

CARRYING OUT THE LEGACY

I think we're all grateful for the extra hour we discovered we had this morning because I look at the time schedule and we're right on time. It was only through the intervention of nature I guess or something like that.

Well I wanted us to start out and sing one of Joe's favorite songs and one that we all know, "Those Who Wait on the Lord." We all know it: "Those who love the mystery", "Those who live the risen life", "Those who serve the suffering world", and "Those who die on the march." Page 1 of the book. (All joined in singing the song.)

The topic for this morning is, "Carrying out the legacy." The topic as it started out with the planning group was, "How do the sensitive and responsive sustain themselves?" Ever since being assigned that topic I kept listening to myself, "Lyn, how are you sustained?" And then discover, in true form with our Order, that the topic had been shifted to "Carrying out the Legacy." I want to suggest that it is obvious that we have been carrying out the Legacy, that is no question, because tremendous things have happened in these past ten years.

And I do recall when Joe died that alot of people wondered if we would make it. Do you remember that? They just wondered whether the Order and the Movement would make it into the future. And we have made it in a powerful way and this coming together like this, for me, is like a dream come true. That some how or other we are coming back together in a fresh and creative way. Neil Vance wrote me a note before this and he said, "Just remember one of your sayings is, Lyn, that life is stuffed with effulgence." And that is exactly what I have experienced all weekend. How could life be more effulgent than what has happened to all of us this weekend. Lot's has happened.

I'm quite sure that we've all had lots of conversations with Joe. I've found through the years that I talk with him alot, particularly around important events in your life...and I recalled one event you know I don't know if he's approving our getting together like this, particularly with him as our focus, because I remember being on a Global Trip with Joe and a copy of the Annual Report arrived, wherever we were, and there was his picture. And Joe, in the way that only Joe could, hit the ceiling, and sent word back to Chicago (the cash flow had absolutely diminished relative to getting this thing out), "I want every copy retrieved and I want my picture taken out of there." Now Joe was not too modest a man. It had to do with us being a corporate group and no one person could account for the kind of greatness we were and so it had to do with that.

I talked with him four years ago, very earnestly, when I was out trying to win this man over here, and I said, "Now Joe, am I doing the right thing or not?" And he said, "Blessings Lyn, go ahead." So I did. And then of course, he (Bill) came to the Academy. And I just happened to be walking through the lobby at that time and I said, "Who is this man, almost my age (I thought he was), what's he doing here anyway?" Anyway, that was a time. And then of course a year ago when the embolism came along and I talk with him at those times too. I just decided with this leg of mine was the only way I had of getting into a position of one-ups-man-ship on this group. I have two feet. You see I have my high heel foot on this morning and when I want to get into low heels I sorta go into the mechanic shop and get into my low heel foot. I decided it was the Lord's way of letting me get into that position because as I look around here, we all have a third ear, we've been trained for years to have our third ear

attuned. And we know what it is to have a third eye. But none of you know what it is to have a third foot. Sometimes I lie awake, or I wake up at night. And I look down at my body I think, "This is just the most absurd situation that I ever found myself in in my whole life. What am I doing here? But then the word that you and I have lived out of for so many years it is that, "Life is absurd." There is just absurdity. It is given to each of us. Whether than being an intrusion, something we don't want to handle, we take that absurdity into ourselves and live it. We live it down to the hilt.

One thing I inherited from Joe is spending all my time on the introduction. That was the introduction. I kept wondering what to do. And I come back to an old construct. It's consciousness, care, corporateness, and creativity. Why I came back to that was not unrelated to Joe. In 1977 we had the World's Fair. We had gone out to Jeju Island to observe this tremendous event in our life. People came from all over the world. Lela (Mosley) was there. Everything was going fine. Joe was to get in later sometime. Five minutes before we were to start Kang Byong Hoon came running us an he said, "Lyn, Joe hasn't gotten here. You'll have to give the main address." I'll tell you I just about died. We had alot of government people there you know. And I found myself up on this line of people, cameras going and all, needing to give one of the key addresses. I sort of found myself gropping. I came up with consciousness, care, corporateness and creativity. Because at that moment in time we were really working with those categories. That is part of who we are. One of the perspectives out of which we live life.

