

October 2007

Papa Jaime; Be the Change and Make a Difference

Father of the Colombian street children of Bogota, Jaime Jaramillo, is love in action, an example of New Humanity. In thirty years he has rescued more than 30,000 children from the streets and sewers and transform their lives forever.

He began helping each child with the philosophy of not giving them fish but teaching them how to fish. Most people thought he was crazy, that this issue should be taken care of by the Church or the State but he went ahead with the mission. "I didn't care if I helped one child or one thousand children. What was important to me, was that the little girl or boy would be able to expand their conscience and find their internal light in such darkness."

"People come up to me and ask me how can they help, and my advice is always the same: start today without expecting much and always with selflessness. You can help a boy, a girl, an elderly, a homeless person, a sick person, or even a member of your family that needs support. What's important is to just start and to not get stuck in big projects, because a purpose with no action is just an illusion."

His final words: "Real peace is born within each child, and that child is within you. Wake it up."

<http://www.papajaime.com/>

The Alliance makes music

The Alliance has teamed with the Ministry of Culture of Costa Rica to undertake a series of events to support the role of music education in Costa Rica. "By tapping into children's innate creativity, decreasing their fear of criticism and stimulating brain modalities that other forms of education leave fallow, musical training can help identify children's gifts in all fields and better prepare them to face the problems they will inherit as adults" said Lorin Hollander, master pianist and a founding member of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function.

Lorin lectured, held master classes, performed and conducted the juvenile orchestra of Costa Rica in August; followed three weeks later by master classes and a performance by Grammy award winning Nestor Torres. They acted as ambassadors of the Alliance to promote the National System of Education of Music of Costa Rica, meeting separately with President Arias, Peace Nobel laureate and co-founder of the Alliance to tell him that his country through its commitments to conservation, peace and education is a beacon pointing to the new world that must emerge, and that this is the main reason why people from all walks of life will gather in Costa Rica on 11-13 March to chart the next steps and give shape to the "symphony of transformation" for a better world.

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

Alliance Action

New Montreal Chapter

Inspired by the philosophy, efforts, and life example of Dr Deepak Chopra, President of the Alliance for a New Humanity, a new chapter will be launched in Montreal, Canada on October 22. This is another creation in the global network of ANH to promote consciousness and awareness of humanity's interconnectedness, sharing values of human rights, social justice, and environmental sustainability.

Love and Peace

- Alicia -

joyfulpeacefulharmony@gmail.com

(Ute Bowman of South Carolina has been a helpful and special inspiration. Thank you Ute!)

Making peace possible: Israel and Palestine

The Phoenix Group is organising a provocative and poignant film and panel series to show that peace is possible through understanding and political will. A series of four films about the Israeli/Palestinian situation will be shown on October 14 and 28, and November 11 and 18 at Seattle University, followed by talks and debate from Israelis and Palestinians with first hand knowledge of the situation. For more information on the events, speakers and films, please contact Anne Fitzgerald at grayzonefilms@msn.com

Listen Choose Change

Lisbet Prenot wrote to tell readers about an organisation she is setting up - currently gaining not-for-profit status - which encourages people to change the world by changing themselves first. She wrote:

Listen Choose Change is an organization whose purpose is to encourage people around the world to take on the task of changing themselves to make world peace possible. The concept is based on my personal experience that the only one we can truly change in life is ourselves and the quote by Doctor Albert Schweitzer that "Example is not the best way to teach, it is the ONLY way to teach." People are asked to pray, meditate, chant, or if they are an atheist listen to their heart and in their own way pose the question "What do I need to change about myself to make the world a better place." If they are most comfortable meeting with others, it is suggested they gather with a few friends and then pose the question for each to quietly consider on their own.

Fliers are available upon request with a self addressed and stamped envelope sent to the following address:

LISTEN CHOOSE CHANGE

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COLOMBIA: Foster Families Help Child Fighters Rejoin Society

By Gloria Helena Rey

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia, "I took in a 14-year-old boy. I did it for Colombia, for peace. These children need another chance, to be able to live and grow up as decent citizens," says Maria, a 29-year-old mother of three. Hers is one of the specially selected and trained families that have taken in demobilised child combatants in Colombia, as part of the Programa de Hogares Tutores or foster homes programme.

