

GLOBAL PRIORITIES PRESENTATION

This particular Council has brought forth the imagery of the great leap. It is interesting to note that, as we move into 1980 with the intent of preparing ourselves for the next four years, we enter into one leap year to end in another leap year.

That imagery of the leap, as ~~the~~ leap of faith, reminded me of a story by an English writer, Arnold Lund, in which he spoke of his great leap of faith. He described it in an experience he had when he was doing some mountain climbing in the Alps. He had been told that if he saw that he wasn't going to be able to get back to the village at the end of the day, there was a little hut up on the mountains in which he could pass the night so he wouldn't freeze to death. They gave him directions and signposts so he could arrive at the hut, but warned him that he would encounter a crevice, but not to worry. He could leap over that crevice, except on some days when the sun had been shining too much and the crevice might be a bit wider. So as he was mountain climbing, he noticed that the sun was starting to set and saw that he would not be able to get back to the village. So he started looking for the signposts and, sure enough, darkness came on. It was a dark and cloudy night with no moon. He was walking with his snowshoes on when suddenly he came up to the crevice and he said, "Oh, there's nothing under me!" And then he described what his experience was.

Here he was in that pitch black darkness, facing a crevice, not able to see to the other side, wondering if it might be a little bit wider that day, and trying to decide whether he should stay there in the security, and yet the certainty of freezing to death, or whether he would take the risk and leap into the unknown. And that has been some of the death, terror and life urgency that we have been experiencing. We are being beckoned to leap into the unknown.

In presenting the Global Priorities, we would like to rehearse our understanding of Global Priorities. These are Priorities relative to building the earth. In the Panchayat visits around the world last year, we saw that the Global Priorities as decor symbolized the fact that, grounded as we are in the local, we are very much related to the whole mission of the globe. Even in yesterday's reflection on writing priorities, we heard that some have used those Global Priorities in their weekly maneuvers. Others have used them by asking the question: "What Priorities have lit up for you during this week?" Another insight that we saw was that the Priorities are like keystones. They are the keystones to move the whole world.

As we sit here in front of this picture of the earthrise, people keep telling us that they want to get a photograph of us sitting on the moon with the earthrise behind us. What I have been telling myself is that we are standing on the moon, and seeing the new earth dawn in front of us as we have been observing you and hearing the reports of a new earth emerging before us. We present these Priorities and, at the same time, we invite you to help us in polishing them up, especially with the poetry and the focus that has emerged from this Council.

I have tried to speak about these 14 Priorities looking from the vantage point of the moon. Standing there, we see this planet circling around. The

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first six Priorities deal with space. I put them in the symbolic, poetic category of spirit space. Then, there are two that seem to be beckoning to go down and to incarnate myself into the search. I call these two the spirit search. Finally, I reach out to discover and to touch many other things that are around me, and so I call the last six Priorities the spirit outreach.

I will name the 14 Priorities and then I will walk through them with you:

1. THE TWO MILLION AWAKENMENT PHASING
2. SIX NATIONS DEMONSTRATION CLUSTERS
3. STAGING THE 2500
4. USA MASS IMPACT CAMPAIGN
5. THE KENYAN WEDGE
6. MOVING THROUGH THE 24
7. MYTHOLOGY OF THE WAY
8. THE YEAR OF GLOBAL RESEARCH
9. THE HUMAN FACTOR DOCUMENTATION
10. MOBILIZING CAMPAIGN FORCES
11. THE NATIONAL AUTHORIZATION SHIELD
12. 54 AREA PENETRATION SCHEME
13. URBAN STRATEGY PILOTS
14. HISTORIC RELIGIOUS ACCESS

Now, let's walk through these to get an impression of what we see behind these thrusts.

1. THE TWO MILLION AWAKENMENT PHASING. We sense that we now have an image of the real possibility of reaching all two million villages. There are concrete strategies, maneuvers and programs for our awakening sweep across the continent and across the world. We are starting to sense that in every continent and every local place there is a reaching out in very new, dramatic ways to reach the two million villages.

