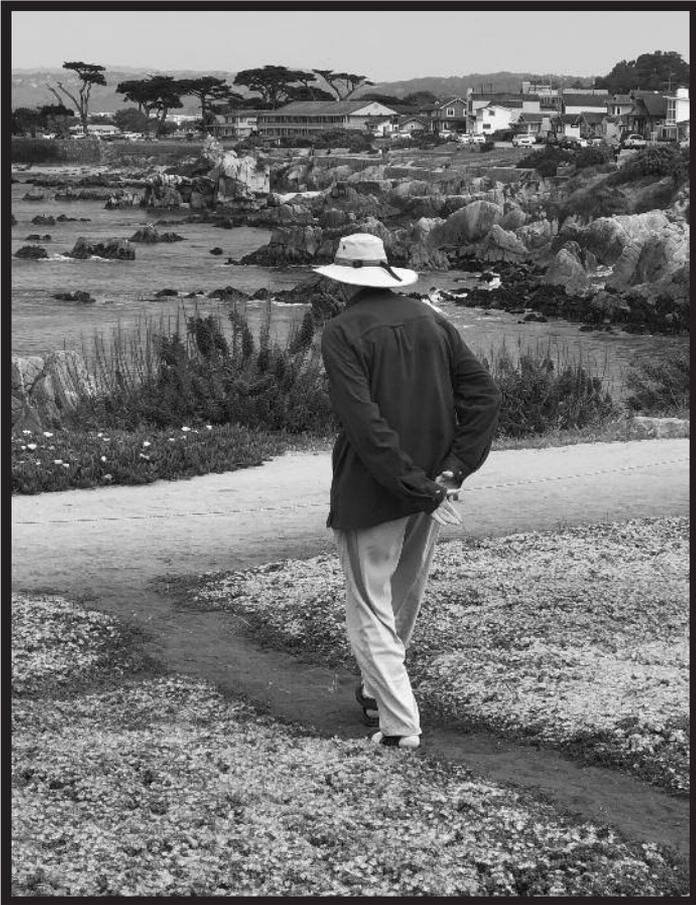


Integrities

www.integrities.org



**BILL CANE AND
THE LEGACY OF INTEGRITIES:
CIRCLES OF HOPE**

VOLUME 34 No. 3 2021

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IF: People Seeking Possibilities

"Integrities"

"Integrity" is usually pictured as personal. "That person has integrity," we say, meaning that he or she has values and lives according to them despite the costs involved.

But for some people, integrity has grown beyond the personal to include the trees and the oceans, the way nations relate to each other, and the very fabric of life on earth. Such people feel overwhelmed and lonely at times, but they are the ones who are capable of sowing seeds for an integral culture. Their work is done in a cloud of uncertainty and often without institutional support or approval.

Our purpose is simple. We wish to further the sense of integrities which is taking shape in our time, and we wish to communicate the stories of people who are struggling to live their lives in an integral fashion.

CELEBRATING INTEGRITIES AND BILL CANE

After 35+ years at the helm, Bill Cane has exercised his retirement option as editor of *Integrities*. Hard to argue. He certainly deserves it. But it also is hard to imagine *Integrities* without Bill. It has always carried his unique imprint, naming the “principalities and powers” that cast shadows over our world, holding up the signs of new life that are around us and that give hope, and urging us to embrace them with our own particular actions.

So the IF board has decided to lay down *Integrities* itself. IF is not going away! We will continue the rest of our full plate of activities and projects. That includes publishing a newsletter and utilizing other means to stay in touch with you, our loyal supporters and collaborators. But we won't continue to publish the magazine. If you haven't already, please subscribe to our email newsletter by contacting us at if.integrities@gmail.com with your name and email address.

The board also decided to do a final issue of *Integrities*, dedicated to Bill and filled with reflections about what Bill and *Integrities* have meant to us. Thanks to all who offered contributions! What follows are some of those submissions along with a couple of examples of the writing that has made Bill and *Integrities* close to our hearts. Read on and enjoy!

BILL CANE – A TRIBUTE

Bill Cane, a native of San Francisco, grew up in a conventional world that he described as “high on decorum and low on enchantment. Even when I was very young, as I listened to adult conversations, an inner voice whispered: ‘You have to get out of here.’”

Bill did leave the mainstream by entering the seminary as a teenager. After years of preparation, he was ordained a priest, and he entered into a life of service, helping to pastor a parish in Cupertino and later directing the St. Benedict Center for the Deaf in San Francisco. He was also the director of the local Cursillo Movement, and he was active with Cursillo at the national and international levels. Along the way, he completed a doctorate in theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary, and he taught at the Graduate Theological Union from 1973 to 1979.

