



A regular bulletin highlighting the energy of goodwill in world affairs

## BIRTH PANGS OF A NEW CONSCIOUSNESS

**WE LIVE IN A TIME OF RAPID CHANGE** – change which includes shifts in consciousness, with corresponding new trends and influences. Two important energies which are becoming more available are that of organization and of synthesis. Partly because they are relatively unfamiliar, humanity is still learning to apply these energies, and sometimes the results are less than ideal. So for example, synthesis is a unifying force, but can be used as a regimenting, standardising force, and this can work out in creating rather rigid bureaucracies which are unable to cope with common sense exceptions. This idea is explored further in *Fluid Bureaucracies for a Creative Age*.

Another important dimension of the growth in human consciousness is the capacity to understand events and their underlying causes more clearly. Not only is the reach of the media increasing, but public consciousness is becoming ever more discerning in its grasp of what media presents to it. With this ability to understand comes also increased responsibility for our words. Speaking out, voicing an opinion, is a potent form of action, and one which is becoming more available

### **The foundation of an enlightened public opinion**

The mobilising of goodwill is closely linked with the power of public opinion. There may be many reasons for linking goodwill to public opinion, but one which especially speaks to the current times is that we cannot count upon our leaders, particularly in government, to resolve all world problems. The issues are so pervasive and of such critical importance that the resolution of the problems lies in nothing less than the transformation of human consciousness. And that cannot be brought about only by the passage of a few, or even many, laws; nor can it come about solely through the drafting of treaties and agreements or the ratcheting up of the police and military forces. As well, such is the nature of politics that our elected officials are subject to the pressures placed on them by their constituencies and by the electoral process itself. That means

as electronic forms of communication expand and diversify. Coupled with this is the growth in the individual's sense of self, of the unique contribution he or she can bring to any public discussion of important issues. There is a danger that this growth in the number, force and distinctiveness of voices may become a clamorous roar which drowns out common sense. The antidote to this is for all concerned to approach discussion with goodwill as the keynote – allowing differing opinions not just to be noted, but fully heard and appreciated. *Goodwill – the Foundation of an Enlightened Public Opinion* and *The Crisis of Disclosure* explore these ideas in more depth.

The idea of the Common Good is one which is becoming increasingly important as humanity recognizes the limits of planetary resources and the necessity for sharing them, and economist Jeffrey Sachs' book on this theme is reviewed. Also included is a brief introduction to the World Goodwill blog, *Goodwill in Action*, and news about the updating of the booklet *Techniques of Goodwill*.

that public opinion has a great power and responsibility in determining the direction of government.

An informed public opinion requires free speech, the full participation of the citizenry, and inclusiveness of different points of view. But, at the same time, public opinion must rest upon a foundation based on truth. As the late American Senator Patrick Moynihan once said, everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but they're not entitled to their own set of facts. Truth is often multi-dimensional, and in these polarizing times it behooves all participants in the public discourse to remember that nuance and complexity of thought pave the way to the recognition of the essential simplicity that is pure Truth – a simplicity reached by the broad avenue of an inclusive

Please note: the text of the articles is drawn from the latest "World View" articles that are, since the end of 2009, being posted monthly to the World Goodwill home page on our website ([www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org)) An archive of past World Views is also available.

### *In this issue*

**The foundation of an enlightened public opinion**

**The crisis of disclosure**

**Fluid bureaucracies for a creative age**

**Goodwill in Action – a World Goodwill blog**

**Book review**

**Techniques of Goodwill**

**World Invocation Day**

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point of view, not by the narrow path confined by the myopia of fanaticism.

“Say what you mean, and mean what you say” goes the familiar truism. But added to that must be the reminder that the public debate depends upon an atmosphere of respect for those who hold different views and a refusal to give in to a mindset that sees all conflict and crisis as “Armageddon” – as apocalyptic in magnitude. To the citizens still among us who remember the World War, the current atmosphere may well seem to have descended into hyperbole, such is the nature of current public opinion. Demonization of those who hold contrary views, vitriol and not-so-veiled threats characterise too much of the public discourse today.

