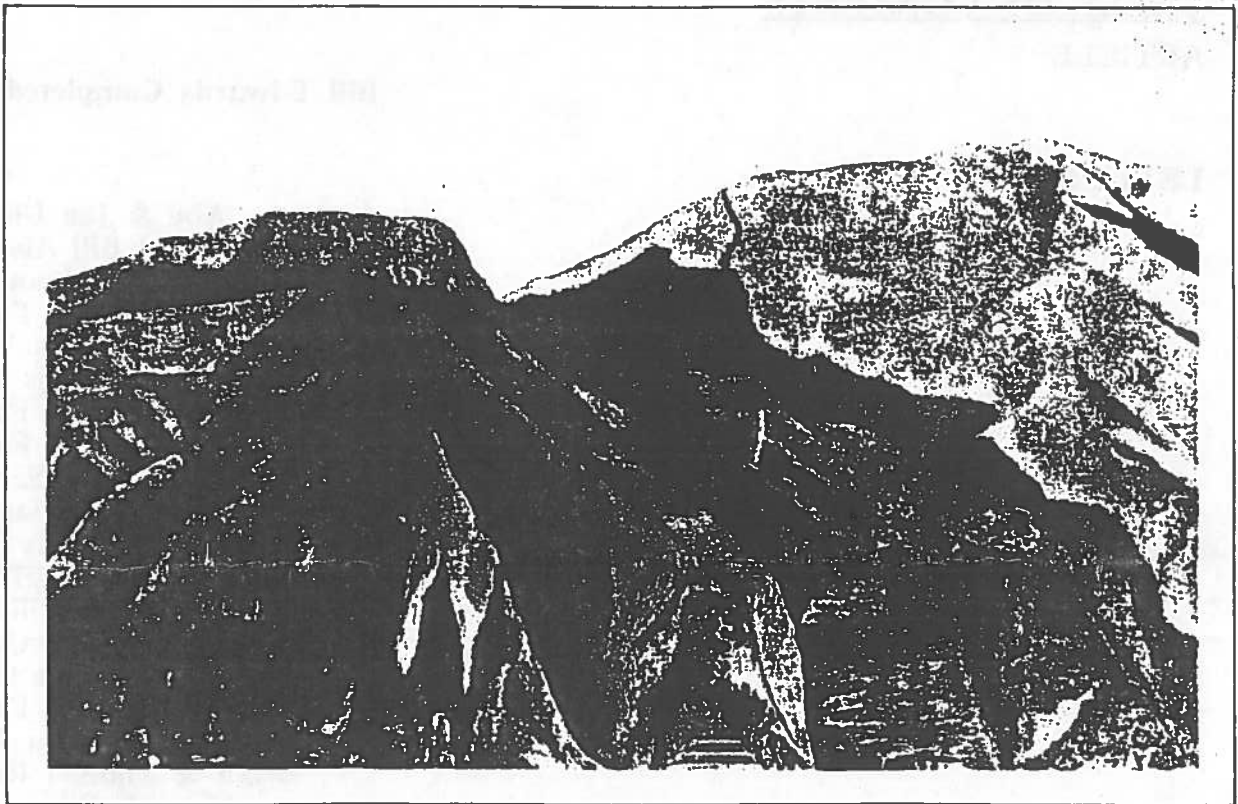


THE NODE

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Cover Art: EL AVILA, Caracas, Venezuela  
Bill Edwards, July 1988

**THE NODE**  
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Phone: 416-691-2316;

Fax: 416-691-2491

e-mail: web!icatoronto

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## THE COMPLETED LIFE OF BILL EDWARDS

The completed life of Bill Edwards was celebrated at The Admiral in the presence of family, friends old and new and colleagues from around the globe. In the opening address, Ray Spencer noted that "Bill would be most pleased that we have gathered as friends, tea and scones in hand, to pay tribute in an informal way to this very special man".

Among the Readings were Psalm 24, A Prayer for all People, (based on "Our Father") by George Packard in memory of Clifford William Edwards, an amazing reading by Eve Hardinge from "The Admiral News" of February 12, 1993. This was Bill's Biography, written by Alberita Semrad. What a life! There were other readings by Tom Butts, David Wood and a limerick by Bill Edwards, read by Jim Troxel.

Cathy Marsh read the Communiques from Around the World - from Australia, Hong Kong and India and Latin America, Europe and North America.

In closing, Raymond Spencer commented:

"This has been a rich mosaic of remembrances, tributes, stories about Bill. How difficult it is to capture the scope and depth of this man's life in a few words".

A further note from Lyn, dated November 22, 1993

describes the placing of Bill's ashes:

"Yesterday afternoon, Mark and Ben, Bill's two sons from the U.K., Tina and Raymond Spencer and I took Bill's ashes and gave him back to the Mystery from which he came. We put one-third of the ashes in the garden here at The Admiral; one-third we threw to the wind at Montrose Point on Lake Michigan where Bill and I spent many a fine afternoon listening to the beat of the waves and enjoying our favourite view of Chicago's skyline. Mark and Ben took the remaining ashes back to London where they will be received by the River Thames at Oxford, the geographic centre for many of Bill's relationships during the first fifty years of his life."

Ben and Mark Edwards wrote: We came to Chicago on the 18th of November to participate in what we thought saddest occasions that children are called on to attend. Immediately, however, we were struck by the degree of love, admiration and respect in which our father is held. That sad occasion was transformed into an uplifting and rewarding experience as we participated in a glowing and heart-felt tribute by so many friends, colleagues and members of his extended family.

