

IN SEARCH OF
PROFOUND HUMANNESS

A Collection of Writings to Stir the Senses



VANCE SHERWOOD ENGLEMAN

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GANDHI MEDIA CENTRE

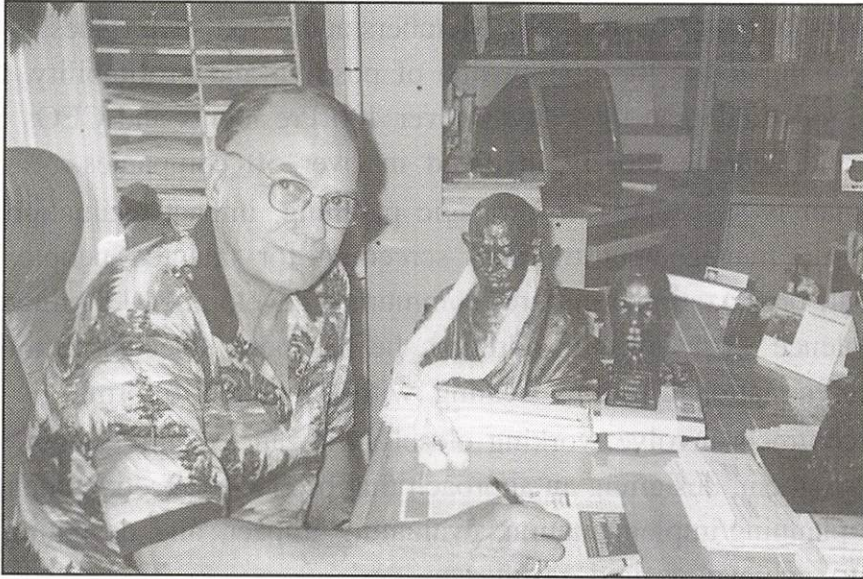
New Delhi □ Trivandrum □ Madurai

Published by
GANDHI MEDIA CENTRE
Trivandrum, Madurai, New Delhi

October 2003

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Printed by
Ashok Printing Press
2810, Gali Mata Wali, Nai Sarak, Delhi
Phone: 23258859, 23264968



THE AUTHOR

Vance Sherwood Engleman has a 34 year progressive background in customizing management and human resource approaches in the organizational development field for private, public and not-for-profit sectors throughout the U.S. and international. During this period he has held key positions with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Chicago; The Southwest Regional Resource Center, Utah; and for the past 20 years as Director of Options International, a sole proprietorship management consultant practice.

Services have been provided in all 50 states, and to participants from 58 nations (primarily Asia, and Mid-East). Engleman has had extensive field experience in India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia. In addition, he has trained and advised over 900 mid-to-senior-level officials who have come to the U.S. for advanced management training as an outside consultant to the International Management Development Institute at the University of Pittsburgh.

A large contract for six years (1990-96) was that the Chairman of The Executive Committee (TEC) of Pittsburgh. This international organization works with Presidents and CEOs of small to medium-size businesses ranging from two million to one billion in annual sales. TEC's monthly full day meeting is like an unofficial board of directors. Members addressed such issues as continuous improvement impacting the bottom line of positive and profitability. During this six year period Engleman interviewed over 400 Presidents and CEOs as potential members, and became closely involved in over 50 companies.

Engleman is a specialist in strategic planning, impact evaluation, executive team building, management training, screening for talented people, leadership development, organizational culture, community development, facilitator training, and nonviolence workshops. In addition, he has been selected to moderate and facilitate three national forums dealing with education reform.

Most contracts involve working closely with an executive team, conducting a needs assessment, designing an approach that produces effective change, guiding the action planning/implementation, evaluating impact, and designing corrective strategies to achieve desired results.

Engleman is a member of the Board of Advisors of the International Center of Gandhian Studies and Research in New Delhi. He is also a Board member of the Pittsburgh Society of Artists. His Ashram devoted to peace and nonviolence is worth a visit.

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PREFACE

One of the glaring paradoxes of present day life is that while most of us talk of global human family and one world, human beings are increasingly becoming bereft of 'humanness'.

Can there be a humanity without humanness? It appears we are worried about only the material well-being and physical health while ethical, moral, spiritual issues have been relegated either to the dust bin of memory lane or being treated as glorious ideas that had relevance in the past but not in this cyber age where hi-tec and cut-throat professionalism and aggressive marketing strategies condition our thinking and largely call the shots. The worth of a nation or its people are assessed now on the basis of economic factors such as sensex, forex, gold reserves and human beings are gradually being reduced to the level of commodities. No longer the worth of a nation is gauged on the strength of its culture. Its economic clout and strategic location appear to be the two parameters of eminence and all other attributes are secondary in the emerging scenario.

We talk about humanity but where are human beings? The various reports and studies on human development index present dismal pictures. An amalgam of men and women will not alone constitute humanity. In the larger sense will it not encompass all that we see and do not see? A human life without nature and what it constitutes is unthinkable. When we go beyond or high up or down below, the question that would nag us is to what extent are we motivated by personal considerations? How do we keep in check the selfishness in each of us?

Great teachers of humanity were always concerned with this question. It is said that there is a teacher and philosopher in each of us though we do not very often 'look that'. Career-wise, we might not be doing anything in the field, still the inescapable vicissitudes of life encircle us and there is no escape from being identified. This identification is a process that has been taking place all the time, all over, in varying degrees. Sensitive human beings irrespective of their declared commitment, rise above the ordinary and carve a niche which will be distinctively unique and valuable.

Vance Engleman has always impressed me with his extraordinary skill and perception in the field of modern management. He also appeared to me quite a

different human being, an odd man out, and a highly sensitive human being. His interest in Gandhian philosophy and his profound interest in the welfare of children, particularly the uncared and needy revealed his commitment to human welfare. Generously he became a part of all that we were doing at our Children's Centre in Kerala in India where a sustained and creative effort is afoot to instil values in children through arts.

Subtitled, 'A Collection of Writings to Stir the Senses', the present offering of highly thoughts provoking and insightful reflection of Vance Engleman, is a class by itself. Through these brilliant and well-written pieces, the author gently but forcefully reminds us of the essential character of 'being human'. He pleads for the fostering of humanness and hopes that it will not be lost in the din of the emerging competitive, material-minded and hi-tec civilization.

The thoughts he has been sharing with friends all over the world through the art forms he has been developing during the last three decades have been found to be of supreme importance. Re-reading the pieces, I felt strongly that these thoughts of Vance should reach the wider humanity and I am happy my friend graciously shared my optimism and the result is this volume. I am sure, besides stirring the senses of every sentient being who happens to read these reflections, they will be disturbing reminders to a generation which is fast becoming 'self-seekers' and 'self-centred'. Vance Engleman through these reflections emerges a champion and prophet of humanness. I hope the value of this veritable meditative and contemplative feast will not be lost in the wilderness of our obsessions. Let me thank Vance Engleman for this wonderful book.

Neelakanta Radhakrishnan

Chairman

Indian Council for Gandhian Studies

Sabarmati, Paranthal P.O.
Kerala-689518, India

INTRODUCTION

This book is a collection of art forms. Each of the writings uses symbols and images to convey thoughts about the search for profound humanness. The writing style is poetic prose. Each piece is designed to be provocative. The reader is encouraged to reflect and decide what meaning, value, or imperative can be gained for their benefit.

These art forms are existential—using language that is experiential versus theoretical. The images are directed toward human behaviour and life experiences. Although these writings are non-academic in nature they do draw upon the disciplines of theology, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.

A mixture of wisdom from Eastern and Western cultures permeate these writings. An effort is made to find a way of connecting as wide array of readers as possible. A conscious attempt is made to appeal to intellectuals and non-intellectuals; to women, men and youth; to all religious persuasions including the non-religious; to all races and to all economic classes. Admittedly, trying to appeal to such a broad audience seems impossible, but it is the goal nevertheless.

Only an art form can attempt to do so much with the limited writing space of one page. Words become symbols that cross barriers that divide us. That is why poetic prose, functional theology, or behavioral imagery is a way to describe this writing style.

Each of the 30 writings is written as a stand-alone reflection on a particular theme or subject. A life that is more fully human can be defined by the broader themes I have chosen: Life Values, Life Without Illusion, Personal Journey, Growth and Development, and Social Justice. In that life is such a precious gift, being the best we can be, or maximizing our potential seems like a worthy pursuit. Each piece reflects in part my own personal journey, and in a larger context they reflect the turbulent times in which we live.

Because these writings are art forms there are two critical parts to each composition. First, there is the content that by choice is restricted to one full page. Some of the pages were oversize, and one was poster size.* Sometimes

taking up to three months to compose one piece, the content may involve up to a dozen technical edits and polish before completion. Second, the format and graphics took numerous weeks of experimentation before deciding what "look" best transmitted the content to the reader. Many times over the years I felt it would be easier to write a book than do a one-page art form where every word is measured, and the layout is critical to how well it is received. The goal is to do one writing each year beginning in 1973 to the present (2002), and continuing.

Five of the pieces are a direct reflection of my many travels to India over the last thirty-three years. India's history, culture and people have impacted me deeply. I am more of a global citizen because of India, and will sometimes refer to Calcutta as my symbolic birth home. The greatness of India, along with its awesome challenges of poverty and human suffering, has helped me shape many of the images that permeate these pages. For this I am humbled, and grateful. We learn compassion from our life encounters. My experiences in Africa, China, Far East, Mid-East, Sub-Continent, Latin America, and North America have all added to seeing life with a global vision.

My personal optimism and affirmative style go head to head with the pain and struggle found everywhere. In an interview with Mother Teresa in Calcutta in 1994, I asked her what is the most important thing a person can do with their life? She said, "Look around and find some great need, and do good there." It is my conviction that we can all make a difference. With a little effort we can all contribute something to make this world less violent, safer for all, and more than that, enriching and fulfilling.

One of the defining pieces in this collection is the one titled "Voices." It is here I reveal some key mentors who have been part of my search for profound humanness. They each played a major role in shaping my consciousness, and selfhood. In a real sense these voices form my Meditative Council. They are my personal Board of Directors. Of greater importance is the challenge for the reader to identify their "voices." Very little of our thinking is original. While we all have bursts of creativity, we are mostly a synthesis of all those voices that have spoken to us.

The "Life Journey Curriculum for the Decade of the 80s" is obviously a dated piece (1980). It should be pointed out that the key to this piece is the framework and section headings, more than the examples of specific books. Once you have a comprehensive curriculum structure you can always add current books, articles, journals, and multimedia to the appropriate sections. The original of this piece was poster size.

A recent 2001 writing, "Oh Rajasthan!" is a radical departure in content and writing style from all the others. Of all the pieces, this one comes closest to poetic verse in form. More important, is my romantic love affair with the land and culture of Rajasthan, a State in Western India. While not addressing an issue of injustice, this writing does reflect the broader theme of profound humanness.

Finally, let these writings massage your spirit. Let them be tools to enable you to focus, and decide for yourself what is important and of value for your personal journey, and the challenges of this planet. You are invited to let these art forms be a catalyst to inspire you to write your own incredible story. We all decide what our priorities are and what direction we will give our personal mission and vocation. It is my hope that these writings will provide you with some direction, nurture and encouragement as you invest your life toward some worthy moral imperative.

Vance Sherwood Engleman

August 2003

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Sewickley, PA 15143, USA*

* Disclaimer: The original art form writings of this book were in various colors and oversized pages. For this book those art forms were reduced to book size and in black and white. We felt it important for the reader to see the graphic design of the original pieces. We realize the text on most of these reduced pages is too small to read, but all of the content from those writings are readable in the text of this book.

LIFE VALUES

The Qualities of Profound Humanness

Identifying the qualities of profound humanness was a major preoccupation of Joseph Wesley Mathews, the late founder of the Institute of Cultural Affairs. The following art form takes his major categories and reconfigures them into a dialogue format. Joseph would feel honored to see all of us brood deeply over how to embody a life that radiates profoundness.

Q: Just what are the qualities of profound humanness?

A: "It begins when one can embrace the unexpected intrusions in one's life. These events, which are usually beyond our control, can shatter the illusions which shelter us from reality. When this happens an appropriate decision is required."

Q: How do humans know what is right or appropriate?

A: "We never fully know. That is the nature of our struggle. We choose to stand before the Mystery, Depth, and Greatness with dread-filled fascination. Mundane disclosures of a Master Plan of order occur daily—even in the veins of a fallen leaf, or in an unexpected smile."

Q: Is it as simple as you make it sound?

A: "That's a yes and a no. Consciousness is a lifelong journey."

Becoming lucid to one's relationship with all that is has a developmental dimension. Even the unknown is open for interpretation and discovery. While complexity abounds it would be a mistake to rob these qualities of their utter simplicity."

Q: All this sounds so abstract. What are some external manifestations?

A: "When one awakens to the possible, appropriate deeds or actions follow. We find ourselves driven to make a difference—to contribute in some small but concrete way to protecting the gift of life. On so many burning issues we humans have erred in our custodial responsibility for this planet. Human capacity for destruction goes the full cycle from innocent misdeeds to the bizarre."

Q: How can a single life make any difference against the absurd notion of saving the planet?

A: "Whatever we do in and of itself may not change the course of history. But whenever one can affirm, restore, or build quality into life experiences it makes a difference. Tossing a stranded starfish back into the sea may make a lot of difference to that starfish!"

Q: Doesn't this example seem trite in light of the tens of thousands of stranded starfish on the beach?

A: "Perhaps, if you view our individual actions as isolated occurrences. Responsibility to build a safer and more human world requires genuine corporateness empowered by consensus building leadership. When a force of awakened people decides to participate in covenantal collegiality with a missional focus the potential power is incredible. Reflect on some of the great movements that have transpired, like those initiated by Gandhi or Martin Luther King Jr., or current efforts like Mother Teresa's work with the poorest of the poor, women's rights; global peace; environmental safeguards; Save the Whales. The list is long. These individual and corporate deeds have had and will have a profound impact on the future course of history."

Q: How does one begin such an awesome journey?

A: "The individual must declare his/her intentions and become a visible sign of one who genuinely gives a damn about people and about life in all its myriad forms. When we declare that history is going to go a certain way—that past sins will be rectified, and quality and dignity restored where it was lost—we hold ourselves publicly accountable."

Q: Can only the most gifted contribute to this endless struggle?

A: "Sociological creativity has a built-in universal relativity. It is in the mix of many everyday decisions designed to build up versus tear down that one begins to see the creativity of one's actions. We all have the capacity to decide to make a positive impact in situations we encounter. This is not a have-versus-have-nots issue."

Q: Just looking around, how does one know if someone has decided to live a great life?

A: "These people have a certain presence about them. They have inescapable selfhood. They have internalized the affirmation that they are significant, and this becomes transparent in the way they relate to others. I once saw this quality in the face of an elderly beggar woman on a street in Calcutta."

Q: Is this what is meant by having integrity?

A: "Exactly! Profound humanness

is at once a humbling possibility because it requires nothing more than a decision to accept one's acceptance. At the same time these people have an incarnate freedom and destinal resolve to leave every situation better than it was. I assure you, that woman in Calcutta forever changed the course of my values and life cares."

Q: Can you be more specific about what these people care about?

A: "The cares are endless and overwhelming. One stands as a protest whenever one spots an ounce of needless suffering. There are victims of all kinds of abusive and ignorant actions. They cry out for release from past bondage, and a promise for a more hope-filled future. Societal systems are in disarray worldwide. Economic, cultural, and political transformations leave nothing unchanged as we collectively enter a new age. Even forms which nurture our spirituality are in need of retooling and recovery of meaning."

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Q: Is this sort of greatness really an option for all?

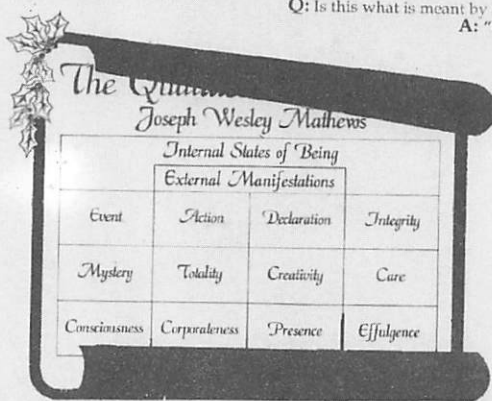
A: "If one thinks of one's self as superior to others then profound humanness will elude that person. Every life shows up with a paradoxical twist. None of us can escape life or death; emptiness or fullness; decision or indecision. The ongoing struggle to realize one's full potential is every person's dream."

Q: How does one know when it happens?

A: "The experience is one of restless tranquility. One senses an endless affirmation to all of life as good; to one's self as significant and received; to one's past as approved; and to the future as open. The Word of life and no lesser word provides unlimited power in civilization's continued quest for profound humanness. The experience is one of unmistakable effulgence!"

Q: Is there anything else?

A: "Yes. It is important that one have passion about these matters; that one feels deeply about the quality of this fragile life. Life is too short and too precious a gift to opt for anything less. What is at stake is not only one's self and others, but the entire universe."