A positive aspect of the environmental movement is that there is now broad recognition of the threat posed to the environment by the intrusion of toxic elements. Now, humanity needs to recognise that toxicity can also pervade the mental and emotional atmosphere, poisoning the realms in which thoughts and feelings are formed, and

## **The crisis of disclosure**

As rapid communication systems have increased in speed and capacity, a natural corollary has been greater accessibility to information that was previously concealed and the opportunity to disseminate it to all corners of the earth. With a single, effortless click on the computer keyboard, information that can have profound and far-reaching consequences becomes available to all. This demonstrates the force of information and naturally raises questions of discrimination and responsibility. Should a piece of information be dispersed widely and freely in the interest of the greater good? Or is the greater good better served by it remaining private and confidential? Are we to welcome the overall trend to disclosure as the harbinger of a new age of transparency based on “the right to know” and freedom of expression, or decry it as the end of privacy, trust and confidentiality?

There is much debate as to what should and what shouldn't be revealed, what compromises individual privacy and safety, national and international security, and what undermines journalistic freedom. The motives behind acts of disclosure are sometimes indeterminate, and the immediate consequences of publication can cloud the issues disclosed and the long term view, but the debate as to what serves the greatest good for the greatest number is sharpening humanity's discrimination, widening its perspective and deepening its sense of responsibility. All in all, whatever the rights and wrongs of each act of disclosure may be, we have moved into an era when “everything is being shouted from the rooftops”, leaving little choice other than to

creating a pervasive toxic atmosphere in which emotional instability and ignorance can thrive.

“Be impeccable with your word” – so says one of “The Four Agreements”, proposed by Don Miguel Ruiz. Speak with integrity, say only what you mean, make sure it stands up to the test of truthfulness as far as you can perceive, and speak with an unwavering recognition of the essential humanity that unites us all. To “Bind together that which has been separated” is the heartfelt aspiration of all people of goodwill today. It's a response to the inpouring energy of synthesis and it will not be denied – not by terrorism or hatred, nor by violence or fear. We can all subject the views we hold to a scrupulous examination conducted in the light of goodwill and love of truth. We can all train ourselves to express our thoughts with language that can submit to the tests of reason and understanding, rather than strengthening the barriers of suspicion, criticism and pride – that quiet little voice within which says “I'm right! I know I'm right!” Those are the tell-tale signs of glamour, and they act as a deadly force to the growth of goodwill so needed in these transitional times.

work with the crises that disclosures bring and we will need to adjust accordingly.

Now that the means to global disclosure exists, the number of disclosures, be they acts of service or subversion, are likely to increase if anything. So taking this for granted, how is the human family going to adapt to ever increasing exposure and where is this leading in the long run? Putting aside the rights and wrongs of each act of disclosure, from a greater perspective, could it be that this is all part of a messy redemptive process where aspects of humanity's subconscious are starting to rise to the surface of the racial consciousness for inspection? Is this process the essential precursor to powerful disclosures of a spiritual kind? History bears witness to the devastating effect that powerful religious truths and principles can have when impacting the impure psyche. Such truths can lead to misinterpretation, fanaticism and conflict due to the inability to assimilate and express them correctly. This explains why moral upheavals have to take place prior to enlightenment of any kind. Deep in the psyche of humanity such a healing process appears to be taking place.

In the Ageless Wisdom teachings an ancient healing law summarises it thus: “Perfection calls imperfection to the surface. Good drives evil always from the form of man in time and space.” This is not to place any discloser of information on a pedestal as an angel of redemption, for that requires completely pure unselfish motives and this is rare; many acts of disclosure are ill-judged and sometimes border on the anarchic. It is more the case that the discloser is simply a

factor in a much greater process whereby facets of human consciousness are being unearthed for scrutiny and discarding where necessary prior to the reception and anchoring of higher, spiritual principles in the human race. The psychological phases of this healing process are crisis, tension and emergence. This can be seen in the following sequence of events – the crisis of disclosure engenders tension in a flurry of damage limitation exercises and deliberation as to what course of action must be taken to ensure that it doesn't happen again. There is wide public outcry and debate and, imperceptible though it may be at the time, there emerges a slight shift in the sense of values towards the good, the beautiful and the true.

The Ageless wisdom teaches that hidden spiritual truth is disclosed when the receiving consciousness resonates in harmony with it, but until that time it has to be withheld for the safety of the would-be recipient. Although all spiritual secrets will eventually be known, the timing has to be right. What to disclose and what to withhold, when to speak and when to remain silent is the skill in action to be acquired

### **Fluid bureaucracies for a creative age**

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfils Himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world."

