



PLANETARY CONTEXT

Introduction

We are confronted with serious real-world issues as stated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), which include social, political, economic, and earth issues.

“Finding a Place to Stand” chart sent out by Sherwood Shankland, published by Denver’s Climate Action lists several global issues. We consider the following:

1. Planetary Climate Crisis and Ecocide
2. Public Health Pandemic
3. Global Economic Recession and Systemic Poverty
4. Systemic Racial Injustice
5. Entrenched Political Divisions and Rising Authoritarianism
6. Perpetual Warfare and Violence

We are confronted by social issues of racial injustice, domestic violence, gender inequality, healthcare disparities etc.. Economic challenges include wealth concentration, pay inequality, income insecurity, poverty, homelessness, access to capital for example. The issues of entrenched political divisions and rising authoritarianism are global problems. Many feel alienated by the political process or are disenfranchised. The earth is endangered by human activities contributing to climate change.

The Internal Crisis

As Sherwood Shankland has written, “The current tsunami of social upheaval has us all surrounded, but has not wiped us out. The grinding external events are occasioning deep internal reflections in the form of personal worries, strange dreams, moments of deep despair, and some new insights.”

People are experiencing a brick wall, becoming overwhelmed when working on these many serious problems. The mountain just keeps getting higher and more difficult. On the other hand, there are thousands of possible pathways forward, resulting in further overwhelmedness and paralysis. Where are we really going? What peak are we aiming for? What is our goal?

Global Challenges

The accelerating climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have created a common global reality. They show up in all continents and nations. They have created a global consciousness

of how to survive in this world. They are also creating new possibilities, and are opening new paths of social interaction. They are changing the way we do business. People with phones and the internet are able to converse with others around the world, and can participate in training and networking like never before. This gives us opportunities for collaboration at the local level. We can communicate with the village next door and create solutions together. We are learning to talk together again at the personal level. We find ourselves ready to dismiss our distractions and converse with each other to develop deeper and more authentic levels of communication and action. It is necessary to rediscover and raise the question of what it means to be human.

Finding the Powerful Leverage Points to Rebalance and Restore Harmony

We want to look at our reality and determine the right questions to release the new, balanced world. Where are we blocked? If we can release the blocks, the necessary changes will occur. The leverage points will be ever-shifting and therefore our strategies must constantly be re-tuned. The changes themselves will create a new harmony. Our strategies will focus on:

1. Creating: a Regenerative Ecosystem
2. Gender Equality
3. Socio-economic Justice
4. Participatory Governance
5. Cultural Tolerance
6. Peace and Nonviolence.

Social Research Center

We will focus our work in three areas: Structural Reformulation, Contextual Re-education and Spirit Re-Motivation.

Structural Re-formulation requires incorporating systems thinking with contradiction analysis, rethinking the Social Process Triangles to explicitly include ecology, identifying change points, or whistle points. Pointing to successful examples of change and creating new structures that are replicable is vital to our work. Focus on the Local, where people earn their living, raise their family, and make their lives is the emphasis. We will model the changes in our own work and organization.

Contextual Re-education involves creating authentic human dialogue to create new images to deal with racism, nationalism, planetary crisis, political divisions, poverty and immigration. It will provide opportunities to re-imagine the world we want to create. Using Contradiction Analysis is our basic approach for creating the future. Building an inclusive mythology or story about the way life is, the way the world works and making life meaning-full are keys to our task.

Releasing Spirit Motivity is our gift, our strong point. The cultural part of the Social Process Triangle has been our focus since our beginning. Revealing hope in the hopelessness of the situation, understanding the power of myth, and seeing the Other World in the midst of this world underlie our approach to contradiction analysis. It is fundamentally an issue of the human spirit. Healing is the goal.

Sharing Our Methods and Models

We will share our methods and models in the three areas above with NGOs and governmental entities working as part of the Environmental Movement, Women's Movement, Social Justice Movement, Democracy Movement, Human Rights Movement, and the Peace Movement. We will also support the collaboration and cooperation of these movements with one another as a Movement of Movements (MoM).

Attachments

1. Jack Gilles, "Life Process Triangles"
https://wedgeblade.net/files/archives_assets/21972.pdf (Triangles in color)
https://wedgeblade.net/files/archives_assets/21973.pdf (Text Document)
2. Finding a Place to Stand for Justice - Denver
"<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Fi8IPjtu5hUoey8rAOxOOA9egqtPMWFDtBt0kHj09-k/edit>"
3. Link to UN Sustainable Development Goals
https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DN_Ekac1fQLPax5sNIW8I6adZ3h9GIdR17FFEQ uVbW8/edit?usp=sharing