

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this letter is not to present to you our educational plans and initiatives for the improvement of the One Planet.

This is simply AN APPEAL TO YOUR GOODWILL in order to make possible their continuity and efficacy.

We do not know how and if you already heard of our "non-organization", so we will introduce you to it in a few words.

The initiatives of our small Publishing House are growing from a family-based editorial programme and residential courses, founded on new planetary visions and global values. We try to offer personal relations and concrete, applicable examples and resources on many "post-materialistic" alternatives - whether in the field of education and psychic-harmony or in the economico-ecological and social fields. The guide-lines are voluntary simplicity, creative synthesis and "politico-spiritual" action, both for personal growth and world evolution

We are now re-orienting our activities and are in a pressing need to have at least one more person for continuing office-work at home. Until we could ourselves devote all our time to the Work, it has grown a lot . . . but continuity and real

efficiency cannot be achieved through voluntary, casual help only.

Therefore, we are looking for one or two persons capable of doing the work in the office and/or in the family. They will form a seed-staff, and will share and participate to some extent to our "politico-spiritual" way of life, with enlightened and positive mental approach and goodwill. There is of course some office work to do, but besides this it is necessary for us to have a long-period tutor and/or mother's help for our child. This is indeed a family need, but it does reflect itself upon our commitment too, because we do not regard the educational problem as something to be solved in a separate "parking school". In fact, our position is not for "solving" separate problems, but for improving human potential and transforming family life. In Italy - like all over the world - **people are limited by the present because they are looking to the past, instead of striving towards the Future and for the world they choose.**

Of course, co-workers will have also the possibility of entering more directly in our future initiatives, according to their respective attitudes and to the more or less actualization of the holistic visions we try to communicate to our friends, members and reading public.

Can you help build a small bridge between such beautiful Visions and the Future?

With gratitude,

Vincenzo Pascarelli

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*If anyone is interested, we have more details in the S&S office.

Dear Vivian,

Leo Rutherford's wonderful article on **The Healing Power of Laughter and Play** accords with my own experience of our youngest child, Claire, whom I nursed whilst she had acute leukemia. We were told on Christmas Eve 1962 that she would be dead within six months, but she lived very happily, and kept quite whole, until her death two years later, enjoying countless parties and expeditions to fun places. In fact, we all lived each day as if it were her last. which it might have been during that pre-chemotherapeutic treatment era, when we had to go to hospital every day for blood tests. I remember vividly so many 'peak experiences' - when she first discovered the joy of dancing naked under the garden hose; when she saw her first clowns; when she climbed on her first castle ramparts; when she had all the available Sacraments of our Church given to her during celebratory occasions of the local Christian community; when my 84-year old mother did her Russian Dance and fell over.

Even more importantly should I pay tribute to that remarkable community pediatrician, Simon Yudkin, one of the first to allow us mothers to go into his hospital to make our homes there and nurse our own children. I lived in Whittington Hospital for six weeks at a time and he encouraged us to arrange fireworks displays, make trips to the local park, and put on plays and all kinds of other amusements.

For the rest of our family, laughter was often very close to tears as the crises of the disease were followed at first by quite miraculous and medically unexpected remissions, and then by the eventual death. By then, she was back in my arms, being cuddled, loved and delighted in as she had been at her birth, but even more so: and how she enjoyed all our kisses and caresses. We even had a last clapping of hands as the Beatles sang her favourite 'All I need is love'.

If anyone asks how possible it is that there can be laughter whilst caring for a dying child, I think I would say, in retrospect, that ours was really not contrived but just came out of the joy of having her with us when we knew she would soon be gone, a vitally alive appreciation of each moment of existence heightened by a sense of the eternal . . . that her life would go on somewhere in its essential naughtiness and perfection. This joy, which kept her whole, helped heal our own wounds when we no longer saw her, as did friends who would say, 'How Claire would have

laughed ' Also, I am sure that all my work with the AHP has re-echoed the feeling I had about wanting 'to call attention to and celebrate the excitement, wonder and innate loving energy of human beings', especially while they are being with us. By coincidence, I have just been to a one-day conference of the Mental Health Film Council which showed a film about Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and her work with dying people, which I found also to relate to the work of the AHP in that she spoke about helping people to become aware that they each have a spiritual quadrant so that they can face both living and dying. I think that the AHP, particularly through its articles in

Self and Society, especially John Rowan's recent writings, has been extraordinarily valuable in helping people in their transpersonal search for meaning, giving them a non-doctrinaire spiritual language and wide concepts with which to face the changing phases of existence. Elisabeth also reminded us that the children of the concentration camp she visited had scratched their last graffiti on the walls - butterflies. Claire drew these, too - prefigured symbols of life reborn, their flight, their dance amongst us bringing us both delight and assurance.

With love and peace,
Yvonne

INTO THE FUTURE

The scope of present levels of power in human hands, with the resulting awareness of human and global frailty, has been dramatically changed in our life time. Potential chemical pollution, our ability to split atoms and harness the energy of light, as well as the potential for communication as a result of computer and information technology; forms the backdrop of our personal and communal lives. Surviving the potential for destruction, is a crisis, challenge and opportunity we must surely try to face. What can we attempt? When survival is at stake, humans, animals and plants, have been able to respond and adapt in exceptional and evolutionary ways. Are we about to be part of an evolution in human consciousness to meet these challenges?

By forming groups or networks to explore, reflect and share our experiences, feelings, ideas and discoveries, we hope to face our global situation and transform the crisis into an opportunity where a new paradigm, or way of being, can allow us all to live more creatively. It may be that the threat of total destruction need not lead to despair but to fundamental personal and social change.