



The Difference Between Sympathy and Compassion

True or not this story is heart warming. Thanks, Helen!

Fiorello LaGuardia, mayor of New York City during the worst days of the Great Depression and throughout World War II, was a colorful character. Adored by many New Yorkers, he was deeply involved in the daily life of this grand city. He was known to ride along with New York City fire trucks, accompany the police on raids of "speakeasies" and even take entire orphanages to baseball games. When the New York newspapers went on strike, he got on the radio and read the Sunday funnies to the kids.

One bitterly cold night in January of 1935, the mayor turned up at a night court that served the poorest ward of the city. LaGuardia dismissed the judge for the evening and took over the bench himself. A tattered old woman was brought before him, charged with stealing a loaf of bread. Her daughter's husband had deserted her, her daughter was sick, and her two grandchildren were starving. The shopkeeper refused to drop the charges. "It's a real bad neighborhood, Your Honor. She's got to be punished to teach other people around here a lesson."

LaGuardia sighed. He turned to the woman and said, "I've got to punish you. The law makes no exceptions. Ten dollars or ten days in jail." He then reached into his pocket, extracted a bill and tossed it into his famous hat, "Here is ten dollars which I remit; and furthermore I am going to fine everyone in this courtroom fifty cents for living in a town where a person has to steal bread so that her grandchildren can eat. Mr. Bailiff, collect the fines and give them to the defendant."

Newspapers reported \$47.50 was turned over to the bewildered woman who had stolen a loaf of bread to feed her starving grandchildren. Seventy petty criminals, people with traffic violations, and New York City policemen, and the grocery store owner himself, all chipped in and gave the mayor a standing ovation for the privilege.

Someone once beautifully said, "*Sympathy sees and says, 'I am sorry,' compassion sees and says, 'I will help.'*" When we learn the difference, we can make a difference.



With the horrendous disaster of the tsunami in Southeast Asia, we have the opportunity to show compassion. Indeed while the American people and even American corporations have responded to the emergency with sincerity and generosity, our government did not respond quickly with compassion. Most people aren't aware that the US spends less than 1% of its GNP in foreign aid, less than other industrialized countries. This tsunami can serve to remind us that we must demand that our government do more to help relieve the needless suffering in developing countries that is ongoing. One wonderful organization that has been on the ground in Indonesia for decades is the American Friends Service Committee. Contact them to learn more at 1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479 or www.afsc.org.



A Voice from South Africa

Dear Friends in the United States,

We have had notes from many of you, expressing your struggles with what happened on November 2. Thank you for caring about the impact of the election on countries far away. We are sad for you and for the world. It is one thing to have leaders who walk mistaken and destructive roads, but when their actions find such support from ordinary people – neighbors and associates, friends and especially fellow church members – it is the more hurtful.

Don't be too shocked, however. Every politician chooses between calling people to better things, or exploiting their fears and insecurities. The latter is as old as humankind, and – because of the nature of our fallen-ness – can all too often be the winning strategy. Thinking of the many such heartbreaks in our South African saga, Desmond Tutu once confided to me: “We should not be surprised because we know our theology, but we are allowed to be disappointed.”

Neither ought you to think that your participation was a waste. For forty years, in more than ten elections, a small number of white South Africans campaigned persistently against the apartheid that kept us in unfair privilege and we had our expectations dashed every time. In spite of this, our disenfranchised black compatriots always let us know that it counted for them. In the wider world, we are grateful for the many millions of Americans who chose responsibility and concern over fear and selfishness on November 2. Also, in our four decades of almost despair in South Africa, it was important to remember that while God prefers to work with enlightened, committed and compassionate servants of the people, He has extensive experience advancing the Kingdom in spite of the arrogant and shallow people we often get instead.

What God does appear to find helpful in such circumstances, is a Church obedient enough to live and proclaim the alternative - the ‘otherness’ of the Gospel. This is where transformation can and must begin. The saddest thing about November 2 was that it was primarily declared Christians, manipulated by diverse fears about their own safety and others’ sexuality, who tipped the scales against change. In South Africa too, we were up against a “Christian”

government, acting in the name of Christ, supported by significant numbers of members of our churches. It became crucial to expose the false gospels, of nationalism, militarism, racism, and security right within the church, ensuring that the voice of Jesus was heard declaring firmly: “Not in my name!” It meant intentionally re-evangelizing the church in Jesus’ way of enemy-love, of inclusion, of not fearing Caesar, of standing for the most marginalized. It took a long time, but it helped bring transformation.

