

The Diamonds of South Africa

The sun is shining in Bermuda, the ocean in its green and blue glitters like diamonds enlightening deep within me strong images which awake the sleeping mind to think. Not so long ago I arrived from South Africa. My mind still is traveling although my body is here. Images, sounds, movements, smells and tastes of the old and new world flash through my mind every moment.

It was a powerful experience being in that lovely conference center and seeing the transformation process of this group...

I was thrilled when I got to South Africa and it was like arriving in the center and Midwest of Brazil. The tropical weather, the dry grass burned maybe by some cigarettes not thoughtfully thrown out of the passing vehicles, the red earth, the flowers, the trees and the people looked so familiar to me. I felt in some odd way I was touching my roots, not only due to the familiar environment but also because of the people being a mixture of black and white like myself.

I arrived directly at the first community meeting and even being tired for so many hours, my mind stayed alert with the formal beginning and with the view of old friends and new people. Little by little I felt myself being involved with the group and with the locals. It was a powerful experience being in that lovely conference center and seeing the transformation process of this group and the involvement of the workers. As I expected, all workers from the lady that made the bed in the morning to the chef in the kitchen were black and the ones in charge were white. It was quite an experience with the people in charge and with the workers. The people in charge were very lovely and very considerate with the workers and with us. The workers seem very satisfied although the white man is in charge.

As always the group evolved in its own way and some important moments happened that challenged my assumptions once again about race and cultural relations. One of the powerful moments for me was when I felt the pain of South Africa as my own pain and I manifested that to the group. It was the pain of seeing an apparent affluent society with big highways, new sports and expensive cars, big shopping malls and big hotels, contrasting with small townships houses—if we could call those

small places houses. No water, no electricity, no pavement and just people walking around. Children sitting on dirty streets and seemly doing nothing. It seemed again too familiar with the “favelas” in Brazil. Fear is in the air and people seem afraid of their own shadow. It was too painful and I saw the blood of my bleeding heart, and the pain of my impotence to help, to do something, to act and to say I am here and I can help. It is a pain where we function like Endymion, from Greek mythology, being asleep with the eyes open because it is too painful to open the eyes and to wake up. I could not bear the pain alone and I had to share it.

When I shared the pain, the things became easier and I could see beyond into the heart of people. The workers really help me with that and when a woman washed and ironed my clothes and said that was nothing, I was amazed because I knew how much money would help her. She did not do it for the money although she got it but she did it for the sake of being helpful. I begin to think that maybe the external conditions corrupts people but not all of them. The criminals, although they may have grown up in the townships, are a different kind of people from the ones that struggle from day to day in the townships and in the favelas. This was an eye opener. We had few South Africans as active

When I shared the pain, the things became easier and I could see beyond into the heart of people.

participants of this meeting, but we had many as underground participants that made our beds in the morning, served breakfast, lunch and dinner, and danced with us in the evening. The most memorable moment of the meeting came when at the end: we as usual were struggling with departure and someone suggested to call the workers so that we could say thank you to them and they could reply. They got there and stayed lined up against the wall at the entrance of the room. After the thank-you, I don't know how it happened, but some of them began to sing and suddenly the group joined in and then we began to dance and at the end everybody was singing and dancing. This lasted a long time and the joy on people's face was beyond what any words can express. It was the most memorable moment I have had in finishing one of our meetings and I have never experienced that before. It was

On the 7th Annual Forum in South Africa

[FROM THE PCA/CCT E-MAIL NETWORK]

Dear Ferdinand,

I'd like to try to answer why it was the best Forum (for me) so far.