For years, Bill thrived in his life as a priest, serving human needs, nurturing dynamic communities, providing leadership to the community of priests at the local and national levels. But over time, feeling stifled by the institutional structure of the Church, that began to change. As he put it, “The path I had been walking was making me sick. It had once been a nourishing path for me, but I was no longer one with it. I was forcing it on myself now, and I could not stomach it. . .I left the path I knew. In fear and anxiety, I began taking steps in other directions. I felt bad about myself and had a sense of failure.

“I could not see where I was going. I was afraid to take steps because I did not know where they would lead. I needed love and encouragement and understanding. I sought out friends who understood and did not judge. They nourished me and kept me alive.



Bill Cane with Rosa Parks at one-year memorial celebrations at Highlander Center for Highlander founder, Myles Horton, 1990.

“I began to listen to hunches and suggestions and daydreams. My images began to lead me. Moving along without knowing was uncomfortable, but I began to accept it. I began to try different things, to take steps. I tried to get in touch with the ‘diviner’ within me, the wise man, limping along, not knowing, getting nowhere, and then suddenly running into something—sensing it was right. I began to trust my inner sense of what was right. . . I have slowly learned to recognize—no matter what my ‘monsters’ tell me—what is a good step for me, and I have begun to celebrate even the painful steps—the ones I wish I didn’t have to take.”

These passages from Bill's book, "*Through Crisis to Freedom*", seem worth including here for what they say about Bill's authenticity, honesty and courage; for how they place friendships and community at the heart of the process of becoming fully human; and also for how they anticipate the role that Bill would play in the lives of so many people who wandered into the "circle of hope" that is IF and benefitted from his love, support and in many cases, mentorship.

Out of that discernment process, and together with his first wife, Pat Mathes Cane, and others, Bill founded IF, a small non-profit with big ideas about what might happen when people come



Don Hamilton, Frank Knornschild and Bill Cane building IF's home at Lake Freedom—1977

together in hope, seeking possibilities.

Since its founding in 1976, IF has been faithful to its mission of supporting people to discern, explore and create new possibilities, overcoming doubt and fear and embracing hope. Bill has been at the heart of that work, creating *Integrities* in the mid-80s and editing it right up to his retirement. He also published three books in this same spirit: "*Through Crisis to Freedom*" (1980), "*Circles of Hope*" (1992) and "*Passing on the*



“Signs of Hope, Seeds of a New Order” group, representing seven countries at MLK Center in Atlanta, 1991. Bill Cane, first row, second from left.

Spirit” (2002). (The latter two are still available from IF!)

IF has initiated some great projects. But mostly it has served more like a hothouse that

nurtures the good ideas, energy, commitment and hope that individuals and groups have offered when they came looking for support. (Elsewhere in this issue you will see the names of a number of those projects.)

I was one of those beneficiaries. Years ago, when I was organizationally adrift but very much committed to my work supporting social change through nonviolence in Latin America, IF held out a hand of support that enabled me to keep going. Along with my gratitude for that lifeline, I recall the infectious joy of IF gatherings, especially over good meals after board meetings. It was a kind of walking the talk that a number of people refer to in the memories shared in this issue; a great lesson in how to do sustainable social change work and a tribute to the life-giving spirit that Bill brought to each encounter.

The work of IF continues today. It is good to pause and give thanks.

Phil McManus

If...If...If...If... (from Vol. 3, No. 3, 1988)

How can we face the deceit and impending disaster around us and still have hope? If we look only at the tragedy, we get depressed. Yet if we don't face the tragedy, we become unrealistic and escapist. Our sense is that we need a vision that acknowledges the tragedy but also sees beyond it.

The prophets of Israel predicted disaster but they always held out a vision of hope. They saw a new nation, a new city, a new Jerusalem rising out of the ruins.

Martin Buber faced the evil of this world but, following the old Hasidic legend, he also saw hopeful sparks all around us. The sparks, the tale goes, are what remain of God's glory, which burst and gave rise to our world. We cannot see the sparks, for they are sunk and hidden in everything around us. They are imprisoned and they need our touch in order to be liberated. The believer is asked to see, in all the events of life, sparks waiting to be liberated. For only if we liberate the sparks of life will they be able to come together and burst into flame and restore the original glory...