We came away feeling great pride in our father's ability to

generate such emotion and love and we would like to thank all those that knew him for their kindness and support in this chapter of his existence which saw him so fulfilled."

---

**The softest of  
stuff in the world  
penetrates quickly the  
hardest;  
insubstantial, it enters  
where no room is.**

**By this I know the  
benefit  
of something done by  
quiet being;  
in all the world but a few  
can know  
accomplishment apart  
from work,  
instruction when no  
words are used.**

--Tao Te Ching

ABE AND JAN  
 ULANGCA  
 Binghamton, USA

This has been a year in which much has stayed outwardly the same. The main drama has come from changes in our awareness and consciousness.

The major outward change was the death of our last parent, Abe's mother, in May. Abe made a 10-day visit to the Philippines and joined family from three nations in a celebration of her completed life. He and Los Angeles brother Sammy escaped the no-longer-familiar heat in an air-conditioned hotel room, being "Filipinos" again to escape higher tourist rates, and feasting on mangoes and seafood. There were fine visits with brothers and sisters from Thailand and from the Manila area, and very special opportunities to remember the significance of the life of Nemecla P. Bugarin Ulangca.

We found our view of time exploded by encountering the book *The Universe Story*, by Brian Swimme and Thomas Berry, enriched by the reflection of colleagues from the Institute of Cultural Affairs at an October weekend retreat. We won't forget the Council of Beings in which representatives of creatures like birds and reptiles gave partly humorous, partly poignant advice to the recent arrivals on the earth, the humans.

What brings us joy? For Janice, public radio music programming—drawing from their large collection of LPs and CDs to create something varied and beautiful. Exploring new places near and far brings a special sparkle to Abe's eye. We both treasure the chance to do significant work, time to read and think, and time spent with family and good friends.

What brings us joy? For Janice, public radio music programming which involves drawing from their large collection of LPs and CDs to create something varied and beautiful. Exploring new places near and far brings a special sparkle to Abe's eye. We both treasure the chance to do significant work, time to read and think, and time spent with family and good friends.

For you we wish always a sense of hope during the new year, large helpings of laughter and fun, and courage during the tough times, knowing that you are greater than the storms, and they will pass.

---

BARBARA & BILL  
 ALERDING  
 Indianapolis, USA

We have returned to the US after 23 years in other countries. We said good-bye to our many Guatemalan friends and settled in Indianapolis in August. Since the work in Guatemala is going so well, we thought it was a good time to make our move.

Once we had sold all our furniture and visited Indianapolis to begin work on a new Training, Inc. program (at the request of John and Anita Gibson), we returned to Guatemala in early July to say farewell to all our colleagues. They sprang a surprise party on us at the well-known Pan American Hotel and gave us a specially engraved silver plate as a remembrance of how much of our hearts we really were leaving with these wonderful people. We have received a number of letters from them since, all wanting us to find some way to return. In our hearts, we never really left! Some thought that we were going to become full-time Guatemalan residents!

But once again we find another missional enticement for us in Indianapolis. We discovered an elegant four room apartment in the historic Marott Apartments, directly across from the Indiana Vocational Training College (Ivy Tech), our new employer. While we are waiting for sufficient funding to launch a full scale training and employment program for urban males, we were able to furnish our living quarters. We do have a guest room (a la office during the day) whenever you decide to visit us.

The Gibsons have warmly introduced us to all the ICA colleagues and set up a number of training programs with organizations and friends.

In our recent readings, we are completely lured by Betty Friedan's clarion call in her new book, *The Fountain of Age*. Betty Friedan's book is the wake-up call to what is really

happening and we recommend it to people of all ages.

One last highlight of our year is that we have found a master practitioner of NLP in Indianapolis. Both of us are taking basic training from him. We are marvelling a how much human wisdom is being accumulated. Certainly, we must be entering into a new age for humanity! What a marvellous time to be alive!

---

JANN BARR  
Brussels, Belgium

I was in Brussels three days on my way back to Brobo. I shared my pleasure with the use of RSI materials and lectures with all the religious language removed in the Leadership Options particularly with Jim Campbell. Jim does the curriculum for the ITP. He said he had thought about it but had not used any of it yet. Lydia and Lynn asked what kind of constructs you folks are using and I shared some of the constructs and papers. They are creating journey labs and other types of courses.

I can not express my gratitude enough for the opportunity to participate. It was the refresher of our methods I needed. It was also the needed reflection on my personal journey that is always needed at regular intervals. I do journal writing but the discipline of an objective structure has a different dimension. Certainly, the shift

in perspectives was necessary now. It is good to have the new perspectives before I make the move instead of sometime after.

The project here is functioning very well in spite of one of our funders failing to meet their commitment this year (about 1/3 of our budget). We will have complete change of volunteers by December. I am concentrating on training Hendrike Eerkens (she attended the training in Portugal) and Kouadio Alli (assistant director) in strategic planning this coming week. They will facilitate a planning session for the staff Oct 14-15.

The manuals I brought back are invaluable to the task of building a movement here. The task of translating our materials into French has already started.

I have made my reservation to return to Brussels on December 29. It seems right that I should be in Brussels for the start of the new year. I will stay through Christmas to give support to the new volunteers who will be arriving in November and December.

I am so very grateful for every opportunity that enlarges my connectedness with others. Without this connectedness I could have never survived here. Leadership Options has been part of the enlarging process. Thank you for all the work and energy you have given.

ISOBEL & JIM BISHOP  
Sydney, Australia

More and more we enjoy the interludes, the "lace" in our lives. We go to movies and the theatre. We take two or three retreats a year. We read - if only in snatches - "Sojourners and New Scientist" are favourites.

