



NATIONAL INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Quarterly Newsletter ~ Fall 2008 Edition

~ From the Founder's Desk ~

Rev. Paula T. Webb

HOW IS YOUR "PERSONAL PROSPERITY INDEX"?

That's right ~ what do you think is your PPI? Do you know what a PPI is?

Your PPI is your Personal Prosperity Index. What do I mean by that? What you, as an individual and unique person, what you believe you are worth. What do you believe you are worth? Let's think about this. Especially in this dynamic and volatile environment of the stock and commodity markets ~ what each of us has to come to terms with is just what we believe we are worth.

Most, if not all, of you reading this have or are still contributing to some sort of retirement fund, or hope to someday., right? And what is that fund or funds made up of? Municipal bonds, hedge funds, stocks, mortgage conglomerations...or do you know? And, let's say you know your fund is comprised of, for purposes of this example, stocks ~ what type of stocks are they? What is the profit/loss history of those stocks ~ do you know? And if you do not know, why don't you?

What I am getting at here is a vital component of how to create, and sustain your own personal, unique "PPI" or in other words, your "IP" ~ your Independent Prosperity. What do I mean by that ~ simple. What you know about what you earn, what you make, what you save, and what it means to you. What is an Independent Prosperity? It means knowing and believing just what you are worth.

One thing to keep in mind is that most of our beliefs about prosperity to begin with, were instilled in our minds by others ~ beginning when we were small. Our

parents, then teachers, religious leaders, older siblings, and eventually our first and subsequent employers ~ each one of these people and/or groups were instrumental in creating our prosperity mental environment. For the most part, whatever we were taught has brought us to where we are today. And, I would say, that most of us don't really complain about our lives, because most of us have a comfortable, or somewhat comfortable, lifestyle.

However, with the economy and the world situation tenuous at best, now is the time for each of us to take a mental inventory of just what it is we do believe about ourselves and whether or not we feel 1) prosperous; 2) in control of our financial destiny; 3) if we feel we can do anything to change where we are at.

Personally, I feel prosperous no matter what is happening in the American economy. Why? Because I know *what I am worth*, I know exactly who much I have in the bank at any given moment, and work within that amount; I know I can *change my mental attitude at any given moment to reflect where I need to go* in terms of my financial future; and I respect myself enough to remain solvent, no matter what.

What I am getting at here is that during any time or times of stock or commodity market draw downs, it is up to you, as an individual to begin to manage, and then maintain your own sense of personal prosperity. It isn't difficult to do ~ just decide that you will be the one to bring about your own prosperity for the coming years, and then step into the wonderful process of managing your money ~

~ cont'd on back page ~

OUR TRAVELS

~ Pastor Ken Ottinger ~

Most of the time, few of us really know where we are going day to day.

We might have a pretty good concept of where we want to end up; the grocer, the bank. We know the basic path to take, which street to turn on, but we can't plan exactly which lane we'll be in, which section of road our tires or our feet will land on in our latest journey. Our personal spiritual journey is much the same, except that in this we get fuzzier on the goal of our trek.

During our daily commute through the cities we live in, we don't panic when we have to change lanes in the road, or we miss a turn, and have to adjust our path. We keep our goal location in mind and we bend and flex with the circumstances.

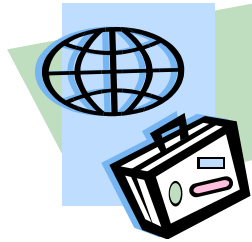
During our daily trek along our Spiritual Path however, we don't focus on the goals as much as we become obsessed with the method of travel, and the exact places where our feet land.

Whenever our feet don't land exactly where we thought they should, we question the path, we question our ability to travel. We are ready to abandon the quest altogether. We focus so much on the minutia of the traveling that we lose our appreciation for the experience of the Path itself, and we lose touch without our vision of our ultimate goal.

In our travels through the material world, we have learned to let go so much that we have lost appreciation for the world around us. We focus on the goal, but the goal is limited to the achievements of the material world.

In our spiritual travels we have focused so much on the traveling, the methodology of spiritual expression, that we overlook the beauty of the traveling of the Path and we forget to keep our vision of the goal intact.

If we can find the middle ground between these two conditions, we just might be able to return some of our appreciation for the world around us, our home and our friends ~ and at the same time, refocus on our spiritual goals and not worry so much about the details of traveling.