Yet now in our time we have shifted at each one of those. We live in a brand new world relative to consciousness. Morning office this morning was a pointer in that direction. And of course we began all that with the earth rise. But the biggest shift in my consciousness has been what we call the new paradigm. Just living in a holistic universe. The way it comes to me... I find myself in the midst of a situation, I know the totality is there. It is holistic! There is not one dimension of life, but that every one dimension of life is not present in that situation. Then the whole shift to interdependence and interrelatedness, is just a major shift in our consciousness and has a great deal to do with how we move into the future. Then this whole business of the evolutionary process. I'm not very articulate on this but I know it has made an incredible change on my perspective on life. I am a part of prehistory, of history and post history. I used to be rooted just in history but now it has to do with the totality of time and the totality of space. That's made a great deal of difference. One little phrase we have on the team I'm assigned to that's made a great difference these days is, "The future is now." We often remind ourselves as we start a meeting that the future is not out there somewhere but that it is now. It's a great gift to live in the times when that is our perspective.

Then Harrison (Owen), or was it Rustum (Roy), dealt yesterday with the whole business of death. You know, that is part of the new consciousness which is not new to us. We have stood for years before the double cross and have said to ourselves, "To die is to live. To live is to die." But that is another part of the new consciousness, but doesn't come as new to us. The whole business of death. Louise and Jack will remember this. We saw a film when Bill and I were assigned to Hong Kong. It was a Japanese film called, "The Spirit of Narayama." (It won the Critics award some years back). It was the story of this village, when a person became 70, no matter how active and no matter how much of a contributing dynamic she was in the midst of the village, the family and the village took her to the mountain and left her there to die.

I guess it was because I was inching up to 68 that that film addressed me a great deal. You know, and I began talking to myself about this and I about bored Bill to death with it, I began to think of the new world that we live in and the whole population and how much older its getting and by the year 2000 what are we going to do in our society with the elders? And I just felt that film held a great deal of wisdom relative to intentionality. Well, I passed my 70th birthday and no one took me to the mountain. In fact they gave me a huge birthday and made me promise I'd live to 80 (I don't know about that). There is just the whole business of death and the appropriation of life and death.

Another part of consciousness which has meant a great deal is the non-dualistic universe. We live in a non-dual universe. I mean unity is where it is. The diversity in the unity. And I went through a little private exercise myself: you know, we have to build a whole new language that holds this unity. It was hard for me to get out of the perspective of dualism. I don't know what it is but that is an important part of the new consciousness in which you and I participate. And the other thing is: you pick up books on the new consciousness and the big word is 'affirmation.' We've known a great deal about that too. "All that is is good" is a penultimate/ultimate affirmation which we have taken toward life itself. It's exciting to see that shift in consciousness taking place in our time.

Now, relative to CARE. I think the shift is to Planetary Care rather than World. I used to just think of the globe (and that's big enough), but I think the word planetary is right. Someone gave me a copy of the ethical issues that the Christian Science came up with after an extended study and the first one was the ozone layer, the larger environment that reaches all the way out to the planet. What does that mean for those who care to respond to that as one of the ethical issues of our time? Another thing that's working in that arena is, we've got to deal with the real situation. And we've discovered that's a little hard to, to really deal with the real situation. What is the reality before which we stand that we say either 'yes' or 'no' to. I think that this kind of consciousness...we have a lot in our history of 'think globally and act locally.' That's another place where we are currently that is very meaningful. We have to take the whole arena of care and deal with it differently than we used to in the past.

The last two years I don't know how many meetings we've been in where we want to 'focus.' I would welcome the days of doing Town Meeting, doing RS-1, doing Human Development as times of great focus. We were tied into the world on Town Meetings as we began to put the yellow up on the map. We're not living in those kind of times. I don't think as the Order and a Movement that we'll ever live in a time with that kind of focus. But we're still focussed. But the glory of our time is our complexity. The complexity of the World. So that I was one who cried in pain for focus when finally it broke in that that is a luxury of the past and not anything that we're going to experience in the future, except at a different well.

What I experience, under the rubric of Care, as I go out to do a strategic planning seminar, that I am out there doing RS-1 - in the indirection our time calls for. I'm doing it in a whole new language. To allow a people to say 'yes' to their real situation. To know they are unconditionally loved. I was at a strategic planning seminar in Chicago at the Vocational High School and we were going around with the usual question with such a jaundiced, cynical group of teachers. And the journey of that time with that particular group was just overwhelming in terms of the transformation that took place. I remember in the opening conversation asking the question, "If there's only one thing in your life that made life worth living, what is it?" We went around the table and you

could just see something happening. It was just fabulous. It was under the ruberic of CARE. I think I made my point of knowing we are in a new world.

Once again, someone mentioned (I guess it was Bishop Jim) how Joe 'stormed' the University Campuses. Well he did. We had four or five file drawers full of these folders with all the university campuses. I think we have to go back to the university. I would like to see us do that. We have so much to give now with our new methods, our new perspective, our new context, and I disagree with Marilyn Ferguson when she says the critical mass is here. It may be here but bit hasn't gotten down in action as I notice when I ride of airplanes with people and talk with them. And the youth, they live in a wholly restricted, constrained, small perspective universe. They have no idea of what it means to give their life to a world which is interrelated and interconnected. I don't think we could do a weekend anymore, the way time is these days. But we could do a fantastic one day thing and hit the college campuses. In principal, those who go to the universities to study are the future leadership of our nation and indeed the world. So that is one of my passions which sort of got left 'over there' somewhere.