*Tennyson*

Embedded as we are within our societies and ways of life, it can be difficult to step outside and view changes in consciousness, especially major changes, in a dispassionate, detached way. But it is important to attempt to do this, in order to sense the direction of change, and possible obstacles. This is especially important at a time of transition such as we face now, where human consciousness is being revitalised, with all the attendant disruption in existing institutions. Sensing such changes within society is a difficult matter: and human beings have an inherent tendency to resist change, especially when their livelihood, and perhaps even their whole sense of identity, is invested in the current system. But consciousness is evolving, and humanity must learn to adapt its institutions and modes of life to accommodate this central fact.

One major obstacle to change is the fossilisation of systems of thought and their associated institutions – whether religious, political or social. This may be inevitable for any ideology or theology which exists for any great length of time. Because a system of thought emerges at a particular moment, it will inevitably be in dialogue with the social, political or religious circumstances of its birth. It may even emerge specifically to address some of those circumstances. When those circumstances change to any significant degree, then either the system has to change, or it will begin to look increasingly "out of joint" with the times. Sometimes this

when sharing any kind of information with others. We live in a time when people are becoming more sensitive and intuitional, and if mass telepathy is accepted as an evolutionary possibility, what are the consequences of each being able to correctly sense if not actually read another's thoughts? It is clear that our secret motives and intentions will become known and so we need to address our thoughts, speech and actions at source. This is achieved through the condition of harmlessness. As the ancient healing law earlier referred to continues: The method used by the Perfect One and that employed by Good is harmlessness. This is not negative but perfect poise, a completed point of view and divine understanding."

As crises of disclosure come thick and fast, humanity must learn the lesson of harmlessness. For it is this quality that energises the discriminating mind and which will eventually lead us out of darkness into a radiant future. Disclosures of the higher, spiritual kind may then pour forth enabling humanity's evolutionary potential to develop accordingly.

will lead to a dramatic collapse, such as was seen with the demise of communism in Russia and Eastern Europe.

The fossilisation of systems of thought occurs over long timescales, and so may be difficult to detect at first. A related obstacle to change, which is more short-term in nature, is the inflexibility which has emerged as modern societies have increased in scale and complexity. Any sufficiently large human system, whether a government or a business, inevitably succumbs to this to some degree. As it grows in scale, one or more layers of bureaucracy spring up, intermediate between the individual and the goods or services he requires. Responses from the bureaucratic apparatus may then become increasingly crystallised into routines, rules and scripts. One example of this is the call centre, a large office of workers who are expected to respond to customer inquiries according to procedures which severely circumscribe their freedom of action and responsibility. Using these call centres seems to be a growing reality of modern life. First, our phone inquiry is pre-sorted by a "phone tree" – a limited menu of options that may not fit our needs; and then, when we finally speak to a human, we may be ricocheted back and forth between departments, because our inquiry falls between the cracks and can be dealt with satisfactorily by no-one. The works of Kafka anticipated this nightmarish phenomenon.

Within these bureaucratic mazes, the individual becomes a number, an entry in a database, a statistic. Unfortunately, this process of abstracting away individuality also makes it easier to treat human beings with less concern and care. Another factor in this distancing or alienation is the fact that

the computer systems which nowadays store and process this information are themselves often too rigid in their programming to deal with common sense exceptions. The end result can be that situations that would be resolved quickly between two persons face to face can instead be dragged out almost without limit.

There is a saying in legal circles that “hard cases make bad law”, that a law or policy should be framed in terms of the average expected situation, not of the unusual. By the same token, bureaucracies and computer systems are designed to deal with the vast bulk of situations, and tend to break down when faced with exceptions. It could be argued that the time saved in rapidly processing large numbers of individuals more than compensates for the very occasional hiccup. But this is to miss the essential point about evolutionary change – it is precisely at the front of the wave of change that evolution throws up the exceptions to the previous rules and ways of dealing with life. If they are not

## Goodwill in Action – A World Goodwill blog

One of World Goodwill’s abiding purposes is the mobilisation of goodwill in the world. As part of this remit, we seek to inform our contacts of the many worthwhile initiatives around the world being pursued by individuals and groups on behalf of the Common Good. These initiatives and programmes are incredibly diverse, covering all the many challenges – political, social, ecological etc. – that face us in this current testing time for the planet. The groups who undertake them are often described as non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, or social enterprises. The thread which unites them is the energy of goodwill, which motivates their persistent efforts to create a better world for all.