We should be aware of the signs along our Path, and strive to understand them and what they say to us ~ but could we try to be a little less concerned with what brand of paint the sign is lettered on?©

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Ken is a student of spiritual practices and maintains a ministry practice specializing in interfaith and trans-faith education and counseling for both individuals and families. He lives in Phoenix, Arizona with his wife, Kim, his children and grandchildren and a host of furry and not-so-furry companions.

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"It's easy to make a buck, but hard to make a difference."

Tom Brokaw

"Nay it is not how big my pile of gold, nor even what titles I hold! Yea, rather what the largeness of my heart! And whether I have really done my part to life my fainting brother or loved pet beneath his load, to turn his hungry glance up to his God; to honor goodness and rebuke the wrong. These are the things that stay when life is rough. More than a pile of gold! The world needs other treasures that you hold: of love and kindness, some thoughtful word, and day by day your smile! These are the riches that endure the while. Dear Lord, let me invest in riches true that I may keep the joy of constant life with you.

Tranquility House ~ Raleigh North Carolina

~ INSPIRATION ~

“My country is the world ~ and my religion is to do good.”

Thomas Paine ~ The Rights of Man

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“The secret of prosperity is to diversify ~ not your financial investments merely, as monetary counselors recommend, but more importantly, your investments of energy. Cultivate fresh ideas, fresh interests, fresh relationships ~ fresh reasons for enjoying your life.”

J. Donald Walters

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“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

Christianity ~ James 1:22

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“Are you prepared to let God take you into union with Himself, and pay no more great attention to material things? When you do get through to abandonment to God, you will be the most surprised and delighted person on earth ~ for God has got you absolutely and given you everything you need for your life.”

Oswald Chambers

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“Life should be chiefly service. Without that ideal, the intelligence that God has given you is not reaching out toward its goal. When in service you forget the little self, you will feel the big Self of Spirit.”

Paramhansa Yogananda

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“Let no living things ever come into your life without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God’s kindness; kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greeting.”

Mother Teresa

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~ PRESS RELEASE ~

3RD ANNUAL CONGRESS
NATIONAL INTERFAITH COUNCIL
October 18, 2008 ~ Scottsdale AZ

“You Are The Light”

www.nationalinterfaithcouncil.com



“ANIMAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE”

This new auxiliary department of the National InterFaith Council has now opened its doors for students!

As ongoing services provided by our Animal Ministry of Anam Cara, we are now offering four programs for those beginning or furthering their adult education studies in the new and growing field of Animal Ministry.

For the Lay Person and Ordained Professional alike, please contact our office for more information, or check out the following link:

www.anamcaraministry.com/animalministryinstitute.html

"BEACON OF LIGHT"

FALL ~ 2008



Our Beacon of Light Award

Fall of 2008

is hereby bestowed upon

MARK D. GUZMAN

J. SCOTT COATSWORTH

CO-FOUNDERS OF PURPLE UNIONS

Purple Unions is one of several interactive website directories created specifically for the gay and lesbian community. Life partners, Mark Guzman and Scott Coatsworth have spent the past 10 years developing their websites providing professional services for those seeking services from accepting, respectful businesses.

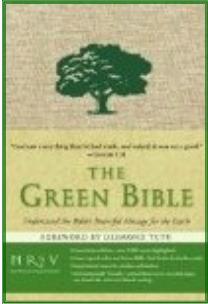
As such, the National InterFaith Council has awarded them our Beacon of Light Award in recognition of their work building bridges of understanding among gay and lesbian and non-gay and non-lesbian businesses alike, as well as providing a comprehensive resource for all those seeking professional services within the gay and lesbian community.

For more information on their ground-breaking work ~

~ www.purpleunions.com ~

A CASE OF FAITH

Recently, the Humane Society of the United States launched a new division, called “Animals and Religion.” One of their main objectives is to remind all of us that “kindness and mercy [toward all animals] exemplifies the best of the human spirit.” There is a great movement to help the average person understand how it is possible to eat more humanely, beginning simply with free-range products from sustainable local farms. And, how all animals can live a productive and cruelty-free life ~ just as most of us humans do ~ if we begin to make more informed choices in our daily habits.



There is also a new version of the Bible ~ the “Green Bible” ~ which is instrumental in focusing on what the Bible states about loving and caring for all creatures, great and small. It has been designed to encourage each of us to “see God’s vision for creation and help us engage in the work of healing and sustaining it...”