Grace is Yours and Peace, December, 1989

VANCE ENGLEMAN

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December 1989

"BE TRUTHFUL, GENTLE AND FEARLESS"

M.K. GANDHI



When Mahatma Gandhi uttered these words, he wrote his epitaph. Every ounce and fiber of his being; every action and deed of his life can be identified with being truthful, gentle or fearless. The pursuit of these three concepts defined a great life. Perhaps they can define our lives as well. For Gandhi and

for us, life is a journey. Our knowing, doing and being are constantly evolving. We hunger to be connected — our interior spirit deepens long to be integrally engaged with our social concerns and involvements.

BE TRUTHFUL.

For Gandhi the truth pointed to a high level of moral integrity. Truthfulness simply mirrored this integrity with candidness and honesty. It was centered in the principle that every human being is sacred. Every life is special and has value. Gandhi chose to trust and honor the goodness that is in every person. He saw God, or some aspect of universal goodness, in every life form. Those with wounded minds and spirits can be destructive, but the sacred, or fully human potential, is also within them. We all share a common frame of oneness: breath, capacity for goodness, sacredness. Truthfulness is this core understanding. *What would our relationships be like if we treated each one as sacred?*

BE GENTLE.

If every life is sacred, then all forms of violence and abuse on humans and animals is unacceptable. Life is fragile. Gentleness and tenderness protects and honors without destroying. Operating out of a sense of fairness and conviction to his higher consciousness of what is true, Gandhi chose to relate to others in non-abusive and non-violent ways. His life was a demonstration of gentleness without sacrificing his interior qualities of strength and prowess. When there is conflict — creative and peaceful means are implemented to find resolve. *How would others feel if we were more gentle with them?*

BE FEARLESS.

A spirit person never compromises the truth. Grounded in the sacredness of transparent being there is no fear. Fearlessness has to do with being patient, persistent, and firm when confronted with less conscious people who seek to destroy what is good and valued. The fearless one will do whatever it takes, regardless of the cost, to maintain focus and do the morally good act or deed, even in the face of a mountain of opposition and disorder. Gandhi's fearlessness was steadfast in an unwillingness to participate in injustice of any kind. He promoted the use of non-violent behavior to convert a wrong to a right. As the guardians of the truth we will ultimately prevail. This is our being — the culmination of what we know and what we do. *What issues do we encounter where a stance of fearlessness could create possibility and genuine hope?*

PEACE BE WITH YOU

Vance Engleman, December, 1997

“BE TRUTHFUL, GENTLE AND FEARLESS”

— M.K Gandhi

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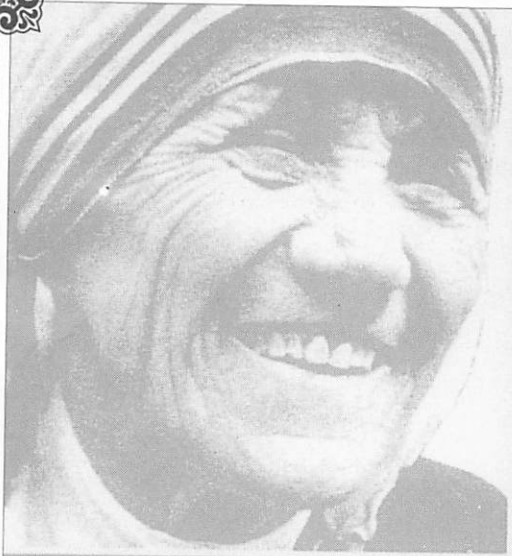
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December 1997



A gentle reminder of some core life values patterned after the thought and spirit of Mother Teresa and countless others who dared to intervene in our lives.

EXPERIENCE YOUR HOLINESS —

- *by deciding what the moral imperative of this time is; investing your life in that direction; and following through to completion.*
- *by embracing your duty to be alert in situations where you can make a difference — not hesitating or wavering when confronted with a moral injustice.*
- *by choosing to do good in word and deed to all you encounter — providing encouragements, or working toward more substantial structures of care.*
- *by allowing yourself to be deeply moved by the suffering and plight of others, especially the forgotten, unwanted, and unloved.*
- *by accepting your own brokenness and discord as fully human and received.*
- *by recalling what you need to be whole and well, and setting forth on an endless campaign to allow others to have access to at least as much.*
- *by building an endless web of caring relationships to sustain, nurture, and strengthen you and others throughout the journey.*
- *by being alert and ever watchful to seize the opportunity to help, lift, link, share, support.*
- *by providing warmth, tenderness, touch, and a smile to others as an affirmation of their worth and value.*
- *by being transparent and inconspicuous in situations requiring wholehearted unconditional love and forgiveness — without which none of us could move forward.*
- *by delighting in the mystery of the other — that which is not you and beyond your control.*
- *by allowing others to have their wondrous dreams and unvoiced hopes without having to edit or reduce the surge of passion within them.*
- *by converting a myriad of isms — romanticism, do-goodism, tokenism, paternalism — into real options for self enrichment and empowerment.*
- *by knowing that if we mess things up on this planet there is no where else to go.*
- *by simply being the people who give a damn — caring deeply about matters of compassion, restoration, healing, spirit.*

Holiness is all this and much more. Refine and add to these images with inclusions from your own experience.

Grace is Yours and Peace.

VANCE ENGLEMAN
December, 1990

EXPERIENCE YOUR HOLINESS

A gentle reminder of some core life values patterned after the thought and spirit of Mother Teresa and countless others who dared to intervene in our lives.

- By deciding what the moral imperative of this time is; investing your life in that direction; and following through to completion.
- By embracing your duty to be alert in situations where you can make a difference—not hesitating or wavering when confronted with a moral injustice.
- By choosing to do good in word and deed to all you encounter—providing encouragements, or working toward more substantial structures of care.
- By allowing yourself to be deeply moved by the suffering and plight of others, especially the forgotten, unwanted, and unloved.
- By accepting your own brokenness and discord as fully human and received.
- By recalling what you need to be whole and well, and setting forth on an endless campaign to allow others to have access to at least as much.
- By building an endless web of caring relationships to sustain, nurture, and strengthen you and others throughout the journey.
- By being alert and ever watchful to seize the opportunity to help, lift, link, share, support.
- By providing warmth, tenderness, touch, and a smile to others as an affirmation of their worth and value.
- By being transparent and inconspicuous in situations requiring wholehearted unconditional love and forgiveness—without which none of us could move forward.
- By delighting in the mystery of the other—that which is not you and beyond your control.

- By allowing others to have their wonderful dreams and unvoiced hopes without having to edit or reduce the surge of passion within them.
- By converting a myriad of isms—romanticism, do-goodism, tokenism, paternalism—into real options for self enrichment and empowerment.
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December 1990

PEARLS

WE ARE ALL WIRED UP DIFFERENTLY

You are a unique, unrepeatable person with an abundance of life on your hands! Nowhere is there another you, that's one fact you can count on. No clones! The imperative is to honor others as the unique and unrepeatable being they are. Fill your journey with greatness and personal peace: that is your destiny.
YOU ARE SPECIAL — don't blow it!

IS THE BOTTLE HALF EMPTY OR HALF FULL

Each day and each moment you decide your own agenda. You decide if life is OK as it is, if you're going to make it, if you're going to win. You can view a situation as hopeless, or you can choose to see the options and possibilities. Life presents us with continuous choices.
YOU CAN DECIDE — don't blow it!

WHAT GOES AROUND COMES AROUND

Life and its relationships are like a mirror. Attitudes and behaviors get reflected through all of our transactions. If we project sophistication and excellence the odds are increased that sophistication and excellence will become contagious.
YOU HAVE INFLUENCE — don't blow it!

WATER SEEKS ITS OWN LEVEL

The weak, the strong, the poor, the rich, the hard, the soft — all tend to seek their own. Only the global, comprehensive style sets no limits. You create your own community, and benefit from the nurture and support within it.
YOU DO REACH OUT — don't blow it!

MAKE YOUR OWN BED — SLEEP ON IT

The world is perishable and is perishing. Global survival is at risk because humans have made choices to have it this way. Not until the "hundredth monkey" awakens will this planet become a haven for peace: Go to sleep more easily at night knowing that you have made "what is" better than it was.
YOU ARE IN CHARGE — don't blow it!

YOU NEVER HAVE ONE — YOU ONLY BUILD ONE

There is no such thing as having a marriage, a school, a home, a community. Life is dynamic, not static. All interactions involve a process of ongoing nurture, growth and development. Once the building process stops, significant relationships begin to die.
YOU ARE A MODEL-BUILDER — don't blow it!

LIKE A DUCK ON A JUNE BUG

Life is too short to tread water. Our mandate is to leave every situation different. People who genuinely care for others will not stand back when the occasion arises to make a difference. As long as there is one ounce of senseless suffering, let your life be a protest.
YOU ARE CREATIVE — don't blow it!

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

Human life is a delicate form of nature. Nature has its laws and they must be obeyed; otherwise human freedom and potential will be thwarted. Our collective consensus agrees that one does have a great deal of control over vitality and appearance.
YOU ARE PRECIOUS — don't blow it!

IN SEARCH OF EXCELLENCE, AND FINDING IT

There are no short cuts, no easy answers, no profound mysteries in the pursuit of excellence. It's sheer hard work to be about the task of life-long learning, planning and implementation. The tools to achieve excellence include our vision, our methods and our decisions.
YOUR FUTURE IS OPEN — don't blow it!

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

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December 1984

LIFE WITHOUT ILLUSION

Humankind, from its primordial beginnings to this moment, has sought the Word. World religions and much of academia have been preoccupied with final meanings, with the truth about life. The ecumenical church renewal movement of the 1950's and 60's brought with it a restatement of the human condition. Theologically, the problem was one of taking the fundamental story, or understanding, about one's humanness and articulating it within a contemporary context. The purpose was to get hold of the authentic, the real, the genuine, the common, the universal. At the core of this quest was the Word—the universal human statement about what it means to be a self, without illusion. The Word has always been abrasive as it audits each life to its core. It is offensive yet nurturing; offensive in that it provides no escape from having to live life as it is rather than as we would prefer it to be; nurturing in that it provides the possibility of sustenance and meaning regardless of how, where, or when we show up. The Word, which allows humans to live life without illusion, is as essential to the journey as food, rest, health, work, play—even more essential in that the Word provides a framework to care for basic life needs as well as to explore for deeper meanings. Standing in the unpredictable decade of the 80's, daring to gaze into the 21st century, one wonders how the Word will be grasped and understood by ordinary people during this unique time. Certainly we must be anxious about this need while traditional institutions which most cherish the Word are in various stages of disarray or reformulation. As one among many who proclaim the Word, I present to you a set of images for your due consideration, nurture, and embodiment. May this greeting help you discern the Word!

COMMON GROUND

It's the finite up against the infinite. All of creation is a process of birthing, expanding, diminishing, dying, and breaking loose again. Every human being shows up with a life that is a birth, a struggle, and a death—not just once and for all, but in every moment. The human experience is one of being over against a power, mystery, and greatness superior to our own. The power comes as earthquake, fire, flood, disease, hotness, coldness—always something wrong or unfair. Creation has no feelings. Whether you show up as a dweller on the sidewalks of Calcutta, or in a satin palace orb, the experience is one of life in its raw and basic form. Nothing is permanent. These are the objective facts. Life will never be any different. One cries out, "It's not fair!" You feel cheated, angry, hurt, empty, full when confronted with the basic situation. It's beyond your control. "God, I would change this mess if only I could." Yet, life is somehow sustained in the midst of passing away. Fullness abounds, yet all is limited. Every breath is a gift with no guarantee that another will follow. What a predicament! There is no escape. What would it be like showing up somewhere "wiser" as someone "wiser" would it be different? The dilemma is one of coming to terms with this common ground and seeing it as good. It's terrible and wonderful at the same time, to be invited into a creative partnership with life as it is. The Word invites one to do the dance of joy around their showdunness, all of it. The statement, "All that is, is good," might seem offensive. But look at good, not as in good or bad, but as in affirming the design and function of all of life. It's either a "yes" or a "no" to embracing life as it is. If it's no, we deny the journey; if yes, the awe and wonder will never cease. Is life as it is really? Yes, it is, and it's good!

SIGNIFICANT PAST

Life is not frozen in time. The past is the past for all facets of creation. It is significant that nothing stays the same. Awe or dread constantly breaks in. From the beginning life has been movement, ever-changing, dynamic, never static. The human past is experienced as drama. There is something very personal about the past—it's your past, a personal history filled with life-shaping events. The past also evokes guilt for lost opportunities, wasted time, bad habits, wrong decisions. Then come emptiness and deep sorrow. A 1917 epitaph reads, "Gone, but not forgotten." Yet, one is both gone and usually forgotten, except for a lingering memory by a distant relative, or in a page of history. The past cannot be clutched, contained, or possessed except through recorded history and memory, and both fade with time. One is not condemned to absolute subjectivity and sameness. The past is left in the past, but it is radically approved—if not by us, then by life itself. Humans tend to tote around the past, live out of it, hide in it, and try to drag it while backing into the future. If the past could be replayed or relived, it would be. But it cannot be—except through illusions and repetition. There is something redemptive in that fact, but the troubling reality remains: that same past will never be repeated again. One cries out, "Life is too precious to be wiped out—it's too significant!" And indeed it is, for humankind could not affirm who it is without the ceaseless journey, without the countless memories from the haunting past. The Word beckons one to embrace the significant past. Without it there would be no mirror for the now, no illumination for the future. The past is approved, regardless of its twists and consequences, its heroics and triumphs. Approved, not as in right or wrong, but as in affirmation for the continued unfolding of creation and human experience. Is the past really the past? Yes, it is, and it's significant!

THE WORD

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Life surges onward. The future is open even when we are closed. The birthing, expanding dynamic applies to all living things and humans are caught up in it. Change is not an option. All is possible. There is life after youth—lots of it! It is never too late to risk, to explore the unknown, to live one's life. Denial of this process is very human: "I'm trapped," or "There is no hope of changing my situation." The experience of no possibility seems real, but it is an illusion which seeks to deny a fundamental given to the life journey. That is the cost of freedom. The Sioux Indian chief said, "Why do I have dreams and visions? I have them because they are there!" It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes a chance. One's freedom cannot be taken away, neither by oppression nor ignorance. Freedom within the context of responsibility is full of options and choices. The future is decided by those who grasp it. There will be a tomorrow, a new day, in spite of one's choice, but it is enhanced if chosen. Profound power lies in simply saying, "All I have to do is decide." Areas of nogrowth can be stimulated. The Word proclaims a future that is genuinely open and the promise that one's life can be shaped into a befitting form. Prisons are of the mind. Remember the prisoner, chained to the wall for life, who defiantly turns to his cellmate and utters, "I have a plan!" It's reinforcing to know that those who have, and those who have not—the oppressed, disadvantaged, disabled, sick, poor, unwarmed, hurt, angry—all can have their dignity and a new day. Life is an ongoing expenditure. Contributions to history, culture, family, and the ongoing human struggle provide continually between the living and the dead. The future is indeed open. Open not as in open or closed, but as in dramatic affirmation for a life design that is constantly emerging and in transit. Is the future really open? Yes, it is!

PROFOUND DEPTHS

Every showdunness is significant. Thoughts, feelings, body, and spirit comprise a person who is truly unique. One shows up embodying both perfection and imperfection. All of life reflects this. Accepting life as it is without wishdream, or fantasy is not easy. The task is one of becoming a whole person. Humans yearn to experience worth and value at the depths of their being. Simply accepting one's acceptance is difficult for most. It is encouraging to know that every person holds within the potential for realized dignity and deep joy. You might say it's just a matter of will. One has to abandon altogether the search for the security of sameness. The more one is awake to the way life is, without illusion, the more one can accept despair, doubt, and darkness as necessary conditions for fulfillment and wholeness. The human problem is one of coming to grips with one's greatness. It is bothersome to realize that neither brokenness nor wholeness will ever go away. That is part of the gift! In fact, wholeness enables the affirmation and understanding of despair and separation. The whole person is open to every consequence of living and dying. No group of people has a monopoly on suffering—humans suffer. This is life in its profound depths. It will never be different. The imperative is to stand in the Word, the Word which addresses the breadth of human existence as well as each life in particular. Neither loneliness nor isolation can rob one of significance and freedom. The Word calls each person to discover and to become their special destiny, and to be reminded and nurtured by that self-understanding in a sustaining community. Dreams, visions, passions, and dreams are all part of the significance. Dare to claim them all! No corner is too dark to be received. Received, not as in liked or disliked, but as a grateful affirmation for showing up with a full life. Is every life special? Yes, without a doubt, every life is!