2. SIX NATIONS DEMONSTRATION CLUSTERS. I am going to keep my eye on SEAPAC. There are three nations there: the Phillipines, Indonesia and Korea. Then, in continent Africa, Zambia; in continent NAME, there is Egypt; in continent Sub-Asia, we sense something new in Area Madras. This emerging element is a convergence. It has to do with replication and yet we are frightened to

use that word because it brings in images of the specific experiment that we launched two years ago in Maharashtra. But something new may be just breaking through--a new way of reaching the two million.

3. STAGING THE 2500. Two years ago, we spoke of the Mighty 250. Last year, our Priority was the 250 Village Pearls. Now we leap into ~~the~~ number 2500. Doesn't that dramatize some of the fear and some of the darkness that we face? How is it possible to take that gigantic leap? We are so unclear as to the final outcome ~~and of~~ the strategic maneuvers required to do that, but yet so clear as to the present anguish, pain and glory of our colleagues with the people of India--Mother Earth is so bountiful.

4. USA MASS IMPACT CAMPAIGN. We have come to the point where we are in a position to do massive impact as we experienced the last year in Mississippi. This type of impact campaign is possible across the United States. On behalf of the world, they are to raise a sign and show the way of how to break through to the two million.

5. THE KENYAN WEDGE. We liked this one especially. It was perhaps the first ah-hah. THE KENYAN WEDGE! That phrase had the poetry from our own memory of the wedge blade of history. The black giant awakens and begins dancing and leaping high for the whole world to see. And we, as a movement, as an Order, have decided that a new replication with the learnings and the pain of Maharashtra will now be taken to Kenya. Do-ment of a nation is what we are speaking of. So listen to the drumbeats during the coming year.

6. MOVING THROUGH THE 24. Here I would like to tell a story. Two years ago, the 24 projects were called together to report as a group. The excitement of the first ring--a global band of social demonstration. To close that session, somebody said, "Let's sing the "Social Demonstration Love Song," Then someone even went further and said, "Let's hold hands." I said, "My God, what's going on?" There I was holding hands and we began to sing the "Social Demonstration Love Song." I started around that ring, and I couldn't keep on singing because I knew. I was already experiencing it--the loss of weight, the worms inside me, the fatigue, and yet the tremendous spirit that was in that pain--the glory of those 24, of just seeing my colleagues and knowing that we could dare to sing a love song when it was actually our death song that would bring forth life. So today, we sense the anguish of detachment in the midst of radical engagement. Every one of those projects are radically engaged in this deep love affair, and then suddenly, there is to be a separation. Yet we sense that it is not a separation, but that it is rather a child coming of age. We speak of the pushing through of our band of 24. We are going to need a new song that will show that these 24 have gone from being loved to loving service of others.

Now, you can imagine being out in this moon country and looking at all of these fascinating things that are happening. It is like fireworks. Who wouldn't want to be part of that kind of fiesta? I sense myself just jumping into this festivity and explosion of life. The next two I put under that rubric of the spirit search.

7. Having taken that great leap into the midst of the unknown, number seven is the MYTHOLOGY OF THE WAY. How will we articulate for ourselves and

for all people the story of the Way? The Journey to the East is going to come back in a profound way and I am sure that we will discover anew the secret of brother Leo--of service, of emptiness and of fulfillment.

8. Also part of that spirit search is number eight, THE YEAR OF GLOBAL RESEARCH. Last year, we were in 108 locations. I didn't count them, but I am trusting Lyn that she went around the globe and counted all of them. She said the easy way to remember that number was that we were in 54 human development projects and in 54 other locations. That number 54 speaks to us. When you add the three new houses, we have a global field research interchange network of 111 locations. Something mysterious is going on in this kind of research. It is indicating that we are the "ones" that are going to do this sort of research. Everyone a researcher, not just a little band in Research Centrum. It is everyone of us that are in that challenge.