The family event of 1993 has been the death of Catherine Joyce Bishop, Jim's mother. She died on 24th October aged 94, after a year of being unwell but only two days of being in hospital. Our family was prepared and yet the separation has been hard. The thanksgiving-funeral service was superb. Her favourite hymns were sung, and her craft work was displayed on the Communion table: hand-dyed, handspun, handknitted jumpers, knee rugs, embroidery and a magnificent handmade patchwork quilt. Our children all took part in the service. Rebecca played cello as Cathy sang Handel's "Come unto them", Pete made a speech from his heart, saying his grandmother was like a beacon in his life. Altogether, a very fitting tribute to a truly remarkable woman.

Isobel is busy in her parish. The Presbytery is working in a consultation which is slow but helpful in a process of change. She is a delegate to the '94 Assembly of the Uniting Church, and on the worship committee. Her sport is her weekly game of tennis

and her hobby is Celtic Spirituality.

Our three offspring pursue their careers and hobbies with energy. Rebecca is now a 'policy person' in a small company doing consultancy for State Transport Departments. She is doing better than ever on her cello. Peter, still on the Commonwealth Bank's computers, is glad to be on day work after two years on rotating shifts. Cathy is a lawyer by day and is both a student and a singer by night - Sydney Philharmonia will be doing Verdi's Requiem with Pavarotti and SSO in April '94. Her photographer husband Jon has also been a student, in marketing and small business.

Jim continues as chaplain to young offenders at Parklea Correctional Centre. The two chaplains have plenty to do; the program is changing progressively and some staff are feeling the strain. "Godcares" program brings in church volunteers two nights a week for groups such as parenting, letter-writing, fitness, 'Meaning through Music' or 'So this is Christmas'.

In May Uniting Church chaplains held a retreat at Wangi Wangi, just a kilometre from the house and museum commemorating Bill (Sir William) Diablo the painter.

BOB & CYNTHIA VANCE  
Miami, USA

A year ago we did not think that we would look back on 1993 with such thankfulness. Truly it has been a year of renewal and a few surprises. After Hurricane Andrew our home required major repairs, our magnificent trees were uprooted and stripped of all leaves, and our consulting slowed dramatically for six months as the whole county came to a halt. We wondered if the beauty of the area could ever return and we longed for the treasured conveniences of normal existence".

The first surprise was the invitation to take a free, 7-day cruise over the Christmas holiday to the Caribbean. The cruise line needed a Protestant minister to conduct the 30-minute service on Christmas morning!

A second surprise was our block's tree planting. One day our neighbour hauled in 17 20-foot oak trees and we all planted together. Vances hosted a neighbourhood hurricane BBQ. Our roof was rebuilt in January, Bob re-screened the porch, rebuilt the trellis and completed 82 other little tasks with 8 to go.

As the summer months came we noticed that our trees were thriving. Where a large bough had broken off, new branches, some over 6 feet long, were growing! Florida's summer rains and steamy heat was transforming the landscape.

Then in March our consulting started to pick up as if every institution in the county had decided to re-group and plan for the future.

CHARLES & DORIS HAHN  
Bastrop, TX, USA

After much soul-searching Charles decided to "retire," and thus we relocated to Bastrop, the next town up the road from Smithville toward Austin. We moved our things in bits and pieces over two months time and finally, on the last day available, we cleared the parsonage of our belongings. Our Log house is nestled on a hillside in a pine and oak forest, and on a clear night from our front porch we can see the lights of Austin 25 miles away. The house is spacious and delightfully livable, from the loft overlooking a dining/living area to the basement where we spend much of our time at a watchmaker's bench, on our computer, or with photography equipment.

Most of all, we enjoy walking in the surrounding woods and hills. Our eyes feast on nature's gifts. Our spirits are nourished by the ever-renewing plethora of wildflowers as we move from spring to summer to fall. Texas Bluebonnets and Indian Paintbrush give way to seas of Coreopsis, Mexican Hats and scores of other gold and yellow varieties, and then the stately Gayfeather and Goldenrod dominate the fall. Dewberries

line the trails and roadsides in the spring challenging us to pick them for our morning cereal or Doris's famous deep bowl cobbler. Two weeks ago as we walked, the oaks in their red and yellow autumn dress were stunning. We also find ourselves in touch with things primordial as we discover beautiful pieces of petrified wood or American Indian points and scrapers. We have not spent much time focusing on birds and other animal life, though there is much to entice us. However, we have always been fascinated by the tenacity and ingenuity of large red ants. About 50 yards from our house is the largest ant hill we have ever seen. It is doughnut shaped, about two feet in diameter, and perhaps six inches high. Watching these survivors challenges us also to move enormous obstacles and to be a part of community. We must stop, but we could go on for pages trying to express how our new space and surroundings nourish and care for us.

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#### THE HAMPTON FAMILY Austin, USA

1993 has been a year of transition. After 7 years in Hong Kong we boldly set off to our new home in Texas, with no jobs, no obvious contacts, and no previous experience of living in the Texas capital, but drawn by its climate, its reputation for space, ecological awareness, its cosmopolitan

make up and proximity to grandparents. And the challenge of a new beginning.

We are happy to report that we've all landed on our feet, with good jobs and good schooling and a fine 3-bedroom apartment within a few blocks of the scenic downtown area.

Mary (and Axl the dog) took the lead. As the April advance party they secured a lovely apartment and a challenging and high paying occupational therapy position. The second wave (Stuart, Christopher and Cleo the cat) arrived in June. Christopher was accepted into the Austin's magnet (academically advanced) junior high school and Stuart landed a freelance position as a business writer for a reference book company.