People often smile at our name. "IF," they say. "That's a funny name. What does it mean?" It means "if", we usually reply. Given the disasters threatening our world, given the missiles and the poverty and the hunger and the devastation of the earth, we don't have any guarantees about the future. We are left with a big "IF"!

It would be nice to have some sort of formula which would guarantee the survival and sanity of the earth, but we don't have a formula like that. Nothing we can do has the power

to change everything around. There are only small possibilities that keep opening out for us. So we do what we can with the full awareness that everything we do is inadequate to address the massive problems around us.

If we do this and if we do that, and if others are doing other this' and that's, we increase the possibility of survival and sanity all around us. A lot depends on us, and yet that "a lot" seems to come in dribs and drabs, in small inadequate actions. "Those who would do good," thundered William Blake, "must do so in minute particulars. The general good is the plea of the scoundrel and the hypocrite."...

We do not see grandiose ways out of the evil and suffering that are in our world, but we do keep seeing possibilities, and we keep asking "What if we do this? What if we do that?" And the questions lead us into new possibilities. And hands and hearts are joined.

That has been the philosophy of IF. How can we keep following out the possibilities that are around us with humor and grace and compassion? And be able to see in a smile here and an act of courage and hope there, events that shake the universe? Because liberating the sparks is a task for each and every one of us. And if we wait until we have the final solution, we will never act, we will never get anything done. But if we probe the small possibilities and rejoice at the liberation of the smallest sparks, if we act while we can, if...if...if...if..."

APPRECIATIONS

I first met Bill in 1963 when I was making my Cursillo at St. Benedict's Center in San Francisco. Father Hester was director of the Center at that time and Bill was a parish priest in Cupertino. I was attracted by Bill's unhurried and deliberate manner in presenting information. Ever since then I have kept in touch with Bill, worked with him remotely at times, and occasionally wrote something for IF.

Bill has inspired me immensely throughout the years. Whenever he gave a public talk, Janet and I were usually in attendance. Many little tidbits of his talks have stuck with me through the years and helped to guide my life. One in particular has inspired my actions: "When something makes me feel uncomfortable, I find it advantageous to pay attention." So many times have I remembered that advice when I was uncomfortable. I have also passed it on to others when appropriate.

In another of Bill's talks I was introduced to Martin Buber and the "I-Thou" concept. Bill related how Buber at one time made eye contact with a stranger and immediately felt a kinship with him. Often since then I have encountered someone at work or elsewhere who irritated me. Then I would remember the "I-Thou" and contemplate the other person—what his family might be like and how he must be loved by someone. It always gave me a warmer feeling toward the other person and sometimes we became good friends.

One other bit of guidance Bill shared was about spreading God's word. I can't remember the exact words so I'll have to paraphrase: "God gave the clergy responsibility for teaching God's word. If the clergy doesn't do it, the teachers will. If the teachers don't, the people will. If the people refuse, then the fools will. BUT GOD'S WORD WILL BE SPREAD." That has encouraged me many times when I felt reluctant to say what should be said. In recent years, particularly, it has encouraged me, even if people think I am a fool.

Thank you, Bill, for the many ways you have inspired me. I will miss reading *Integrities*. But I look forward to our continued friendship.

In peace and love,

Bob Aldridge

Author, The Goodness Field

ST. BENEDICTS CENTER - SAN FRANCISCO

I met Bill Cane when I was just 26 years old. That's almost 50 years ago. I was referred to St. Benedict's Center for the Deaf for a position of Youth Program Coordinator which paid room and board plus a \$100/month stipend. I had just completed a year volunteer as youth program coordinator in Kotzebue, Alaska with the Jesuit Volunteer Program, so I was used to a challenging living budget, so when Bill Cane called me and offered me the position, I said, of course.



*First Deaf Cursillo at
St. Benedict's Center
San Francisco - 1973*

Many years later, in the 1990s, I volunteered to work on *Integrities*, and that was when it evolved into the magazine MMPublishing has published for the past 26 years. I told Bill I wanted to be involved in the social justice projects, but I was too much a scaredy cat to travel to all the places he and so many of the IF supporters traveled as well as being involved in the life-threatening circumstances in which they would find themselves. Instead, I told him I would use my talents to publish his magazine. So, I worked with my own San Jose Printer and introduced the easy-to-read design and fonts as well as introduced the special green biodegradable paper, which is still being used.