I have to tell you a little story on this category of spirit outreach. I don't know whether you have heard how the Panchayat reached me. I was in the middle of the Amazon jungle in a little town called Riberalta. It is a fascinating place where two rivers come together, Rio Orton and Rio Madre de Dios. We were having a fascinating time with the villagers. One evening they did the timeline of their village, and finished by creating a song from the title they invented, doing gridding and all kinds of exciting things there in the jungle. I received a radio call from Cochabamba that was an emergency call from Chicago. I thought of the consult we had just finished a week before and all sorts of horrible things crossed my mind. I was not going to return the call, but what could I do? I couldn't get out of the jungle. Then they said it was Lyn Mathews who was calling. I said, "Well, I guess I should honor the symbolic." The next day this priest friend who is a ham radio operator talked to another radio operator in Chicago so I could talk to Lyn. It was a very poor connection and I couldn't understand her. The priest had to tell me what this lady was saying through the static. He said, "She is saying something about a panacea? Can you be a member of the panacea?" I said, "Tell her that my assignment is to be Latin American coordinator for the Maryknolls. How can I do both things?" The answer back was, "It won't interfere with your work." I didn't realize that I was having at that moment an event of convergence. For years I have been walking the tightrope, being a trapeze dancer, a sort of split personality. Suddenly, it doesn't even interfere!

9. This reaching out is the ninth Priority. THE HUMAN FACTOR DOCUMENTATION is reaching out around the planet, even in the jungle, to local communities. How is it that we can document this time of resurgence, this convergence that is catapulting mankind into the great leap--the human factor?

10. MOBILIZING THE CAMPAIGN FORCES. In that outreach, we go out to the spirit deeps of vocational decision to mobilize forces for the spirit movement. We know it is happening all over with the drama of those **forces that** are emerging from India and from other places. I would keep my eye on Latin America. For years, our contradiction had been how are we going to get local troops? Suddenly, some ten people are, in one year, going out to the globe. It is not a question of just beckoning people, but as we are marching, they come along and, as we walk together, we are training them as we move along the Way.

11. THE NATIONAL AUTHORIZATION SHIELD. Now, this did not come from the Council as such except perhaps in the 25th Birthday Celebration. Lyn described the 25th Birthday Celebration as an evening of gradual unveiling. As she started to describe it, I thought she was describing a strip tease. She said, "Well, first we are going to take a little bit off here and then a little bit off there." When suddenly you stand exposed like that before the world, you raise the question of who are going to be the guardians that protect you from the attack? In the Other World charts, we had an image--it is "like waking up and standing naked in Times Square." Now they even know how we live, how we serve our dishes, how we have teams. And you say, that's a little bit too much! So, we sense that in every nation in which we work, it is going to be a priority to find these national shields, these people that are going to protect us as people start attacking us. We have to reach out to find these guardians and to nurture them, and to transform them from guardians into guardian angels.

12. 54 AREA PENETRATION SCHEME. Maybe unconsciously we were already living the symbol of 54 projects in 54 locations, but it was during this Council, we sensed, that the concrete plan of 54 in 1984 came into clear focus. With this is the need for gridding research and total penetration of and responsibility for all the 54 areas on the planet. It is frightening when the chief of Salani comes here and says, as he presented us with the gift of the mat, "I have given this mat to the Queen of England. I have given this mat to the Secretary of China, and I give this mat to you," in three symbolic places. What would this mean, if we needed anything to be able to call up and say, "We have a mat like yours. Maybe we could get together."

13. URBAN STRATEGY PILOTS. Amid the skyscrapers and slums of the world, we will have to begin probing as to how we get a pincer movement from the two million villages to urban centers in which we are living. This will be in order to have a way of reaching out to all the cities--the megalopolis that Mumford spoke of which is a manifestation of the cultural revolution of our times.

14. HISTORIC RELIGIOUS ACCESS. The outreach to the religious turns out to be, not the last Priority, but the foundational Priority. It is going to our roots, and to the roots of all of mankind, through the classical religions in our own heritage, to learn and be enriched as well as to serve.

So this year, 1979-1980, is a pivotal year for the Order and a dramatic year for the Spirit Movement. The last thing I did last night was to look up the word "priority" in the dictionary. I was struck not by the definition, but by the reference they gave to another word a few spaces up in the column, the word "prior." Both words are intimately related, and I would suggest that to be a global prior is to embody the global priorities this year.

The Panchayat presents this listing of our Global Priorities, 1979-1980, to the global priors on behalf of the whole of the Order: Ecumenical

NOTE: The poetic titles are being refined so that the final wording of the priorities will be different.