Elisabeth (who had been in college at Mary-Hardin Baylor in central Texas) transferred to Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas in September and is progressing well. She is some 8 hours driving time from Austin.

We are still settling in to our new space, and remain open to all sorts of surprises. Nature has had a wonderful way of intruding into our lives. Austin and its surrounds have wonderful flora and fauna, with handsome tree-lined streets. Friendly squirrels seem to be everywhere. There are 1.5 million bats that take flight every summer sunset from beneath the Congress Street bridge on their nightly flights across southern Texas (a magnificent sight to see). There is a picturesque wilderness trail that runs from the heart of the city along spring water creek beds cut deep into the limestone bedrock.

Our sense of community is growing too as we make new friends and workmates, begin to tap the rich silence of the well-attended Quaker meetings, meet regularly with old colleagues from the ICA network and spend time with our extended family.

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#### THE HENSCHEN FAMILY Houston USA

As is the case with most years, 1993 was remarkable. Perhaps the most exciting event happened on April 13th when Catherine Ashley Carey was born. She is the prettiest, sweetest, smartest, and most precious child who ever lived. (Of course, I have been told that those adjectives simply define the word "grandchild.") Catherine is a great delight to both her parents, Carla (Jeannie) and Shawn, and her grandparents.

Carla is currently teaching special education in the Beaumont school district. However, she has decided to accept the invitation of Lamar University and will be working on her Doctorate in Deaf Education. Shawn remains at his job with Helena Labs in Beaumont.

Patricia continues work on her Masters degree in Literature - Women's Studies at the University of Houston Clear Lake and is still employed at Lockheed Corporation. Guy is a therapist at a clinic in Victoria and is working toward his

certification as a psychologist.

In June, Larry and I took off for a tour of Germany. We spent three days in cosmopolitan Berlin. The highlight for me was seeing the remains of the Berlin Wall and strolling through the Brandenburg Gate which is on the line between the former East and West Berlin. I expected someone to shout, "Halt!" but no one paid any attention to my wanderings. We crossed into former East Germany several times and while there were no checkpoints or any armed guards at the entry points, it was immediately apparent that we were in a different Germany. Dresden, located in former East Germany, still retains an air of 1945 which is when allied planes destroyed most of the city.

We toured the Bavarian and Austrian Alps. The pictures you have seen of mountain chalets with window boxes filled with bright red flowers are totally accurate. We visited Mozart's birthplace in Salzburg, Austria and toured King Ludwig's magnificent castles. We celebrated in Munich's gigantic beer hall. We strolled through the ancient streets of Innsbruck and Heidelberg. On our 35th wedding anniversary, we cruised the Rhine River and stared at the mysterious castles fortifying either side of that historic waterway. We stood in awe and wonder before the cathedral in Cologne and the Roman ruins in Trier. And woven through the fabric of this experience were the relationships we developed and the friends we made.

JAN SANDERS  
Toronto, Canada

**When we get out of  
the glass bottles of our  
ego,  
and when we escape like  
squirrels turning in the  
cages of our personality  
and get into the forests  
again,  
we shall shiver with cold  
and fright  
but things will happen to  
us  
so that we don't know  
ourselves.**

**Cool, undying life will  
rush in,  
and passion will make  
our bodies taut with  
power,  
we shall stamp our feet  
with new power  
and old things will fall  
down,  
we shall laugh, and  
institutions will curl up  
like burnt paper.  
D. H. Lawrence**

my masters in Global Transformation Education. This year I have taken courses on Education and Ecology: A Cosmological Perspective; Deep Ecology and Foundations of Curriculum.

Charlene Spretnak provided the focus for this research with her statement:

"Basic research into cosmological dynamics could be conducted not as part of a massive campaign to conquer nature but as part of a spiritual practice to enter into the mysteries of the universe's web of life as deeply and reverently as possible."

And from Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme: "So we might say that the next phase of scientific development will require above all the insight of shamanic powers, for only with these powers can the story of the universe be told in the true depth and meaning".

I have spent time during the last year exploring the shamanic path, awareness experiences, and recapturing the understanding of the soul. My classes have provided the opportunity to actually write, to come to grips with my ideas. It is a slow process but I am enjoying the reflection.

Pat Scott and I have teamed up to do several workshops. One was, "Wise women tradition in changing times." We even got a request to go on a talk show to share our thinking. Pat and I are also working at learning the art of playing.

A second ingredient has been the slow process of becoming the head of the Sanders family. My mother was in the hospital this summer. At

I am two thirds finished with



the end of her stay she turned to me and said, "Well I guess you are calling the shots now." I who has been a perpetual child, making life choices so that I avoided parenthood, now find I am parent to my parents.

After a month in Nebraska I returned to Toronto and Heartsong Hill for my own rite of passage. I led my first sweat lodge.

At the other end of the spectrum, Ian Gilmour and I are about to get our public consultation guide published by the Ministry of Environment and Energy. They are also looking at offering the course to regional field staff. I am also back in community development with one project in a rural township and doing work with OLE (Our Local Economy in Toronto). The OLE project gives me the opportunity to be an outrageous participant not the sage facilitator.

---

LIZA TOD

Melbourne, Australia

Book review: *Teach Your Child How to Think*  
by Edward de Bono

I have heard Edward de Bono speaking on the radio several times and have been tremendously impressed by his great wisdom, compassion, knowledge and understanding of the needs of the peoples of the world. Above all, is his ability to marshal his thoughts and put them in the plainest, simplest language so even I, when half asleep, can understand exactly what he is

getting at. He's good.