I felt I was learning so much about what was happening around the world and because Bill's writing was so understandable, I actually felt I could carry on conversations about topics that previously were as clear as mud. When Ed and I moved from Cupertino to Aromas in 1999, I got even more involved with IF. I

worked part-time in the office, did bookkeeping and kept track of all the subscriptions to *Integrities*. The best part of being involved with Bill and IF was attending the dinners especially if Bill was the chef. He'd have a story for each dish and ring a bell when he was ready to move on to the next course. My favorite course was Crema al Curry Soup and the story was just as good as the soup. Bill has been such an integral part of most my adult life, I feel a deep connection to him. He has taught me a lot about our world and learning patience while dealing with various personalities and opinions.

*Janet Martinez
Aromas, CA
MMPublishing*

BRING YOUR ATTORNEY

On one protest trip with Bill Cane as our leader, a group of Santa Cruzans flew to Atlanta, Georgia to go by auto to Ft. Benning to protest the existence of the School of Americas on the U.S. Military base. The School of Americas is where the authoritarian governments of Central and South America would send their elite military to learn how to conduct espionage, murder, and even assassination.

We Santa Cruzans were joined by groups from all over the USA. After "crossing the line" by a few hundred yards, the protestors, including us, were ordered by military police and deputy sheriffs off the base traffic road and to sit down in high grass by the side of the road. A fleet of school buses arrived and parked by the seated protestors with the expectation that the

protestors would be loaded on the waiting buses and taken to jail where we would be booked and released if we posted bail. While sitting on the grass and conversing with other protestors, Bill Cane proudly advised the other protestors that he was fully prepared for whatever happened next: “I brought my attorney, Dick Klein, with me. He will defend me and exercise my civil rights.” The near-by protestors enjoyed Bill’s proclamation.

We were loaded on the buses, our names and personal IDs were taken down by authorities, one on each bus; but instead of being transported to jail, the buses headed to a County park across town where the protestors were off-loaded without being booked nor jailed. This procedure was very disheartening to those who had “crossed the line” in order to be arrested, and have the arrest added to their respective FBI dossiers.

The return walk from the County park to the entrance of Ft. Benning where our cars were parked was surprisingly eventful and rewarding. As we walked through neighborhood after neighborhood, mostly occupied by residents who were civilian employees at Ft. Benning, we were repeatedly given the “V” for victory sign and/or a “thumbs up.” It was reassuring that our opposition to the School of Americas was being supported by Ft. Benning workers and neighbors.

*Dick and Diane Klein
Santa Cruz, CA*

I am very sorry to see *Integrities* go! *Integrities* has played an important role in my intellectual and activist life for as long as I have been a subscriber. I have almost always been moved by what I read in *Integrities*, and often to tears.

I write a daily blog, “*We Live in A Political World*,” which is online at www.gapatton.net, and I have been making daily postings to my blog for over eleven years. Generally, my postings to my blog reflect something I have read, somewhere—something I thought was significant, and worth discussing. When I checked to find out how many times I have referenced *Integrities*, I discovered that I have made one posting each year, beginning in 2014, and continuing in 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and with two postings in 2019.

What do we need more than hope? Here is the quote from *Integrities* that I included in my May 26, 2019, posting:

: Yes, we do need hope, of course we do. But the one thing
: we need more than hope is action. Once we start to act,
: hope is everywhere. So, instead of looking for hope, look for
: action. Then, and only then, hope will come.

For the many years it has been published, *Integrities* has been encouraging its readers to engage in just the kind of “hopeful action” that Greta Thunberg was talking about in the *Integrities* issue that I cited in my blog. Many thanks to editor Bill Cane, and all those at IF who have provided such sustaining nourishment to so many, for so long!

Gary A. Patton

*Attorney at Law, former Santa Cruz
County Supervisor*

Vol. 28, No. 1, 2015

“There is so much in the world that is discouraging right now – climate change, terrorism, the rich getting richer. All we have are very small actions, which at times seem futile. Yet looking back, I see where very small actions have led to bigger actions, where the lonely courage of a few inspired many others. [Historian] Page Smith believed in a life-giving spirit present in history that can be passed on from person to person and group to group in daily life. He saw the presence of this spirit breaking out in history, being passed on, and enduring from generation to generation. I truly believe that this sharing and passing on of the spirit is the most important thing that IF has been about these past 40 years.”



When I first heard of IF and the marvelous happenings there, I was reminded of a German novel that talked about a "Magische Theater, eintritt nicht fuer jederman" (Magical Theater, entry not for everyone).

I was determined to gain entry and explore this mysterious place and eventually received an invitation to Bill Cane's house, the home of IF. It was indeed a magical theater, a diverse community of people involved in issues of social justice here and in Latin America and South Africa. Bill Cane provided the magic that drew people together and inspired their activities. I had a wonderful experience teaching citizenship with another IF member to farm workers in a local labor camp. Being part of IF has been a most rewarding time of my life.