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE, Vance Engleman December 1981

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December 1981

THE GIFT OF

en-tro-py ('en-tra-pe)

1a: the second law of thermodynamics; Natural Law of the Universe; a physical law, defines everything as energy; b: renewable and non-renewable energy resources; all energy gets depleted; energy can either create or destroy; c: a world view of constant change requiring a choice; some energy forms are fragile and disappearing while others are uncharted and emerging; 2: human energy to live, relate, vocate also applies; 3: Entropy is the way life is

Do not seek boundaries. Life passes through endless windows into the future. It is birth, struggle, and death, not once and for all, but daily, every moment, each breath. Entropy is what happens in life every day. Each idea, behavior, and action has potential for either destruction or creativity. Once energy has been expended it does not return; a new burst must take its place. We decide over and over who we are and what is needed to save the earth. And we are not alone; countless others are deciding with us. It is our responsibility and ours alone to build the virtues which are important; nurturing relationships, safe communities, a world at peace. The task will never be complete. We pass the torch to future generations who bear the whole responsibility of the battle. Here is a sample of options and life choices where the Entropy view is a crucial factor.

GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP. National boundaries are losing importance. Today, by birth, we are all global citizens. Our interconnectedness is essential for survival. The global marketplace has forced a sharing of all the resources. One can be more of a whole person by embracing the gifts of other cultures—their discoveries, inventions, and beauty.

POPULATION CONTROL. It took over two million years for the population of this planet to swell to one billion. Today, human growth appears out of control, e.g. only 15 years to leap from 3 to 4 billion, and a 40 year projection to double to 8 billion by 2015. The energy required to support and nurture one new life is immeasurable.

ENERGY RESOURCES. Governments and people have become increasingly dependent upon non-renewable resources, e.g. petro-chemicals, ores, and minerals. A shift to renewable energy resources, e.g. solar, wind, organics is no longer an option—it is a mandate. Custodial responsibility for this world is a rich blend of protecting quickly depleting energy sources, and developing alternatives.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING. One never knows enough, or does enough; finiteness limits thoughts and deeds. Education is never achieved as though it were a final product. New data and discoveries expand our learnings. What we do have is an endless journey of growth. Life-long learning is as much process and method, as it is content and meaning.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION. Disarmament of violent weapons is an absolute necessity. With more than 57,000 nuclear warheads, some U.S. and Soviet scientists agree that in a conflict it would take only about 100 detonations to create Nuclear Winter, and the complete wipe-out of all life forms on earth. Current peace trends are symbolic of what must follow. There is no mission more critical than this one.

PHYSICAL WELLNESS. Physical and mental wellness begins with obedience to the body's natural laws irreversibly broken down by the aging process and defiant abuses. Most premature deaths are directly linked to destructive life style habits, e.g. typical high fat American diet, inadequate nutrition, and insufficient exercise. The reward for taking care of yourself is the possibility of a full and complete life.



INTIMATE RELATIONS. Once energy has been spent in any form of human interaction, it is gone forever. Intimacy cannot survive on depleted efforts. New efforts must replace the used ones. We do not have intimacy as a possession, or ownership of the other. Instead, what we do have is the possibility of building intimacy, and that is life long.

STRUCTURAL LEADERSHIP. Management is worthless unless inspired by passionate leaders energized by a strategic vision and a strategic plan. Hierarchical top down environments create mindless "sheep" close to the bottom where their motivation and productivity cause endless concerns. Today, organizations function best turned sideways giving recognition and empowerment to every participant. Concepts like networking, collaboration, partnership and participatory decision making are modes of effective leadership.

INVOLUNTARY POVERTY. Needless human suffering in any form is repulsive. Poverty, hunger, sickness all rob civilization of a great natural resource—the gift of a precious and unrepeatable human life. Having access to life options should not be left to fate alone. Every individual deserves a chance to become all they can be. If not, we all die from a greater sickness—our own hedonism.

SPIRIT DEEPS. Humans long for truth and deeper meanings. We seek to be transparent to this world. Spirit energy knows no bounds. The spirit self struggles to break loose from the shallow unfulfillment of materialism. The journey into one's origins, depths, and greatness evokes poetry, song, and silence.

RECOMMENDED READING: *ENTROPY, A New World View*, by Jeremy Rifkin, Bantam Books, 1980 (paperback)

ENTROPY

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE.

VANCE ENGLEMAN

THE GIFT OF ENTROPY

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POPULATION CONTROL. It took over two million years for the population of this planet to swell to one billion. Today, human growth appears out of control, *e.g.*, only 15 years to leap from 3 to 4 billion, and a 40 year projection to double to 8 billion by 2015. The energy required to support and nurture *one* new life is immeasurable.

ENERGY RESOURCES. Governments and people have become increasingly dependent upon non-renewable resources, *e.g.*, petrochemicals, ores, and minerals. A shift to renewable energy resources, *e.g.*, solar, wind, organics is no longer an option—it is a mandate. Custodial responsibility for this world is a rich blend of protecting quickly depleting energy sources, and developing alternatives.

LIFE-LONG LEARNING. One never knows enough, or does enough; finiteness limits thoughts and deeds. Education is never achieved as though it were a final product. New data and discoveries expand our learnings. What we do have is an endless journey of growth. Life-long learning is as much process and method, as it is content and meaning.

VIOLENCE REDUCTION. Disarmament of violent weapons is an absolute necessity. With more than 57,000 nuclear warheads, some U.S. and Soviet scientists agree that in a conflict it would take only about 100 detonations to create Nuclear Winter, and the complete wipe-out of *all* life forms on earth. Current peace trends are symbolic of what must follow. There is *no* mission more critical than this one.

PHYSICAL WELLNESS. Physical and mental wellness begins with obedience to the body's natural laws irreversibly broken down by the aging process and defiant abuses. Most premature deaths are directly linked to destructive life style habits, *e.g.*, typical high fat American diet; inadequate nutrition; and insufficient exercise. The reward for taking care of yourself is the possibility of a full and complete life.

INTIMATE RELATIONS. Once energy has been spent in any form of human interaction, it is gone forever. Intimacy cannot survive on depleted efforts. New efforts must replace the used ones. We do not have intimacy as a possession, or ownership of the other. *Instead*, what we do have is the possibility of *building* intimacy, and that is life long.

STRUCTURAL LEADERSHIP. Management is worthless unless inspired by passionate leaders energized by a strategic vision and a strategic plan. Hierarchical top down environments create mindless “sheep” close to the bottom where their motivation and productivity cause endless concerns. Today,

organizations function best turned side-ways giving recognition and empowerment to every participant. Concepts like networking, collaboration, partnership and participatory decision making are modes of effective leadership.

INVOLUNTARY POVERTY. Needless human suffering in any form is repulsive. Poverty, hunger, sickness all rob civilization of a great natural resource—the gift of a precious and unrepeatable human life. Having access to life options should not be left to fate alone. Every individual deserves a chance to become all they can be. If not, we all die from a greater sickness—our own hedonism.

SPIRIT DEEPS. Humans long for truth and deeper meanings. We seek to be transparent to this world. Spirit energy knows no bounds. The spirit self struggles to break loose from the shallow unfulfilment of materialism. The journey into one's origins, depths, and greatness evokes poetry, song and silence.

RECOMMENDED READING: ENTROPY, *A new World View*, by Jeremy Rifkin, Bantam Books, 1980 (paperback).

December 1987

THE OLD MAN IN THE DOOR

THIS OLD MAN IN THE DOOR STARES AND SEEMINGLY SAYS, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE I LIVE AND DIE DO YOU? ...WELL, MY SELFHOOD IS DEFINED BY SITTING IN A LAND OF INTENSE HEAT, YET SURROUNDED BY ENORMOUS NATURAL WONDERS - MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, AND OCEAN. ITS MYSTERIOUS THAT I SHOWED UP WHERE I DID TO ACT OUT MY DESTINY OF BIRTH, STRUGGLE AND DEATH. HOW DO YOU EXPERIENCE THAT DIMENSION OF LIFE KNOWN AS MYSTERY IN YOUR LAND?"

ALL IS GOOD

The "LAND OF MYSTERY" which births the world, India, your community, the Twentieth Century as global transition, is undeniably good. The land in all its tragic and ecstatic reality is the only stage to shape the human venture. Let your compassion flow endless toward the needless and innocent human suffering, yet denying no man his rightful struggle. May these times be decisioned as necessary and required by you this coming year.

THE SUBCONTINENT OF ASIA



THE HIMALAYAS

The "MOUNTAIN OF CARE" which births the growing demand for global style is screaming for persons of new vision, untraced models, and unyielding compassion. Futurity will be determined by colleagues, cooperatively forging comprehensive structures of social and spirit care. For them the impossible is the required. May 1973 find you responding with precision, not mediocrity; toward the crippling injustice due to man's cruel designs of paternalism, du-goodism, tokenism, and abandonment.

THE FUTURE IS OPEN

THIS OLD MAN IN THE DOOR STARES AND SEEMINGLY SAYS, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING DO YOU? ...WELL, WE ARE AT THIS MOMENT ATTEMPTING TO APPROPRIATE OUR PAST AND THE GLOBAL WISDOM OF OUR TIMES - A METHOD WHICH FOR SO LONG HAS GIVEN OUR PEOPLE ENDORSEMENT AND ABSORBING POWER TO CREATE UNITY AND SIMPLICITY OUT OF DIVERSITY AND CHAOS. I UNDERSTAND YOUR COMMUNITY AND FAMILY STRUCTURES ARE BEGINNING TO DECAY - IS THAT YOUR EXPERIENCE?"

THIS OLD MAN IN THE DOOR STARES AND SEEMINGLY SAYS, "YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM DO YOU? ...WELL, MY EXPERIENCE OF LIFE IS THAT OF PERPETUAL POVERTY - AN EMPTYNESS DUE TO THE LACK OF GREAT MATERIAL WEALTH. MIND YOU, I HAVE INTERIOR RESOURCES THAT CONSTANTLY REMIND ME OF MY SIGNIFICANCE, YET I TOO FORGET AT TIMES. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN THE WEST POVERTY IS MORE COMMONLY EXPERIENCED IN THE SPIRIT DIMENSION - IS THAT TRUE?"

YOU ARE RECEIVED

The "SEA OF TRANQUILITY" which births the word, that alludes those illusions seeking to rob your dignity, proclaims unreluctantly that you are a received and valued person. Let these days find you at war with pretensions and false hopes, and daring to step authentically in all you touch. May your life be blessed because it has showed up - one, or more gifts, neuroses, pains - it is this brief surge of life that history needs.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

THE PAST IS APPROVED

The "RIVER OF CONSCIOUSNESS" which births that unique and unrepeatable journey that recalls your primordial and archaic past is approved. All your ancestors, related and unrelated, Western and Non-Western, lay paralyzed and dependent upon you for the fulfillment of their longings. May this coming year find you appropriating your particular past full of its beginnings and endings, and anticipating the new full of awe and wonder, dread and urgency.

THE GANGES

PRESENT 6,000 PRECIOUS YEARS OF THE BROWN MAN'S UNIQUE STRUGGLE AND JOURNEY OF CONSCIOUSNESS. BROAD ON THE FAINT LIGHT IN MY DARKNESS - SEE IF YOU DISCOVER INSIGHT AND WISDOM FOR ALL MEN. SYMBOLS AND STORIES IN OUR CULTURE NURTURE MY CONSCIOUSNESS. HOW DO PERSONS WITH THE GIFT OF RATIONALITY AND METHOD RECALL THEIR SPIRIT JOURNEY?"

THE OLD MAN IN THE DOOR

This old man in the door stares and seemingly says, "You don't know where I live and die, do you?Well, my selfhood is defined by sitting in a land of intense heat, yet surrounded by enormous natural wonders—mountains, rivers, and ocean. It's mysterious that I showed up where I did to act out my destiny of birth, struggle and death. How do you experience that dimension of life known as mystery in your land?"

ALL IS GOOD

The "LAND OF MYSTERY" which births the world, India, your community, the Twentieth Century as global transition, is undeniably good. The land in all its tragic and ecstatic reality is the only stage to shape the human venture. Let your compassion flow endless toward the needless and innocent human suffering, yet denying no man his rightful struggle. May these times be decisioned as necessary and required by you this coming year.

THE SUBCONTINENT OF ASIA

This old man in the door stares and seemingly says, "You don't know where I've been, do you?"Well, I represent 6,000 precious years of the brown man's unique struggle and journey of consciousness. Brood on the faint light in my darkness—see if you discover insight and wisdom for all men. Symbols and stories in our culture nurture my consciousness. How do persons with the gift of rationality and method recall their spirit journey?"

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THE GANGES

This old man in the door stares and seemingly says, "You don't know who I am, do you?"Well, my experience of life is that of perpetual poverty—an emptiness due to the lack of great material wealth. Mind you, I have interior

resources that constantly remind me of my significance, yet I too forget at times. I understand that in the West poverty is more commonly experienced in the spirit dimension—is that true?”

YOU ARE RECEIVED

The “SEA OF TRANQUILITY” which births the Word, that silences those illusions seeking to rob your dignity, proclaims unreluctantly that you are a received and valued person. Let these days find you at war with pretensions and false hopes, and daring to shape authenticity in all you touch. May your life be blessed because it has showed up—one, or more gifts, neuroses, pains—it is this brief surge of life that history needs.

THE INDIAN OCEAN

This old man in the door stares and seemingly says, “You dont’ know where I’m going, do you?Well, we are at this moment attempting to appropriate our past and the global wisdom of our times—a method which for so long has given our people endurance and absorbing power to create unity and simplicity out of diversity and chaos. I understand your community and family structures are beginning to decay—is that your experience?”

THE FUTURE IS OPEN

The “MOUNTAIN OF CARE” which births the growing demand for global style is screaming for persons of new vision, unreduced models, and unyielding compassion. Futurity will be determined by colleagues corporately forging comprehensive structures of social and spirit care. For them the impossible is the required. May 1973 find you responding with precision, not mediocrity, toward the crippling injustice due to man’s cruel designs of paternalism, do-goodism, tokenism, and abandonment.

The picture of the old man in the door was taken in Calcutta, West Bengal, India in the Winter of 1969 while on a training assignment with the Ecumenical Institute, Chicago.

Decembers 1973

Shifting Paradigms

Facing the future, making a difference, and liking it

In the span of 20 brief years the world has shifted from local, regional, and national autonomies to one of global interdependence. This big shift has resulted in an avalanche of secondary movements which are challenging all the traditional assumptions of human and organizational development. Some of the keystone shifts are:

OLD PARADIGM

IF IT'S NOT BROKEN, DON'T FIX IT—As long as it's working, don't rock the boat! Leads to stagnation and being out of touch with innovative new approaches.

CHANGE AS A FUNCTION OF CAPACITY—Change is seen as an option that depends on favorable conditions. "We can't. Nothing happens if the leadership just sticks."

STRATEGIC PLANNING—Seen as a static process that is conducted by a group once every 3 years. Many worthy goals are never achieved.

MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CUSTOMER—Meet the needs of your customer and you win. The problem is when you are a bit too successful; you lose—and lose big!

CIRCUMSTANCE DRIVEN—You are in it for survival and expediency. Quality is a dirty word. "Does it work?" Crisis management is the norm.

SPEED IS STRESSFUL—Effectiveness is more a virtue than efficiency. While good, they could lose their collective "shirts" because they are slow.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS—Job descriptions stay on file until the year end evaluation. By then it's too late. Mediocrity, or waiting for someone's potential to bloom, is very costly.

LEAD BY LOOKING BACKWARDS—Consumed by a short-term angst of time finding out what's going on, measuring how it's going and telling others what's going on—especially in meetings.

DO ALL THINGS—Spread yourself so thin, or so broad, that you can't do anything well. It's the responsibility of the customer to make a choice. The company selling lottery tickets.

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ARE SEPARATE—Seeking a balanced lifestyle. Comfort in one place and stress in the other are not healthy choices. It is a road to burnout!

NEW PARADIGM

IF IT'S NOT BROKEN, BREAK IT—Built on the premise that you can improve whatever you are doing. The whole organization is committed to continuous improvement all of the time.

CHANGE AS A FUNCTION OF CHOICE—Change is seen as a necessary part of growth and development. Leaders choose to take part in making new, strategic, high-risk decisions.

STRATEGIC THINKING—Done by top leadership all the time with structure and facilitation. May lead to a planning event as part of dynamic process.

EXCEED THE NEEDS OF YOUR CUSTOMER—The customer needs you for something. Strive to give them more value than they expect and you win—and win big!

VALUE DRIVEN—Every man you do reflects your core corporate values and beliefs. Quality is defined as a certain best-tended perception.

SPEED IS LIFE—Fast response, on-time delivery without sacrificing quality. It is possible to do everything faster with today's technologies.

BEHAVIORAL CONTRACTS—Define the required behaviors up front and monitor these daily, or frequently. Provide support and training as needed. If one does not perform, then move them to a new role, or out quickly. Be good, or be gone!

LEAD BY LOOKING FORWARD—Confront prioritized or strategic issues, remediate or problem solve when stuck, conduct action planning for decisions requiring implementation, hold individuals and teams accountable for results.

NICHING—Stick to your knitting. Know what your core product or service is, and be the best at that. All growth should spin off from this focused mission.

PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL ARE CONNECTED—You are the same person at home and at work. A blended lifestyle holds people accountable for positive values both at home and at work.

When all of these new paradigms are embraced, considerable positive impact can result. Patching up the past is not an answer. Inventing a brand new approach to change, the better.

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE.