More than 2,000 youngsters between the ages of eight and 17 who were recruited by illegal armed groups in this worn-torn country and managed to escape have been given the opportunity to rejoin society through the programme, which got underway in 2003 in the western Colombian city of Armenia and then expanded to other cities like Manizales, Villavicencio, and Bogotá.

More...

LATIN AMERICA: Catholic Church Renews 'Option for the Poor'

By Patricia Grogg

HAVANA, The Roman Catholic Church plans to undertake concrete projects in the next four years to help overcome poverty in Latin America, the region with the most glaring income inequalities in the world.

"The option for the poor is one of the challenges we have in the region," Monsignor Raymundo Damasceno Assis, archbishop of the Brazilian city of Aparecida and the new president of the Latin American Episcopal Council (CELAM), told IPS.

"It is above all up to Christian lay people to unite to overcome the structures of injustice in our countries, so that we may all have better living conditions," he added at the close of the first CELAM General Assembly to be held in Cuba.

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ECOLOGY AND ECONOMY

"When humans and natural resources are sacrificed to the economy, then the balance of ecology and economy is destroyed."

Satish Kumar considers the relationship between ecology and the economy and concludes that growing the economy at the expense of ecology is the fundamental cause of global warming.

Whilst our efforts to reduce carbon emissions are important, valuing and protecting the biosphere and finding ways of living that are the bedrock of climate security are equally if not more important.

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CIRCLING HOME

"What would it be like to spend a whole cycle of seasons in an intimate exploration of my home terrain, and to do so as a conscious response to global warming; not out of guilt, but as a positive affirmation, as a kind of pilgrimage into the heart of my own home region? Maybe what we need to learn more than anything else right now involves a radical turning back towards home?"

Kurt Hoetling vows to spend a year within walking distance of his home in the Pacific Northwest of America.

[More...](#)

[In brief](#)

[The Challenge is Ours](#)

Each year The Buckminster Fuller Institute Award a \$100,000 prize to support the development and implementation of a design solution that has a significant potential to solve humanities most pressing problems in the shortest possible time while enhancing the Earth's ecological integrity.

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[Home Composting in Bangalore](#)

A variation of the age-old concept of composting household garbage, using cheap earthen pots, is turning into a runaway success in this fast-expanding metropolis of seven million people. Poonam Kasturi's 'Daily Dump', consists of a set of attractive earthenware pots, punched with holes for aeration and one set atop another. Organic compost is filled into the topmost pot and then interchanged as the bulk of the garbage matures and declines.

www.dailydump.org

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Circus Brings Joy to Afghanistan

In a fantastic little school in Kabul, girls and boys leave behind their impoverished, war-torn world and enter a utopia where they laugh, sing, juggle and ride unicycles. At the Mobile Mini Circus for Children, more than 100 Afghan youngsters mix regular schooling with art and acrobatics. Set up by a Danish performance artist, the aim is to bring fun, hope, laughter and colour to the lives of those more used to poverty and conflict.

[More...](#)

Popcorn packaging

The green soap and cosmetics firm Lush has replaced its giftbox packaging with popcorn. Popcorn is 60% lighter than shredded paper meaning lower delivery costs, and soaps can be packed 'naked', saving 4.6 million plastic bags a year. Every box comes complete with instructions on how to set up your own composting system.

[More...](#)

Non-Toxic cleaning

Annie B. Bond at Care2.com says that learning to clean from scratch, with your own home-made cleaning formulas, can truly work if you take time to understand a bit about the chemistry of the materials. Learn about turning baking soda, washing soda, white vinegar, lemon juice and liquid soaps and detergents into effective cleaners and deoderisers.

[More...](#)

Alliance updates

Invitation to Complete our Values-Based Survey

We would like to invite you to participate in an online values-based assessment / survey for Alliance for a New Humanity. Through the information that this survey provides we hope to gain insight and guidance for future growth. Additionally, it will help us fine tune the actual structure of the ANH organization as we move forward.

Logo Competition

We are searching for a symbol that reflects our dream to change this world for the better. The ANH logo we have been using so far served us for a while, its letters representing an open human heart. This is an opportunity for a collective revisiting of our symbol, and we invite all of you to participate in the process of suggesting and selecting a new symbol for the Alliance. See our website for details.