*Judy Barry
Santa Cruz, CA*



Bill Cane's fiery *Integrities* always ignited my burners as we suffered thru the invasion of Iraq, the "W" years, Trump's family separations and to the present. Frankly I will miss Bill Cane's fiery "missiles".

*Mary Zanger
Hollister, CA*



I have known Bill Cane since he was two years behind me in seminary high school, and that's over 70 years ago now.

The best way to describe Bill is that he is a "mensch," a Yiddish word that means a person of integrity and honor, someone to admire and emulate, a man of noble character, rectitude, and responsibility. Bill did exemplary work as a priest, particularly when he was in charge of the Cursillo Movement and St Benedict's Center in San Francisco. Then he moved on as a founder of IF and for many years editor of and chief writer for *Integrities*. IF's impressive push for social justice has been central to Bill. And his books, *Circles of Hope* and *Passing on the Spirit*, are perennial and worth re-reading. In the midst of all of his serious work, Bill is able to take himself very lightly and has a wonderful sense of humor. Who has not not been entertained by his unique laugh? Congratulations, Bill, on a life of service to others!

*Manuel Costa
San Jose, CA*

BILL CANE, FRIEND, PROPHET, VISIONARY, COMMUNITY BUILDER

I have known Bill for almost 50 years and what I most enjoyed about him is his laugh and what comes with it—his heart. Bill's heart with compassion is always present in his life. Bill McGee and I were privileged to be on IF's board in the early days, experiencing his commitment to caring for the marginalized not just with IF, but living it by sharing his home, garden, chickens, events, exercising and mostly his cooking. Bill used cooking not just to raise money for IF projects but mainly to bring people into community. I always felt secure at Board meetings because I knew Bill would listen and not hesitate to make a decision using everyone's input.

When we received *Integrities* in the mail, we read it immediately. It always seems to give us hope in the face of despair.

Alice Waco

Santa Rosa, CA

⋮ (Vol. 18, No. 3, 2005)
⋮ "IF has always been about dreams and possibilities, and a
⋮ belief that if a decision was made to do something, this
⋮ would lead to something else. One possibility would lead to
⋮ another and another and another."



In 2012, IF supported us in making the decision to move our family to the other side of the world to offer our skills and solidarity. The small half-island nation of Timor-Leste (East Timor) had been brutalized by U.S. foreign policy for a quarter-century, the

Timorese population viewed as expendable to U.S. national - read corporate - interests. We had already spent some years doing human rights and education work in Timor-Leste, and we knew there was more we could offer, but the prospect of leaving pensioned jobs and uprooting our kids longer-term was daunting. The uncertainties were many, but IF helped us to embrace and engage the possibilities.

When we left the U.S. in 2012, we thought we would stay two to three years in Timor-Leste; we ended up staying for seven. Curt continued his work with science and math teachers and Pam continued her work supporting human rights. In 2013, we were both hired to assist a large group of Timorese educators to develop Timor-Leste's first national grade school curriculum, one that would finally tell the story of and be relevant for East Timorese, as opposed to colonial Portugal or Indonesia.

IF offered us a way to connect our local community to our work in Timor-Leste, and moral support in our unconventional decision. While we only received a year of financial support from IF, that support was critical in helping us take the leap of faith we needed to take, one we don't regret for a moment.

Happy retirement, Bill! Best wishes to IF moving forward!

*Pam Sexton and Curt Gabrielson
Royal Oaks, CA*



Thinking of retirement for Bill brings up memories of how Bill began working for the most marginalized all through his high school and college seminary years. I was about three years behind him. I admired him most when I helped out during summer vacations at Camp Sunshine on the Russian River, a camp for the poorest of children from West Oakland. Bill was the senior counselor. His patience and love were tangible (Well, there was one time when he lost his cool and blew his whistle and screamed at the kids, "I did not blow my reason for no whistle!"—an incident that still lives in the memory of those seminarians privileged to witness it.)

Thinking of Bill as retiring is like thinking of the stately oak trees here on the Peninsula as disappearing from the landscape. Not likely. May Bill enjoy his freer time as he sees fit, knowing that so many have admired him over the years.

Peace

Don Carroll

Menlo Park, CA



I have always appreciated reading the issues of *Integrities*, sharing them with others, being informed, encouraged and inspired.