Our newsletter readers will already be familiar with the “Goodwill News Briefs” and the “Transition Activities” sections which we use to highlight this type of work in the newsletter. As a further development of this, Goodwill in Action ([lucis.typepad.com/goodwill-in-action](http://lucis.typepad.com/goodwill-in-action)) is a blog which seeks to aggregate information from the Internet, highlighting examples of goodwill in many different situations. Below is a small selection of entries from the blog:

“Vietnam to help Chad improve food security (<http://bit.ly/9Iy4pB>)\*. A positive example of “South-South” cooperation, facilitated by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN, demonstrating that development and mutual aid is becoming the responsibility of all nations.”

“‘Honesty and hypocrisy in facing terrorism.’ (<http://bit.ly/eQ9wrz>)\* The unredeemed, unrecognised aspects of the personality of an individual or a people constitute a barrier to the soul. Goodwill helps to foster an atmosphere of clarity, courage and honest self-evaluation in

to stifle much-needed changes, bureaucracies and their associated computer systems need to become less mechanical and rigid – they must incorporate more fluid and organic ways of working, ways which give breathing room for individual responsibility and creativity. And in fact, this is in tune with the tenor of our age – the individual is becoming more and more conscious of the unique contribution he or she can make, in free cooperation with others. By expanding each person’s range of responsible action, systems can be simplified, with fewer layers. The remarkable flexibility of action which the newer tools of social networking have placed in the hands of people has been shown in recent political upheavals in Iran and the Middle East. And this action was in part inspired by the wider vision of freedom which has become so readily available, through the Internet and satellite television. Vision, freedom, and creative responsibility – these are the hallmarks of evolutionary change in consciousness, and all people of goodwill can contribute to their expansion.

which this psychological blind spot can be recognised and vanquished. In the article, Ziad Asali and Hussein Abish shine a light on attitudes to Christians within the Arab world, and make constructive suggestions for change.”

“Health Care and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance (<http://nyti.ms/c3YTl4>)\*. Tsepo Kotelo’s story shows the critical need for something not usually on the global to-do list for Third World health: motorcycle maintenance.

Lesotho has some of the world’s highest rates of AIDS and tuberculosis, and much of Kotelo’s time is spent counseling and testing people for these diseases, giving talks about AIDS prevention, and helping people stick to their treatment plans and deal with side effects. He also checks the water supply, helps villagers improve sanitation, weighs and immunizes babies, examines pregnant women and treats basic diseases.

Until 2008 Kotelo could visit only three villages a week, because he had to reach them on foot, walking for miles and miles. But in February of that year, Kotelo got a motorcycle – the best vehicle for reaching rural villages in Africa, most of which are nowhere near a real road. Just as crucial, he was given the tools to keep the bike on the road: he received a helmet and protective clothing, he was taught to ride and trained to start each day with a quick check of the bike. His motorcycle is also tuned up monthly by a technician who comes to him. Now, instead of spending his days walking to his job, he can *do* his job.”

\* The links inside the brackets are specially shortened, and must be entered exactly as shown.

## **BOOK REVIEW – COMMON WEALTH** by Jeffrey Sachs

“The defining challenge of the 21st century will be to face the reality that humanity shares a common fate on a crowded planet.” This assertion is made by Jeffrey Sachs in his book *Common Wealth* (Penguin, 2008). We are all implicated and must all be involved, too, in resolving the many challenges that are confronting humanity at this time. However, these challenges are too often perceived as overpowering and unsolvable, and many people allow themselves to wilt into a negative “nothing can be done” attitude that prevents right action.

It is therefore very refreshing and hugely encouraging to read this book by Jeffrey Sachs. He does more than just detailing the major world problems we all face; he provides realistically practical answers to them. These are the results of statistical analysis, demographic and scientific scrutiny and practical pilot projects. From climate change, through fresh water scarcity, to dealing with the scourge of malaria, for example, he reveals ways forward which are not only do-able but are also easily affordable. Indeed he often remarks that not doing them will result in much more costly and unavoidable activity at a later date.

A central theme of this book is the idea that we, humanity, do have a choice. There are many practical decisions and actions we need to make as individuals and communities, as nations and internationally. Collectively these can

set humanity and the world onto a different and much better path.

