



THE SWORD WILL
NOT BE SHEATHED

Chicago Nexus Town Meeting
August 27, 1981
Chicago, Illinois

THE NEW NEXUS SONG

Nexus Council

August 27, 1981

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

On the road again

A band of service for the world to see
Bringing the news that we're in charge of history
Declaring that the future's built today.

On the road again

We've caught the wonder of our times again
We've seen the surging wave of courage to rebuild
That manifests the new society.

On the road again

The same old places and the same old bottom lines
But on the road again ^{mysteries}
A brand new valor flamed by ~~history's~~ urgent call -
To serve all.

That we might see

A people who embrace their destiny
A globe that celebrates a powerful unity
That's why we're all back
On the road again!

THE NEW NEXUS STORY

Chicago Nexus Council

August 27, 1981

THE MIRACLE OF THE SWORD

A lot of time has gone by since then. There aren't many of us left who sat in the great hall and saw the beginning and none of us who sat there realized that we were seeing a miracle. It was the Global Council of 1981. That's 26 years ago and I don't remember all the details, but I know that it was afterwards everything began shifting. We came to the Council exhausted, angry, divided and many ready to leave. A religious order on the verge of becoming a social agency, groups seeing each other as the enemy and yet knowing also of its own guilt and ineffectivity. Some of us had refused to do the Regional Consult, and one global program for the year and were convinced that we knew something others did not. And some of us knew the Consult was the most important program we had done to that point, but the more we tried to help our colleagues to understand, the deeper the division we created. And yet these same regional consults provided us with an exciting and frightening new possibility of really beginning to reach the 30,000. It told us what people hoped for, what they struggled with and were beginning to see they could do and even surfaced commitment to begin concretizing some deeply buried dreams. Not the most auspicious setting for a miracle, you might say. Even worse than a stable.

But something amazing did happen, as you who read this in the future well know. A new courage emerged. It was as if, like Arthur, we discovered that once you had drawn the sword from the stone -- and, even more, once everyone had seen you do it, and decided that you were the only one who could -- you cannot put it back again, no matter how heavy it feels, no matter how small your skill at effectively wielding it. The signs of the miracle were there for those who had eyes to see. The commissioning of troops to the eighth continent, and of all the troops to the preparation of the ninth. The sending out of the twelve -- taking nothing for the journey but the corporateness of the global body. The demand to forge from all those who care disciplined global regional teams. The thrust toward unified, though complex, imagery and practices of the zones of human development, which, as you know, provided the signs of practical hope throughout the next 20 years.

How did this miracle happen? I don't know if any of us was really sure. Some of the things that led up to it, I still remember. That for the first time in ten or twenty years we called the Global Priory together (that's what we used to call the Abbot Corps in the old days). Maybe the diversity of the people who came to the Council was the real cause; folks from all sectors, all areas, all ages, all cultures, all religions. That all of us had been brooding and writing on the future and our destiny throughout the preceding year. Perhaps it was the time we dared to declare that the battle for human consciousness had been won, that everyone in the world was clear that the real issues had to do with how do we humanly operate in this complex world of ours. Maybe it was the shift in our understanding of ourselves -- a kind of turning ourselves inside out -- a going public with a vengeance, attacking the contradictions blocking counteracted humanness, not simply defending against them. Maybe it was simply that we looked around and saw that there were so many of us who had been around for a long time who were gone -- some who had died, some who seemed to have gone to sleep, some who simply disappeared -- and yet that the mission was not finished, the call undiminished. How did it happen? I don't really know. But I know that it did happen, and that it happened in 1981. A vow was made -- a vow never to sheathe the sword of humanness, to wield it courageously on behalf of

all people everywhere, to put it down only when the last breath of the last of us has been breathed. A miracle of the spirit. A miracle of life itself. I was honored to have been present at its birth. For the real miracle is what has happened in history since then. Here, in 2007 -- when we once thought that the revolution would be over, in the words of a popular song of that long-ago time, "We've only just begun."

.THE UNDERLYING CONTRADICTIONS

I. METHODS TRANSFER STRATEGY

In the arena of undesigned exchange mechanisms, the fact that models are not prepared and that the distribution of trained personnel is not systematic indicates that the underlying contradiction is unsystematic global methods transfer strategy. This is illustrated by the small number of trained LENS faculty, no design for the Formation Colloquy, the small number of bilingual staff assigned to Latin America, and unused local faculty resources.