I am a fortunate one to have known Bill these past 40+ years. Throughout these years I have witnessed his loving and compassionate heart helping those in need whenever possible. There

is a saying: “A good heart always brings good results.” Thank you, Bill, for being an inspiration to live life fully with respect and care for others—locally, nationally, and internationally. And thank you for your joyous laughter!

*With love and gratitude,
Mary Armlin
Williams, AZ*



I have appreciated the mission and spirit of IF throughout the approximately 15 years I've been subscribing. The simple truths, the wisdom and courage reflected by Bill and others, have been the gold standard of compassion and integrity which have connected people across lines which usually separate us—especially class and race. I love the inclusiveness at the heart of IF.

Thank you, Bill! Best of luck to you in all your future endeavors.

*David Harris
Ventura, CA*

: *Driving the Bats Crazy (Vol. 1, Fall 1986)*
: *Other people who have never taken a jump may be*
: *emboldened by our actions. Even those who have no social*
: *awareness, even those in control of the pot, will be affected*
: *by our actions. When we told a friend from El Salvador*
: *how futile our efforts seemed in the face of the massive*
: *problems facing us, he replied, "Every little light is*
: *important. If you wave even the smallest light in a dark*
: *cave, it drives all the bats crazy!"*



Your publication, "*Integrities*", has always brought us—not only a wider, more personal understanding of what is going on in our world re poverty and suffering, but so much HOPE and gratitude for the courage and generosity of human beings. Your willingness to "Speak out" strengthened our resolve as well. You have been such an inspiration for us, and the world you've touched.

*With much love,
Margaia and Jim Forcier-Call
Jemez Springs, NM*



Wish you happy retirement. You are among the top 10 greatest living persons whom I know. Wish you happiness

Vinod Gupta



Bill Cane as a school boy.

I have known Bill Cane since we were in the first grade, nearly 80 years ago. He is one of the few people in this world that I truly admire. His work with IF is remarkable and he has been truly selfless. You would have to look far and wide to find a person like Bill. I only had to look around the corner when I was a child, and now I see him once a week at the beach. Lucky me.

*Bill Garvey
Aptos, CA*



Often *Integrities* has offered intriguing angles about subjects that had not been pointed out by other authors writing on the same topics. Always with integrity, honesty, truth-telling—true to its name! Forty years of integrity is a long time, a long commitment which deserves to be celebrated. All due to the Big Guy tapping keys at the computer! Thank you, Bill, for your dedication over these many years!

Peter Michelozzi
Santa Cruz, CA



Your purpose, your projects and Bill Cane's motivating and effective leadership have been and are contributing to a more just and peaceful world. THANK YOU!

Erika Lauffer



On the occasion of your retirement from “*Integrities*” John and I have been celebrating all that publication and IF more broadly have been—a catalyst for change in so many people’s lives, including ours: sowing hope and promise in the midst of seemingly hopeless situations, promoting action rather than giving in to the paralysis of fear and discouragement, building networking circles and solidarity to maintain the personal connections that allow communities to meet seemingly insurmountable challenges—and always joyfully celebrating each wonderful piece of the journey.

We have also been celebrating the many ways we have personally shared this wonderful and sometimes zany path with you.

Remember the solidarity trips, particularly that first *Witness for Peace* trip to Nicaragua and Guatemala? All those contacts with courageous people who in some cases took significant personal risks to meet with us—and trusted us to “go back and tell your people” as one woman at GAM (*Grupo de Apoyo Mutuo*) pleaded. I think we have done this the best we could, separately and together, over the years.

Remember extending our stay in Nicaragua, happening to meet and spend hours in conversation with Myles Horton (Highlander Center) and march together across the city to demonstrate in front of the US embassy? That chance meeting certainly opened many additional paths of solidarity—but only because you, as usual, have always been so open to the promises and opportunities available in unexpected encounters. By example this habit continues to enrich the lives of so many who know you and your writings. We are grateful for this!

We give thanks that you have always contributed healing laughter to those with whom you have shared journeys.

As a matter of fact, I can't imagine anything that IF and you made possible that could have happened without this laughter—of course accompanied by hugs, hard listening, tears of sorrow and joy, shared food, and relentless hope for what tomorrow might bring.

We savor all of these gifts and challenges now as we constantly adjust our own social justice work to the realities of our octogenarian lives! Saying no to long marches and long workshops, but saying yes to getting into a bit of good trouble writing postcards, speaking truth to power, or literally having the backs of those now on the front lines.

All little things, maybe. But the major lesson IF gives so well is that the small moments consciously lived in service to the big picture are what really matter.

So onward to the promising possibilities around us all—whatever they may be!