VANCE ENGLEMAN
vance and vera engleman

December, 1993

Layout by Experience Counts 1993

SHIFTING PARADIGMS

FACING THE FUTURE, MAKING A DIFFERENCE, AND LIKING IT

In the span of 20 brief years the world has shifted from local, regional, and national autonomies to one of global interdependence. This big shift has resulted in an avalanche of secondary movements which are challenging all the traditional assumptions of human and organizational development. Some of the keystone shifts follow:

OLD PARADIGM	NEW PARADIGM
<p>IF IT'S NOT BROKEN, DON'T FIX IT—As long as it's working, don't rock the boat! Leads to stagnation and being out of touch with innovative new approaches.</p>	<p>IF IT'S NOT BROKEN, BREAK IT—Built on the premise that you can improve whatever you are doing. The whole organization is committed to continuous improvement <u>all</u> of the time.</p>
<p>CHANGE AS A FUNCTION OF CAPACITY—Change is seen as an option that depends on favourable conditions or events. Nothing happens if the leadership is stuck.</p>	<p>CHANGE AS A FUNCTION OF CHOICE—Change is seen as a necessary part of growth and development. Leaders choose to take part in making new, strategic, high-risk decisions.</p>
<p>STRATEGIC PLANNING—Seen as a static process that is conducted by a group once every 3-5 years. Many worthy goals are never achieved.</p>	<p>STRATEGIC THINKING—Done by top leadership <u>all</u> the time with structure and facilitation. May lead to a planning event as part of dynamic process.</p>
<p>MEET THE NEEDS OF YOUR CUSTOMER—Meet the needs of your customer and you win. The problem is when you are a <i>half bubble off plumb</i>, you lose—and lose big!</p>	<p>EXCEED THE NEEDS OF YOUR CUSTOMER—The customer needs you for something. Strive to give them more value than they expect and you win—and win big!</p>
<p>CIRCUMSTANCE DRIVEN—You are bent more on survival and expediency. Quality is defined as “does it work?” Crisis management is the norm.</p>	<p>VALUE DRIVEN—Everything you do reflects your core corporate values and beliefs. Quality is defined as a constant push toward perfection.</p>
<p>SPEED IS STRESSFUL—Effectiveness is more a virtue than efficiency. While good, they could lose their collective “shirts” because they are slow.</p>	<p>SPEED IS LIFE—Fast response, on-time delivery without sacrificing quality. It is possible to do everything faster with today's technologies.</p>
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DO ALL THINGS—Spread business so thinly or so broadly you forget what business you are in! It's the restaurant that serves lousy food and tries to make up for it at the register by selling lottery tickets.

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When all of these new paradigms are embraced, considerable positive impact can result. Patching up the past is not an answer. Inventing a brand new context is! The more holistic the approach to change, the better.

December 1993

PERSONAL JOURNEY

the journey

this journey never ends. it is a continuous march into the unknown. innumerable ancestors have breathed their hopes and expectations into each of us. future generations wait expectantly for our deeds and for the inheritance of a safer world. the endless stream of human consciousness is beyond comprehension. our unique contribution is little more than a thread in life's grand tapestry.

humans yearn to have their lives etched in history: "gone, but not forgotten." the sobering truth is that they are not only gone, but very much forgotten! except for a few symbolic warriors, explorers, inventors, philosophers, poets, random heroes and goddesses, most humans come into and go from this life with little status or fanfare. some live their lives as a cheap throw of the dice, while others strive to give form to excellence. does it matter? which is more appropriate?

birth, struggle, death—the cycle of all life forms—from moment to moment, culminates in the completed life. we struggle to make sense of it all. where is the meaning? not far—it lies within each of us as we experience the web of awe and wonder, the limits and the possibilities of the now, all of the past, the present, and the future are captured in this fleeting moment. however ephemeral, fragile, and finite our life experience may be, it is now that we are called to participate consciously in the drama of creation.

worth and greatness are not values reserved for the few. by birth each of us enters into a valued partnership with the process of transformation. with each breath we can opt to embrace life just as it is and make decisions that build the future. only out of ignorance and blindness do we block others and ourselves from fully entering into this journey of risk and challenge.

just when the journey seems too tedious, hopeless or difficult to endure, history becomes illuminated by the vision, passion and flaming care of solitary saints, or masses of people awakened by some grand purpose. life is full of choices made by peaceful warriors like ourselves.

the immeasurable past is forever the past except in the context of the common journey. that past is approved, the unknown and mysterious future is open, yet to be shaped. in this brief encounter with the present, our unrepeatable gift of life is on center stage. it is our responsibility and ours alone to save the earth. we, the nameless ones, receive our intangible reward—an inner peace and deep joy that come with the lessening of innocent or needless suffering—and we have contributed toward a more humane and compassionate way of life. this journey of healing and connecting is ours to embrace.

life offers a passport, like a palette of many rich colors, as though chiseled from the earth and mixed with the coral sands of history. resisting the passage of time the journey travels through the years into the next generation of ideas awaiting our exciting innovations and visions of the future.

now is the time to celebrate your incredible potential: celebrate the significance of every life as equally valid, precious, and deserving; and most of all, celebrate **THE JOURNEY!** May it never end.

GRACE: IS YOURS AND PEACE. Vance and Beth Engleman. December, 1988

postlude: view the camel caravan. from afar it appears to be only a line. hold it nearer. examine the details. feel the journey!

THE JOURNEY

This journey never ends. It is a continuous march into the unknown. Innumerable ancestors have breathed their hopes and expectations into each of us. Future generations wait expectantly for our deeds and for the inheritance of a safer world. The endless stream of human consciousness is beyond comprehension. Our unique contribution is little more than a thread in life's grand tapestry.

Humans yearn to have their lives etched in history: "Gone, but not forgotten." The sobering truth is that they are not only gone, but very much forgotten! except for a few symbolic warriors, explorers, inventors, philosophers, poets, random heros and goddesses, most humans come into and go from this life with little status or fanfare. Some live their lives as a cheap throw of the dice, while others strive to give form to excellence. Does it matter? Which is more appropriate?

Birth, struggle, death—the cycle of all life forms—from moment to moment, culminates in the completed life. We struggle to make sense of it all. Where is the meaning? Not far—it lies within each of us as we experience the web of awe and wonder, the limits and the possibilities of the *now*. All of the past, the present, and the future are captured in this fleeting moment. However ephemeral, fragile, and finite our life experience may be, it is *now* that we are called to participate consciously in the drama of creation.

Worth and greatness are not values reserved for the few. By birth each of us enters into a valued partnership with the process of transformation. With each breath we can opt to embrace life just as it is and make decisions that build the future. Only out of ignorance and blindness do we block others and ourselves from fully entering into this journey of risk and challenge.

Just when the journey seems too tedious, hopeless or difficult to endure, history becomes illuminated by the vision, passion and flaming care of solitary saints, or masses of people awakened by some grand purpose. Life is full of choices made by peaceful warriors like ourselves.

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common journey. That past is approved. The unknown and mysterious future is open, yet to be shaped. In this brief encounter with the present, our unrepeatable gift of life is on center stage. It is our responsibility and ours alone to save the earth. We, the nameless ones, receive our intangible reward—an inner peace and deep joy that come with the lessening of innocent or needless suffering—and we have contributed toward a more humane and compassionate way of life. This journey of healing and connecting is ours to embrace.

Life offers a passport, like a palette of many rich colors, as though chiseled from the earth and mixed with the coral sands of history. Resisting the passage of time the journey travels through the years into the next generation of ideas awaiting our exciting innovations and visions of the future.

Now is the time to celebrate your incredible potential: celebrate the significance of every life as equally valid, precious, and deserving; and most of all, celebrate **THE JOURNEY!** May it never end.

December 1988

A CALL TO GREATNESS



Dear Colleague:

There are many forms of Greatness! There is sheer joy in being alive! There is great joy in the caring for others! Some become great effectors of people while others become great by accepting the glories of their own humanness. One life style which has become contagious to me, and to many others is that of Dr. Judy Ann Bullfinch. This message is written in her honor to reflect her greatness as she now makes a change in her career journey.

Seldom has one had a "boss" who was the combination of colleague, friend, mentor and one of the giants in the business of providing precision leadership for those involved in programs for deeply wounded persons. The following is a mosaic of examples which I feel capture some of these attributes of personal and vocational Greatness.

It's
being
prepared
leaving every
situation different
asking the unknown
being tough, yet tender;
concealing weakness while
seeking support; mixing humor
with seriousness; providing
structure, yet allowing openness,
accountability with absolutism,
projecting a vision of hope amidst
ambiguity; all points to the style. Car-
ing when others are tired; showing dis-
cipline and responsibility when others are
distracted; patience and deference when
others are restless; producing relevance and
change when others veer for the conventional;
having a battleplan when others are floundering; deep
compassionate when others are pre-occupied with them-
selves. It's being trusted before anything is earned;
having doors opened before you are completely ready; given
responsibility before all the tools are in hand; and experienc-
ing your brokenness as accepted. It's getting all these things
together: your significance, your resources, your vocation, and
your relevance. The experience is one of knowing that your point
of view is heard and given appropriate consideration; of being exposed
to heavier responsibility in due course; of finding new options to expand
your journey; of being included in major decisions; of caring for personal needs;
of realizing that your life, too, is great and significant regardless of assign-
ment or status. It's not having to be intimidated, overwhelmed, or paralyzed
by these crazy and fantastic times!

For these are times when man seeks a renewed personal meaning and a way to share in the shaping of this world. Because we have been cared for by significant others, we too can perform necessary acts effectively. Articulating greatness in others and in ourselves is not easy. We look for heroes, heroines, models—those who exemplify the authentic. A voice of Greatness asks, "Who are the special people in my life?" and "Have I decided to be special in the lives of others?" The voice of Greatness responds, "I don't think we are going to fail; let's try, we can do it." So, let us be the great ones we already are and bring the Call to those who are crushed, or to those who have not heard.

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance Engleman,

December, 1976

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It's the yes before the no; always being prepared; leaving every situation different; risking the unknown; being tough, yet tender; confessing weakness while seeking support; mixing humor with seriousness; providing structure, yet allowing openness, accountability with absolution; projecting a vision of hope amidst ambiguity: all point to the style. Caring when others are tired; showing discipline and responsibility when others are distracted; patience and deliberateness when others are restless; modeling relevance and change when others settle for the conventional; having a battleplan when others are floating; deeply compassionate when others are preoccupied with themselves. It's being trusted before anything is earned; having doors opened before you are completely ready; given responsibility before all the tools are in hand; and experiencing your brokenness as accepted. It's getting all those things together: your significance, your resources, your vocation, and your relevance. The experience is one of knowing that your point of view is heard and given appropriate consideration; of being exposed to heavier responsibility in due course; of finding new options to expand your journey; of being included in major decisions; of caring for personal needs;

of realizing that your life, too, is great and significant regardless of assignment or status. It's not having to be intimidated, overwhelmed, or paralyzed by these crazy and fantastic times!

For these are times when man seeks a renewed personal meaning and a way to share in the shaping of this world. Because we have been cared for by significant others, we too can perform necessary acts effectively. Articulating greatness in others and in ourselves is not easy. We look for heroes, heroines, models—those who exemplify the authentic. A voice of Greatness asks: "Who are the special people in my life?" and, "Have I decided to be special in the lives of others?" The voice of Greatness responds: "I don't think we are going to fail; let's try: we can do it!" So, let us be the great ones we already are and bring the Call to those who are crushed or to those who have not heard.

December 1976



JOSEPH



It all started with the Mystery. All human significance begins this way. Joseph felt himself to be on the threshold of time. A unique sense of destiny filled his being. He was a practical visionary. His endless brooding and restless spirit seemed always directed toward the unawakened and the deeply wounded. Joseph's integrity was in locating and confronting the moral issue, and making sure he died there and nowhere else. It had to do with releasing new creativity on behalf of 85% of the world's people. Romanticism and idealism were both intolerable, for this man was a structural revolutionary. His task was one of rebuilding the earth, but not alone. Joseph shared his vision with other colleagues who were awakening to the moral issue. Together they forged genuine corporateness and common symbols to sustain their mission. Joseph believed strongly that a self is complete only in covenant with others. His marriage demonstrated recovery of the family covenant as an intentional missional force. He was an awakened churchman. Joseph loved the Church ecumenical with a passion. He tried to get the established church to see that its role was not one of peddling abstract dogma, but one of awakening people into the glory of life and into significant engagement with the historical process.

AWAKENMENT

Joseph was always grateful for his colleagues who put up with his weakness. Yet, it is nurturing to know that we are inherently of worth. All humans must hear afresh the amazing unconditional fact of their acceptance. This does not mean that the brokenness goes away, but it is the relationship people take to their separateness that creates wholeness. This acceptance affirms that which is. The decision is to accept your acceptance. The option to receive one's wholeness and personal significance is all important. Because we at times forget this universal fact, it is imperative that we are reminded. Joseph reminded us by dramatically portraying whatever role was appropriate. The Gandhi's, the Niebuh's, and the Theresa's of our time understand the secret. Every individual can come to terms with an authentic life. To embrace all of life without illusion is to embrace the eternal in one's own lifetime. In and through the transparency of Joseph, others were enabled to come to grips with their significance. The root of Joseph's profound consciousness was in recognizing that "to live is to die, and to die is to live."

ENGAGEMENT

Destinal expenditure became sheer hard work. How is it you lay down your life on behalf of all? Joseph began by inviting everyone he touched to the comprehensive. Every aspect of the human predicament had to be rethought and redesigned: the economic, cultural, political, and spirit. You always begin with the self, because local man is the key to any significant change. Then you recover what it means to care; to care that 85% of the world has allowed 15% to dominate the resources, wisdom, and decisions far too long. Global mission had to become simultaneously comprehensive and inclusive. The human forces: the intellectual, social and religious methods; the battleplan, tactics, and implementaries; these are the tools. Joseph was a master model builder. He dared to embrace his insight and dreams at the same time. Through him one learns that engagement is never static—a task to be completed, but is dynamic—a decision to do the impossible. Because life is not something to solve once and for all the tension between seriousness and humor has to be maintained. For Joseph, life was a dance; a glorious happening. Ordinary people entertain doing only what is possible. Joseph realized that some unordinary people had to say "yes" to the Call. It has always been this way: otherwise we cannot be saved. Joseph's tireless energy was engaged in the breaking loose of a new form of human development at the community level.

FULFILLMENT

Joseph knew that fulfillment had to do with the interior depths. He was a master at turning matter into spirit. And there was nothing pious about that. When one lives in the spirit dimension there are no attachments. For no thing can give humans ultimate significance. If unattached, persons of faith can lay claim to all things as required: relationships, status, power, resources, and wisdom, and can do so within the context of responsibility. Joseph died a long time ago to illusions and attachments, so he experienced a life of resurrected life. The awe of life was artistically reinacted in Joseph. The world is somehow different because of his decision. Joseph was an intruder into the lives of others. He was more than a splatter of hope; he was an event which allowed the greatness in others to emerge. And because of his profound parenting, I am who I am. One could never rest nor retreat around Joseph. If you felt self-important, he would expose your inadequacy. If you went to sleep, he would remind you of your uniqueness and importance. Joseph modeled fulfillment in the midst of nonfulfillment.

Joseph was the author and prime mover of the global spirit movement; the Religious order: Ecumenical; the Ecumenical Institute: Chicago; and the Institute of Cultural Affairs located on five continents. And to the Mystery this great human significance must return. For he has no name: only the One who gives life and takes it away has a name, and we never fully comprehend it. The celebration of Joseph Wesley Mathews' completed life was on October 20, 1977. We are participants in his endlessness as each of us in our own uniqueness say "yes" to the Mystery. Joseph would have it this way.

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance Engleman, December, 1977

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December 1977

Journey of the MARKED, POSSESSED, PREPARED, PROMISED, and CHOSEN

THE MARKED

Are those who struggle to stand in the most comprehensive, universal, and authentic word, or self understanding that is available to humankind. Their interior deeps are permanently scarred with the image that they are received, their past is approved, that all of life is good, and the future is open. They see with the eyes of a prophet a vision of a world recreated, and they know that to say "yes" to this demand is both a decision and a risk.

THE POSSESSED

Are those who are deeply and profoundly troubled by the needless crush in human life, and the careless and unimaginative waste of precious life force. Fulfillment is contingent upon their ability to shift the balance from a meaningless kind of despair into a kind of eternal optimism for those with special needs. They seem to be never satisfied and are perpetually restless. Their interior agony is a battle never completely won, and never completely lost.

THE PREPARED

Are those who elect a disciplined life style that is appropriate to the pulse of these unique times. They gird their minds, body, heart, and spirit with a relentless and methodical kind of preparation for the sake of total expenditure. Seeing the birth of resurgence taking place they choose to be a thrust alongside colleagues who have also responded to the call. They do not pursue the impossible naively, but rather out of precision, finesse and hard work—not always natural gifts.

THE PROMISED

Are those who are destined to be awakened to their own most unique interior mystery, depth, and greatness. They may have once known of their significance, but have forgotten, or have become confused. There is urgency to provide these persons with appropriate tools so they can discover the structures of care most enabling for their self-sufficiency. The promised are those who awaken then become a gift to history with their words and deeds.

