

Brief Descriptions of Documents Listed on the IPCR Homepage

[Note: a) all of these documents are written or compiled by Stefan Pasti, Founder and Outreach Coordinator of The IPCR Initiative b) all these documents are accessible for free at the IPCR Initiative website www.ipcri.net c) this “Brief Descriptions...” document is currently incomplete (i.e. there are some documents which have been added to the homepage, but descriptions of those documents have yet not been added here) (7/23/10 SP)]

1. The IPCR Workshop Primer (427 pages) (compiled in early 2010; includes research and documents created during the period January, 2009—February, 2010)

This IPCR Workshop Primer provides an introduction to The Interfaith Peacebuilding and Community Revitalization (IPCR) Initiative. “The IPCR Workshop Primer” includes much of the material considered to be the “basic building blocks” of The IPCR Initiative, and is organized specifically to be a primary resource for people facilitating IPCR workshops—and people participating in IPCR workshops.

There is much that can be done to generate goodwill and promote peace that has not yet been done. There are countless numbers of “things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives” which will contribute to peacebuilding and community revitalization efforts, in their own communities and regions— and in other parts of the world. Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world. This writer understands that many people may like the concept of Community Visioning Initiatives—which is a key concept of The IPCR Initiative, and which is brought forward in many ways in this “IPCR Workshop Primer”—but who find it difficult to imagine how such a concept could be translated into an actual community building process. “The IPCR Workshop Primer” is an effort to provide many pieces of a “big picture” view in one place, so that there is both understanding of why there is a need for Community Visioning Initiatives, Community Teaching and Learning Centers, and a variety of affordable workshops at the local community and neighborhood level—and understanding of the kind of tools and resources which can help make such community building processes most effective, and relevant to the greater good of the whole.

2. “48 Different Ways of Describing The IPCR Initiative” (31 pages) (compiled February, 2010)

“48 Different Ways of Describing The IPCR Initiative” is an effort to summarize the contents of “The IPCR Workshop Primer”, and an effort to “connect the dots” created by the many documents and resources of The IPCR Initiative.

3. “The Twilight of One Era, and the Dawning of Another” (35 pages) (September-October, 2009)

Even if much disagreement remains about the nature of the challenges ahead, the potential described in this paper—associated with Community Visioning Initiatives, and The IPCR Initiative—can be actualized to such a degree that significant gains can be made in many fields of activity. Thus, while we—collectively—may not know for sure what era is coming to an end, and what era is dawning, for some time yet to come, this writer believes that there are ideas and resources enough for such a dawning to occur—and this paper is an effort to provide evidence in support of that belief.

This paper provides the most concise overview of the potential of The IPCR Initiative, and includes citations and commentary associated with many very recently published source references.

4. “1000Communities²” (161 pages) (February-June, 2008)

“1000Communities²” is a proposal advocating Community Visioning Initiatives, “Community Teaching and Learning Centers” with ongoing workshops, and “sister community” relationships, as a way of generating an exponential increase in our collective capacity to overcome the challenges of our times. This proposal includes over 150 excerpts and quotes from relevant sources, which are provided to demonstrate the need for problem solving on a scale most of us have never known before. A special feature of this proposal is a 15 step outline (see p. 22-42) for a Community Visioning Initiative. The goal of this proposal is to encourage others to create similar community specific proposals for their communities, and to highlight the potential of this approach.

5. “Brief Descriptions of The Eight IPCR Concepts” (26 pages) [Developed during the years 2001-2007 (with the exception of “Ecological Sustainability”, which was already a widely accepted concept)]

[Updated December, 2009 and includes 12 page “Notes and Source References” section]

Also recommended as a starting point for people who would like to learn more about The IPCR Initiative, and what it has to offer.

The Eight IPCR Concepts are:

“Community Good News Networks”
“Community Faith Mentoring Networks”
“Spiritual Friendships”
“Questionnaires That Help Build Caring Communities”
“Community Visioning Initiatives for Peace”
“Spiritually Responsible Investing”
“Ecological Sustainability”
“IPCR Journal/Newsletters”

Three related fields of activity (from the “117 Related Fields of Activity” list in Appendix 1—Part B), and one sample question each (from “The IPCR ‘Building Caring Communities’ Questionnaire”) (see list of “All IPCR Documents” on IPCR homepage) are included with each IPCR Concept, as examples of starting points for workshop discussion.

6. “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” (41 pages) (August-November 2007)

The IPCR Initiative is an effort to apply the accumulated wisdom now accessible to us towards the general goal of integrating spiritual wisdom into the everyday circumstances of community life—and towards the specific goal of generating practical responses to the challenges of our times. “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” provides comprehensive supporting evidence for the above statement, and is similar to “The Twilight of One Era...” document in that it is an effort to provide a concise overview of the potential of The IPCR Initiative. Includes detailed Table of Contents.

7. “An Assessment of the Most Difficult Challenges of Our Times” (31 pages)

(Compiled during the years 2006-2007, with significant revisions in August-September 2007)

This document includes a ten point assessment of the most difficult challenges of our times—and 43 excerpts (observations, commentary, analysis, and statistics) from relevant sources as supporting evidence.