Perhaps the message of this election is that this is truly a time for Gospel, and as so often in history, it is the church that must hear it first. The liberation Jesus speaks of in Luke 4 begins with evangelizing frightened and reactionary Christians out of their bondage. I'm not sure we can be the church unless we are learning to engage the world where decisions like that of November 2 happen, and I'm not sure that is possible unless every congregation becomes intentional about wrestling Biblically and theologically around the crucial areas where the church struggles most to be open to Jesus, and therefore has been least honest with the world. They are: Wealth, Poverty and Good News to the Poor, Flag and Altar, Violence and Nonviolence, and Inclusion and Exclusion. There is no reason why that should not begin now. I believe God would honour such wrestling with the gift of new vigour, clarity, courage and charity, so that the nation would begin to hear a different witness from the followers of Jesus.

It seems to me that this might be a good time to sit down and read Isaiah 40:27-31 and 42:1 – 9, pray for the long view of God, and then get on with the tough business of witnessing!

With love and respect,

Peter Storey

Peter Storey is a Methodist Bishop in South Africa. Both he & his father were active in the anti apartheid struggle. We hope to meet with Peter Storey when on our reality tour to South Africa July/August 2005



Buy Local Campaign

Kevin Danaher

A growing grassroots movement focuses on strengthening the local economy and defending it against large corporations. This movement manifests itself on diverse tactical fronts: the anti-sprawl movement is increasingly effective at stopping Wal-Mart and other corporate box stores from entering their communities; the local economy movement is passing a wide array of local legislation that brings greater control of the economy into local hands; the fair trade movement is channeling consumer spending in the global north into the hands of low-income producers in the global south; and the green economy movement is shifting more and more capital into enterprises that believe in doing business without harming nature.

Now imagine the popular power that would be unleashed if we could find a theme that would unite all these efforts and combine them with the mobilizing power of the global justice and peace movement that has proven its ability to mobilize millions of people to protest war and institutions such as the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. Is there some campaign that would unite these many forces but express itself in a positive way that would gain support from mainstream Americans? Is there a campaign theme that could be decentralized around the country, have an inherent critique of corporate power, yet be largely positive in its message, actions and impact?

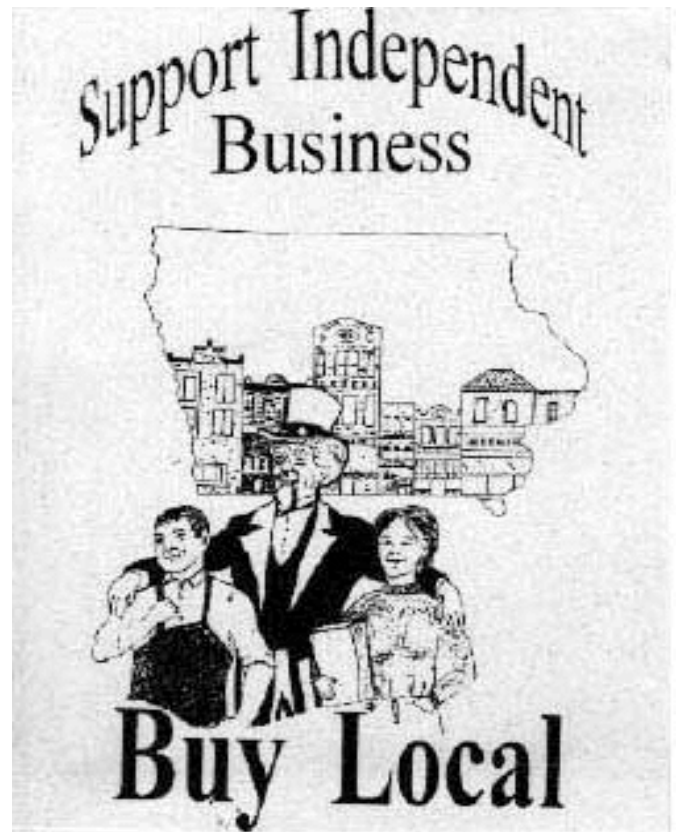
Like the "Don't Spend a Dime on January 20" campaign, we could start with a given month. Individuals and organizations will pledge to shop only at locally-owned stores. The campaign can be decentralized in a viral way by spreading the ideas and organizing tools like shareware. Groups such as Global Exchange can produce educational materials explaining how we can fortify local economies by preventing money from being siphoned away by transnational corporations. But the organizing for such a campaign will be decentralized and customized to local conditions and capabilities. We would start a tradition that could grow each year and possibly spread around the world. It would show people the economic power of community organizing. Local merchants would love it and would be recruitable to