The Community meetings were remarkable - instead of an hour and a half they ran to 3 to 3 1/2 hours, more often the latter, eating up the open/group time. Ruth opened the Community meetings by saying, "My name is Quazi" which is the Zulu word for day star. She described a little about the visits to South Africa with Carl in 1982 and 1986 and acknowledged all the work Len Holdstock and Shirley Shochot did on those workshops. She gave a sense of how much South Africa meant to her. Soon others were describing what South Africa meant to them or their experience of South Africa. So it was evident that there was a lot of caring about South Africa, a lot of intense identification with the poor, and high expectations. With the high expectations went disappointment. One person was disappointed she hadn't done more. Others just wished they could do something. There was also disappointment that more South Africans, more black and colored South Africans weren't attending, despite thousands of invitations. A number of persons emerged with a stronger sense of the privileges they enjoy. One person I spoke with after wanted to continue the Community immediately the next day. Another wanted nothing but the experiential group the rest of the time.

The Diamonds of South Africa continued

a joined celebration. There was no workers and no participants but only people dancing, singing, laughing and enjoying. I wish I had words to really convey to you what happened in that moment; it was for me one of the miracle moments of life, of joining, of celebrating the Dionysus within.

After all this my mind and body were beyond into another world and I could not contain my happiness. My heart was content and the external conditions did not paralyze me anymore. I could see the people beyond the external conditions and do something about it in my own limited way.

Driving to the wild park afterwards with some friends helped me to elaborate more into my thoughts and at the same time to see the heart of South Africa. It did good to my soul and when the wild elephant pulled in front of the car, I was afraid but I felt the taste of the wild Africa. I will miss South Africa and I hope one day to be more helpful to the township and the favela people.

Antonio Santos

The second Community discussed languages, the dominance of English, translators, and the rapid pace of speech. There was also concern that people from the grass roots in South Africa were not getting enough share in the decisions that affected them.

The Community meetings were remarkable - instead of an hour and a half they ran to 3 to 3 1/2 hours, more often the latter...

The third Community found a number of men talking about their vulnerability when dealing with illnesses in their family. There was also a scheduling conflict when a group with whom the Community had agreed to stop at 6 p.m. found itself in the minority since many members of the Community wished to stay with the momentum of the deep exchanges about family.

The 4th Community also ran afoul of a scheduling conflict or what was sensed as a scheduling conflict. It took a long time to work it out. But when it was resolved as best we could, the issue of a hierarchy of power was raised, to which there was an explanation of de facto personal power in the Forum. There were several reactions to this: one speaking to our all having the chance to be heard when we had something authentic to say, a democracy of authenticity; a young man from Japan said in his culture the need to speak was not felt so strongly and it was possible to be quiet and comfortable being quiet; a poet from the Netherlands was tired of politics and words and wanted to touch and went around the circle touching many people. This moved a young man from Switzerland to tears, who after a long pause found the English (his native tongue is Romansch) to say "We will all make it." So after initial conflict we ended together.

The last Community and Business meeting rose to the challenge of accepting an invitation from the three men from Japan to meet in Japan in 2001. After some discussion Ruth said she didn't want to leave without a decision and Gil Wyatt said there wasn't a lot of time left and asked for a show of hands supporting the present option. Some 90% of those there raised their hands to affirm this unopposed choice. I hope we meet the linguistic, contemplative, aesthetic and other challenges and opportunities of Japan and where they are unavoidable (they are being worked on) the financial

continued on page 3

continued from page 2

difficulties. I wonder if a subgroup could do a workshop in Beijing or Delhi or ... before or after the 8th Forum to strengthen or initiate the PCA in other Asian centers.

The Forum ended with calling in the kitchen and housing staff. Ruth asked to meet them as well as make a monetary contribution for their services. They sang the national anthem in Xhosa. Then two young Zulu women sang the anthem in Zulu. Antonio Santos started dancing a samba with one of the staff and EVERYONE joined in and danced all over the room for some time.

There were about 80 people from c.22 countries, some from as far as Japan and Russia. There were many from Europe and the US. Many interesting people doing interesting things. Many wonderful people wonderful to see after 3 years (it's a long time).