He was being interviewed about his new book, "Teach Your Child how to Think." I was hooked. When I was five years old I asked my father a question and he replied, "You know the answer, .... think ." I said, "I don't know how to think, what should I do?" He couldn't tell me and promptly slid several notches in my estimation. Fancy, a grown man not being able to tell a child how to think!!!

I have been searching for an answer all my life and only now, 76 years later, have I been given the answer.

Edward de Bono knows that if the peoples of the world are ever to reach sanity everyone must be able to think clearly and constructively, with a mind free from prejudice and with a deep understanding of the needs of others.

He says children start to think in the cradle, they start thinking about their fingers, what are these things for. They soon discover and go on to think about what mothers are for, and fathers, brothers and sisters and on and on to thinking about birds and trees and clouds. A child has a wonderful mental life until around eight years old when they find that answers are no longer satisfactory. They are given facts and figures and are not taught to explore subjects in depth, to find out the why and wherefore of all the wonders they see around them. They then gradually drift into idle chatter within their little groups in a space they have made their own and to fight off all intruders. Self preservation and instinct reign, thought is no more. The

future of the world is in their hands and they will need wisdom. We are responsible for seeing they get it.

Anyone who picks up "Teach Your Child how to Think" will discover ways and means of getting straight to the heart of a problem, how to understand all the side issues that need to be considered and appreciating their importance, regardless of their own bias.

Edward de Bono's programmes are run in schools, colleges, businesses, etc, etc. all over the world. His programmes are for all people, so are his books which have been translated into 26 languages. If you don't already know this man's writing, and even if you do, do not fail to read this book and keep it by you. George Gallup says "What Edward de Bono is doing to teach people how to think may be the most important thing going on in the world today".

*Teach Your Child...* is published by Penguin books.

---

KAY LUSH

Stone Mountain, GA, USA

**Always remember  
you are the promise of  
joy, peace, love  
and new life.  
Do not look for these  
in this world.  
The answer lies within.**

Normally I shy away from Christmas letters, but I wanted to wish you well and catch you

up on how I was doing. I've heard from many of you via phone calls, cards, letters, visits, or simply through your prayers and healing energies. I have appreciated them all. Thank you.

After 18 months of remission from cancer, in November, '93 the little varmint reappeared in my adrenal gland - right above my left kidney. Consequently, I've begun 2 cycles of chemotherapy, beginning in November and ending in late December. After catscans, if the tumour is gone, Hallelujah! If it's shrunk, we do more chemo. If it's the same or larger, we go to different strategies. I believe that it will not be the latter.

Meanwhile, I have made some discoveries about the healing process and would like to share them with you. First of all, I realize that having been visited by cancer has provided me with an unusual "wake-up-call" that many people do not get. It has offered me the opportunity to say thank you for every moment, every relationship, every sunrise, every family member, every day I can work - every tiny bit of my entire life. Consequently, this Christmas season I am in a posture of gratitude.

Next, what I've discovered is that this healing process in which I am participating has three dynamics - a *traditional health* dynamic; a *caring network* dynamic; and a *belief system* dynamic. *Traditional health* is foundational to the other two dynamics and includes all the things we ordinarily do to keep ourselves healthy. My doctor, check

ups, chemo treatments are here. I have a great doctor, Dr. Scott, who believes in miracles (he's written up in December issue of Redbook). Daily exercise, nutritious diet are here; I joined a health club and before chemo, worked out (mainly walking and stairmaster) 2-4 times per week. Also, in this health category, I put my work. I love my work as a high school counsellor and feel that I am contributing to the health of the planet. I like the kids, the colleagues with whom I work, and find that I am rewarded with laughter, frustration and joy.

The second aspect of this healing process, the *caring network*, is my connection to other people and their energies of care; it is where you all fit in. My family is here, my mother, son, sisters, brothers-in-law, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, uncles. They have been faithful in their regular calls, and though they are far-away in miles, I hold them close in my heart. Close friends and colleagues are included here. Close friends in Atlanta, literally check with my daily. Other friends at school, especially in the Counselling department, are always ready to do anything that needs to be done. They are the ones who take me to and from chemo treatments, send me food, help me with my work at school. I have heard from many dear ICA friends both near and far away. High school and home town buddies; and all the counsellors in DeKalb County. The Administration at Southwest DeKalb has been great, assuring me that my health comes before my job and

that I need to take care of myself. Then too, I have felt the impact of the love and compassion that have come from your cards, phone calls, visits and prayer. They have all formed an energy network of healing; I have and still am benefiting from all that.

The third part of this healing process is my *belief system*. And this is where my passion lies. This dynamic gives meaning to the other two, or it puts them in the proper perspective. My basic assumption here is that my mind or my consciousness affects my immune system and my whole body. Therefore, what I think is what I am. This mind-body connection is not a new concept; Deepak Chopra, Bernie Siegel, Louise Hay and others have best-selling books out about this. They are part of my study curriculum. However, the mind-body-spirit connection is a more profound revelation to me and one I have begun to study in Psychosynthesis therapy, Unconditional Love and Forgiveness (a practical manifestation of Psychosynthesis), and religious Science. In the first two there is a belief that the personality includes a Higher self, an all-loving, all-compassionate, energy-filled connection to God. It is that Higher Self that I call on in my daily meditation to send healing light and energies to various parts of my body. My daily meditation, visualization, my affirmations, prayers and forgiveness serve as my spirit garb and help nurture, guard and develop my consciousness - my most precious possession. I sense that I am in the midst of

my healing; it is all around me, like a spiral. I feel very privileged to be a part of it.