8. “The IPCR ‘Building Caring Communities’ Questionnaire” (19 pages) (October 2006, with minor revisions in Spring and Fall, 2007)

Sixty questions are offered as a) an example of what could be created with contributions from many people b) a way of sharing understanding and inspiration and c) a real questionnaire, which can be administered to seek out—and thus create—useful information for building caring communities. This questionnaire has been superceded in some ways by the “39 Suggestions for Preliminary Survey Questions” piece (included in this “IPCR Workshop Primer”), but is still included to emphasize that there is much potential to be realized by the use of questionnaires, even if they are done without any plan for a subsequent Community Visioning Initiative.

9. “Inspiring Role Models and Service-Oriented Initiatives” (26 pages) (Compiled during 2006-2007)

There are a number of core beliefs which have contributed to the development of The IPCR Initiative. Here are three examples:

a) As a result of the unprecedented opportunities created by the expansion of the Internet, we have now arrived at a very auspicious moment in time... for at no other time in the course of history has so many people had access to so much in the way of time-tested guidelines, inspiring role models, and service-oriented initiatives.

b) Even now, as you are reading this, truly inspiring contributions of genuine goodwill are being generated in a variety of ways—and in a variety of circumstances—by countless numbers of people in communities around the world.

c) There are countless numbers of ‘things people can do in the everyday circumstances of their lives’ which will contribute to peacebuilding, community revitalization, and ecological sustainability efforts, in their own communities and regions—and in other parts of the world.

This document, “Inspiring Role Models and Service-Oriented Initiatives” — considered together with the many other resources accessible at the IPCR website (at www.ipcri.net -- provides evidence in support of the three above mentioned core beliefs of The IPCR Initiative...and this writer believes that such evidence is sufficient for the conclusion that we have the resources necessary to overcome the challenges of our times.

10. “Spiritually Responsible Investing” (12 pages) (March-April 2007)

This paper is an attempt to define “spiritually responsible investing”, and was presented (in absentia—by a graduate student there) at the “Faith, Spirituality, and Social Change” (FSSC) Conference held at the University of Winchester, Winchester, United Kingdom, April 14-15, 2007.

11. “Spiritual Peacebuilding: 47 Quotes and Proverbs” (12 pages) (August 2007)

This document is an attempt to define “spiritual peacebuilding”. This writer specifically recommends a close and careful reading of the section titled “The smaller the circumference, the more accurately can we gauge the results of our actions”.

12. “An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)” (313 pages) (Fall and Winter, 1997)

“An Arrangement of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)” is an unpublished collection of quotations, which includes sections on Sadhana, Satsang, Education, Guru, Namasmarana, What to Avoid, More About Difficulties, Baba Himself, Seva, and Prayers. This resource is made available for people who wish to explore the teachings of Sri Sathya Sai Baba; however, as clearly stated in the essay “Peacebuilding in its Most Compassionate Form” (see the section “Three Most Important Points”), it is not necessary for anyone who would like to become involved in The IPCR Initiative to know anything about Sri Sathya Sai Baba (or to want to know anything about Sri Sathya Sai Baba). [Note: “Sathya Sai Speaks” are compilations of discourses given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba, which are published by the Sri Sathya Sai Books and Publication Trust (Prasanthi Nilayam, India) (Vol. 1-15 are compilations of discourses given by Sri Sathya Sai Baba during the years 1953-1982).

13. “Divine Intervention: A Collection of Quotations from ‘Sathya Sai Speaks’ (Vol. 1-15)”
(compiled June, 2009)

This collection of quotations titled “Divine Intervention” was created to be a part of a larger work-in-progress which became the “IPCR Workshop Primer”. This “Divine Intervention...” document includes sections on “The Avathara of Sri Sathya Sai Baba”, “The Critical Need to Utilize the Wisdom of the Ages”, “How Sages, Elders, Teachers, Parents and Students Can Contribute”, and “Responding to Personal Difficulties”. This collection has been linked by this writer with “The Twilight of One Era, and the Dawning of Another” paper to create a “Call for Papers”: Requesting Assistance with Creating an “Introduction Section” for a Document titled “Calling ‘the better angels of our nature’: How Community Visioning Initiatives and Spiritual Wisdom Can Increase the Likelihood of Solution Oriented Activity in a Time of Great Challenges” (“Call for Papers” included in “The IPCR Workshop Primer”)

14. “The Spirit of the Sacred Hoop” (short story) (10 pages) (First version in Fall 1984; first revision in Spring 2004; second revision in Spring 2006)

Many years ago there was a tribe of people who were experiencing challenges that were threatening their very existence. During this “time of fear”, a young woman experienced a vision—of a bird, which said to her:

“You must all leave where you are, and travel to a place far away.... You must look for the tree at the center of the sacred hoop. You will know when you have found this tree when you hear birds singing from the branches of a tree and you understand their song.”

The tribe of people eventually begin this “great journey”. Do they find the tree at the center of the sacred hoop?

“The Spirit of Sacred Hoop” is a 9 page short story which describes significant events in the history of a tribe of people in ways that recognize intuition and spiritual wisdom as important elements of community and cultural sustainability.