The most impressive aspect to me was the constructive aspect, the "walking the talk" side. Letter(s) from all the Community are being sent to South African minister(s), emphasizing what the PCA can do, e.g. healing the wounds opened after the new revelations of the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, initiating or sustaining dialogue between conflicting groups: for example, tribes. A magnificent donation was made to start or revive a PCA Center in South Africa. South African papers are being collected to add to Carl and Ruth's journals of their '82 and '86 workshops and Ruth's accounts of her '87 and '95 workshops. It is hoped that the ensemble will be published as a book: *The Person - Centered Approach in South Africa*. I hope the Forum papers will be published/bound/electronically published and will ask the planning committee about this. Maybe a Forum Reader? It's hoped to set up a task force to propose a PCA Non Governmental Organization under the UN. I hope that yet other actions will come out of the Forum.

There were many good presentations, many good discussions. I can only talk about 8 of the 44 scheduled presentations. I hope others will help me out. Walt and Betty Ligon had a very good discussion on race, power, and religion based on personal experiences. Hendrik de Vos, a man very enlightening on South African contemporary experience and psychology, talked about the maieutic (midwife) character of PCA and discussed the philosophy of Socrates, Kierkegaard, and Carl Rogers. Brigitte Smit gave a lucid and passionate description of education in South Africa. A theme emerged that repeated in the talks: while PCA programs were on the books there weren't programs to implement them or to educate the teachers in person centered education. The search for unity came up in at least two of the presentations. There were talks on cross-cultural aspects. Arnon Levitan gave a vivid personal account of his work with Arabic counselors in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and how

understanding the norms of Arabic culture helped him in understanding the Arabic counselor with whom he is working. Cecil Bodibe gave an exciting agenda listing many steps PCA could take in South Africa. Venya Kolpachnikov, as ever, gave a fascinating portrait of the PCA in Russia, a study of teachers he and his colleagues have done, and interesting comparisons between Russia and South Africa. Alberto Segrera gave an interesting and detailed description of the strong and prolific Ibero-American PCA groups. I heard good things about Mabel Radebe's, Mukti Khanna's, Mhairi McMillan's, Alan Coulson's and Rinie Schenk's presentations. No doubt this is true for many more. Muna Zafar's paper "Beyond Boundaries" was a remarkable account of life as a Pakistani in England. Ruth Sanford's forum within a Forum, "Looking Backward to See Ahead", became one of the best problem-solving, brainstorming sessions I witnessed at the Forum. Some of the constructive actions I spoke of earlier emerged out of this discussion.

There's more, lots more, the food, the wine, the dancing (both Israeli and Zulu), the birds, the flowers, the excursions for those lucky enough to take them, and above all, the people.

That's enough for now, but since most of the Forum planning staff are on this email network, I want to thank them for all their work, their excellent organization, and the honor and care they showed Ruth.

Ed Bodfish

[Editor's note: to join the PCA/CCT email network, contact Marco Temaner at Marco@mcs.com with your request.]

Editor's Job Open

Effective as of the next annual meeting, I am resigning as editor of the Renaissance. Please consider the possibility of volunteering for this post: it is a remarkable opportunity to monitor the pulse of this community, and to facilitate the sharing of controversial, stimulating, and thought-provoking ideas.

If you would like more information about what is entailed, please feel free to contact me!

Jody DeRidder

THE PERSON-CENTERED APPROACH

WARM SPRINGS, GEORGIA

February 17-21, 1998

PRESENTERS:

Person internationally recognized as being involved with the person-centered approach will be presenting.

LOCATION:

Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center
Warm Springs, Georgia

*Facilities are rustic and participants will share rooms.
There are bathroom facilities in each room.*

FEES:

Registration \$160

Sliding scale fees for registration can be arranged on special request. Some scholarships are available.

Room \$40/night/double room

Meals are available in the campus cafeteria.

All fees are due by January 15, 1998.

LIMITED REGISTRATION:

Early registration is suggested to guarantee a room.