One more thing. I live in a beautiful town home in the Atlanta suburbs; the environment is green and nurturing with trees, squirrels, rabbits and lots of birds. This nurturing environment is probably part of the *traditional health* dynamic.

Love and Peace,  
Kay.

---

MARGIE TOMLINSON  
Chicago, USA

"Most of our troubles come from expectations that are unrealistic and cannot be fulfilled.....The fourth consent is the consent to be transformed. This consent requires the death of the false self, and the false self is the only self we know."

(*Invitation to Love* by  
Thomas Keating)

If I were writing my autobiography, this year's chapter would have a title like "Turning Point--Accepting the Invitation to Love". In October I participated in a ten day

"intensive retreat" that redirected my life force. It was held at the retreat house of St. Benedict's monastery near Snowmass, CO. This monastery property includes a 4000 acre ranch. The vegetarian food, the three periods of 70 minutes of contemplation a day, the daily Eucharist and vespers and the intellectual stimulation of lectures--grasping what was happening in the heart. The discipline for maintenance is the daily practice of contemplation--20 minutes in the morning and 20 minutes before supper. My focus is to keep myself open to receive the flood of God's divine light, life, and love.

My work this year has been fulfilling. The Facilitators' Network meeting in Phoenix in January; leading the life-giving community workshops in February to Burlingame, CA, and in March to Graymoor, NY and Edmonton, Canada; and being part of four Renewing Priestly Identity facilitation teams in North Platt, NE, Lafayette, IN, Sioux City, IA and Buffalo, NY in May and June. Took a three day weekend to "do" Washington, DC before The World Future's Society meeting the end of June. It was great being a guest in the Basil and Marie Sharp home and seeing the colleagues in Washington area. August was punctuated with a Learning Lab for teachers and the Parliament of the World's Religion's facilitation team. The Parliament was certainly a monumental event. Any of you who haven't seen my two reports and would like to, let me know. This was followed by two days of Buddhist

Mindfulness retreat in early September. Since my October experience in Snowmass, all this action plays in the background of my life. I took the annual fund raising auto trip--2,600 miles! Without the team of Marileen Johnson and Dorothy Hackman, this could never happen.

My sister, Linda, came for three weeks in June. We celebrated our mother's 80th birthday with a flight to Minneapolis and a three day visit with my daughter, Kathy, her husband, Matt, and my son, Kent. Linda is the same; has been very busy the last three months so hear very little from her. Kent has quit smoking and has had a job in construction for about nine months. The wonder-filled news from Kathy and Matt is that they will be parents in mid-May. I'm afraid I will be a too generous grandmother! Kathy and Matt will be with me for Christmas and then I will visit my sister in Brussels for a week to launch 1994.

1994 will be full. I expect to be in Washington DC at the Facilitators Network meeting in January, this year's focus is social analysis for the trips to Burlingame, CA, Edmonton, Canada and Graymoor NY, to a follow-up to the Renewing Priestly Identity in North Platt, NE in May, etc. I expect to go to the ICAI gathering in October in India and to a teacher training session at Snowmass Co in December. I expect I'll make more than one trip to River Falls to play with new grandchild!

MARTHA TALBOTT  
Atlanta, GA, USA

Greetings from Atlanta! Life has continued to evolve in its fullness for me during last year. Time with my three and a half year old niece tends to be the highlight of every week. She has been particularly instrumental in my expressing "my child within" more and more.

One significant event this past year was a trip to Crystal River, Florida for the explicit reason to "swim with the manatees". Well, we did and it was absolutely wonderful. It took us all morning to actually locate some manatees in the river, but the wait was well worth it. It was truly an awesome experience to be swimming so close to such a BIG animal in an environment in which I was not really at home.

The other big news is that I am starting a new job at Emory University, where I have been working for two years now. My actual title will be Senior Facilitation Specialist, but before I go into exactly what that will be let me give you a little background.

After moving back to Atlanta, I became very interested in Total Quality Management (TQM) and how it related to many of the values and methods of the ICA. After some investigation, I found out that the Information Technology Division (ITD) at Emory had begun to try to implement TQM, and that they realized that they needed some basic

consensus building tools to really go further in this journey. This resulted in the Oylers and I doing two basic facilitation methods seminars for 60 of their staff, and we are scheduled to do another one plus the advanced strategic planning training seminar in January.

The vision of the Vice Provost of ITD is that not only this division but the entire university would be on the TQM journey and be equipped with ICA facilitation methods to enable this. It is to this end that I have been hired. It will be my job to provide training, consultation and mentoring in facilitation methods for people in ITD and campus-wide and to actually facilitate workshops and events. I am really excited about this new venture! It will give me some brand new ways to use my skills and challenge me to learn some brand new ones. It also excites me to work in a situation where there is a real vision of creating a human, transforming environment.

I hope 1994 brings you much joy and wonder and many new possibilities!

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BARRY & MARGARET  
OAKLEY  
Adelaide, Australia

The back verandah is cool & shady, some comfortable chairs & potted plants make it an appealing place to sit & remember special people & places.

The little table & chairs, bats & balls are evidence that the 5 grandchildren are still pre-schoolers, though that will change next year as the 2 boys turn 5 years. The curled leaves on the nectarine tree & on the roses are evidence of disease from late rains, but the strawberries, tomatoes, daisies & the lovely red bottle brush all loved the extra dampness.

If the shed door was open you would see the bags of saw dust that Barry has produced as a by-product of his first fruits of wood-turning - he has made some lamps that are really impressive. He loves working with the natural beauty of wood. We have reupholstered & remodelled a lounge suite. It came up really well.