THE CHOSEN

Are those who come to this world in total obedience to the way life is. Total submission to the fact that all of life is broken and at the same time whole; total freedom to shape futures; and total joy in the incredible gift of choosing one's own trek in humility, gratitude and compassion. They take upon themselves the timeless march of the global spirit movement with genuine colleagues whose depth of commitment is beyond conventionalism, parochialism, cynicism, arrogance, friends and enemies.

Finally, one does not become The Chosen without setting forth on the march. So be awake and ready for you are somewhere in the midst of this remarkable journey!

PEACE

Vance Engleman, December, 1974

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December 1974



Spirit—a feeling of goodness in oneself, others, and all living things. Not a naive nor simplistic sense of goodness, but a deep and intrinsic valuing for the gift of life. This comes from conquering the darker urges which are often abusive and violent. A spirit person lives out of a higher consciousness of what is good; right, or appropriate. A *spirit infusion* is needed when you don't like yourself; you no longer celebrate your blessings; you lose respect for others; you do mean acts; you are out of focus. These are all symptoms of an emptiness within in search of spirit. As the *spirit infused* person...

I AM THE TRUE WARRIOR. I choose to gain mastery of the demons within, and live out of a higher consciousness of good. Inner demons, such as anger, greed, jealousy, maliciousness, will be subdued by tenderness, kindness, respect, truth—a bravery that transforms fear into fearlessness. This is the life of a true warrior.

I AM WORTHY. I will sing without ceasing, "I am worthy, I am significant, and I will seek out relationships that honor my inherent worth." Sing it again, and again. Link up with those who will never let you forget who you are.

I AM THE FOCUSED ONE. I pause, reflect, meditate, pray, and study on matters that are important. I will be proactive about my personal life mission, values, daily cares, challenges, opportunities. As the meditative one I will seek to subdue negative destructive forces with images of what is possible.

I AM THE SECULAR SACRED. I have a custodial responsibility for all the creative forces that nurture and sustain life. These life forces are fragile and require thoughtful care. Together we must detoxify the land, water, and air. The rain forests, ozone layer, oceans, water tables, soil, are all here for a purpose—without these no life can prevail.

I AM SOMEONE'S HERO. I pledge to be a role model to someone, and do so at every beckoned opportunity. This is how we all learn. No magic here. Each of us reflects to a large degree the impact, or lack of impact, from positive human interventions which *guarantee* that we are special, and we will make it.

I AM HOPE FOR THE HOPELESS. My personal and collaborative efforts will seek to generate real hope for the dispossessed, abandoned, forgotten. They are without leverage to make their situation better. Whether it be nourishment, health care, or employment those of us with resources must lead the hopeless to self sufficiency and dignity.

I AM FULL OF JOY. One must never postpone joy. We join with others to dance, celebrate, and name our blessings. I will do whatever it takes to blend laughter, adventure, and fun into my daily regimen. I am eternally grateful for the gifts of time, talent, and a network of family, friends, colleagues. I will celebrate these gifts often, and with great zest.

I AM SPIRIT CONNECTED. My life is unequivocally connected to all that is. I have a relationship with my inner self; my family; my friends; all humankind; the animals, and environment; to the mystery of the universe, and infinity. I am connected to a spirit power without boundaries that sustains, and reclaims every precious form of life from birth to death. It is all good.

In this spirit-starved time we all need an infusion of spirit. We need the kind of interior massage that heals, nurtures, and prepares us to do good things with our lives. Select one or more of these eight spirit-filled scenarios and make them happen. You will like yourself better, and others will admire your decision to make a positive impact in peoples' lives, and give the world a promise for a more sustainable future.

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December 1996



Your INNER Peace

Inner peace is the result of a lot of separate behaviors. Together these behaviors contribute to a greater sense of personal well being. Below is a rack of fundamental ingredients that seem essential to inner peace. Expand this list to include additional perspectives that would fulfill your inner peace.

YOUR DETACHMENT

No thing – material, relationship, or otherwise can give you inner peace. You are not owned by anything. Your freedom comes from this detachment. You can pick up, or lay down all things without the illusion that they define your life – good or bad. Your life is defined by all creation. You come from this Ground of Being and ultimately will return. Your inner peace begins with this higher sense of selfhood.

YOUR AFFIRMATION

Affirm yourself for being the unique unrepeatable part of creation you are. Continue to reaffirm your essential self worth and value. You are a precious individual. Do this daily.

YOUR WORD

You are accepted, not rejected; your past is approved, not held against you; your future is open, not closed; and all is good is your way of affirming the gift of each and every breath. Stand in this Word and feel the fullness.

YOUR SCRIPT

Script your internal story full of positive life values, such as respect, dignity, honor, trust, and truth. You, and others, deserve to be treated this way.

YOUR FRIENDS

Choose your mentors, colleagues, and friends carefully – those you admire. Let them be positive role models who genuinely care and nurture you. Let them meddle in your life. Allow them to put deposits in the form of contributions and affirmations into your emotional bank account. Your most valuable resource are these friends.

YOUR PROTECTION

When others seek to be hostile, insensitive, or dehumanizing in their interaction with you, be gentle with them, but let them know the bank is closed. No withdrawals are allowed. We play win-win, or no deal!

YOUR CARE

Take care of yourself in all ways. Stimulate your mind with new learnings. Treat your heart and emotions with joy filled experiences. Take care of your body through regular exercise, proper nutrition, and preventive health management. Nurture your spirit by a relentless pursuit of profound humanness. You are body, mind, heart, and spirit.

YOUR INTIMACY

Talk about your feelings, thoughts, dreams, fears, and anything else that matters with a significant other that you share a mutual sense of love and intimacy. Compassionate listening and caring opens the door for healing and inner peace.

YOUR GENTLENESS

There is creative conflict, and hurtful conflict. Become less interested in hurtful conflict. Use nonviolent gentle approaches to turn destructive situations toward a more healthy outcome.

YOUR FORGIVENESS

Practice unconditional love and forgiveness. Be compassionate with yourself. Get beyond the hurt and unfulfilled expectations. Get closure and healing with past, or current disappointments. Get on with creating new possibilities, and new futures with yourself and others.

YOUR GRATITUDE

Be conscious of your blessings, however big or small. Awareness of small, or inconspicuous, blessings such as: the smell of a flower, a sip of cool water, the shade of a tree, a smile from a stranger; to give, or receive a gift, a challenge, an opportunity, something to cherish, someone to love – all can add to your inner peace.

YOUR CALM

Calm the hurriedness and stress of life with practices that soothe your interior space, e.g. reflection, deep breathing, nature walks, music, meditation, contemplation, prayer, and other spirit exercises. Have a special space. Let it be your Ashram, or spiritual retreat center. Slow down. Practice patience. Even treat yourself to a massage. It just feels good!

YOUR PET

Have a pet – a cat, dog, or some other interactive creature. They can teach us how to be more kind, gentle, loving, unselfish, playful, relaxed, and just BE. These same behaviors also work well with people!

YOUR CONNECTEDNESS

All your external relations to the cosmos, this planet, nature, cultures, communities, families, individuals, career – enrich your inner peace. Have meaningful projects that make a difference. Provide a service to situations of great need. Avoid living just for yourself. Seek harmony with all these life forces and options.

YOUR SACREDNESS

See yourself as sacred and grounded in the mystery, depth, and greatness of all that is. Qualities of the infinite are within you. Nurture a sense of interior reverence. You can experience the awe and wonder of your personal journey, and Being itself.

YOUR CELEBRATION

Mix all of the above ingredients. They contribute to your inner peace. Celebrate the beautiful person you are. You are special!

PEACE. BE WITH YOU, Vance Engleman, December, 1998

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December 1998



Sone



Irwin

Voices



Buffmire



Mathews



Vanier



Teresa



Lawrence



Kozantzakis



Kierkegaard



Bultmann

THE VOICE WITHIN BECOMES INCREASINGLY ROISY TRYING TO EMERGE IN THE MIDST OF A MULTIPLICITY OF VOICES. WHO ARE THE SIGNIFICANT OTHERS IN YOUR LIFE? WHO ARE THE VOICES IN YOUR HUMAN EDUCATION? WHAT IS THAT NOISE WITHIN THAT AWAKENS DESIRE? WHO ARE THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED YOU GET FOCUSED? BEYOND YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY, WHO ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NURTURED YOU, SHAPED YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS, AND WALK WITH YOU AS A MEDITATIVE COUNCIL? THESE VOICES MAY COME TO YOU IN MANY FORMS: FRIEND, COLLEAGUE, MENTOR, GURU, POET, PRIEST, PROPHET, WARRIOR, SAINT. MY JOURNEY, LIKE YOURS, HAS BEEN PROFOUNDLY IMPACTED BY COUNTLESS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE EVENTED AND ADDED MY LIFE. ONLY A FEW OF THEM AND A SAMPLE OF WHAT THEY GAVE ME ARE LISTED BELOW. THIS IS MY GIFT TO YOU. OF MORE CONSEQUENCE WILL BE THE GIFT YOU GIVE YOURSELF AS YOU IDENTIFY THOSE SIGNIFICANT OTHERS IN YOUR COUNCIL. EVERYONE HAS A MONTAGE OF VOICES WHICH HAS AWAKENED AND EVOKED SIGNIFICANCE IN THEMSELVES AND IN OTHERS. THE FOLLOWING ARE SYMBOLS OF VOICES IN MY COUNCIL AND A SAMPLE OF WHAT I HEARD THEM SAY:

That the fundamental crisis in every person's life has to do with deciding to relate to life as it is without illusion, thereby standing before the Mystery, Power, and Greatness of all existence. (Rudolph Bultmann)

That the all-determining fact of your life is that you are accepted just as you are and neither your brokenness nor wholeness will ever go away; in fact, wholeness abounds even more! (Paul Tillich)

That in the quest for freedom most people settle for living in spiritual doghouses, but the free person is one who willingly embraces every life situation as an occasion for responsibility. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

That the pioneering image of the community of faith is to see one's whole life as mission in word and deed by seeking out the needs of the neighbor with relentless compassion. (H. Richard Niebuhr)

That you influence and change lives when you are willing to risk intentional meddling in the life of the other, and not stop until something happens. (Law Sone)

That the educator is the adult model who guarantees the intrinsic worth and value in others, and in so doing allows them to get a focus on their life vocation. (Paul Irwin)

That the moral issue of our time has to do with investing your life unto death at the crux where 1% of the global population has the power, and 99% has yet to get their creativity into history. (Joseph Mathews)

That leadership is shared responsibility--your greatness is contingent upon how well your colleagues achieve with their greatness. (Judy Ann Buffmire)

That the despair without hope in deeply wounded persons can be transformed into desire with hope when nurtured within a community of celebration. (Jean Vanier)

That the poorest of the poor is an arena of eyes that cannot be ignored, otherwise none of us can be saved. (Mother Teresa)

That a visionary's dream is only actualized when it manifests itself in the particular; even if it's the "whiteness of a washed pocket handkerchief." (D.H. Lawrence)

That God is not a mythical abstraction, but a power within our human experience that tears at our entrails like a war eagle, and cries out, "You are my comrade in arms." (Nikos Kazantzakis)

That with the increase of consciousness and awareness comes the increase of despair and anguish, and both are OK and necessary for the authentic life. (Soren Kierkegaard)

That the interior resources of the human spirit, discipline, and will power provide the best mechanism for the common people to fight injustice without violence, and without compromise of their highest ideals. (Mahatma Gandhi)

That through austerity it is possible to close the enormous gaps between the rich and the poor while preserving culture and caring for all the basic human needs. (Nao Tsetung)

That the handicapped are special persons who must receive public supported special education and training to insure their human rights and equal opportunity for a full life. (John Kennedy)

That the black people of this world, and others who have been denied their dignity, are indeed significant people, and history shall no longer be denied their full participation. (Martin Luther King)

That the warrior is a relentless strategist who wages war on human ignorance by having a vision, a comprehensive battleplan, a tactical model, a symbol system, and an uncompromising will to win. (George Patton)

That my 4000 years of stored-up destiny, creativity, and greatness are now being released so the world can celebrate its global significance and purpose. (Old man in door, Calcutta)



Gandhi



Tsetung



Kennedy



King



Patton



Niebuhr



Tillich



Old Man



Bonhoeffer

Grace Is Yours And Peace

Vance Engleman, December, 1978

VOICES

The voice within becomes increasingly noisy trying to emerge in the midst of a multiplicity of voices. Who are the significant others in your life? Who are the voices in your human education? What is that noise within that awakens desire? Who are those who have helped you get focused? Beyond your immediate family, who are those who have nurtured you, shaped your consciousness, and walk with you as a Meditative Council? These voices may come to you in many forms: Friend, Colleague, Mentor, Guru, Poet, Priest, Prophet, Warrior, Saint. My journey, like yours, has been profoundly impacted by countless individuals who have evented and audited my life. Only a few of them and a sample of what they gave me are listed below. This is my gift to you. *Of more consequence* will be the gift you give yourself as you identify those significant others in your council. Everyone has a montage of voices which has awakened and evoked significance in themselves and in others. The following are symbols of voices in my Council and a sample of what I heard them say:

That the fundamental crisis in every person's life has to do with deciding to relate to life as it is without illusion, thereby standing before the Mystery, Power, and Greatness of all existence. (Rudolph Bultmann)

That the all-determining fact of your life is that you are accepted just as you are and neither your brokenness nor wholeness will ever go away; in fact, wholeness abounds even more. (Paul Tillich)

That in the quest for freedom most people settle for living in spiritual doghouses, but the free person is one who willingly embraces every life situation as an occasion for responsibility. (Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

That the pioneering image of the community of faith is to see one's whole life as mission in word and deed by seeking out the needs of the neighbor with relentless compassion. (H. Richard Niebuhr)

That you influence and change lives when you are willing to risk intentional meddling in the life of the other, and not stop until something happens. (Law Sone)

That the educator is the adult model who guarantees the intrinsic worth and value in others, and in so doing allows them to get a focus on their life vocation. (Paul Irwin)

- That the moral issue of our time has to do with investing your life unto death at the crux where 15% of the global population has the power, and 85% has yet to get their creativity into history. (Joseph Mathews)
- That leadership is shared responsibility—your greatness is contingent upon how well your colleagues achieve with their greatness. (Judy Ann Buffmire)
- That the despair without hope in deeply wounded persons can be transformed into desire with hope when nurtured within a community of celebration. (Jean Vanier)
- That the poorest of the poor is an arena of care that cannot be ignored, otherwise none of us can be saved. (Mother Teresa)
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December 1978

ASHRAM

Your Own Spiritual Retreat

The Ashram has its roots in India and Hinduism. Traditionally, it has been a place to go to seek discipline through reflecting, studying, and training. Today, the Ashram concept can be adapted within any culture. It is here that you get in touch with your interior self and matters of truth; life without illusion; profound humanness; or social consciousness. Meditation, contemplation, prayer, or study can be practiced, as well as corporate dialogue aimed at increased awareness, skill development, or action planning. The Ashram can be a place that enables a sharper focus on themes of social responsibility. For example, issues such as unconditional love, forgiveness, non-violence, suffering, and wealth might be explored. Simply put, the Ashram is a spiritual retreat center where you go to help shape your life journey. Below you will find the architectural pieces to use in designing an Ashram for individual or family use, or for sharing with friends and colleagues.

External Considerations

Space — Choose a room or place adequate to accommodate the other design features. When you enter this space, you feel something unique and distinctive.

Furnishings — Select a few chairs, tables, audio/video equipment, plants, rug or mat as options. Keep it simple.

Light — Experiment with natural and indirect light; and brighter versus lower light levels. Set the mood you want.

Color — Include bright, cheerful, warm, or cool colors to stir the senses. Use white to create a clean, pure look.

Texture — Create a sense of contrast using multi-dimensional shapes. Objects may be rough, soft, hard, or smooth to the touch. Let texture bring harmony to your surroundings.

Sound — Introduce soothing background sounds from environmental, instrumental, new age, and global music. No sound at all can be powerful.

Smell — Invite aromas of pine, jasmine, seasonal cut flowers, or the subtle use of incense to create a fresh, clean smell that stimulates the senses.

Decor — Decorate with centerpieces, sculpture, wall art, photos, and symbols. Profound verbal sayings bring focus to the theme and mission of your Ashram.

Internal Considerations

Library — Read books, articles, or newspaper clippings featuring "voices" that provoke a higher consciousness and awareness.

Audio/video — Be open to documentaries, biographies, instructional, or training audio and video of provocative themes.

Education — Learn as a life-long process. Include methods of continuous education, and creative discovery.

Dialogue — Discuss current issues, plans for the future, and cares of mind, body, heart, and spirit with friends, colleagues, and others.

Meditation — Learn from the voices of all creation. Talk to the

sages, priests, teachers, leaders, friends, and mentors who manifest wisdom.

Contemplation — Get in touch with yourself by focusing on the mystery, the unknown, transformation, re-creation, luminous change, and awe-filled possibility.

Prayer — Invoke a prelude to action. Decide what is needed or what has never been done before for yourself, for another, or for the world.