help with publicity and donated materials. We would get support from associations of small enterprises (e.g., Hemp Industries Association, www.sprawl-busters.com, Co-op America Business Network).

With the Bush win (?), people need something positive to focus their political energies on and get them out of the emotional dumps. Buy-Local gets people focused on a positive way to resist corporate power, and reminds them that the real mainstream issues are close to home and economic, not political in faraway Washington.

We would reach out to large constituencies: Sierra Club and MoveOn.org, but also appeal to local Chambers of Commerce and small business sectors that have been hammered by the double whammy of economic recession and the invasion of the large box stores. We would promote it at Green Festivals and try to get as much national publicity as possible.

Because it is a decentralized model it does not need much money. Existing groups can incorporate the pledge into their ongoing work with little additional effort or expense. We can make a difference!





Water is A Human Right

Please join us in speaking out to stop water from becoming a privately owned commodity in Nicaragua.

Dr. Enrique Iglesias
President Inter-American Development Bank
1300 New York Ave, NY
Washington, D.C. 20577
December 1, 2004

Dear Dr. Iglesias:

We urge you to stop the contract for the modernization of Nicaragua's water delivery. A stoppage would be in compliance with the moratorium passed by the Nicaraguan National Assembly in 2003 which prevents any privatization of water resources until a national water law is approved. At present two separate bills on this subject are pending in the National Assembly, which would make it illegal to extend any concessions on water now and in the future.

As lifelong supporters of sustainable development, we share with Nicaraguans the belief that water is a human right, not a commodity. Demonstrations in Managua show the people's opposition to water privatization. They have already experienced the failure of privatization in two sectors of their economy, telecommunications and the electricity supply. Nicaraguans don't want to risk this kind of failure of privatization in such a vital resource as water.

Any decision pertaining to public services should involve the full participation of all sectors of civil society—this has not occurred regarding water. Yet the U.S. \$ 13.9 million loan extended by the Inter-American Development Bank to pay for this contract would create a new debt that all Nicaraguans would have to pay.

We insist that the loan for water modernization be cancelled, thus making the recent postponement permanent.

Sincerely,
Barby and Vic Ulmer

cc: Pres. Enrique Bolanos
Carlos Noquera

Edwin Castro
Enrique Quinonez



Army's War Game Recruits Kids

Joan Ryan, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Your kids can download the "America's Army" video game for free. Well, it is free for them. You have already paid for it with your tax dollars. In the game, kids get to kill people with cool weapons that look and respond like the real things. They get to ambush terrorists and, when caught in a firefight, they can hear bullets whistle past their ears and even hear the shell casings from their M-16s clatter onto the concrete floor.

The only thing better would be an actual war with actual weapons! Which is pretty much how the Army hopes your kids will respond.

"America's Army" is one of the U.S. Army's most popular and effective recruiting tools — conceived, designed and distributed free to reach the 13- to 21 year-old crowd. It is a brilliant marketing tactic. Unlike 30-second TV ads, the game is what the ad industry calls "sticky" advertising: consumers are engaged for much longer periods than with traditional commercials and ads.



Join Us in a Dialogue About Positive Solutions to Pressing Problems **Hope!**

War and occupation create homelessness and hunger here and abroad. War leaves families at home without a provider and caregiver and often society neglects veterans who return from war. Instead of continuing on this senseless course of war, we need to recognize the causes for terrorism and insurgency so they are eliminated and find nonviolent means to solve problems. This is the dialog we must begin with people of all persuasions. Here's one idea. Please send us yours.

Local Green Programs Make a Difference!

Local green programs, including community gardens, farmer's markets, Fair Trade products and locally produced products, across the country show how the poor of all ages can grow nutritious food for themselves & their communities. Subsidies to replicate these initiatives would do more to eliminate poverty than increasing tax write-offs for corporations who donate surplus to food banks. Contact your Members of Congress!