CORPORATENESS: Things have been happening in our Order to our corporateness. You look around and you wonder where it is. Back in 1984 we went to local autonomy and that's been tremendous. It was precisely the move we needed to do relative to the times in which we live relative to participation, self sustaining at the local level. But it's something not without tearing alot of other things apart that we've gotten very comfortable with. I went back some time ago and looked at the old 4 x 4 on corporateness. Remember it? Go back and look at it when you go home and what you know is that you couldn't get up and give that lecture today. Whatever our corporateness is based on it is based on levels, levels deeper. Of course I look at 'Old Slick' (Joseph Slicker) back there and he could give a long spin on what I'm pointed to. One of the things it has to deal with is just trust. I mean trust in one another. I find that hard in some of our meetings to trust my colleagues, but I think that is a ground point of our corporateness.

This is why I am so grateful for this event, for some time I just think we are ready to give some kind of form to us. We've known that the Order.... Remember Pat and David Scott. Pat Scott called me the other day from Canada. Pat is really out into the new age work. I couldn't understand most of what she was saying. She was great. She said, "Do you know what it means, Lyn, to be the exOrder?" I said, "No." She said, "It means the Extended Order." George Holcombe came by for a weekend. Two or three weekends back, and we had some good conversations with George. He and Wanda are going great guns down in Dallas. He was walking out the door and he said, "Lyn, my question is, what do you do with people like me?" I said, "I don't know what to do with you, George. What that looks like, it's going to come from you. It's going to come from grassroots, our bigger Order."

We just know all those kinds of categories we worked so hard in the Global Council of 1984. You go back and read those reports on the Symbolic, Movemental and Extended Order. You know it is groping in the right direction but it was not on target. It has to be something very flexible. I don't know what it looks like. Let me just say that we need to network ourselves together. And I don't even know what I mean by that really or practically, how strong it should be. We're doing a morning ritual in our team - a chant. It's really great. And one of the things we chant three times is: "Right now is our point of power, right now is our point of power, right now is our point of power." Now I want to suggest that we have points of power sitting around this room to make the declaration of possibility to our world that's incredible. As we've sort of had a family reunion, we've caught up with one another. It is just incredible.

Well, what do we do in collaboration.... I have never in all my life.... (and Marshall (Jones) and I were talking about this) I have never in all my life felt so much a part of the league. I mean the League is very alive and so the whole arena of collaboration is another part of all of this.

Another guest we had in, wanting to know what to do, was old Mort Glassner. Do you remember Mort Glassner? He's alive and well anyway. Interchange is a dimension of this. What does interchange look like among one of us. We are too busy. There is too much impinging on our lives. But at the same time we have to use our points of power as the Order. George Walters was reminding me just before we came over. He said, "Do you remember the old People of God triangles? You have the historical, you have the movemental, and you have the latent. We're all in that room." I thought that was just tremendous for George to say that for that's just who we are. We're the people of the mystery. We're the people of the cosmic energy. We're the people of affirmation. Lots of poetry there.

Then, CREATIVITY. I guess what I saying is, that our Legacy... we have so much form for our Legacy to take into the future. In Chicago we have decided (the struggle in the Chicago Primary Unit to move from the individual to the corporate has been absolutely horrendous! We've been in a series of meetings. I thought, "If I have to go through one more meeting on this..." But I realized in the midst of it, just to move from the individual pole that we have been on, - not to collapse it - I don't mean that - but to move back into some semblance of corporateness has been a very painful journey. But, we're making it. One of the things we've decided to do is to take ten hours a week, all of us, to work on ethical frame discernment. It hasn't made too much sense to me and I've been having a hard time getting me head around that because all I could see was sort of patching up the social process triangles, getting some new whistle points out there, getting some new pressure points out there.

Rustum Roy, yesterday, sort of helped me see something that we need to do in terms of the ethical frame discernment. Something more than reclarifying the past. I don't know my colleagues what in the world that is, but I began to get a glimmer of what will be wrought in trying to do this. Where do we place ourselves to deal creatively and effectively for the kind of change that we live in?

I liked Harrison Owen yesterday when he said something about nutrient environment. I thought that was tremendous. What kind of environment do we create for ourselves that will release all the potential that we are. And the best ways to release the potential of everyone we meet.

