

July 2007

Dear friends of the Alliance,

The Alliance for a New Humanity is about bringing together changed hearts and the beautiful ripple effects of transformation. This is a story about a retired successful business woman in Atlanta named Brenda. One day she heard about the 2004 Alliance Human Forum, and made the trip not knowing why she went. Her life changed.

At the Forum she heard about Krishnamurti, through which she met Sajo Camara from Tanzania... and she brought him in to the next Alliance Forum. There Sajo, whose dream is to establish a school based on the teachings of Khrishnamurti in Tanzania, met Satish Kumar of Schumacher College, and received a scholarship to attend a course in Education. Through the kind support of philanthropists attending the next Alliance event he is now starting the project. Brenda and another friend met through the Alliance are helping him raise funds for the project.

Brenda has a luxury Guest House in Montego Bay, Jamaica where she donates her home-grown organic produce to a school in a nearby rural community. She is now devoting 25% of the rental bookings of the Guest House to support the school and the Rift Valley School that Sajo is developing in Tanzania. The Jamaican school has now developed its own organic garden, using its produce to support educational projects in the area.

"Thanks to the synchronicities facilitated by this encounter point of hearts that is the Alliance I have decided to be the mother of many children, that this is my work and purpose in life" said Brenda.

Mark your Calendar, San Jose, Costa Rica 11-13 March 2008 The Alliance Human Forum; A Symphony of Transformation

Alliance Action

Some lovely stories and links this month – thank you! This is the section of the newsletter that gets the greatest response, so please keep those stories coming in!

TunaHAKI

"I'm a positive change-maker!" writes Scott Fifer. "As a result of a volunteer vacation to Tanzania in December of 2005, I have changed careers and now run a nonprofit dedicated to creating a sustainable model for orphan care in developing countries."

"We're building our pilot program in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania - it's an arts-based orphanage with vocational training and income-generating programs, and we are building a new green, environmentally-friendly Centre, which we hope to replicate throughout Tanzania, Africa, and the developing world. We're forming partnerships with various organizations who support our efforts to build upon this amazing program which places the the self-respect and dignity of the child above all else. Our partners and supporters include Cirque du Soleil, Architecture for Humanity, Direct Change, and the UK charity One 4 Kids. It's a completely volunteer operation, and all our money goes to the programs in Africa."

TunaHAKI is a Swahili word meaning 'We have the right'. It is a name chosen by the children themselves when they first came together in 1998 – the first of hundreds of AIDS orphans and vulnerable street children to have been rescued by the TunaHAKI Centre for Child Development.

Scott Fifer

<http://www.tunahaki.org/>

Kiva.org

Kiva.org: so good we're writing about it twice! Here's a chance to see what happened when Nicholas D. Kristof of the New York Times visited a business in Afghanistan that he had supported with a loan. Watch the video

One Compassionate Act

Kevin Reid emailed to tell us about "WE ARE ONE – a World Anthem" which he has just released, along with a website. "The amazing journey to produce this song began back in October 2004 and evolved to include over 200 people from scores of nations," he wrote. "I'm very excited to now be able to share it with you and the world."

<http://www.aworldanthem.org/>

Disclaimer: The Alliance for a New Humanity is not responsible for the content of external internet sites. Letters are edited.

BRAZIL: Floating House Made of Garbage

by Fabiana Frayssinet

RIO DE JANEIRO, (Tierramérica) - In a fetid canal filled with garbage from this Brazilian city, a bricklayer built a floating house and turned it into a symbol of recycling, leaving the authorities by turns applauding or frowning. Brick by brick -- or rather, rubbish by rubbish -- the home was made from material pulled from the otherwise beautiful Guanabara Bay, in the heart of Rio de Janeiro.

"I built my entire house using what others threw out with the garbage: iron bars, window frames, wood, cement discarded from construction sites. Even the main door came from the garbage. The only things I had to buy were the nails, the whitewash and the roofing," says Luiz Fernando Barreto de Queiroz Bispo.