Many of you have thanked us for giving you hope. Without it we'd be lost! One of the main motives for leading Reality Tours (South Africa in July) is we return so energized by the hope of those whom we visit, mostly poor.

There is also hope here at home. Students going to "developing countries" return with that hope and energy knowing they can make a difference not only there but in their own communities. Service learning in high schools and universities demonstrate to students that they can make a difference. Many people return from our Reality Tours with a new confidence that they too, can make a difference. We've had people on *odw* tours remain or return to volunteer with a group we visited, give slide presentations to share what they learned on their trip with others, found an organization to help a group to help themselves or begin volunteering at home. Hope is contagious and builds energy and compassion.





For Fair Elections: A *To Do* List Before 2006

Gary Beckwith

“Black Box” Electronic Voting Machines

The key to it all was the use of electronic voting machines that produce no paper trail. These were manufactured mainly by two companies, ESS and Diebold. Both of these companies are big supporters of the Republican Party. Walden O’Dell, the owner of Diebold, said in a 2003 fund-raising letter that he was “committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year.” Similarly, Chuck Hagel, the owner of ESS used his own machines to get elected to the United States Senate in Nebraska. A bill was introduced in the House and Senate to outlaw these machines and require a paper printout of each vote so that they could be verified and/or recounted. The bill was stalled by the Republican Party, led by Senate Majority Leader Tom DeLay, and was not allowed to come to vote.

Shortly after the November 2nd election, countless stories of problems with the machines began to surface. Many people report voting for Kerry but that the final confirmation screen on their voting machine came up saying they had voted for Bush. In one precinct in Ohio where there were only 638 registered voters 4,258 votes were cast for Bush. Many more stories about the black box voting machines, their problems, and the investigation into their tampering are circulating.

Blackboxvoting.org (<http://blackboxvoting.org>) is leading the way in the investigation of these issues.

Exit Polls

Exit polls were taken in every state. In those states that had verifiable paper trails for their ballots, the exit polls were virtually the same as the real results. However, in the states where electronic voting machines were used, the exit polls were mysteriously very different from the final reported totals. You can view the exit poll data yourself at www.solarbus.org/stealyourelection.

Unusual Results

In the areas where computers were used to cast votes or tally them, some very strange results have surfaced. Here is just one example. In Baker County,

Florida, there are 12,887 registered voters, 69.3% of them registered Democrats and 24.3% of them Republicans. The vote was only 2,180 for Kerry and 7,738 for Bush. Are we supposed to believe that 5 out of every 7 registered Democrats voted for Bush? This pattern repeats itself in many Florida counties. You can view all the raw data for every Florida county at www.solarbus.org/stealyourelection.

Shenanigans

In addition to the electronic voting machines, there was widespread voter intimidation and disenfranchisement on election day. In many Democratic areas, people waited hours to vote, while Republicans challenged voters’ rights to vote, forcing them to fill out a provisional instead of real ballots. These provisional ballots were not counted on election day and we may never know how many of them there were, or what rules were used to qualify them.

Flyers were sent to Democratic areas with an array of false information on them. For instance, people were told their voting precinct had changed, that their voter registration was invalid, or that they would go to jail if they tried to vote. You can see the some of the flyers that were sent out and read more at www.solarbus.org/stealyourelection.

Investigations

This is not conspiracy theory. This is not hearsay. There is evidence. There are witnesses. There are investigations underway. Three Congressmen have sent a letter to the General Accountability Office requesting urgent action and an investigation. They will call us sore losers. They will have their lawyers and computer experts too. They will refute the evidence. But the truth is on our side and we must make sure it doesn’t happen again!

Election Protection around the Country

By Barby Ulmer

Vic and I were privileged to be Election Protection volunteers in New Mexico. We observed irregularities. We also had the opportunity to speak to others performing a similar function in other areas.

An Election Protection volunteer working in Florida told us, “My job is to get people to the polls and, more importantly, to keep them there. Because they were crazily jammed. Crazily. No one expected



this turnout. For me, it's been a deeply humbling, deeply gratifying experience. At today's early vote in the College Hill district of East Tampa — a heavily democratic, 90% African American community - we had 879 voters wait an average of five hours to cast their vote. People were there until four hours after they closed (as long as they're in line by 5, they can vote).