That brings me to an old story. In the Global Trip of 1967 we were on the Island of Bali. There were some fantastic painting around. We looked up the artist who lived up on top of the mountain and we walked up there one day. We were with Hilliards and we met this artist. We asked the question, "What is it you want to do with your art?" He said, "Well, I believe there is a ball of creativity down in the midst of every human being. And I want my art to release that." We have to become those kinds of artists. It is the work of the artist more than it is the work of the scientist. Moral response is an artful creation. We have to go about what we have been doing, but within the new perspective.

I asked myself if Joe were here what he would have us study? I think we have to brush up on our intellectual life, we've gotten pretty old hat. Ken Wilbur has meant a great deal to all of us, especially in his image of 'no boundaries' no dualism; it has been tremendous. But I think (I wonder what Bishop Jim would think of this because they were very close in these matters) Joe would have us

looking very closely for grounding with someone like Meister Eckhart. He was a man away ahead of his time. We have sort of just caught up with him. I would like to see us in that arena of study; let's take a look at Meister Eckhart.

We've told ourselves, there's some things that haven't changed. We've always said that we were a group of people who were concerned with awakenment, and I still think that's what we're concerned with. We have awakenment, demonstration and fulfillment but our focus is awakenment and we do demonstration as a vehicle for awakenment. That our task is to awaken and explode the perspective and the context of all whom we meet so they will have a way of standing responsible with their lives for what the future is requiring. I think that's what we're still about. I like Harrison Owen's book, Spirit. He's working with language in that book and it's all very exciting. In Chicago, we say, "what is the big, the doable and the attractive?" That's one of his things.

But this whole image of "open space." That's not new to us. We've lived in open space from the beginning. That is what the wedge blade is all about. That we are the ones who dare to move out from that which is no longer and risk moving into the not yet. It is not easy to die to lots of things. Especially when your past is so precious to you, and had so much to do with each of our lives. There are lots of things it is very hard to die to. There are some things we need to die to in order to carry on the Legacy.

You know another thing he'd be frowning about. He said, "I never had a creative thought in my life." He was a corporate man, in spite of the way we experienced him shouting, "Bullshit," at the top of his lungs at times. I am not so sure Joe would talk about his being the founder of our Order. We know what we're pointing to with that. But I think he would want to posit it on a corporate founder. And as I've thought about that I've said, "Maybe the corporate founders were the seven families that moved from Austin to Evanston. That that was the founding dynamic." Joe and I used to talk about this. If anyone founded us it was Jack Lewis, sitting up there in retirement around Cornell University. He was the one who had a parallel experience with Joe in the War and launched out and got that community in being. We went and joined a couple years later. He was a man of vision.

I was going to do a visualization at the end but I don't think I will. Shall we do it? I think one of the things we need to work on regarding our Legacy is how do we sustain one another?

Our worship this morning was fine, wasn't it? Just to sit back for 5 minutes and meditate and contemplate and pray. I've been experimenting with meditation. We have a room; Joe and Anne and Bill and I on our team meet up there occasionally. We haven't too much recently. I'm consoled by the fact it takes 15 to 20 years to master the art of meditation. I'm just getting over not getting up there and making a list of the household chores for the day to start out. I'm getting to the point where I can center a little more easily. I've sort of sat up here and yakked for 30 minutes on what I think. Now let's each of us do the same to the same in a visualization exercise.

Just sit back comfortably in your chair. Get in a comfortable posture. Put both of your feet on the ground. Let your hands lie loosely in your lap and breathe quite normally. Now begin at the top of your head. Relax your brow. Let it relax. Relax your facial muscles; your mouth. Let your lower jaw just sag a little. Now your neck. And your shoulders. Your chest. Your arms. Your hips. Your thighs. The calves of your legs.

Then think back just briefly on the great happening of this weekend. We came together with 44 hours to spend together. Now journey forward to your journey home today. See yourself in the car or the plane, or the train, however you traveled; and arriving at your home. Think of it, how you will be relating the work we did in our workshop yesterday morning; relating it to the world; relating to your own personal self; relating to the Order and the Movement. What will you be doing in each of these arenas? Look at your future actions in the next six months. In light of this weekend, how do you see yourself relating to the Global Order, perhaps locally, perhaps in a global way? Who will you be talking to and what about? How do you see your local house, perhaps this House, relating to you? How do you see the development of the Movement? With whom do you think you may be networking? What would you say about this weekend to a friend who asked you how you spent it? How do you think your friend might be impacted by your story of this weekend? And now you have returned to your home. You begin to reflect and sort of rehearse how Joe's Legacy is a living one for you. How will your life be different now, tomorrow, and the next day? Now return back to our meeting. Open your eyes. And prepare ourselves for moving into our morning.