

The Cycle of Conferences

Earth Stewardship

Project date: November 2006 – November 2007

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Dear Co-workers,

We have been focusing on the Geneva Accord and peace in the Middle East since February 2004 and much has taken place since that time. Crisis and tension still overshadow this beleaguered part of the world, while emergence into peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians based on a pragmatic settlement remains elusive. However, as demonstrated by the crumbling of the Berlin Wall and the cessation of hostilities by the IRA in Northern Ireland, it is never certain when a turning point will emerge in situations of conflict and isolationism; and when it does, it can be sudden and unexpected. Finding a solution to the Middle East conflict is of such vital importance to the whole planet, that we will be maintaining our focus on the principles of the Geneva Accord for the foreseeable future.

Of course, there are many other crisis points emerging in human consciousness, one of the most notable being the growing concern over climate change with overwhelming scientific evidence indicating its alarming rapidity. Al Gore's documentary film, *An Inconvenient Truth*, is an outstanding initiative that addresses this issue and, along with a host of other ecological crusades, it is awakening humanity to the polluted condition of the planet, inspiring us all to assume responsibility for the wise use of the planet's resources for all the inhabitants of the world and for future generations.

In view of this awakening, we would like to initiate another Cycle of Conferences project to run in parallel with the Geneva Accord for the next twelve months on the theme of *Earth Stewardship*. We have deliberately broadened the theme from a sole focus on climate change and global warming in order to home in on the causative states of human consciousness that are contributing to these outer effects. In this way we can energise the positive qualities and principles that need to replace outmoded and harmful trends of thought, desire and actions.

As students of the Ageless Wisdom will be aware, there are also many esoteric factors currently at play out of reach of human influence and causing much disruption to the outer form of the planet. Just as the human form is not a principle and is subject to ailments arising from the strains and stresses of the conflict between the soul and the personality, so on a larger scale, the form of the planet is subject to upheavals resulting from the evolutionary movements of great Lives beyond the human level. Of course, this is not an excuse for inaction, for humanity is a centre of force distribution in the body of God, and the right dissemination of the light, love and power for which we are responsible can ameliorate conditions and help usher in a new age of stabilisation and harmony. At present, mass greed and selfishness are significant factors in exacerbating planetary upheaval through the pollution created by wanton excess.

As Al Gore points out in his movie, we all have a direct responsibility for the state of the planet – we all need to put our own house in order first and foremost. And as is stated in *Esoteric Healing* by Alice Bailey, “It is interesting and saddening to note that that which at present goes out of the average house is the refuse that is undesirable—this is the correspondence to that which is selfish and sad and the demand for the satisfaction of personal needs and desires.” pp 39-40. This gives us much food for thought and leads us to reflect on how we can live our lives more attuned to the cyclical and regenerative systems and seasons of nature.

A wonderful initiative that expresses ideals that are central to this new Cycle of Conferences project is *The Earth Charter* – a declaration of fundamental principles for building a just, sustainable, and peaceful global society for the 21st century. “Created by the largest global consultation process ever associated with an international declaration, and endorsed by thousands of organisations representing millions of individuals, the Earth Charter seeks to inspire in all peoples a sense of global interdependence

and shared responsibility for the well-being of the human family and the larger living world. The Earth Charter is an expression of hope and a call to help create a global partnership at a critical juncture in history." A copy of the Earth Charter is enclosed/attached.

One of the many eminent servers working to promote the Earth Charter is Mikhail Gorbachev, the founding President of Green Cross International, an organisation set up to "apply the medical emergency response model of the Red Cross International to ecological issues and expedite solutions to environmental problems that transcend national boundaries." The mission statement of this organisation eloquently encapsulates the spirit of earth stewardship: "We desperately need to recognize that we are the guests not the masters of nature and adopt a new paradigm for development, based on the costs and benefits to all people, and bound by the limits of nature herself rather than the limits of technology and consumerism."

With these thoughts for reflection in mind, we begin our project on Earth Stewardship. At the same time, we note an international conference on the environment in Nairobi, Kenya from 6th to the 17th November. This is the second meeting of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, an agreement set up in 1997. Countries that ratify the protocol (of which there are now over 160) commit themselves to mandatory targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and to help developing countries attain sustainable development. Between 6,000 and 10,000 representatives of governments, non-governmental organisations, private sector and academia are expected to attend the Nairobi conference, which will include discussions of new scientific findings and experiences in implementing climate change policies. This coming together of intelligent minds to address a crisis situation provides a wonderful opportunity to set this project in motion. Any information and articles concerning this meeting will be posted on the Cycle of Conferences weblog, and email participants will receive notification of future conferences, of which there are several, in good time.

The seed thought we have chosen to work with in the visualisation on Earth Stewardship eloquently summarises humanity's responsibility for the planet and we trust it will serve as a source of inspiration and fruitful pondering for this Cycle of Conferences project:

"Consider specific ways and means through which the developing sense of universality will awaken humanity to its destined task as the intelligent, loving intermediary between the higher states of planetary consciousness and the sub-human kingdoms."

Whether you choose to replace your focus on the Geneva Accord initiative with this new project, or to work with both in parallel, we anticipate with joy our continuing group work together in service of the Divine Plan.

In lighted group companionship,

Headquarters Group
Cycle of Conferences

Earth Stewardship: Visualisation form, Thoughts for Pondering, Earth Charter & its origin and history

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