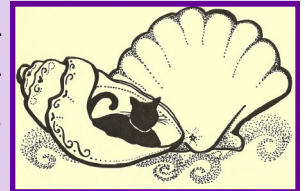
This edition, full of essays by leading religious figures and environmentalists “highlights scriptures in green ink that teach about how God interacts with creation, in an effort to bring greater awareness to this powerful message of stewardship.”

This version of the Bible is most timely. In these days of inhumane treatment of the most smallest of creatures, from the honey bees, to baby chickens, to loving dogs and cats, gentle cows, elegant elephants, cute mice, quiet horses, song birds and so forth ~ to have a book that brings us back to the original thoughts of God, reminding us of the divinity of *every* living thing ~ is sorely needed.

For more information please visit the Humane Society’s website ~ www.hsus.org/religion

ANIMAL MINISTRY INSTITUTE

Several years ago, I had the good fortune to hear about Nancy Cronk at AnimalChaplains.com. Within her work as an interfaith Officiant, Nancy began providing ordination for faith professionals in the new field of Animal Chaplaincy. I took the course, and months later, opened my animal ministry ~ www.anamcaraministry.com.



Since then, my ministry has grown and developed ~ providing not only funeral and sacred services for those who have lost one of their beloved pets, but also providing wellness and grief counseling, and animal communication. Lately, after numerous calls to my office from others wanting to further their studies more deeply into this growing field of animal ministry, and in conjunction with hearing about the Humane Society’s new division, “Animals & Religion” I created my “Animal Ministry Institute” (an auxiliary department of the NIC), which now provides programs for those serving our partners in the animal kingdom.

Our programs are a bit different from Animal Chaplains ~ we do not ordain anyone, nor do we provide listings of chaplains or other resources, which Nancy’s site provides. Rather, we are an educational resource, for those seeking a higher connection to their current work with the animal kingdom ~ for the Lay Person and Faith Professional alike. A higher connection to stay grounded within the parameters that God has created with regard to respect and love for all living things. Why have these programs? Because it is my belief that if we understand that there is no separation between our faith and our treatment of all animals ~ then we can eradicate animal cruelty in our lifetime.

For more information on our Animal Ministry Institute, please call my office at **602-565-5672** or visit our website at ~ www.anamcaraministry.com/animalministryinstitute.html

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the money that you have or will have worked years for, the money that you have sweated over; it doesn't matter the amount ~ it only matters that you *respect yourself* for having worked all that time ~ respect your efforts and taking that respect and those dollars to a higher level.

Remember, what you were taught years ago, probably doesn't apply today. And that's ok; just know that it's *ok to update, to improve*, to do what you need to do to achieve your financial independence. And, if you don't know how ~ ask! Ask God, your Higher Power, a Financial Advisor, call my office ~ whomever you feel comfortable asking. Remember, the only dumb question is the one that is never asked.

Ask until you find the answer that feels right for you. And when you find the answer you seek, and implement the newer, higher thoughts about prosperity ~ the feeling that you will find about yourself will be so magnificent, you will wonder why you never asked before.©

“Empower me to be a bold participant, rather than a timid saint in waiting, in the difficult ordinariness of now; to exercise the authority of honesty, rather than to defer to power, or deceive to get it; to influence someone for justice, rather than impress anyone for gain; and, by grace, to find treasures of joy, of friendship, of peace ~ hidden in the fields of the daily, you give me to plow.”

Ted Loder

Pax!

Rev. Paula T. Webb
Founder & Editor



~ LIFETIME MEMBERS ~

ARCHITECTURE FOR HUMANITY

www.architectureforhumanity.org

FAIRWINDS PET MEMORIAL SERVICES

www.fairwinds-forever.com

FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE

www.funerals.org

~ NEW MEMBERS ~

TATHAASTU MAGAZINE

www.tathaastumag.com

MARLA STEELE

www.marlasteele.com

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The National InterFaith Council is an organization dedicated to serving all life with grace, through all philosophies, and honoring those who do so.

For information on our programs and classes, to have Rev. Paula give a presentation to your congregation or group, or to join our esteemed membership, please call **602-565-5672** or visit our official website ~

[www.nationalinterfaithcouncil.com](http://www.nationalinterfaithcouncil.com).