling Steak with 28 of the leadership, presented the mayor with the 24 plaque (again) and he invited us back at least monthly and promised to use the ICA as resource again and again. The group later presented us with the loveliest plant. Since Christmas we have been back and held a core meeting with Pace. Alma Bounds, a man from Farrell and the Rosedale folks sent apologies. Next week the meeting is in Farrell. Only by moving out have we been able to do the extension.

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David has been constantly on the road since Christmas. He is meeting with cores of people who know of our work and are concerned about getting a Regional Consult to happen here in Memphis, March 20-30. It is an attempt to draw people together from all walks of life to discuss the trends of the future and . . . find ways to set up networks between them. The initial interview, which is done to find key people in agencies, business, public office and communities, hooks them every time. Questions like: Uniqueness of region's past; Major changes in 70's, Challenges facing the 80's, Point of innocent suffering, Expected breakthroughs for 80's, and Who will make the breakthroughs happen? Are good!! Of course, those of us around Memphis are scurrying to find facilities, panelists, printing and audio visuals, etc. Other regions who have already had consults and written up the research say they have the next ten years of work mapped out for them. Of course, we are lucky to already know so many people from doing Town Meeting in MS and Arkansas and having an office in Memphis the last 5 years. It is amazing how everything fits together so well.

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George [Howard] is tired of driving back and forth to Jackson twice a week but he has really been training folks, even arch enemies of 3 years ago. Linda Hoffer [in the Governor's office] is great as always. Ruth [Wilson] is worried about her job again as the Governor is really having to cut out stuff for some reason. Betty Carter [ICA guardian from Greenville, MS] went to South American projects this fall with Elizabeth Caperton and has given money. [Guardian] Owen Cooper <http://www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/articles/239/owen-cooper-1908-1986-business-leader-and-humanitarian> says we have used his name before and didn't abuse it, so he is one of our sponsors for *Mid-South Dialogue: the 80's*, which is the name of our consult. . . .