Each day is very full. Barry still works in 2 parishes and deals with the complexity very well. He has built some good teams to work with & too' he is occasionally a bit radical in his thinking & preaching, he mostly achieves his aim to journey, rather than shock the congregations. I take small parts in both parishes & spend time each week visiting housebound people.

In September, a week in the Flinder's Ranges brought us right back to earth as we contemplated the might of the gorges, the rocks & mountains, the colours of the wild flowers. Brian & Rhonda joined us for 2 days & it was with great collegiality that we experienced the awe of nature, plus the delights of art & craft exhibitions & Devonshire teas in the hospitable towns of the north.

Barry & I celebrated our 60th birthdays this year. Barry

coped cheerfully with stepping over the threshold into the 4th phase. I have to admit to more reluctance. (However) Liza Tod continues to remind us that age is no barrier for an active mind. So perhaps life is just a different kind of adventure as an elder.

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JIM AND SUE OBERG  
Hong Kong

We send our greetings to you from our new apartment in Causeway Bay, overlooking Hong Kong Harbour, one of the busiest in the world. We enjoy watching life on the harbour unfold each day, including the contrast between the boat people community beneath one window and the weekly yacht races out another window. The Christmas lights that surround us are magnificent this time of the year, and soon we'll have the best view in town of the annual Chinese New Year fireworks display.

Our cat has settled in well to her new home 26 floors above the out of doors. Her favourite treat is specially home grown "Kitty Kraze" (grass), which she enjoys munching on occasion as she sits in a bay window overlooking the harbour. Now, in her mature years, she much prefers sleeping in the afternoon sun to the harrowing encounters with the dogs of Woodside, and has located all the best spots to soak up the sun throughout the day.

Last spring, we enjoyed a holiday at Damal Beach Resort

near Kuching, Sarawak (Malaysia), with John, Thea and David Patterson. At the resort we found lots of relaxation, good food and some magnificent views. Here in Hong Kong, we continue to enjoy life in this busy and dynamic city, tempered by occasional visits to the hiking trails nearby.

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THE JIM & THEA  
PATTERSON FAMILY  
Hong Kong

**“People say that what we're all seeking is a meaning for life. I don't think that's what we're really seeking. I think that what we're seeking is an experience of being alive, so that our life experiences on the purely physical plane will have resonances within our own innermost being and reality, so that we actually feel the rapture of being alive”.**

*Joseph Campbell*

A few highlights of the year: David moved into 11th grade with confidence after another summer of French immersion

in Quebec City. Rugby, trumpet and friends are major themes.

Miriam moved into her third year at Trent University, Peterborough, after her summer working in Hong Kong in the personnel department of Asian Sources Inc. Her favourite cultural discovery in working with Cantonese colleagues was Friday "Dim Sum" lunches, tasty little Chinese nibbles!

John and Thea both took on the MacLehose Trailwalker in October after many weekends of practising on the trails. With team members, Larry Greenwald and Philip Chatting, the peaks and valleys of 100 km. of Hong Kong's rugged trails were vanquished in 28 hours and 21 minutes of glorious physical and mental expenditure. The quotation with which we began this letter was important to us as we reflected on this wondrous project.

Hong Kong rumbles and roars with non-stop activity of every variety. China-Britain talks about the 1997 transition, tearing down and building up ever higher more glamorous office buildings, landfills for new docks. It energizes. It exhausts. It is Hong Kong. It is the centre of a great swell of late 20th Century economic boom-time and is a great place to be living at this time. It also needs loving attention at the level of deeper human values.

---

BOB & SANDRA RAFOS  
Toronto, Canada

Last Christmas we journeyed to upper Michigan to spend the holidays with Kim's family. Robin and her family joined us so we had all four grandchildren together for a real celebration. We were introduced into the magic of ice fishing and cross-country skiing in minus 20 degrees. Returning to Toronto was like visiting the tropics in spite of the heavy snowfall we experienced last winter.

We have just celebrated being in our new home for one year and all the changes that has catalysed. We are fortunate in being located in a small ravine with lots of trees, yet still in the city. We are continually amazed at the wild life that we are privileged to share space with. We have had over 45 different species of birds visit our yard which has been a real delight.

We found ourselves going on fewer camping trips this year because so much nature is right in our backyard. We did join Sharon and Wayne for a wet and wonderful week of camping at the Shades in Indiana. Gardening played a large role in our lives this summer and was a big challenge since our yard goes straight up hill. Bob helped with the job of terracing vegetable and flower areas. Sandra grew herbs, flowers, veggies and learned a lot about shade gardening on hills.

In February we added a new

member to our family. Her name is Kore and she is a black lab/ shepherd mix. We got her when she was 6 weeks and she is a continual delight and challenge.

Sandra is teaching a course in the Wellness and Lifestyle Management program at a local college this year. It provides an opportunity to share many ICA methods that continue to be relevant and life giving to all ages. Her women's group has evolved over the year to include various activities such as studying "Women Who Run with Wolves", full moon rituals, native crafts projects, and body work sessions.

Bob has been very busy at work. They have added new associates and more than doubled their space. It has been very rewarding and satisfying to participate in giving shape to an idea, building a company, creating a market and carving out our own niche.

The new house allows Bob to begin doing a bit more with his hands. Having a work bench again is a real pleasure. He continues his association with two men's groups of close friends. This has been Bob's year of health happenings. He broke a rib when he fell (in the tub!), had arthroscopic knee surgery and a cataract removal.

We just took up line dancing and find it great fun.