Here's what was so moving. We hardly lost anyone. People stood outside for an hour, in the blazing sun, then inside for another four hours as the line snaked around the library, slowly inching forward. It made Disneyland look like speed-walking. Some waited 6 hours. To cast one vote. And everybody felt that it was crucial, that their vote was important, and that they were important. And there were tons of first time voters. Tons. They are determined to vote."

The best of all was an 80 year old African American man who said to me: "When I first started I wasn't even allowed to vote. Then, when I did, they was trying to intimidate me. But now I see all these folks here to make sure that my vote counts. This is the first time in my life that I feel like when I cast my vote it's actually gonna be heard.

To see people coming out - elderly, disabled, blind, poor; people who have to hitch rides, take buses, etc. - and then staying in line for hours and hours and hours... Well, it's humbling. And it's awesome. Sometimes you forget what America is. I think there's hope."

Stories like these were particularly sustaining given antidemocratic practices we heard about, including the mailing of official looking letters telling voters Republicans should vote on Tuesday and Democrats on Wednesday, or that having outstanding traffic tickets makes one ineligible to vote. This account seems to say those tactics just won't work.

Our experience as election volunteers in New Mexico in 2004 reminded us of our time as peace and election monitors in South African 1994 . We could learn from the South Africans. When people registered to vote there, they were issued a voting card. With this card one could vote at any polling place, because when voting people's fingers were marked with a special ink that could only be seen under an ultraviolet light. This ensured no one could vote more than once. If we'd used that system in the United States it could ensure all registered voters had the right to vote. It would have prevented the loss of many college students' votes, those who had moved after it was too late to

reregister. We have much work to do before the next election and we can learn from others.

More data on undercounting and other irregularities in New Mexico can be read at <http://helpamericacount.org>



Thoughts on Globalization

Globalization has been around for centuries: exploration, colonialism, foreign trade. In its current state, globalization benefits go largely to corporations. We've got to make it for people and the planet, yes?!

Outsourcing

A car company can move its factories to Mexico and claim it's a free market.

A toy company can outsource to a Chinese subcontractor and claim it's a free market.

A major bank can incorporate in Bermuda to avoid taxes and claim it's a free market.

We can buy HP printers made in Mexico.

We can buy shirts made in Bangladesh.

We can patronize Wal-Mart where almost everything they sell is made in China.

We can purchase almost anything we want from many different countries- all in the name of free markets.

But heaven help the elderly who dare to buy their prescription drugs from a Canadian pharmacy.

That's un-American!

And you don't think the pharmaceutical companies have a powerful lobby?



ODW Reality Tour to South Africa

Join us for three unforgettable weeks in July/ August 2005. South Africa, the land where humankind began, is a place of stunning natural beauty. On the tour you'll have the rare opportunity to learn from ordinary people who do extraordinary things. Highlights of the tour include:

- the beautiful Cape coast, where the Indian and Atlantic Oceans meet
- moving visits to clinics and schools doing wonderful work
- a chance to meet with women making strides in changing a traditionally sexist society
- stops at organic community gardens and other organizations where community members have come together to make their lives better
- the inspiring Constitutional Court

Contact us for more information & an application!

Moving? Don't miss an issue of voices. Please notify us of your new address.



An important read:

Staying the Course Won't Do by Patrick J Buchanan
<http://www.antiwar.com/pat/?articleid=4214>

*We are now asking \$10 per year from our readers to support the publishing and broader circulation of this newsletter.
Thank you.*

our developing world

13004 Paseo Presada, Saratoga, CA



Address Service Requested

a non-profit educational project teaching about developing countries and diverse cultures through:

*Local Lending Resource Library: hands-on material, original primary sources, visuals & k-12 ready to use/copy lessons, etc

*Teacher Staff Development * Presentations in the Community

*Study Tours * Videos, posters & simulations for purchase

Co-Directors: Barby & Vic Ulmer (tel) 408-379-4431, (fax) 408-376-0755,

email odw@magiclink.net, website <http://www.magiclink.net/~odw>

Midwest Representative: Marilyn Peretti

Editor: Wynne Hegarty

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Saratoga, CA
Permit No. 208

TIME VALUE MATERIAL