More...

UAE: Coming Up - World's First 'Zero-Carbon' City

by Meena Janardhan

A city free of cars, pedestrian-friendly, powered by renewable energy and surrounded by wind and photovoltaic farms -- all in the middle of a petroleum-rich desert.

This five billion US dollar plan, which might do credit to a sci-fi film set, is envisaged for Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). When complete, in 2009, it will be the nearest thing yet to a zero-carbon, zero-waste city. Using the traditional planning principles of a walled city, together with existing technologies to achieve sustainable development, this six sq km expanse will house an energy, science and technology community.

More...

SRI LANKA: Building Ethnic Harmony With Community Radio

by Kalinga Seneviratne

KOTHTHALE (IPS) - In this tea-growing hill country, about 150 km from Colombo, a state-run community radio station is creating harmony among the country's Sinhalese, Tamil and Muslim ethnic groups by broadcasting from the villages and opening up the airwaves to people's participation.

"People all over Sri Lanka are talking about peace, but this community radio has been doing it from the beginning," P. Pavitharan, an announcer at the Kothmale Community Radio (KCR) told IPS. "We don't have any community divisions here," added the Tamil broadcaster who also speaks fluent Sinhalese and switches smoothly between the two languages on air. "All my (assisting) staff are Sinhalese, but we're all working together as a team."

More...

Evolution of Wisdom

by Marcela Valente

In the second part of his article on Science and God, Deepak Chopra explains that wisdom is the key to human evolution.

In Chopra's view, God is a field of consciousness that pervades the universe. He argues that the triumph of materialism in explaining the formation of life is grossly flawed.

"To claim that the swirling, chaotic quantum soup that erupted from the Big Bang evolved into human life by random chance is only believable because science has no urgent need to find a credible alternative."

More...

Travel to be Transformed

Rory Maclean discovers that travel can still be an adventure as he reflects on the hippy trail from Istanbul to India. He challenges us to rethink leisure travel.

"We need to learn to move away from our culture of immediate gratification and choose trips where we can value the journey as much as the destination."

More...

Kanyini

Bob Randall shares his experience and understanding of Aboriginal spirituality, introducing the four dimensions that embody the principle of Kanyini, best expressed as 'responsibility' and 'love'.

"The key to aboriginal wisdom is family. Treat every being as you would your mother, your sister, your father, your brother. All creatures – humans and other than humans – are family."

More...

In brief:

Green TV

Green TV is hosting short films from UNEP, Greenpeace, WaterAid, the Soil Association and others.

More...

Evidence of a World Transforming

"The transformation of our world requires a new story. It must be a story in which our desire to settle differences is more exciting than the willingness to die for the rightness of our cause." James O'Keefe President, Institute of Noetic Sciences

Our world is not just changing – it is transforming – and a transformation suggests an irreversible change of state. That is the conclusion of The Shift Report 2007: Evidence of a World Transforming, from the Institute of Noetic Sciences – a non-profit membership organisation exploring the frontiers of consciousness, founded by Apollo Astronaut, Dr Edgar Mitchell, who says: "Continuing to see Earth as a literal and violent battleground for contending world views is a sure course towards the collapse of civilisation. The solution must begin with a change of individual thinking on a very large scale."

More...

A Film to Change the World

John Pilger's film, the War on Democracy, is a very important film – it is one that can change hearts and minds. Indeed, if enough people see it, it might even change the world. At times shocking, at times incredibly moving, the War on Democracy challenges the current world view in an era when many questionable actions are taken in the name of democracy.

John Pilger, who is an award-winning journalist, has made 55 television documentaries in many different countries over the years, from Vietnam to Nicaragua.

More...

Send us your news!

Are you a change maker? We want to hear from you!

We'd like to share your stories of positive change in this newsletter. If you have a story to tell, email it to Rachel Marsh, editor of The Alliance e-newsletter, Resurgence: <mailto:rachel@thecupoftea.co.uk>