Silence — Create a quiet and peaceful mood of serenity. Block out any noise which would distract from your purpose of being in the Ashram.



Whether your Ashram is more mystical, or more secular, you are invited to create a space that will nurture your most inner self—a self that is special and unrepeatable.

Grace is yours and Peace.

Vance Engleman, December 1995

ASHRAM—YOUR OWN SPIRITUAL RETREAT

The Ashram has its roots in India and Hinduism. Traditionally, it has been a place to go to seek discipline through reflecting, studying, and training. Today, the Ashram concept can be adapted within any culture. It is here that you get in touch with your interior self and matters of truth; life without illusion; profound humanness; or social consciousness. Meditation, contemplation, prayer, or study can be practiced, as well as corporate dialogue aimed at increased awareness, skill development, or action planning. The Ashram can be a place that enables a sharper focus on themes of social responsibility. For example, issues such as unconditional love, forgiveness, nonviolence, suffering, and wealth might be explored. Simply put, the Ashram is a spiritual retreat center where you go to help shape your life journey. Below you will find the architectural pieces to use in designing an Ashram for individual or family use, or for sharing with friends and colleagues.

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December 1995

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Invent Your Future

"The best way to predict the future is to invent it."

from *Odyssey*
by John Sculley

Build Your Own Strategic Plan

Successful companies and organizations think strategically about the future, and they do it continuously. Dramatic changes in the world, and growing competitive challenges require a strategic vision prior to any meaningful action. Like organizations, individual potential seems to hinge on the ability to be creative and proactive. You are invited to think strategically and invent your personal future with the same passion as you would commit to any worthy cause. It's effective individuals who make effective impacts in the world. The process below could be the difference between an ordinary year ahead, or one full of interesting choices!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOURSELF BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING

Thinking Strategically All The Time

YOUR NEEDS	Assess what you need to be fully human. If these needs were fulfilled could you contribute to building a healthier world?
TRENDS IMPACTING YOU	Assess the trends and forces which offer an occasion for positive change and development. How do these impact your life now?
YOUR VISION	What kind of future do you really want? What is your vision of standing in the "winner's circle"?
OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME	What "rocks in the road" must be removed in order to attain your vision? Which of your strengths could be leveraged to remove these barriers?



Grounds For Poets And Reflection

Self image, knowledge, emotions, deeper meaning, relationships, intimacy, life style, laughter, living space, social, economic, security, health, exercise, recreation, travel, adventure, greatness

Significant past, innovations, influences, challenges, opportunities, discoveries, continuity, discontinuity, leading edge, stretch, development, new age, global to local, proclaimed future

Short range, expansion, dreams, desires, hopes, passions, bliss, mystery, "blank check", desire, creative, add-on-value, compelling, core values, odyssey, journey, long range

"Shifting sand", blocks, contradictions, challenges, discord, unexpected, lost, brokenness, unpredictable, ambiguity, weakness, difficulty, irritants, attitudes, achilles heel

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO BE THE VERY BEST YOU CAN BE

YOUR ACHIEVABLE GOALS	What are some doable goals which would reduce your obstacles and release your vision? Are these worthy of your commitment?
YOUR ACTION PLAN	What do you begin doing differently each day to attain your goals? If it's worth doing, just do it!
CONSTANT EVALUATION	How will you evaluate your plan to confirm what is and what is not working? What adjustments will you make to sustain momentum?
YOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM	What kind of support is needed to effectively implement your strategic plan? How will you maintain your energy and discipline?

Big picture, comprehensive, approaches, directions, strategies, objectives, prioritized, measurable, substantial, realistic, exciting, maneuvers, risks, campaigns, quality, moral imperative

Beginning date, specific actions, deeds, activities, behaviors, habits, tools, methods, resources, practical, bottom line, discipline, implementation, budget, follow-thru, completion date

Accountability, monitoring, current impact, corrective actions, adaptability, editing, refinement, retooling, alert, watchful, ongoing, affirmation, forgiveness, absolution

Empowerment, networks, colleagues, friends, family, community, support groups, training, planning, communications, collaboration, partnerships, motivation, leadership, celebration

IF YOU DON'T USE YOUR GIFTS YOU'RE JUST NOT LIVING YOUR LIFE

VANCE ENGLEMAN
GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE, Vance and Devi Engleman, December, 1991

INVENT YOUR FUTURE

BUILD YOUR OWN STRATEGIC PLAN

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Images For Focus And Reflection

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December 1991

on taking care of yourself

We may or may not make monumental changes for our fellow inhabitants of this world, but the significance of showing up with life on your hands is an unmistakable gift. Neglect or mismanagement of that gift not only dilutes our potential, but we rob ourselves of the ability to impact those around us with the best we can offer. This is a reminder of the importance of comprehensively taking care of ourselves: mind, body, heart, and spirit for the sake of a life style that will make a difference for all those we touch. Use these images as a checklist for personal and missional fulfillment.

M I N D



MENTAL PREPARATION

Designing your personal and family curriculum within a global context to include political, economic and cultural studies, plus theology and the creative arts.



SOCIAL APPLICATION

Developing your interior resources for decision-making by acquiring comprehensive, futuristic, and intentional planning and model building skills.



RELEVANT KNOWING

Clarifying your own vocational intention, by discerning the global trends and pressure points relative to the world's timely needs.



B O D Y

PHYSICAL MAINTENANCE

Living up to your own physical potential through proper health practices, diet, exercise, grooming, and preventative medical care.



BODY MOVEMENT

Having the discipline and desire to extend yourself when needed by avoiding convenient habits, laziness and inertia.



HUMAN WORKSHOP

Seeing the beauty of your own uniqueness by utilizing your body as a vehicle to transform ideas and dreams into action.

H E A R T



EMBRACING DESIRE

Daring to claim your dreams, hopes, desires, and passions by giving due consideration and value to your feelings and intuitions.



DEVELOPING RISK

Having courage to be your greatness during times of decision by not waiting for sure things or for total clarity before moving.



FLAMING CARE

Willing an intensive longing and tenderness for the well-being of others, including the unawake and the deeply wounded.

S P I R I T



MEDITATIVE COUNCIL

Being conscious of and honoring the significant others in your journey who have helped to shape your sense of worth and value.



PRAYERFUL ACTION

Identifying the needs of yourself and your neighbor to enable you to give your very best at any moment.



CONTEMPLATIVE ACTION

Intensifying what you know and what you do into burning insight into the way life is without illusion, fantasy or wishdream.

L I F E S T Y L E



MIRRORING SIGNIFICANCE

Deciding to be an event whereby others can come to terms with their own significance, special uniqueness and sense of purpose.



SOPHISTICATED BEHAVIORS

Shaping behaviors and decisions that are knowledgeable, lucid, global, refined, adaptive, and appropriate to every new situation.



RECOVERING DELIGHT

Doing the dance of joy around your total showedupness by structuring ongoing nurture and celebration into your style.

for the sake of the world

Recovering sophistication to make a difference

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance Engleman
December, 1979

ON TAKING CARE OF YOURSELF FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

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Recovering sophistication to make a difference.

December 1979

LIFE JOURNEY CURRICULUM. THE DECADE OF THE EIGHTIES CONTEXT

What time is it? What time should you be in? The world is taking on a new image. What have we known on TV? Does it satisfy? Do you do, and all will be known as a "miraculous" world. The world is taking on a new image. What have we known on TV? Does it satisfy? Do you do, and all will be known as a "miraculous" world. The world is taking on a new image. What have we known on TV? Does it satisfy? Do you do, and all will be known as a "miraculous" world.

The framework is the same as in the last decade. It is a framework which addresses all fields of human life. It is a framework which addresses all fields of human life. It is a framework which addresses all fields of human life. It is a framework which addresses all fields of human life.

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GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE VANCE ENGLMAN

LIFE JOURNEY CURRICULUM

THE DECADE OF THE EIGHTIES

CONTEXT

Our time is one of radical change and we all experience it. The world is taking on a new image. What we have known as civilization is rapidly coming to a close, and what will be known as postcivilization is just beginning to emerge. The transition is that dramatic! Because the flow of ideas and information is increasingly difficult to manage, we need a human curriculum to help chart our journey through the '80s. This adult curriculum for individual and family use attempts to address the crisis by providing a framework to help us more effectively grapple with these craggy times.

The framework is comprehensive in that it attempts to provide "hooks", or arenas, which address all facets of humanness. It is futuristic in that it suggests examples which might facilitate one's preparation for the decade of the '80s. And it is intentional in that the content is open-ended and can be expanded upon by each user's own ideas and discoveries.

Twelve months of research went into designing the curriculum and selecting the 200 recommendations. The specific resource examples are just that—examples—which were carefully selected for their apparent timeliness and relevance. Hopefully these selections will act as stimuli to enable us to become aware of economic, cultural and political trends and movements. Most of the entries are relevant to any serious inquiry, although they do not include highly specialized research materials. They were selected through personal research and recommendations from colleagues across the nation. Although most of the curriculum components include excellent resources, timely statements for the '80's were difficult to locate in a few of the areas. Perhaps of more importance than the examples, however, is the idea of having a comprehensive framework from which to examine this world and our place in it; one which provides a responsive method for filling in the gaps with useful materials as they become available throughout the decade.

The human curriculum cannot be seen as a static, completed one. Adding (and using) resources, as indicated by internal and external needs, is the key to molding a dynamic curriculum that will serve you through the '80s. By participating perhaps we will not experience ourselves as victims in a time of great change, but rather as movers, actors and deciders in the shaping of the new age. It is unlikely that any one strategy will encompass the task. More likely it will be a combination of personal discipline, serious study, genuine corporateness, some luck, and a sense of humor in the midst of the absurd and the impossible. Enjoy!

December 1980

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Inservice training: ongoing professional nurture and development.

Museums: art, cultural, natural history, science and technology.

Newspapers: local, national and international.

Television: educational and cultural programs; news.

Travel: educational, cultural and professional.

December 1980

UNCONDITIONAL

Love and Forgiveness

THE PREDICAMENT

We all experience pain, and long to be whole and functional. We all have been hurt by actions of others, and from time to time, we have hurt others. We all are wounded, and those who have hurt us, intentionally or unintentionally, have wounds themselves. We all have experienced rejection, abuse, or abandonment. Often our search for tranquility is in disarray and conflict and we feel our brokenness. Either we fix this profoundly human condition so we can move forward, or we fight disappointments of the past and live a lifetime of regret, hate, and bondage. Either we decide to live out of the higher consciousness of unconditional love and forgiveness, or we wrap ourselves in a chrysalis of instinctive attitudes which impose conditions that deny us freedom.

THE PAIN

We do not condone or approve destructive behaviors and actions in ourselves, nor in others. Mean acts are unacceptable—they hurt or make us angry, and we find ways to protect ourselves from being hurt again. If the pain is deep enough we want to turn away from the cause. Alienation, rejection, or getting even intensify the condition. Some hurts we easily overcome, but the pains that generate the need for unconditional forgiveness are the important ones that hang on and haunt us. Some prolonged feelings of pain might include: • sadness • guilt • rejection • anger • desertion • damage • injury • humiliation • confusion • ridicule • disappointment • betrayal • hatred • unimportance • rage • powerlessness • fright • devastation • helplessness • depression • panic • bitterness • emptiness • unsafe • hopelessness • insecurity • desperation • suffocation • abuse • paralysis • used • unloved. While we cannot control the actions of others, we can control our own. We can decide to relate differently to our disappointments and suffering. Appeal to a higher attitude within will allow us to embrace brokenness within ourselves and others as a necessary part of life.



THE HEALING

Getting well again is a process. What drives us is the desire to be a free, healthy, whole person. Healing takes time. The memory of the pain may not go away, but our relationship toward it can change. We know we are ready when these signs become compelling: • our positive self image no longer wants to tolerate the hurt • we are willing to let go of the intense emotions from our past • we no longer need to hold on to grudges, hatred, or self pity • we realize that punishing others will not heal us • we desire a better use of our energy than licking our wounds • we stop expecting "them" to "make it right" • we are responsible for our own recovery • we are ready to move on. Forgiving the "enemy" is a stretch, typically bound by conditions or expectations we place on ourselves, on others, or on situations. Unconditional forgiveness cancels those expectations. We decide that whatever hurt us does not have to do something to right our pain. If there were help to get us beyond our hurt and anger, that would be grand, but often conditions we set in place cannot be met. Cancellation is forgiveness. This forgiveness comes from our higher awareness that no one is to blame. We become able to see the profound goodness that abounds and act out of the word of possibility. What we want for ourselves and for others is what is best.

THE FREEDOM

No longer bound by the past, we are free to love again. We may choose to love the person or situation that hurt us, not because of actions that deserve our affirmation, but because we have canceled our expectations and cast no blame. We decide to live out of the possibility that we are a received person worthy of love. Our past, however painful, is unconditionally forgiven. Our future is open to love whomever, or whatever, because doing so brings us joy. By embracing the way life is we can say all is good, and life is to be lived. We are no longer stuck. As the forgiven one, we are free to decide to value and care for people and situations in need. Our freedom has us moving again. We again have our power to build fulfilling and sustainable relationships. We have discovered that unconditional love and forgiveness are essential to being fully human.

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance Engleman

December, 1992

UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

THE PREDICAMENT

We all experience pain, and long to be whole and functional. We all have been hurt by actions of others, and from time to time, we have hurt others. We all are wounded, and those who have hurt us, intentionally or unintentionally, have wounds themselves. We all have experienced rejection, abuse, or abandonment. Often our search for tranquility is in disarray and conflict and we feel our brokenness. Either we fix this profoundly human condition so we can move forward, or we fight disappointments of the past and live a lifetime of regret, hate, and bondage. Either we decide to live out of the higher consciousness of unconditional love and forgiveness, or we wrap ourselves in a chrysalis of instinctive attitudes which impose conditions that deny us freedom.

THE PAIN

We do not condone or approve destructive behaviors and actions in ourselves, nor in others. Mean acts are unacceptable—they hurt or make us angry, and we find ways to protect ourselves from being hurt again. If the pain is deep enough we want to turn away from the cause. Alienation, rejection, or getting even intensify the condition. Some hurts we easily overcome, but the pains that generate the need for unconditional forgiveness are the important ones that hang on and haunt us. Some prolonged feelings of pain might include: ● **sadness** ● **guilt** ● **rejection** ● **anger** ● **desertion** ● **damage** ● **injury** ● **humiliation** ● **confusion** ● **ridicule** ● **disappointment** ● **betrayal** ● **hatred** ● **unimportance** ● **rage** ● **powerlessness** ● **fright** ● **devastation** ● **helplessness** ● **depression** ● **panic** ● **bitterness** ● **emptiness** ● **unsafe** ● **hopelessness** ● **insecurity** ● **desperation** ● **suffocation** ● **abuse** ● **paralysis** ● **used** ● **unloved**. While we cannot control the actions of others, we can control our own. We can decide to relate differently to our disappointments and suffering. Appeal to a higher attitude within will allow us to embrace brokenness within ourselves and others as a necessary part of life.

THE HEALING

Getting well again is a process. What drives us is the desire to be a free, healthy, whole person. Healing takes time. The memory of the pain may not go away, but our relationship toward it can change. We know we are ready when these signs become compelling: ● **our positive self image no longer wants to tolerate the hurt** ● **we are willing to let go of the intense emotions from our past** ● **we no longer need to hold on to grudges, hatred, or self pity** ● **we realize that punishing others will not heal us** ● **we desire a better use of our energy than licking our wounds** ● **we stop expecting “them” to “make it right”** ● **we are responsible for our own recovery** ● **we are ready to move on.** Forgiving the “enemy” is a stretch, typically bound by conditions or expectations we place on ourselves, on others, or on situations. Unconditional forgiveness cancels those expectations. We decide that whatever hurt us does not have to do something to right our pain. If there were help to get us beyond our hurt and anger, that would be grand, but often conditions we set in place cannot be met. Cancellation is forgiveness. This forgiveness comes from our higher awareness that no one is to blame. We become able to see the profound goodness that abounds and act out of the word of possibility. What we want for ourselves and for others is what is best.

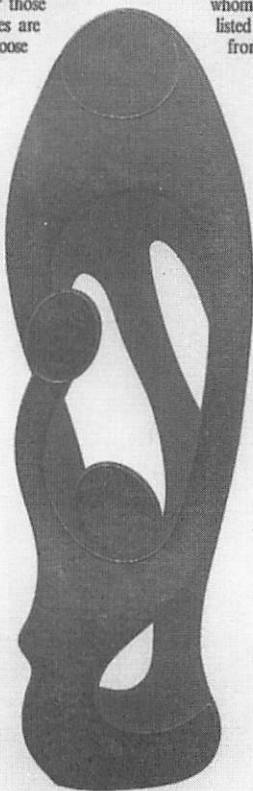
THE FREEDOM

No longer bound by the past, we are free to love again. We may choose to love the person or situation that hurt us, not because of actions that deserve our affirmation, but because we have canceled our expectations and cast no blame. We decide to live out of the possibility that we are a received person worthy of love. Our past, however painful, is unconditionally forgiven. Our future is open to love whomever, or whatever, because doing so brings us joy. By embracing the way life is we can say all is good, and life is to be lived. We are no longer stuck. As the forgiven one, we are free to decide to value and care for people and situations in need. Our freedom has us moving again. We again have our power to build fulfilling and sustainable relationships. We have discovered that unconditional love and forgiveness are essential to being fully human.