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Country

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Person-Centered International

MAIL APPLICATION TO:

Jerold D. Bozarth
1160 Hunting Creek Ln
Watkinsville, GA 30677

NEW BOOK

PERSON-CENTERED THERAPY: A REVOLUTIONARY PARADIGM

JEROLD D. BOZARTH

September, 1998

ISBN 1 898059 22 5

148 x 210 pp approx 250

Ross-On-Wye: England.

PCCS BOOKS.

ESSENTIAL READERS

SERIES EDITOR: TONY MERRY

The book is comprised of a collection of twenty revised papers and new writings on Person-Centered therapy representing over 40 years of the author's work as an innovator and theoretician. It is divided into five sections: Theory and Practice, Applications of Practice, Implications, The Basics of Practice and Research.

Fax or post to PCCS BOOKS,
Llangarron, Ross-On-Wye,
Herefordshire, HR9 6PT, UK

Fax +44 (0) 1989 77 07 00

Call +44 (0) 1989 77 07 07

Cost: (Including air mail)

U. K. 11.96 Pounds

U. S. 17

A limited number of copies are available to U. S. residents from the author. Send inquiries to:

Jerold D. Bozarth
Person-Centered International
P. O. Box #51
Watkinsville, GA. 30677
Price: \$21.50 plus shipping.
Jbozarth@negia.net

Workshop: Living the Core Conditions

A residential unstructured experience for those interested in the Person-Centered Approach and for those who may already be students on a Person-Centered training program. The intention of the unstructured group experience is to create an atmosphere of freedom that may allow us to increase our experience of the attitudinal qualities of genuineness, unconditional positive regard, and empathic understanding of others.

STAFF TEAM:

Jerold D. Bozarth, Ph.D.:

Professor Emeritus, The University of Georgia and Scientific Director of the Institute for Person-Centered Learning.

Sheila Haugh:

Core staff member of the Institute for Person-Centred Learning and Core Tutor of the Diploma in Person-Centred Counselling at the Metanoia Institute.

Gill Wyatt:

Director of Person-Centred Connections and Core Tutor of the Diploma in Person-Centred Counselling at the Metanoia Institute.

COST:

Fee 190 pounds (Approximately \$300) fully inclusive of accommodation and all meals. A non-refundable deposit of 50 pounds (\$75) to reserve your place and the balance payable no later than 1 February, 1999. The balance may be paid in three installments and some reduced fee places may be available; contact us for further information.

DATE AND TIME:

Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th March, 1999.

Commences at three p.m. on Thursday and ends at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday.

VENUE:

Launde Abbey, Leicestershire. Launde Abbey is an Elizabethan manor house set on the privacy of its own peaceful valley in the heart of the East Leicestershire wold. Accommodation is primarily twin roomed with very limited single room availability.

CONTACT:

Gill Wyatt
 Person-Centred Connections
 17 Denison Street
 Nottingham NG9 1AY
 England
 Tel: 011 441 15 9177287
 e-mail: pcc@earthsky.demon.co.uk

Membership in ADPCA

ANNUAL DUES

(IN US FUNDS)

(IN POUNDS STERLING)

regular membership	\$65
student membership	\$25
Institutional membership	\$65
journal subscriptions only	\$65

£45
£17
£45
£45

If you are in the USA or have access to US funds (check from U.S. bank or U.S. money order) made payable to ADPCA, send payment to:

Julia Rabin
P.O. Box 396
Orange, MA
USA 01364

Email: jlrabin@aol.com
Phone: (+1) (978) 544-6512

If you are in Europe and have access to Eurocheques or UK cheques please make payable to Allan in Pounds Sterling:

Allan Turner
9 Comfrey Close
Walnut Tree
MILTON KEYNES
MK7 7BY
United Kingdom

Email: allan@pctmk.powernet.co.uk
Phone: (+44) (0)1 908 884 042
Fax: (+44) (0)1 908 775 445