But first a little nap and a nibble of chocolate!

Love you and miss you,

*Peggy Law
Portland, OR*



*Bill Cane and Peggy Law
at an IF function*

CULTIVATING A COSMIC AWARENESS

A Meditation (From Vol. 19, No. 4, 2006)

Nature is a nourishing and wise Circle. Like babes in the womb, we are being nourished within that Circle this very moment, as we breathe in the oxygen provided for us.

Outside of this Circle, we cannot survive. We live together, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Black, Brown, Yellow and White, not as detached individuals, but as womb-mates—interdependent parts of the Whole.

The earth is busy adjusting its temperature and humidity and oxygen levels, so that we can all stay alive. The sun and the earth keep their proper distances, so that we don't burn up or freeze to death. The trees and the oceans and the clouds and the winds and the rain keep circulating our water so that we don't dehydrate. And the clouds and the trees and the sun and the oceans communicate with each other to keep a relative balance that allows the flower of life to blossom all over the earth.

The trees breathe in carbon dioxide and exhale oxygen. If there is an excess of CO₂ the oceans can absorb a lot of it, and ocean currents can take it down to the bottom of the sea. The clouds and the wind and the trees and the lakes and the oceans cooperate to keep our water recirculating. True, Nature can be a destructive force—and there are floods and hurricanes and earthquakes—but all in all, Nature provides a balance that sustains and furthers life.

The system has worked for eons. But now the earth's balancing act has been thrown off. It can't keep the temperature stable. It can't keep the air or the water clean

or the ozone layer intact. It can't circulate the water as well because there is so much forest missing. Industrial and corporate humanity has been engaged in ongoing acts of terrorism—not against the government, but against life on earth.

We need to learn to live in communion with the great natural systems of which we are parts—to love the Whole which nurtures and sustains us. Augustine used to begin his prayer with the statement, “Someone wishes to praise you, Lord—someone who is a tiny speck of your creation.” That’s what we are—tiny specks. As parts of the Whole, we will never understand the Whole, but within the Whole we live and move and have our being.

We exist only as part of a Living, Breathing Whole that is much wiser than we are—a Whole that can nourish and sustain and teach us. By pretending to be separate, we cut ourselves off from the wisdom and the life-pulse of the Whole. “The Spirit of God fills the entire earth,” says an ancient Christian hymn. Cut off from the Whole, we human beings are fools bent on our own destruction. “That which goes against the way of the Tao (the Great Mother),” wrote Lao Tzu, “will not survive.” Saint Paul was writing about a community when he declared that we are all members of One Body, dependent upon each other. But what he said of the community applies equally well to the living, breathing earth. “Can the hand say to the foot,” asked Paul, “I have no need of you?” To amputate one part of the living Sphere sends shivers throughout the rest of the Sphere. We are all members of One Living Earth Body.

“Loving the Lord God with all our strength and all our soul” is a fairly abstract notion. But embracing the earth and all the creatures on it—the circle of life that includes the trees and birds and dolphins and peoples—is at once a very earthy and a very spiritual passion. It makes Democratic and Republican platforms, political and corporate agendas, pale. It means being part of a Living Whole and continually finding ways to protect and nourish that Whole.

The contribution that any one of us can make may seem very small. But the first steps are placing ourselves in the embrace of the Whole, giving thanks and letting ourselves be nourished. We can increasingly become part of the circuitry through which life flows, rather than the obstructions that are clogging it up. By making support of Life and living beings the moral-political agenda of our time, by joining hands across racial and religious and national boundaries, we can imbibe the spirit of peoples who have had a keen sense of Pachamama long before Columbus came to the Americas. The spirit with which we all act eventually circles the earth and strengthens the bond that is growing among us.