December 1992

RELATIONSHIPS

the most precious of all life resources is the gift of human relationships. nothing in life is worth more. taking care of relationships is not easy. it requires steadfast attention. we change and others change. the context, or situation, of a particular relationship is dynamic. what is required is a thoughtful and constantly updated individualized CARE PLAN for those whom we value as a life resource. some 48 activities are listed below as a glimpse of countless interactions to choose from when caring for others.



enrichment activities

for maintaining

be accessible
enhance self worth
share basic resources
stay in touch

for maintaining

physical/emotional care
crisis/emergency support
timely meddling
forgive and reconcile

for bonding

exchange affection
share laughter/tears
creative fighting
mutual counseling

for bonding

listen for deeper meaning
retrace personal history
provide confidentiality
go the distance (loyalty)

for nurturing

define values to live by
model appropriate roles
discover workable approaches
positive reinforcements

for nurturing

story telling/reflection
"wine/cheese" symposiums
explore nature
international travel

for honoring

say "yes" before "no"
affirm potential in others
celebrate accomplishments
suitable "thank you's"

for honoring

creative birthdays
anniversary happenings
religious holidays
give symbolic gifts

for collaborating

specific support groups
study/plan retreats
work projects
professional meetings

for collaborating

strategic networking
build team/consensus
make referrals/contacts
create a better world

for socializing

social clubs/events
appreciate the arts
recreational outings
dine out

for socializing

creative parties
cultural festivals
secular holidays
reunions

special people

family (close/extended)
friends (close/casual)
colleagues (work)
mentors (teachers)
groups (social/work)
acquaintances (potential)

global village • timely engagement

home
community
city/village
district/state
nation/continent
international

daily
weekly
monthly
quarterly
annually
as needed

justified action

share common roots
share common values
share common mission
share common wisdom
share common resources
share common life

our most valuable resource

grace is yours and peace

VANCE ENGLEMAN december, 1986

RELATIONSHIPS

OUR MOST VALUABLE RESOURCE

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ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- for maintaining** be accessible, enhance self worth, share basic resources, stay in touch
physical/emotional care, crisis/emergency support, timely meddling, forgive and reconcile
- for bonding** exchange affection, share laughter/tears, creative fighting, mutual counseling
listen for deeper meaning, retrace personal history, provide confidentiality, go the distance (loyalty)
- for nurturing** define values to live by, model appropriate roles, discover workable approaches, positive reinforcements
story telling/reflection, "wine/cheese" symposiums, explore nature, international travel
- for honoring** say "yes" before "no", affirm potential in others, celebrate accomplishments, suitable "thank you's"
creative birthdays, anniversary happenings, religious holidays, give symbolic gifts

for collaborating specific support groups study/plan retreats, work projects,
professional meetings

strategic networking, build team/consensus, make referrals/
contacts, create a better world

for socializing social clubs/events, appreciate the arts, recreational
outings, dine out

creative parties, cultural festivals, secular holidays,
reunions

special people

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friends (close/casual)

colleagues (work)

mentors (teachers)

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timely engagement

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weekly

monthly

quarterly

annually

as needed

global village

home

community

city/village

district/state

nation/continent

international

justified action

share common roots

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share common life

December 1986

DISCOVERING INTIMACY



☯ To develop intimacy means seeing yourself as special in the midst of the common; seeing two selves as having vital significance to each other completing the whole; it means trusting before anything is earned; allowing this significant other to have space in your life; and experiencing your brokenness as accepted. It's standing in a common Word—a self understanding of what it means to be a human being without illusion. It's creating a symbol system to support that commitment.

☯ It's the yes before the no; risking the unknown; being tough, yet tender; confessing weakness while seeking support; mixing humor with seriousness; providing structure within openness; being totally obligated and totally free at the same time; being included in all major decisions; being accountable; giving and receiving absolution; and inviting each other to the comprehensive.

☯ Intimacy means caring for personal needs; knowing your point of view is heard and considered; realizing that your life is great and significant; and together shaping new options to expand one another's journey.

☯ It means caring when the other is tired; being disciplined and responsible when the other is distracted; being patient and deliberate when the other is restless; modeling relevance and change when the other would settle for the conventional; having a plan when the other is floating; being compassionate when the other is preoccupied.

☯ It's the delight in the other who cannot be controlled, yet who needs enablement and support. It's experiencing care as a mutual gift—not an inward selfish care—but the care that prepares one for expenditure on behalf of the other. It's honoring that which is not you for the sheer joy of it!

☯ Intimacy is not an idle lovers' game. It's holding, but not possessing; touching, but not smothering; loving, but not destroying. It's experiencing sexuality as sensual, playful—as a celebration of what you have each discovered.

☯ Intimacy is sharing at all levels: thoughts, feelings, affection, and deepest meanings. It's developing a core covenant relationship and setting forth on a common journey and mission as two unrepeatable human beings. It's holding the tensions between all these moods, needs and roles. It's building genuine corporateness through a quality of communicating that fulfills the basic urge for wholeness.

☯ Intimacy is an experience of enduring rapture for those who dare to explore the unknown—the mystery of the other.

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance Engleman

December, 1982

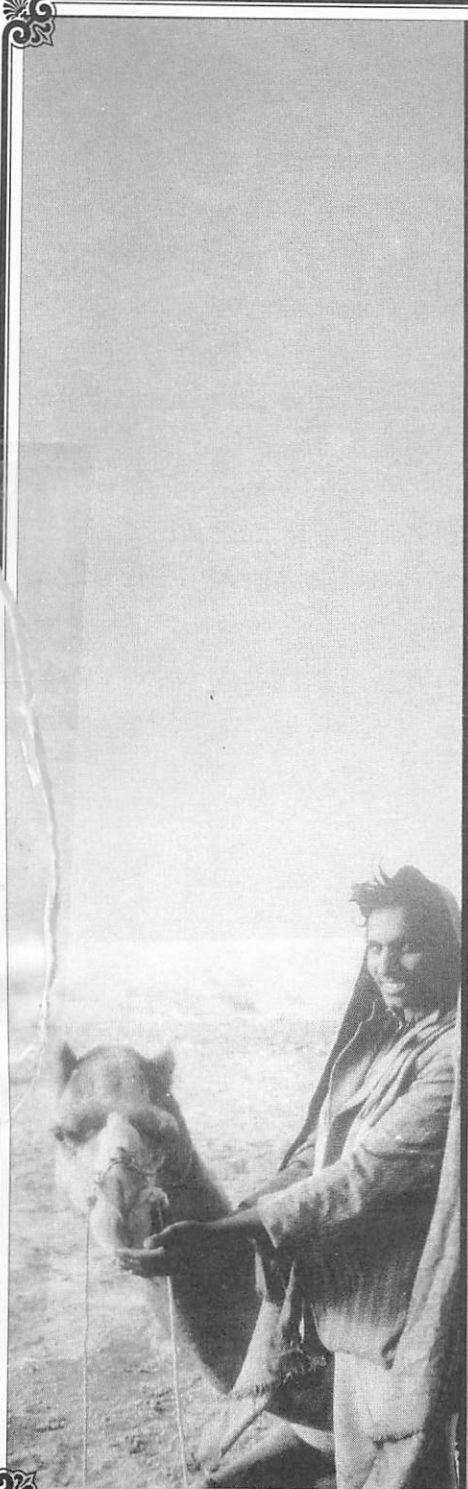
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December 1982



Oh Rajasthan!

Oh Rajasthan, tell me who you are. As you stretch across the Great Indian Desert you have experienced sword and splendor, conquest and freedom, not once, but again and again. You have survived 5,000 years of human struggle.

Oh Rajasthan, you harbor ancient temples, mosques, pilgrimages, and festivals. Your battle scarred forts, romantic palaces, and simple desert villages contain volumes of insight into the way life is. You love your connectedness with the mystery of life, the river of consciousness, and hope eternal. For the infinite is in everything—every grain of sand, every breath. You are indeed sacred.

Oh Rajasthan, from desert nomads to brave Rajput warriors, your vibrant turbulent history is full of wisdom and character. Your camel herdsman, and skilled craftsman have left an unforgettable imprint on the hot sands of time. You massage my interior being.

Oh Rajasthan, awaken my senses. Your tastes explode with sweetness and spice. Your brilliant colors form a rich tapestry. Your textures are rough and deep. Your sounds are the drums, bells, and voices of merriment. Your smells are pungent aromas in the night air. You titillate my senses with joy!

Oh Rajasthan, you have haunted me with your exotic past. You have rekindled my spirit. Do not leave me. I too yearn to walk in your footprints of time, and tell your story to generations yet to be born. You are not just the gateway to India's soul, but to mine as well.

Oh Rajasthan, place a water pot on my head. Let me stand in your shoes, experience your experience. I am more fully human because of your teachings, and nurturing care. Adopt me, and I will embrace your profound journey as if it were my own. Oh Rajasthan!

Peace,

Vance Engleman, December, 2001

OH RAJASTHAN!

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Oh Rajasthan, place a water pot on my head. Let me stand in your shoes, experience your experience. I am more fully human because of your teachings, and nurturing care. Adopt me, and I will embrace your proud journey as if it were my own, Oh Rajasthan!

December 2001

SOCIAL JUSTICE

So much pain, so much suffering, I really don't know where to begin. I am a child hitting my head against the cradle of life. I feel I am in Kindergarten.

Those who choose violence and force to settle conflicts and disagreements seem to do so with little outward pain. They don't even blink. But, they too are people of personal suffering.

Is there a biological, or psychological explanation to such madness? Would a neurologist, or psychiatrist shed some light? I don't know, for I am in Kindergarten.

I must first do business with my own internal capacity to do harm. Oh, those primordial instincts often prevail. Perhaps by taming my own rage I can look beyond.

But the social issues of our spouse and child abuse, violence in schools, fragile environment, animals, communal and I've hardly incapable of difference. For I Kindergarten,

There was a time let's go get of-bitches. such retaliations to lose. These seem

Do I have a choice destructive directions? acts nonviolently? Is all of For now I say, yes,

I may be in Kindergarten, but I am growing up. I will seek colleagues, networks, movements. I will be steadfast, and fearless. I am not alone.

To sustain me in the struggle I will repeat this mantra everyday: "I am weak, I am strong, but getting stronger. I will actively promote a nonabusive and nonkilling society in all that I do. I will emit a spirit of compassion, tolerance, and genuine love in each and every encounter." This ritual of healing seems right for now.

Being in Kindergarten was not so bad afterall. It got me to this point, and I am glad.

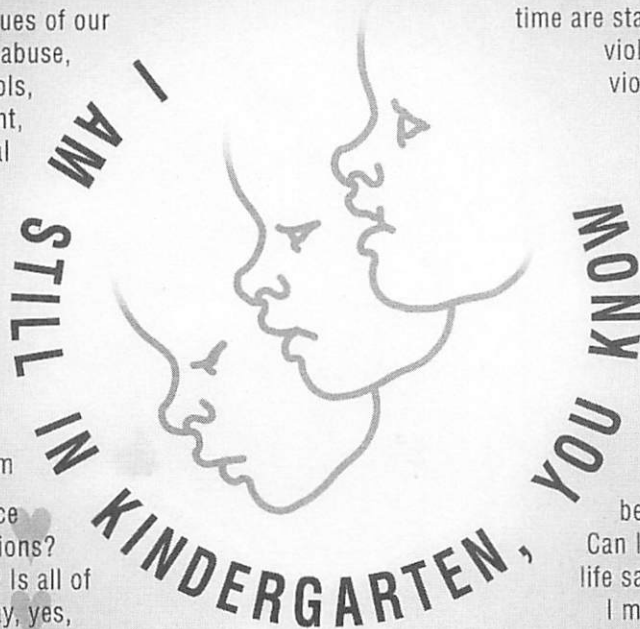
PEACE BE WITH YOU

Vance Engleman, 1999

time are staggering: genocide, violence in media, violence against the violence against violence, gangs, begun, I feel so making a am still in you know.

I would say, those sons- Today I know cause everyone so childish.

between creative vs. Can I respond to violent life sacred? I think so. I must, I will!



I AM STILL IN KINDERGARTEN, YOU KNOW

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I must first do business with my own internal capacity to do harm. Oh, those primordial instincts often prevail. Perhaps by taming my own rage I can look beyond.

But the social issues of our time are staggering: genocide, spouse and child abuse, violence in media, violence in schools, violence against the fragile environment, violence against animals, communal violence, gangs, and I've hardly begun, I feel so incapable of making a difference. For I am still in Kindergarten, you know.

There was a time I would say, let's go get those sons-of-bitches. Today I know such retaliations cause everyone to lose. These seem so childish.

Do I have a choice between creative vs. destructive directions? Can I respond to violent acts nonviolently? Is all of life sacred? I think so. For now I say, Yes, I must, I will!

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Being in Kindergarten was not so bad afterall. It got me to this point, and I am glad.

December 1999

I AM TELLING YOU KINDERGARTEN, YOU KNOW

I tried to study what you know about me so much suffering I really don't know where to begin. I can't find my hand against the wall of life. I feel I am in kindergarten. I have this whole situation and don't know what to do with it. I don't even know what I am doing. I feel I am in kindergarten.

Is there a biological or psychological explanation to what is happening? I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.

I must first do business with my own mind and then with the world. I must first do business with my own mind and then with the world. I must first do business with my own mind and then with the world.

But the social factors of our time are staggering. I feel I am in kindergarten. I feel I am in kindergarten. I feel I am in kindergarten. I feel I am in kindergarten.

There's a lot of things I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know. I don't know.

Do I have a choice between creating an alternative situation? Do I have a choice between creating an alternative situation? Do I have a choice between creating an alternative situation?

I want to be in kindergarten. I want to be in kindergarten. I want to be in kindergarten. I want to be in kindergarten.

It's a struggle in the struggle. I will report this means everyday. I will report this means everyday. I will report this means everyday.

Being in kindergarten was not so bad after all. It got me to this point and I am glad.

December 1987

THE *Ultimate*...

*For as long as space endures
And for as long as living beings remain,
Until then may I too abide,
To dispel the misery of the world.*

—A Tibetan service prayer by the Dalai Lama

A large ant crawled near my desk last night. My foot reached for and stomped on him—not once, but twice! Later, I looked down; and to my great surprise, I noticed a little movement—then more. The ant was still alive, and struggling to survive. I was flooded by a sudden rush of guilt and shame.

Mind you, I'm no Albert Schweitzer, Jesus, or devout Jain (a member of a religion in India which values the sacredness of all life forms). Throughout my life I have stepped on ants, and felt little remorse. Somehow this time it seemed different.

This tiny little pulse of life fought to continue, and I had sought to deny that possibility. For some reason I began reflecting about how many of my human encounters are similar to my relationship with that ant.

Either I nurture, affirm, and enable life in others, or I deny, negate, or crush life in others. These acts can be subtle. I can feel good when I win at the expense of someone else—either in sports or business. I engage in practices common to all of us: one-upmanship; feeling superior; having the last word. Others do the same.

Possibly the only difference between physical, sexual, and emotional abuse is the abuser's choice of weapons. Some hurts are cushioned, much like the carpet for my ant, while others are more like being smashed against concrete.

In an age increasingly defined by an appetite for violence and abuse, the taking of life seems commonplace. The various media eagerly compete to "sanctify" this moral dilemma, and do so with societal blessings.

So I am perplexed: Does life have to be this way? Do we have a choice? Do we and other life forms prefer life over death? Is there an innate human resolve to survive as long as possible—that is, until our will is crushed, or our life is naturally completed? Is the capacity to care and make a difference as innate as the struggle to survive? Is there a difference between necessary forms of pain that come with natural life cycles of birth, struggle, death; acts of nature, such as, earthquake, flood, drought; or the pain that comes from the hurt inflicted on others through lack of respect, awareness, or training?

Could there have been a more positive way to resolve tribal differences in Rwanda? Could domestic abuses of all kinds be drastically reduced? And, what about the daily subtle forms of destruction we inflict on others as ways to satisfy personal greed, ego, and the need for power? Should we choose the moral high ground in pursuit of the sacredness of life? Should we pay as much attention to the more subtle levels of violence as we do to the higher levels of epic proportions? Does human, animal, and environmental life give a damn what we do?

I answer YES to all of these questions. I have decided the roles of nurturer, energizer, affirmer, care-giver, or facilitator best define the course I will take. Somehow I like myself better when I behave this way. Surprisingly, others also like me better!

Who would ever think such a tiny creature would have such a profound impact on my consciousness? I may never be completely free from hurting others, but I am glad that ant caught my attention last night. Reflections about ultimate choices are of critical importance.



December, 1994

Grace is yours and peace,

Vance Engleman

THE ULTIMATE . . .