II. REDUCED TASK ORIENTATION

In the arena of social structures, the fact that we present an inconsistent and unbeckoning face to the world indicates that the underlying contradiction is reductionistic approaches to the inclusive task. This is illustrated by our tendency toward single programmatic answers, Religious Houses that are unattractive and too small, our departmentalization to handle the complexity of tasks, and shifting frequently from emphasis to emphasis.

III. UNEXERCISED IMAGINATION FOR STRATEGIC THINKING

In the arena of common wisdom, the fact that we often operate out of old and unclear images and find it difficult to articulate the futuristic leaps that are demanded indicates that the underlying contradiction is an unexercised imagination for creating the strategy for massive structural revitalization. This is illustrated by the inability to implement consult strategies that deal with the whole region, recruiting and selling causes rather than marketing, master strategies that remain unfocused, and undocumented learnings from the clusters.

IV. INEFFECTIVE SYSTEMS

In the arena of transrational systems, the fact that the Latin America staff is decentralized, and the Latin American and North American staff are ungrounded in basic courses, indicates that the underlying contradiction is that comprehensive transrational systems are undercut by ongoing and immediate demands. This is illustrated by few courses set up in the regions, "Oh, that belongs to ___ Centrum, not us." kinds of statements, and few opportunities for NA/LA dialogue.

V. RELATIVIZED MISSIONAL PROFUNDITY

In the arena of common religion, the fact that Order high school youth experience a missional vacuum on the other side of a year in a project, that external missional demands often take precedence over or preclude participation in House symbolic life and that we are reluctant to make on-behalf-of decisions beyond our assigned sphere of influence, indicates that the underlying contradiction is unclarity on the story, images and

UNDERLYING CONTRADICTIONS, Page 2

Chicago Nexus Council

August 27, 1981

practices that mark the Religious in this new time. This is illustrated by Order youth fading away into adulthood, partial Daily Office participation, in the US 12 to global eventfulness as in the LCP methodology, and losing the theological -level push beyond gestalting to dramatically symbolize the profound (motivational) meaning..

VI. IMAGINAL INSIGNIFICANCE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICE TASKS

In the arena of human resource engagement, the fact that we are constantly screaming for more forces indicates that the underlying contradiction is imaginal insignificance attached to essential practical service tasks. This is illustrated by not asking for outside help, not crossing internal lines, not following up program participants with specific tasks, and not pushing for additional computer time and hardware.

VII. INADEQUATE PROGRAMMATIC FRAME

In the arena of societal frame (corporate welfare) the fact that there exists a current disrelation of frame and program indicates that the underlying contradiction is piecemeal responsive framing. This is illustrated by historical church frame based on 10 years ago, specific frames relating to specific programs (E.G. Regional Consults), unclarity about programs, and local Uptown emphasis overridden by global demands.

THE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS

Chicago Nexus Council

August 27, 1981

I. JOURNEY PSU

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to enable self-conscious methods for team and Phase I journeying, propose a PSU on rites of passage and journey models, by means of 1) using a collegium to define rational objective and existential aim, 2) writing procedures, 3) timeline and assignment, and 4) gathering archives and research materials.

II. ENABLING GLOBAL STUDY

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to release each House to participate in corporate study life, propose that each house study one of a list of several books on significating mythology and symbolizing the life journey, by means of 1) collecting book suggestions from around the globe, 2) Creating context/rationale for study, 3) Houses selecting and studying a book, 4) gathering evaluation of books, and 5) evaluating the whole experiment.

III. EMPOWERING THE REGIONAL TEAMS

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to build and implement a North American continental strategy, propose to use the R.E.P. experiment as a keystone to build the Regional Team and the movement, by means of 1) Scheduling October, December, and March continental meetings at the September Area Councils, 2) delineating a common regional operational system, 3) establishing interchange mechanisms, and 4) designing Regional training eventfulness.

IV. "THE AMERICAS" PROGRAM STING

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to create common continental expansive thrusts, propose continental program marketing campaigns, by means of 1) Area Council Campaign set-up, 2) Fall Quarter materials and systems preparation, 3) Continental Council launch with logo and theme, and 4) B/L teaching and celebrating.

