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**From:** "Karen Snyder" <Snyder@ConsultMillennia.com>  
**To:** <earthrise@yahoogroups.com>  
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**Subject:** [earthrise] Changing Images

In my work in education this past year I have become increasingly aware of the openness to directly discussing the power of image change with educators. It has put me on a quest of finding recent resources to assist with creating presentations and exercises to enable people to become conscious of the images they are living out of as well as catalysts for influencing the images of others. Among the wealth of resources I am discovering, I read the following witness to changing images.

In an article of Ode\* magazine entitled "*I am not a wild-eyed idealist*", Bono, who was named Time magazine's 2005 person of the year (along with the Bill and Melinda Gates) was asked, "How do you get through the darkness?" Bono's reply was as follows:

I try to make the light brighter. For example, Harry Belafonte is one of my great heroes. He told me this story about Robert F. "Bobby" Kennedy, which changed my life, indeed, pointed me in the direction I'm going now politically. Harry remembered a meeting with Martin Luther King when the civil rights movement had hit a wall in the early sixties (*impersonating croaky voice of Belafonte*):

*"I tell you it was a depressing moment when Bobby Kennedy was made attorney general. It was a very bad day for the civil rights movement." And I said: "Why was that?" He said: "Oh, you see, you forget. Bobby Kennedy was Irish. Those Irish were racists; they didn't like the black man. They were just one step above the black man on the social ladder. Bobby at that time was famously not interested in the civil-rights movement. We were crestfallen, in despair, talking to Martin, moaning and groaning about the turn of events, when Dr. King slammed his hand down and ordered us to stop the bitching. 'Enough of this,' he said. 'Is there nobody here who's got something good to say about Bobby Kennedy?' We said: 'Martin, that's what we're telling ya! There is nothing good to say about him. The guy's an Irish-Catholic conservative badass, he's bad news.' To which Martin replied: 'Well, then, let's call this meeting to a close. We will re-adjourn when somebody has found one thing redeeming to say about Bobby Kennedy, because that, my friends, is the door through which our movement will pass.' So he stopped the meeting and he made them all go home. He wouldn't hear any more negativity about Bobby Kennedy. He knew there must be something positive. And if it was there, somebody could find it."*

Well, it turned out that Bobby was very close with his bishop. So they befriended the one man who could get through to Bobby's soul and turned him into their Trojan horse. The civil rights people sort of ganged up on the bishop, and got him to speak to Bobby. Harry became emotional at the end of this tale:

*"When Bobby Kennedy lay dead on a Los Angeles pavement, there was no greater friend to the civil-rights movement. There was no one we owed more of our progress to than that man. "*

Whether he was exaggerating or not, that was a great lesson for me, because what Dr. King was saying was: Don't respond to caricature – the Left, the Right, the Progressive, the Reactionary. Don't take people on rumor. Find the light in them, because that will further your cause.

I am Karen Snyder Troxel, residing in Chicago, with my husband Jim and son Jonathan, and facilitating educators who are assisting Chicago to be among the best educational systems in the nation.

\* Ode magazine, "for intelligent optimists", was launched in the Netherlands and now can be ordered on the