BRIAN & RHONDA  
ROBINS  
Tumby Bay, South Australia

Rhonda was asked to address a women's rally in our Presbytery and managed, instead of talking, to teach them the Dance of Creation - a little wave of consciousness that went out in the pond that day.

We get some long service leave this year. The very idea has been an assault on our souls, but we finally are coming to see that it will help our task to stop our world for awhile. In many ways the last 3 years has been like going back to school. We fondly told ourselves that life in a parish would be an extension of the friendly, challenging, motivating life we knew. Not quite so! Long Service Leave will allow the reflection and research and preparation for the next 3 years, which we now recognise that we need.

Our family continues to delight us. Peter and his wife will spend this year in Canada with Marina's family and friends. The other boys are continuing to feather their family nests, doing as well as the recession will allow them, and each in their own way, having fun. Jenny has been a Child Care worker for the last two years. This year she has encountered again the Aboriginal culture and has decided to take time for further training that will allow her to offer additional skills to Aboriginal women concerned

with child care.

Some of you may remember the gum tree about which we eulogised several years ago. It dumped a great branch on our house last year and for safety's sake we decided that it should be laid to rest. It was a sad day for all of us, but the enormous trunk lies across the lawn and is proving a wonderful playing spot for all our 9 grandchildren. So it is still true that in dying, new life springs up to surprise us all!

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MARY & ROGER ROSS  
Winnipeg, Canada

This was a year filled with pleasure for us. We marvelled at the growth and development of our granddaughter Megan each time we saw her. She knows who the head of the house is and keeps Jim and Sue hopping. Jim gets a well-deserved break from the demands of the Crown Attorney's office in Dauphin and we look forward to having them with us at Christmas.

Jennifer and Bruce are awaiting with great anticipation the arrival of their first child next April. They broke the news to both sets of delighted grandparents-to-be at the end of the summer on an outing to see a new cottage lot near Kenora. Jennifer has stated on a new ward and will now be working 4 shifts in a two week period (nursing cutbacks and bed closures).

David is in 2nd year at U. of Winnipeg - Arts, with the objective of teaching. The YMCA keeps him busy for the summer months as a counsellor, taking out canoe trips on Lake

of the Woods for two and three-week intervals. A cold wet summer didn't bother him one bit. We check periodically to make sure he doesn't have webbed feet.

Roger keeps busy with bookkeeping and tax clients, service work and (when he has a spare minute - painting and restoring our circa 1920 house. Mary is nursing full time in a psycho-geriatric centre. Never a dull moment there, or here - (sometimes hard to tell the difference).

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ART & JEAN SMITH  
Denver, CO, USA

We've gone to the edges of the wilderness this year. As we looked back over the past months, we discovered that we spent much of our time out of the urban environment. Hikes, bike rides, cross-country ski excursions, walks and automobile trips took us into some of the wild areas of North America. And as we explored, we also strengthened relationships with colleagues and family along the way.

To conclude the wilderness theme, we not only enjoy being out in the wild places, but we are working to protect the remaining wilderness areas of Colorado. In addition to belonging to a number of environmental organizations, Jean is doing a major project with Colorado Environmental Coalition. This group has taken a pro-active stance in doing research and promoting Congressional wilderness legislation. The

103rd Congress added 612,000 acres of mostly forest to Colorado's wilderness system. This was a great accomplishment, but there are additional areas which need to be protected in order to provide adequate core/corridor areas to preserve biological diversity of both plant and animal species. Unlike deer, skunks and squirrels which can cohabit with the human species, many animals need isolation and space, and remaining suitable areas should be protected now. CEC is preparing a proposal which will focus on Bureau of Land Management areas, many of which are gorgeous canyon lands on the western slope. Jean is working with others to prepare the final maps and narratives. The descriptions are so intriguing that we anticipate next year will be spent exploring many of these wilderness areas.

As you can tell, we have been captured by the wilderness this year. On reflection, it undoubtedly touches the wellspring of man's existence as only one of many creatures on this blue planet. Often in our quest for convenience and the artifacts of human civilization, we distance ourselves too much from the natural world, a heritage of millions of years which we can ill afford to lose. It is this quest for tapping into the essence which continues to draw us into the wilderness.

**Awesome Moment**

The now  
 is a razor-thin  
 moment of  
 time in which  
 the imagined  
 chaotic thoughts  
 of the future  
 become the  
 recorded history  
 of the past  
 with the  
 larger now  
 the consciousness  
 of the present  
 being the  
 context for  
 the transaction  
 so that  
 what we think  
 or do in that  
 split-second  
 gap is the  
 primary power  
 we have ever  
 events and  
 over our own lives.

-Terry Wright

\* \* \*

When we get out of  
 the glass bottles of our ego,  
 and when we escape like squirrels  
 turning in the cages of our personality  
 and get into the forests again,  
 we shall shiver with cold and fright  
 but things will happen to us  
 so that we don't know ourselves.  
 Cool, undying life will rush in,  
 and passion will make our bodies taut  
 with power,  
 we shall stamp our feet with new  
 power  
 and old things will fall down,  
 we shall laugh,  
 and institutions will curl up like  
 burnt paper.

—D. H. Lawrence

\* \* \*

Always remember  
 you are the promise of joy, peace,  
 love and new life.  
 Do not look for these in this world.  
 The answer lies within.

\* \* \*

“People say that what we're all  
 seeking is a meaning for life. I don't  
 think that's what we're really seeking.  
 I think that what we're seeking is an  
 experience of being alive, so that our  
 life experiences on the purely  
 physical plane will have resonances  
 within our own innermost being and  
 reality, so that we actually feel the  
 rapture of being alive”.

-Joseph Campbell