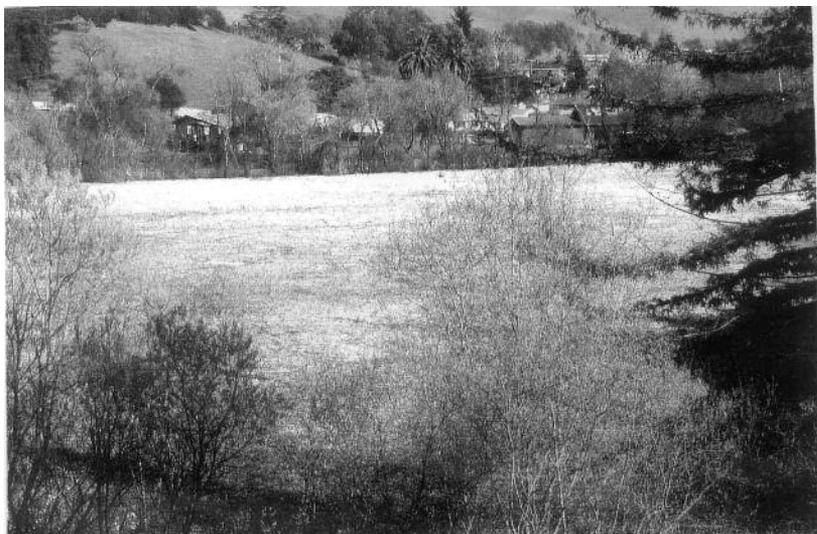
We are a destructive as well as a creative race. Call it original sin, call it illusion or addiction, call it the human condition—we always have to deal with a tragic story. But there is a thread of goodness, hope and renewal within that tragic story. The spirit of solidarity with the Whole is growing all over the earth. There are martyrs. And there are many people whose names and stories we do not know who are working and pleading and caring. The Whole of

which we are parts has her own Wisdom and embraces us all. We can draw energy from each other and from our communion with the Whole as we attempt to stop the devastation and the greed that surround us.

As a species, we are the consciousness (and conscience) of Gaia. We are the earth becoming more and more conscious of herself. Not only can we feel her pain and her beauty; we can share it and put it into words and action. Human beings may be devastating the earth, but human beings remain the earth's hope. With hands joined together locally and globally we are now one of the earth's crucial life-support systems. "We will begin," wrote Teilhard de Chardin half a century ago, "to live constantly in the presence of and with the thought of the Whole. There is nothing more significant. . .than the spontaneous appearance, and ultimately, the systematic cultivation of a 'cosmic sense' of this kind."



Bill and his beloved pup Gaia



The view from the great room of the Freedom Lake was breathtaking until the invasion of water hyacinth in 2008.



What did you find growing in your garden today, Bill?

In the early IF days, you would find chickens, quail and a thriving garden producing much of the special gourmet touches served at the fundraising dinners.



You never know who you would see working with Bill in the kitchen especially during the IF-sponsored gourmet dinners from Hector Negrete, IF property caretaker for over 30 years (photo above) to Bill Leininger, Director of IF/When (photo below) and Bill's weekly tennis buddy.



Integrities

*Bill Cane and Phil
McManus at an IF event*



*Bill enjoying nature during
one of his adventures*



A SAMPLING OF IF PROJECTS



*Multiple
Integrities
covers photo
courtesy of
Phil
McManus*

Mexico Nonviolence (Pietro Ameglio, Serpaj Morelos,
Peace and Nonviolence Collective)

Regeneración-Pajaro Valley Climate Action

Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Centro Esperanza (Peru)

Ollas Comunes/Community Kitchens (Peru)

Terrabona (Nicaragua)

ILSCC – Immigrant Legal Services for the Central
Coast

Maguire Fund: diverse, holistic development projects in
Mexico

Gleaning Stories (Republic of Georgia)

East Timor Project

Families of the Disappeared-Honduras

Refugee support and Sanctuary movement in 80s

Signs of Hope, Seeds of a New Order, 1991

Organizations spun off from IF: Capacitar, Friends of Cantera

Eco-Peru

Yok Chij (Mexico)

Center for Farmworker Families

Mesa Verde Gardens

IF/WHEN (With Human effort Now): human rights and labor issues

Apoyo Tarahumara (Mexico)

Gardens for Seniors

Tooth Fairy Project

Education for Children and Young Adults (India, South Africa, Honduras, etc.)

Guatemala Project: Raising funds, acquiring land and building homes

Membership Survey

**Let IF Bring New Possibilities to You, To Your Family,
Friends and Community.**

While IF will no longer publish *Integrities*, we will continue to put out a quarterly newsletter that includes project updates and notices of IF events. **We may also consider expanding the content** and would appreciate your input on what else, if anything, you might like to see in the newsletter. Some possible topics might include articles related to IF's work and projects, such as immigration, the political situations in Peru and Nicaragua, environmental justice, climate change, health issues in small villages in Mexico and Nicaragua, and hope and taking action in our troubled times. **Please share your thoughts.**

Please send your responses to Lauren at:
if.laurenmoody@gmail.com by November 15, 2021

If we do not already have your email address and you would like to receive the newsletter, please let us know.

And if you would prefer to receive a printed newsletter, let us know that too and we will consider it in the light of the responses we receive.



Integrities

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Current Resident or Addressee