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December 1994

A MANIFESTO OF HOPE

NUCLEAR WINTER



WHAT IS IT A first strike or combination of first strike and retaliation involving no more than 100 nuclear warheads can create Nuclear Winter. In addition to the primal impact of the bombs which create widespread death and destruction of our cities, clouds of smoke carrying nuclear particles would coalesce and block the Sun's warmth and light from our planet. Within a relatively short period this smoke screen would cover all continents and oceans in both hemispheres. Light from the Sun would be dramatically reduced (say to 1%) and the temperature controls turned down to such a drastic level as to destroy crops and the delicate fabric of independent life forms. Never mind the fact that by now most, if not all, humans would have perished. This planetary condition is Nuclear Winter.

THE MORAL ISSUE There is no ethical, moral or political issue more critical or central to this planet and the human condition than the threat of Nuclear Winter. No religious doctrine or belief, philosophical principle, or personal value can take precedent to this issue. All human cares for self, family, community and society from the dawn of consciousness to this moment will have been wasted, lost and forgotten once the "buttons" have been pressed. Unless this madness is swiftly and permanently addressed and eliminated the potential of total planetary destruction is a profound and dreadful conclusion to our history.

WHY THE ALARM Even if capping of current escalation between superpowers were to take place, there already are some 55,000 nuclear warheads in silos, airplanes, submarines and stockpiles. A major outbreak could engage 10,000 or more of such weapons. Even 50% nuclear reductions could leave the world dangerously vulnerable. Scientists concur that only 100 warheads are necessary for a Nuclear Winter. A human error in technology or interpretation of possible danger could trigger an irreversible nuclear confrontation. Humans in high office have been known to commit dumb and stupid acts out of craziness or some other fault. Nuclear weapons for offensive, strategic, defensive or peaceful purpose will still kill in a massive way regardless of how it is labeled. The argument that "the strongest defense is to have more and better" is pure wish-dreaming over against the stakes of Nuclear Winter. Every past preparation for war has led to war. The next global one will have no winners—all will be losers. If we want peace we must prepare for peace.

RESOURCES AND ACTIONS

1. Subscribe to **Nuclear Winter**. Send \$5.00 to Center on the Consequences of Nuclear War, 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 393-1448
2. Get a Video taped (VHS) copy of Carl Sagan's "Nuclear Winter" from the Educational Film and Video Project, 1529 Josephine, Berkeley, CA 94703, (415) 849-1649; available for loan or purchase. This most provocative presentation should be shown to any audience regardless of size.
3. Purchase paperback book **The Hundreth Monkey** by Ken Keyes, Jr. for both personal and collective study. Read it, preach it, and become part of a grass roots upward shift in consciousness. As Einstein said early in this century, "with the discovery of the atom we must change our way of thinking." Order through local bookstore or Vision Books (Publisher), 790 Commercial Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420.
4. Elect all local, state, and federal officials with the mandate to push immediately for radical (hopefully total) disarmament of nuclear weaponry on a mutually verifiable basis between the U.S., USSR, and other nations.
5. Lobby for a "Law of the Planet" via United Nations and other international agreements that absolutely prohibit governments from developing and employing destructive tools which could have a permanent effect on the wellbeing of this planet.
6. While it is important to defend national boundaries against attack and exploitation it is equally important that the modes of defense be within rational limits. Support a defense policy built upon the acquisition of the best conventional weapons. Such a policy could be linked with cradle-to-the-grave educational programs promoting principles of world peace, and a strong and effective set of economic strategies for global survival and fighting hunger.
7. Frame this manifesto and hang it in a prominent location in your home or office as a reminder of your commitment to be a responsible custodian of the Earth.

We wish we could share a message happier than this one which is draped in dread and fear, but we humans got ourselves into this predicament and it is up to us to get ourselves out, **WE MUST DO SO AND WE CAN.**

GRACE IS YOURS AND PEACE

Vance and Beth Engleman
December, 1985

NUCLEAR WINTER

A MANIFESTO OF HOPE

WHAT IS IT

A first strike or combination of first strike and retaliation involving no more than 100 nuclear warheads can create Nuclear Winter. In addition to the primal impact of the bombs which create widespread death and destruction of our cities, clouds of smoke carrying nuclear particles would coalesce and block the Sun's warmth and light from our planet. Within a relatively short period this smoke screen would cover all continents and oceans in both hemispheres. Light from the Sun would be dramatically reduced (say to 1%) and the temperature controls turned down to such a drastic level as to destroy crops and the delicate fabric of independent life forms. Never mind the fact that by now most, if not all, humans would have perished. This planetary condition is Nuclear Winter.

THE MORAL ISSUE

There is no ethical, moral or political issue more critical or central to this planet and the human condition than the threat of Nuclear Winter. No religious doctrine or belief, philosophical principle, or personal value can take precedent to this issue. All human cares for self, family, community and society from the dawn of consciousness to this moment will have been wasted, lost and forgotten once the "buttons" have been pressed. Unless this madness is swiftly and permanently addressed and eliminated the potential of **total** planetary destruction is a profound and dreadful conclusion to our history.

WHY THE ALARM

Even if capping of current escalation between superpowers were to take place, there already are some 55,000 nuclear warheads in silos, airplanes, submarines and stockpiles. A major outbreak could engage 10,000 or more of such weapons. Even 50% nuclear reductions could leave the world dangerously vulnerable. Scientists consense that only 100 warheads are necessary for a Nuclear Winter. A human error in technology or interpretation of possible danger could trigger an irreversible nuclear confrontation. Humans in high office have been known

to commit dumb and stupid acts out of craziness or some other fault. Nuclear weapons for offensive, strategic, defensive or peaceful purpose will still kill in a massive way regardless of how it is labelled. The argument that “the strongest defense is to have more and better” is pure wish-dreaming over against the stakes of Nuclear Winter. Every past preparation for war has led to war. The next global one will have **no** winners—all will be losers. If we want peace we must prepare for peace.

RESOURCES AND ACTIONS

- I. Subscribe to **Nuclear Winter**. Send \$5.00 to Center on the Consequences of Nuclear War, 1350 New York Avenue, N.W., Third Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005, (202) 393-1448.
- II. Get a Video taped (VHS) copy of Carl Sagan’s “Nuclear Winter” from the Educational Film and Video Project, 1529 Josephine, Berkeley, CA 94703, (415) 849-1649; available for loan or purchase. This most provocative presentation should be shown to any audience regardless of size.
- III. Purchase paperback book **The Hundreth Monkey** by Ken Keyes, Jr. for both personal and collective study. Read it, preach it, and become part of a grassroots upward shift in consciousness. As Einstein said early in this century, “with the discovery of the atom we must change our way of thinking.” Order through local bookstore or Vision Books (Publisher), 790 Commercial Avenue, Coos Bay, Oregon 97420.
- IV. Elect all local, state and federal officials with the mandate to push immediately for radical (hopefully **total**) disarmament of nuclear weaponry on a mutually verifiable basis between the U.S., USSR and other nations.
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December 1985

TAKE A BITE OUT OF POVERTY

The most urgent moral imperative of the new millennium could be the bridges we build between those of us in "comfort", and those in "pain". Only by the fate of a fortunate birth are you and I spared from the daily grind and sufferings of the masses. The ironic twist to this predicament is the fact that the power-centered governments and people of this world have the resources to dramatically reduce global poverty. Here are 23 practical ideas that you, or your group, can implement to close this hideous gap. Decide on an option(s) that is right for you, and just do it.

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN GOVERNMENT

- Pressure governments to forgive third world debts from various aid programs.
- Pressure World Bank, United Nations Development Fund and other relief groups to secure aid funds from being confiscated by corrupt governments/groups.
- Lobby for increased aid support to countries with sensible economic policies in place.
- Lobby government not to use tax money to pay farmers not to produce crops. Pay them to produce and distribute excess foods to poor nations at, or below cost.
- Pressure government not to include food and medical supplies in sanctions against unfriendly nations.
- Make sure your state provides child protective services after welfare is phased out that include travel costs for work, childcare and school breakfast/lunch programs.
- Lobby for dramatic increase in the Federal Youth Corps involving underprivileged youth in job training and service projects.
- Lobby to maintain affirmative action programs.
- Lobby to create free health insurance for poor families/individuals.
- Elect only government officials who share these values.

GET INVOLVED IN PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS (Public, Private, Non-Profit)

- Encourage companies and organizations to sponsor projects that address "pain" in their communities.
- Support family planning programs.
- Support literacy programs.
- Pressure religious groups to do more to implement their values of love, compassion, forgiveness and service to those in need.
- Join a philanthropic organization that has a mission to serve the most needy.
- Support programs that provide skills for self-sufficiency.
- Support programs/projects for the poor that have low or no administrative costs derived from financial contributions.

PERFORM INDIVIDUAL ACTS OF KINDNESS

- Volunteer your time and talent to a worthy cause.
- Join the Peace Corps, or some similar group.
- Designate part of your Will or Estate Plan to a worthy cause.
- Adopt a homeless baby or child.
- Donate your money and surplus goods to groups like the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Goodwill, Food Banks or other groups.
- Your idea: _____

PEACE,

Vance Engleman, December, 2002

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December 2002

HOPE



Must humankind preoccupy itself with nameless fears, lost dreams, monumental hungers, misdirected decisions? Perhaps the **final** blow against life is to be without options—without room to stretch—without promise of hope. To many, the future seems closed.

DO WE ACQUIESCE? [REDACTED]

Can any **one** life forge a more human condition by easing the pain and needless suffering of the deeply wounded? Can **one** person make a difference when committees, associations, communities, governments, so often seem helpless, ineffective, impotent? This presents a most substantial dilemma.

SHOULD WE PROTEST? [REDACTED]

Cannot we posit our bodies and minds and wills as bridges to free the trapped? Is this not **the** moral issue of our time?

FORGE A NEW DIRECTION! [REDACTED]

One **can** choose a stance of perpetual objection against all of life's dehumanizing ongoingness, suppression, madness. Solitary decision is the beginning of **all** new journeys, searches for excellence, hope-filled trends, fresh approaches that work.

ACCEPT THE GIFT OF CHOICE! [REDACTED]

Crowding into our aloneness is the sense that this deep inner longing is shared in some way by many significant others. The vision can be to create battle plans, expand networks, frame coalitions, build models—all demonstrations toward a new synthesis of care.

FORM A COTERIE OF GREATNESS! [REDACTED]

We can and we shall decide again and again that the appropriate Word and Deed **will** be delivered and the earth saved!

GRACE IS YOURS, [REDACTED]

and PEACE

VANCE ENGLEMAN DECEMBER, 1983
Special appreciation to Jean Moore for editing

HOPE AND PEACE

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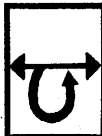




December 1983

TEARS OF PASSION FOR THE UNAWAKE AND THE DEEPLY WOUNDED

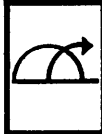
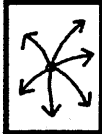

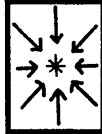

This art form is an attempt to allow you to reflect upon the interior and exterior forms of self development and social engagement seen as:

	THE GIVEN	THE RESPONSE	THE WORD	THE VALUE	THE DECISION
the birthing of THE INTERIOR SELF The Call	Eventing Awakening 	Appropriate Despair 	Enhancing Significance 	Probing Depths 	The New Contemplative 
	Embracing broken illusions as new autonomy	Embracing the necessary as filled with hope.	Embracing your life as good and unrepeatable	Embracing the depth human problem behind problems	Embracing the future with depth insight

The enabling of the interior self to be called into lucidity and awakening.

	THE GIVEN	THE RESPONSE	TEARS OF PASSION	Expanding Journey	The New Vocation
the birthing of THE EXTERIOR SELF The Preparation	Embracing Ambiguity 	Recovering Intimacy 			
	Developing a love for holding the tensions	Developing the capacity to feel deeply with others	Developing care for others hurt and lack of selfhood	Developing a sense of risk and adventure	Developing a style of intense caring on behalf of others

The developing of the exterior self to be prepared to respond with passion.

	THE GIVEN	THE RESPONSE	THE WORD	THE VALUE	THE DECISION
the birthing of THE COMMON LIFE The March	Global Discontinuity 	Creating Options 	Sheer Celebration 	Genuine Corporateness 	The Incomplete Form 
	Building a desire and hunger for these times	Building options for those without	Building delight and dance into sharing	Building a network of spirit colleagues	Inviting those you touch to build the comprehensive

The building of the common life that's necessary to forge a new world.

TEARS OF PASSION TURNED TO HOPE FOR THE WORLD

Deep gratitude to Joseph W. Mathews, Dean of the Ecumenical Institute: Chicago for his comment last summer: "when are we going to shed a tear for those who are unawake." And to Jean Vanier, head of L'Arch: Paris and author of *Enough Room for Joy*, for his message last May in Portland concerning the struggle of wounded persons. This message is my reflection and response to the words of these two great men. May these windows of verbal and visual images explode options of new possibility for you during this season of awakening!

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The birthing of THE INTERIOR SELF

The Call

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December 1975

DID YOU HAPPEN TO SEE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHILD IN THE WORLD? ...and if you did was she laughing, crying...?

An Exercise In Contemplation, Meditation and Prayer

For contemplation: Free your mind of all thoughts except the child as you gaze into her eyes for several minutes.

For meditation: With focus on the child, pause, take a deep breath and reflect after reading each sentence.

When we were born we could have been this little girl. But, we must suffice to simply stare at her and wonder what if. Is she happy, angry, sad, glad? Her contemplative gaze does not give much of a clue. Is she hungry, full, healthy, frail? Again, we cannot be certain. Does she have a future full of possibilities, i.e. career, travel, comforts? Probably not. Yet, she is beautiful in her own way.

As we look into the eyes of the billions—86% of the global population who are at, or below the poverty line—the question is, what role do the remaining 14% have for this girls predicament, and the countless nameless ones whose eyes have not encountered ours? Is every person alone to fend for themselves, or is there some sort of social responsibility for the “haves” to share the resources of our world with the “have nots”? These questions have been raised many times throughout history by thoughtful well intended individuals and groups. But, the hideous gap widens.

Something is dreadfully wrong with this trend. There are enough cumulative resources on this planet when properly distributed could dramatically close this gap. No one should have to endure the fate of needless human suffering due to birth, physical pain, hunger, or emotional emptiness.



Oh Calcutta! © Copyright By Vance Engleman

Somehow the world is going to find a way. We must not give up pursuing ideas, and causes that can make a difference to this little girl, and all the unnamed ones. In Nelson Mandela's 1994 Inaugural speech he said: *“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. ...our playing small does not help the world.”* All our intellectual, and theological wisdom is for naught if it does not connect to help shape this girl's future into one of hopes realized. We

can check out anytime, but we cannot escape. We must not quit. We must not fail. This little girls face could be our own.

For prayer: Articulate what you feel to be the needs of this child, and those like her. Articulate what you need to make a difference for this child, and all she symbolizes. As you can tell, prayer is a call to action!

Peace Be With You
Vance Engleman December, 2000

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December 2000

READERS' COMMENTS

"In this unique book three decades of Vance Engleman's compassionate celebration of life are artfully gifted to help build nonviolent ashrams of soul and service within and among all who read it."

– **Glenn D. Paige**, Ph.D. President, Center for Global Nonviolence, Hawaii

"Vance Engleman's reflection arise from his understanding and world experience of life, living and spirituality. This book is a place where people from many cultures can recognize a sense of community and shared humanity – at a time when people everywhere are seeking peace and affirmation of eternal values."

– **Judy Smith-Davis**, Ph.D. Worldwide Liaison Officer, Division of International Special Education and Services, The Council for Exceptional Children, USA

"This book is a precious gift from Vance Engleman to all who take the adventures of journeying through its pages. This is true of both its challenging insightful contents and the experimental art forms that bring these messages alive. As a bicultural writer he brings truths that reflect the wisdom of both the East and the West. His recognition that justice is the only strong foundation for transforming love, reflects the spirit of prophetic leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. This collection of succinct statements from his writings over many years will now bless countless readers in India as well as in his homeland. This blessing will come as the book opens doorways to profound humanness for those searching for spiritually empowered wholeness in today's broken but birthing world."

– **Howard Cinebnell**, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Psychology and Counselling, Claremont School of Theology, USA

"Mr. Engleman speaks of our profound humanness. Every year my spirit is awakened in some way through Vance's writings. He speaks of self growth and inner peace. He raises my awareness of humankind to create Social Justice by being the caregivers of our world."

– **Sue Butler**, Vice President, Bank of Texas, USA

"A current advertisement being run by the India Tourist Bureau reads, 'Only one country can change the way you see the whole world.' Vance Engleman's new book will prove for you that this view is right on the mark. Like the gorgeous picture of elephants wading in a great river, Vance's writings will give you a global perspective on your own profound humanness."

– **Dr. Arthur Brandenburg**, United Methodist Church Superintendent, Philadelphia, USA.

"Vance Engleman through these brilliant and well-written pieces gently but 'forcefully' reminds us of the essential of humanness and hopes that it will not be lost in the wilderness of the emerging competitive, material-minded and hi-tec civilization, thank you Vance."

– **Prof. Neelakanta Radhakrishnan**, Chairman Indian Council for Gandhian Studies, New Delhi