V. EXPANDING PRIORSHIP BASE

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to broaden priorship base and capacity to deliver programs, propose annual training treks to all houses, by means of 1) building pedagogy constructs, 2) designing a transrational schedule, 3) coordinating regional formation colloquy schedule, and 4) assigning training trek teams.

PRACTICAL PROPOSALS, Page 2

Chicago Nexus Council

August 27, 1981

VI. POWERFUL MISSIONAL DECOR

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to create a more common context for the Global Order, propose great decor that rehearses the common mission, by means of 1) creating a collegium which grounds historical images and rehearses decor values, 2) a roundtable exercise on creating new images, 3) collegium series to gather input on new images and helpful rationales, and pulling together a common decor rationale.

VII. MASTER STRATEGIES

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to focus missional commonality across the continents, propose to create and refine the master strategies program chart, by means of 1) a PSU to ground master strategies with program activity, 2) utilizing the chart in Area Council planning, 3) a PSU to discern whistle point analysis from regional consult data by each nexus, and 4) tracking program on priorities board.

VIII. RATIONALIZING DATA SYSTEMS

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to ensure comprehensive financial data access daily, propose complete computerization of the financial systems, by means of 1) holding a Guardians PSU on expanded nexus computer use, 2) daily entering of purchase orders and disbursements, 3) researching other existing program packages, and 4) building an operational plan to complete the system by January 1, 1982.

IX. COMPREHENSIVE UPDATED REGIONAL FRAME

We, the members of the Chicago Nexus, in order to enable a comprehensive update of the Regional frame around the globe, propose to build at Regional Councils a framing chart for the three sectors, by means of 1) creating a framing maneuvers taskforce from Operations and Research Centurms, 2) writing a framing maneuvers workshop, 3) holding demonstration framing sessions in the Centrum, and 4) sending trained representative to each area.

CHICAGO NEXUS TOWN MEETING PARTICIPANTS

NAME	CENTRUM	PHASE	ROOM/TEAM
LUCY SMITH	MANAGEMENT	II	518/1
STEPHEN J. ALLEN	RESEARCH	III	711/3
MARJORIE ALLAN	DEVELOPMENT	III	840/6
DONNA McCLESKEY	DEVELOPMENT	III	765/4
GEOFF NIXON	DEVELOPMENT	II	809/5
KAY NIXON	DEVELOPMENT	II	809/5
MARIE SHARP	OPERATIONS	III	705/3
BASIL SHARP	OPERATIONS	III	705/3
JOHN MONTGOMERY	RESEARCH	II	5--/1
ROBERT HAWLEY	RESEARCH	III	814/6
BARLENE GOLEMO	RESEARCH	II	757/4
JOAQUINA RODRIGUES	RESEARCH	II	821/6
PHOEBE REYNOLDS	RESEARCH	III	514/1
TRACY E. LONGACRE	RESEARCH	II	710/4
ALVIN ROBERTS	RESEARCH	III	539/2
LINDA BARNES	MANAGEMENT	II	819/-
MART LOU VERGARA		II	419
BOJCE WILLIAMS	MANAGEMENT		
SHARON ROBERTS	OPERATIONS		539/2
JUDITH TRESISE	MANAGEMENT	II	839/5
RICK JONES	DEVELOPMENT	II	811/5
LEONARD M. SIZER	RESEARCH	IV	747/4
DOLLY MAMAN	RESEARCH	IV	525/2
BARBARA BARKONY	RESEARCH	III	710/3
JOE CROCKER	DEVELOPMENT	III	14
WILLIAM GOOCH	RESEARCH	III	564/2
DONALD BARKONY	MANAGEMENT	III	710/3
HILARY KITNEY	MANAGEMENT	II	
BRUCE DONNELLY	DEVELOPMENT	III	707/3
REBECCA GROW	RESEARCH	II	733/3
LINDA JONES	OPERATIONS	II	811/5
LYN MATHEWS	DEVELOPMENT	IV	459/2
JON JENKINS	RESEARCH	II	833/6
GEORGE WALTERS	RESEARCH	III	509/1
BARBARA HAWLEY	MANAGEMENT	II	874/6
DAVID McCLESKEY	RESEARCH	III	765/
FRED LANPHEAR	OPERATIONS	III	372/
ADAM THOMPSON	OPERATIONS	III	563/2
JAILU VERGARA	OPERATIONS	II	835/5
NANCY FRASER	DEVELOPMENT	III	516/1