In the final chapter, aptly named “The Power of One”, he recommends eight actions that each of us can take “to fulfil the hopes of a generation in building a world of peace and sustainable development.” Learn about the challenges we all face; travel and become part of humanity; join an organisation committed to sustainable development; encourage the engagement of your community and inspire others; promote sustainable development through social networking sites; get politically engaged; involve your work place; live personally according to the standards of the UN Millennium promises and goals.

This book is a wonderful wake-up call that reminds us that we don’t have to be victims; we can co-create our common future. As Jeffrey Sachs states: “Ours is the generation that can end extreme poverty, turn the tide against climate change, and head off a massive and thoughtless extinction of other species. Ours is the generation that can grapple with and solve the conundrum of combining economic well being with environmental sustainability. Ours is the generation that can harness science and a new ethic of global co-operation to bequeath a healthy planet to future generations.”

## **Techniques of Goodwill**

World Goodwill is pleased to announce the updating and re-publication of its booklet, *Techniques of Goodwill*. Focusing on such timeless principles as Unity, Creativity and Sharing, this booklet presents a series of reflections on how goodwill can be nurtured and practically applied in service in any circumstance. Also included is a meditation on goodwill. To quote from the text: “The potency of goodwill derives from its own essential nature – it is an aspect of divine love, and divine love is the most powerful energy on the planet. It is said that goodwill is as much of the energy

of true love as humanity, at its present stage of evolution, can respond to and express in practical terms. By using it deliberately and scientifically, humanity will be able to solve the urgent world problems with which it is faced and establish right human relationships.”

To order a printed copy, please see the reply slip. Alternatively, the text can be read online at [www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org) – go to the World Goodwill Literature online section in the left-hand side-bar.

*Men and women of goodwill are potentially the richest asset in every nation, and they can have tremendous influence when properly associated and focused. There are, of course, millions of people of goodwill today, but many are so burdened with uncertainty, with a sense of futility and a lack of clear vision and leadership, that they remain inactive. They need to be inspired, encouraged and shown how to use the powerful energy to which they have access. There is a great need for leadership based on goodwill. Collective action starts with the individual. One person making a stand for goodwill become a rallying point for other men and women of goodwill. A positive example is invariably the best call to action.*



# WORLD INVOCATION DAY 2011



To build a more just, interdependent and caring global society what humanity needs above all, is more light, love and spiritual will. On **Wednesday June 15 2011**, people of goodwill from all parts of the world, and from different religious and spiritual backgrounds unite in invoking these higher energies by using the Great Invocation. Will you join in this healing work by including the Great Invocation in your thoughts, your prayers or your meditations on World Invocation Day?

## THE GREAT INVOCATION

## Adapted version

From the point of Light within the Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Light within the Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into human minds.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.  
May Christ return to Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into human hearts.  
May the Coming One return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known  
Let purpose guide the little wills of men –  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre where the Will of God is known  
Let purpose guide all little human wills –  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men  
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

From the centre which we call the human race  
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth.

If you would like to send this message to others, two colour ecards are available from our website: the original Great Invocation is at [www.lucistrust.org/ecard/](http://www.lucistrust.org/ecard/), and the adapted at [www.lucistrust.org/ecard2/](http://www.lucistrust.org/ecard2/)

\* Many religions believe in a World Teacher Who is to come in the future (hence 'Coming One'), knowing Him under such names as the Lord Maitreya, the Imam Mahdi, the Kalki avatar etc.. These terms are sometimes used in versions of the Great Invocation for people of specific faiths.

## **HELPING TO BUILD RIGHT HUMAN RELATIONS**

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World Goodwill is an international movement helping to mobilise the energy of goodwill and to build right human relations. It was established in 1932 as a service activity of the Lucis Trust. The Lucis Trust is a registered educational charity in Great Britain. In the USA it is a non-profit tax-exempt educational corporation, and in Switzerland it is registered as a non-profit association. World Goodwill is recognised

by the United Nations as a Non-Governmental Organisation and is represented at regular briefing sessions at UN Headquarters. The Lucis Trust is on the Roster of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

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Multiple copies for distribution are available on request. The newsletter is also available in: Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hungarian (online) Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish.

[www.worldgoodwill.org](http://www.worldgoodwill.org) is the address for World Goodwill on the Internet. The newsletter is available on this site.

*World Goodwill relies solely on donations to maintain its work. The newsletter is distributed free of charge to make it as widely available as possible, but donations are always needed for this service, and are much appreciated.*

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